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24,000 employees affected by data breach

Personal information exposed on the Internet, University working to minimize future threats

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

Important personal information, such as social security numbers, names and zip codes, of many Notre Dame employees was exposed to the Internet after the University accidentally placed the information in a publicly accessible location.

The data breach affected about 24,000 employees, including some students who work for the University, Gordon Wishon, associate vice president of information technology and the University's chief information officer, said.

The personal information that was exposed will no longer be accessible because the University immediately removed it from the Internet and secured it, he said.

There was no evidence the information was inappropriately used, Wishon said.

But chair of Faculty Senate Thomas Gresik, who was affect-

ed by the data breach, said he did not feel sure he was safe from identity theft.

"It's not possible to determine if somebody managed to download that information before it was taken down," he said. "The logs show that the information had been out there for awhile."

Gresik said he is concerned his information could be out there still.

"That's the current threat," he said. "That information might be sitting on somebody's hard drive or it may have been posted to a bulletin board or whatever places identity thieves post information."

Those affected by the data breach were informed in a letter, which was received on Nov. 20.

"I nearly didn't read it because it was one of those copies of a group letter, except my attention to it was that it was addressed dear Sabine, my first name," Sabine MacCormack, a professor

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EMPLOYEES' PERSONAL INFORMATION EXPOSED

EXPOSED:
24,000

INFORMATION EXPOSED

- SOCIAL SECURITY CODE
- NAMES
- ZIP CODES
- DATE OF BIRTH

BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

Voting begins for Senior Legacy gift

By ADRIANA PRATT
News Writer

The Senior Legacy will donate to a graduate school and job visitation/interview fund, International Studies, the Hesburgh Memorial Library or an area of greatest need at the end of the year.

Voting for the Senior Legacy gift will end on Dec. 18 at 11:59 p.m.

Emily Everett, co-chair of the

Student Development Committee, said the choices were made based on senior input.

"These are all senior ideas and once we narrowed them down, we got in contact with the various departments to see what they need and if it's feasible," she said.

Ian Secviar, the Student Development Committee's other co-chair, said Notre Dame's level

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POSSIBLE SENIOR LEGACY GIFT DONATION FUNDS

- JOB VISITATION/INTERVIEW FUND
- INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
- HESBURGH MEMORIAL LIBRARY
- AREA OF GREATEST NEED AT THE END OF THE YEAR

BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

Proposal looks to add alum to council

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

The Campus Life Council (CLC) passed a resolution to propose the addition of a member from the Alumni Association to the council in its final meeting of the semester Monday evening.

The newly created Task Force on Alumni Student Relations drafted and proposed the resolution to the council in hopes of ultimately receiving the approval from Fr. Mark Poorman in the Office of Student Affairs for the new member.

Bridget Bredemann, the chairman of the committee, said the addition of a member from the Alumni Association to

see CLC/page 4

Learning Tree provides teaching resources



Senior Annie Busillo leans down to find an Ellison die cut mold at The Learning Tree's new facilities in Madeleva Hall.

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Recently relocated to a new facility on the first floor of Madeleva Hall, the Learning Tree offers a variety of resources for students, teachers within the community and the general public.

"Our new location offers a larger workspace. It's much brighter and cheerier. It's a good working environment," Jayne Fogle, director of the Learning Tree, said.

The Learning Tree provides games and learning materials that can be borrowed or purchased for a low cost. According to Fogle, the Learning Tree was started by a group of teachers in the 1970s as a South Bend school program. The program was moved to Saint Mary's College in 2001.

This fall, the facility was relocated from the third floor of Madeleva Hall to the present location on the first floor of Madeleva Hall.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Movie stars and music

Pretty much since there have been movie stars, there have been movie stars making music. And it needs to stop. It nearly never turns out well for anyone involved.

Let's take, for a moment, the classic example of Scarlett Johansson, who seems to be the poster child of disappointing celebrity releases. Her problem seems to stem from the fact that due to her celebrity, she manages to get herself in the most ridiculously precarious situations ever when it comes to making music. Her first album — as in, the very first record she ever recorded ever — was a collection of Tom Waits covers produced by the imitable David Andrew Sitek (of TV on the Radio fame), which featured two of the three members of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, a couple of members of TV on the Radio and two guest vocal tracks by David Bowie. For all intents and purposes, it should have been the most awesome album to come out that year as far as anyone who has ever read Pitchfork is concerned.



Coleman Collins

Scene Writer

But it wasn't. And worse than that, the biggest problem with it was the supposedly central player: Scarlett. Even worse than that, she was actually kind of good. But therein lies the problem: to make an album that reflected the caliber of her collaborators and influences, the album that everyone was expecting (and deserved) she would had to be of the same caliber. Kind of good does not cut it when you have David Bowie popping in for a guest vocal.

She managed a repeat offense earlier this fall when she released her second album, which was an album of duets with Pete Yorn inspired by Serge Gainsbourg and Brigitte Bardot's duet albums from the 60's. What a good idea! What a disappointing execution.

In short (partially for all of those readers who I totally lost in the dozen musicians I recently referenced), she uses her celebrity to make these amazing projects happen with some really amazing talent, and then cannot cash the check that her ambition wrote. Couldn't write a check that was cashable by her skills? Cash any checks at a bank that wasn't hers? I lost myself in that metaphor there, but I think you get the picture.

Basically, it comes down to this: if you didn't get famous for your music, it's very unlikely that you can manage to pull off a crossover success (notable exceptions being Olivia Newton John and Zoëy Deschanel, both of whom had singing bits in more than one movie they were in), because even if you manage to have a really great idea for a record AND get a ton of really great people to work with you on it, it's massively hard to live up to the awesome that you've surrounded yourself with.

Or, you know, you could just put out an awful record to begin with after working with no one of notoriety at all, Jennifer Love Hewitt.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Coleman Collins at ccollin6@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SNOW?



Allison Jeter

freshman Pangborn

"I'm from South Bend, so I'm over it."



Anh-Ton Tran

freshman Keenan

"It's delicious."



Christie Ahn

freshman Lewis

"Let it Snow!"



Kathleen Bracke

freshman Pangborn

"Hypothetically, if snow is white and white is the absence of color, theoretically, snow is nothing, therefore it doesn't exist."



Theresa Lai

freshman Pangborn

"There should be enough to cancel finals."

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



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

St. Edward's has a Christmas tree where students can donate \$10 to place a bulb on the tree, as well as help purchase a "welcome basket" for a newborn baby and mother at the Women Care Center in South Bend.

OFFBEAT

Texas homeowner dresses David as scantily-clad Santa

BIG SPRING, Texas — A Texas homeowner who adorned his front lawn with Michelangelo's "David" as a scantily clad Santa got more than just jolly laughs from his neighbors. Barry McBee said he was aiming to make people chuckle by adding a Santa hat and white beard to the 5-foot-tall replica of the Renaissance statue with six-pack abs — an image at odds with usual depictions of a fat, jolly St. Nick.

Then, parents started

calling Big Spring city officials saying their children were asking why Santa was naked.

"I just like to shock people to make them laugh, kind of break the monotony around here," said McBee, who has all kinds of animal yard ornaments in his garage. "I just bring them out occasionally."

Police follow 13-year-old girl in high speed chase

LEBANON, Pa. — Police say a 13-year-old girl led state troopers on a nine-mile chase in central Pennsylvania at speeds of

more than 100 mph.

Authorities say the pursuit started around 9:30 a.m. Monday when troopers saw a driver weaving in and out of her lane on Interstate 81 in Swatara Township.

Police say the driver wouldn't stop when they tried to pull her over.

The pursuit continued onto Interstate 78. Police say the girl finally stopped the 1994 Pontiac Grand Am on an off-ramp near Fredericksburg.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Daily Mass will be held in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 11:30 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. today.

A lecture titled "Coordinating among Opposition Parties in Authoritarian Elections" will be held in C-103 Hesburg Center. The lecture will begin at 12:30 p.m. today.

The lunchtime workshop series "The Secrets to (Academic) Success and Making Your (Academic) Life Easier" will be holding the discussion "Getting a Good Start Next Semester" today at 12:30 p.m. The series will be held in Madeleva Hall at Saint Mary's College.

"In Situ Raman Spectroscopy Study of Oxidation of Nanostructured Carbons" will begin at 3:30 p.m. today. The lecture will be held in 138 DeBartolo Hall.

Bible Study will be held in the Student Center Resource Room at Saint Mary's College today. It will begin at 6 p.m.

Mass will be held in Regina Chapel at Saint Mary's College to celebrate the Immaculate Conception today at 9 p.m.

A colloquium titled "Rare isotopes in cosmic explosions and in accelerators on earth" will be held in 118 Nieuwland Science Hall. The colloquium will be held at 4 p.m. tomorrow.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 35 LOW 30	HIGH 32 LOW 31	HIGH 35 LOW 15	HIGH 22 LOW 13	HIGH 27 LOW 18	HIGH 25 LOW 20

Atlanta 57 / 43 Boston 44 / 34 Chicago 36 / 23 Denver 19 / 11 Houston 73 / 58 Los Angeles 58 / 47 Minneapolis 24 / 12 New York 45 / 35 Philadelphia 44 / 33 Phoenix 58 / 49 Seattle 32 / 22 St. Louis 43 / 27 Tampa 79 / 60 Washington 45 / 35

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SGA discusses club sponsorships

By NIKKI TAYLOR
News Writer

Saint Mary's Student Government Association (SGA) looked at and discussed four club sponsorships and reviewed its own SGA bylaws at its meeting Monday night.

The final sponsorship at the meeting sparked controversy when Le Mans Hall council requested money for their hall event, a Christmas ornament decorating night. The council failed to provide adequate documentation of their expected costs and their request was denied.

SGA is trying to set a precedent that documentation needs to be provided as part of their effort to avoid reimbursement.

"This is a year of change for student government," president Jenny Hoffman said.

The board members have implemented changes in order

to protect themselves and to make sure that students money is being used efficiently. This decision was a part of that effort.

The first club to present a sponsorship request was Thesians Unplugged, the theater club, who will be attending the American College Theater Festival in Saginaw, Mich.

Ten club members will be attending this six-day conference, which provides the students with opportunities to see performances, attend workshops and compete for scholarships as well as to network with theater professionals and graduate programs, club treasurer Katie Hoolsema said.

SGA approved the club's sponsorship and will be awarding them funds towards their registration fees for the conference and transportation.

The College Republicans will also be receiving a sponsorship

to attend the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington D.C. CPAC is a three-day conference of mostly students who attend workshops and listen to speakers, club president Caitlin Sullivan said.

The College Republicans' major goal at the convention this year will be to bring a speaker, political correspondent Tucker Carlson, back to campus.

"Those attending the conference will gain a greater understanding of one of the key political groups affecting modern day American politics," Sullivan said in her proposal.

The Holy Cross Hall Council is planning an ice cream social, and sponsorship was granted to them to help fund this event. The hall is also sponsoring an ongoing project sending letters to servicemen overseas, hall council president Kelly Zenere said.

Included in their sponsorship request were funds to help this project, which were granted by SGA.

The SGA executive board is going to be making a SGA handbook over Christmas break. The handbook will go out to all the clubs on campus and will outline the procedures for dealing with SGA and point them to the right offices for questions, Hoffman said. SGA is hoping this handbook will end snafus with sponsorships.

The SGA board also approved their bylaws with only one notable change being made. The board decided to change the election policy for class executive boards so candidates will run on two-person tickets, president and vice president, as opposed to a four-person ticket that also includes secretary and treasurer.

Contact Nikki Taylor at
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Spaceship unveiled Monday

Associated Press

MOJAVE, Calif. — The sleek, bullet-shaped spacecraft is about the size of a large business jet — with wide windows and seats for six well-heeled passengers to take a ride into space.

It's billed as the world's first commercial spaceship, designed to be carried aloft by an exotic jet before firing its rocket engine to climb beyond the Earth's atmosphere.

On Monday, Virgin Galactic took the cloak off SpaceShipTwo, which had been under secret development for two years. The company plans to sell suborbital space rides for \$200,000 a ticket, offering passengers 2½-hour flights that include about five minutes of weightlessness.

"We want this program to be a whole new beginning in a commercial era of space travel," said Virgin Galactic founder Sir Richard Branson, who partnered with famed aviation designer Burt Rutan on the venture.

The British billionaire hopes to begin passenger flights out of New Mexico sometime in 2011 after a series of rigorous safety tests. Branson said he, his family and Rutan will be the first to fly on SpaceShipTwo.

SpaceShipTwo's debut marks the first public appearance of a commercial passenger spacecraft. The white, stubby-winged spaceship sat in a Mojave Desert hangar, where it had been attached to the jet that will carry it to launch altitude.

An official rollout for potential space tourists, dignitaries and other VIPs was slated for later Monday. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson were expected to christen the ship "Enterprise."

SpaceShipTwo is based on Rutan's design of a prototype called SpaceShipOne. In 2004, SpaceShipOne captured the \$10 million Ansari X Prize by becoming the first privately manned craft to reach space.

Since that historic feat, engineers from Rutan's Scaled Composites LLC have been laboring in the Mojave Desert on a larger design suitable for commercial use.

Some 300 clients have paid the \$200,000 ticket or placed a deposit, according to Virgin Galactic.

"NASA spent billions upon billions of dollars on space travel and has only managed to send 480 people," Branson said. "We're literally hoping to send thousands of people into space over the next couple of years. We want to make sure that we build a spaceship that is 100 percent safe."

The last time there was this level of hoopla in the high desert was a little more than a year ago when Branson and Rutan trotted out to great fanfare the twin-fuselage mothership, White Knight Two, that will carry SpaceShipTwo.

Arizona faces powerful snowstorm, winds



Rocko Scarp attempts to catch some of his first snow flakes in his mouth as the snow falls in downtown Prescott, Ariz., Monday.

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — A large and powerful storm howled across the West with snow and strong winds Monday, snarling traffic, closing schools and threatening to spawn mudslides in wildfire-devastated Southern California.

Virtually the entire region was suffering — from subzero wind chills in Washington state to heavy snow that closed schools and government offices in Reno, Nev., and left big rigs jackknifed across highways in several states. Blizzard warnings were in effect for northern Arizona and parts of Colorado, with forecasters predicting up to 2 feet of snow around Flagstaff.

The National Weather Service said the upper elevations of the Sierra mountains could get up to 3 feet of snow, with up to 4 feet forecast for the mountains of southern Utah. Even the hills east of San Francisco Bay received a

rare dusting overnight, and snow was predicted for Fresno and other communities in California's Central Valley.

Bad weather stretched far to the east as well. The first snow of the season for much of Indiana tangled traffic and delayed schools. Crashes left one person dead.

Reno schools closed, and many state government workers were told to stay home. Chains or snow tires were required across the region. Several flights into and out of Reno-Tahoe International Airport were delayed or canceled.

"Motorists are going to have to chain up," Trooper Chuck Allen with the Nevada Highway Patrol said. "Otherwise, we end up with a parking lot."

The storm was blamed for dozens of accidents and road closures in the Flagstaff area, including a small stretch of Interstate 17 near a scenic overlook where a UPS truck lost its trailer and slammed into a barrier wall.

Colon cancer deaths to drop due to better treatment

Annual report shows cancer mortality rate continuing to decline since 1990

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Colon cancer deaths could drop dramatically in the next decade because of better screening and treatment, according to an optimistic new prediction by top researchers.

The estimate was made in an annual report that shows that, overall, the U.S. cancer death rate is continuing to decline, as it has since the 1990s.

The report released Monday focuses largely on cancers of the colon and rectum, which together are the third leading cancer killer in the United States. An estimated 50,000 people will die from it this year.

The battle against colorectal cancer has been a growing success story: The death rate dropped roughly 20 percent in the last 10 years, according to American Cancer Society figures.

The new report — by

researchers at the advocacy group and other organizations — predicts that death rate will drop even more over the next decade. By 2020, the rate could be half what it was in 2000, they said.

The prediction assumes colon cancer screening and improved chemotherapy treatment will become more and more common, and colon cancer contributors like smoking and red meat consumption will decline.

The prediction is "optimistic but realistic," said Elizabeth Ward, who oversees surveillance and health policy at the American Cancer Society.

But some other experts said such a large drop could require far-reaching changes in how many people eat a healthier diet, have health insurance and can get good medical care.

"I think it's a little bit more optimistic than realistic," said Dr. Edward J. Benz Jr., president of

the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

The new report looks at cancer trends from 1975 through 2006. The Cancer Society and others reported 2006 cancer death statistics in May, but this report provides further analysis and adds the predictions about colorectal cancer.

Cancer is the nation's No. 2 killer, behind heart disease, and accounts for nearly a quarter of annual deaths.

While deaths rates from many of the major cancers have been declining, the rate for liver cancer has been increasing. In women, deaths from pancreatic cancer are rising. In men, esophageal cancer and melanoma deaths are increasing.

There are differences among different racial and ethnic groups. Overall, cancer death rates are highest in black men and women. But pancreatic cancer death rates

have been increasing for whites and not blacks.

But overall, cancer diagnoses and death rates have declined significantly, a success attributed largely to improvements in screening and treatment and declines in smoking.

The colorectal cancer death rate was about 17 deaths per 100,000 people in 2006. Better chemotherapy drugs have been used along with surgery to improve survival. And as of 2005, about half of U.S. adults aged 50 or older had had a recommended screening, such as a colonoscopy within the last 10 years or a stool blood test within the last year.

"It seems to me that it's a cascade of things that include medical science and technology advances," said Dr. Michael Fisch, head of general oncology at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

CLC

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the committee would enhance the committee as well as provide a way for the committee to receive feedback on the issue.

Student body president Grant Schmidt echoed this statement, saying it would add an additional voice to the committee.

"The underlying reason is that the Campus Life Council has a lot of power," he said.

Schmidt also said there were numerous examples in the past where it would have been valuable to have an alumni's opinion.

Before the resolution was passed, the members of the committee debated the content of the resolution. The biggest concern voiced by council members was over the voting power of the alumni if he or she were to be added as a permanent member.

Schmidt said all members of CLC are granted voting power. Therefore, if a member of the alumni association were appointed as a permanent member of the council, that person would be able to vote.

The council voted to pass the resolution, which will now be passed on to Fr. Poorman for approval.

The Task Force on Student

Legal Services proposed a resolution to receive the approval from the Office of Student Affairs to move forward on the online legal database, which the group has been working on throughout the semester.

Task Force Chairman John DeLacio said while the approval from the Office of Student Affairs isn't necessary for the creation of the database, it would provide Fr. Poorman with the opportunity to express his support or concern with the project.

DeLacio also said this resolution is the first of two, the latter of which will come in the spring semester and will lay out a more detailed plan for student legal services.

The discussion on the resolution focused on clarifying that the specific purpose of the resolution was only to gain a formal approval of student affairs rather than ask for financial backing for the database.

The session was drawn to a close before the committee was able to come to a consensus on the resolution and vote on it. Conversation on the resolution will continue next semester.

The third task force, the Task Force on Evaluation of Student Disciplinary Records, did not report at the meeting.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at codonne1@nd.edu

Identity

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whose social security number, date of birth and full name were exposed, said.

"I was just outraged," she said. "That's the information people need to open a bank account or credit card account. In these days of identity theft, I think that's a really serious problem."

MacCormack said she was also upset by the way the University handled the data breach.

"In the future, for start, do not send a letter of this nature, [which essentially said,] we made a mistake and you sort it out," she said.

MacCormack said she thought other steps should have been taken.

"I think it should have automatically offered credit checks and said by responding to such and such an e-mail address you can set this up, to everybody," MacCormack said. "I think some access to the general counsels office

for, at the very least legal advice, should have also been automatic. If you have a problem with identity theft, then consult x."

Gresik agreed the letter did not handle the error effectively.

"I think the initial response was inadequate," he said. "I think the University is working on trying to improve that response and I am confident in the near future they will be able to satisfy the concerns of the affected individuals."

Since mailing the letter, the University provided access to credit monitoring services for those who were affected, Wishon said.

"For those with concerns, obtaining a credit report is the first step," he said. "But [that] is

something the University cannot do. It must be obtained by the individual."

MacCormack said she planned to use this service.

"I'm going to set up the credit checks. If anything that looks like an identity theft seems to have occurred, I guess I will take some legal advice and pay for it," she said. "But I do think that I shouldn't have to pay for it."

Professor Mark Pilkinton said he and his wife, who works in the library, were both affected by the breach.

"The University has been very good about informing us and providing proactive help to monitor our e-lives, credit checks, etc. to be sure nothing is amiss," he said. "This was a huge snafu, and we're all making the best of it we can."

Wishon said the University also took steps to lessen the chances of a similar error occurring in the future.

"Various technical measures have been and more will be employed to minimize the probability of an inadvertent exposure of sensitive informa-

tion as well as measures to prevent more targeted intrusions by hackers," he said.

He said process changes were also made in the human resources department.

"I think the likelihood of a similar situation occurring is pretty small," Gresik said.

Still, the problem lies in the fact it is impossible to tell whether someone accessed the personal information while it was on the Internet.

"It is very likely, I gather, that no one actually accessed these records, but it was possible for them to do so, and that's the concern," Pilkinton said.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Learning

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"Education majors come into the facility to make projects for their education classes and also then to use when they're out in the field," Fogle said.

The Learning Tree specializes in making educational games that help teachers make learning fun, Fogle said. Students have the opportunity to visit the resource center and either make or purchase games for the classroom.

According to Fogle, Games are easy to make and cost

between \$1.50 and \$2.50.

"The games would break down skills. We may design a game to break down a skill so a student can understand the concepts," Fogle said.

The facility also offers lamination for a nominal fee.

"We have a laminator that can laminate up to 24 inches wide and we have book binding machines to bind individual stories, class books or term projects," Fogle said.

Fogle said some other resources the center offers include poster printing, resource books, textbooks and a die cut machine.

"It cuts out designs and letters

which can be used for bulletin boards and learning games," she said.

The Learning Tree also features a work area with tables where students can spread out their work.

"The work areas are available for them to work here. We have all the supplies to make all these different items," Fogle said.

The Learning Tree is open to the public each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon to 5 p.m. Extended hours are available for students.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Legacy

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of senior involvement in selecting a gift was unique.

"We take senior input from the beginning which is really different. Hopefully that translates into more participation later on," he said.

Donations to the graduate school and job visitation/interview fund would allow students to visit their potential home after graduation without worrying about the costs, Everett said.

"We all have friends going through the med school and grad school process. It's a really expensive process and we know it's hard for people to afford it," she said.

Andrew Schroeder, a senior, said having a graduate school and job visitation/interview fund would encourage students to apply to universities further away like Berkley or Stanford.

"Notre Dame's obviously trying to make itself more competitive as an undergraduate university and having students go

to Stanford, Princeton, etc. will help our undergraduate reputation," he said.

The International Studies fund would provide financial assistance for students studying abroad.

"We didn't want anyone to miss out on this opportunity for financial reasons," Everett said.

Studying abroad was a crucial experience for senior Alex Augugliaro.

"One of the greatest things about Notre Dame is the push to go abroad and if finances are the reason not to, I don't think that should be a limiting factor," he said.

The Hesburgh Memorial Fund would support library renovations and help make Notre Dame's main vein of intellectual material reach the standards of a top-tier institution.

The Area of Greatest Need Fund was included as an additional option for students who would prefer letting the University channel the funds as they see fit.

Money for the gift comes from seniors and their parents. It is recommended that members of the 2010 graduating class con-

tinue donating to their class fund after they graduate.

If seniors donate at least \$100 by Dec. 31, 2010, they will be eligible for the 2011 football ticket lottery. As 2010 graduates, they are automatically eligible for the 2010 lottery.

Notre Dame ranks among the top schools for total alumni giving but has a significantly lower rate of participation from graduating seniors according to the Senior Legacy Web site.

The Web site reports the percentage of seniors who donate to the University directly impacts Notre Dame's U.S. News and World Report ranking.

This year's senior class hopes to raise more money than the last, Everett said.

"Last year they raised \$79,000 and we're trying to exceed that," she said.

The Class of 2009 created the Internship Assistance Fund with their donations. The Class of 2008 created the ECO Fund to further Notre Dame's environmental initiatives.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu



Study Break Luncheon at the CoMo

Lunch & Conversation for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Friday, December 11
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
316 Coleman Morse

The Core Council invites gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning members of the Notre Dame family, along with their friends and allies, to an informal luncheon at the Co-Mo.

Everyone is Welcome and Confidentiality is Assured.

Lunch Will Be Served



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iranian students hold mass protest

TEHRAN, Iran — Tens of thousands of students, many shouting "Death to the Dictator!" and burning pictures of Iran's supreme leader, took to the streets on more than a dozen campuses Monday in the biggest anti-government protests in months.

Riot police and pro-government Basij militiamen on fleets of motorcycles flooded Tehran's main thoroughfares, beating men and women with clubs as crowds of demonstrators hurled bricks and stones. Some protesters set tires and garbage cans ablaze.

"Death to the oppressor, whether it's the shah or the leader!" the students chanted, according to witnesses — making a daring comparison between Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the pro-U.S. shah, despised in Iran since his overthrow in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

U.S. visa-fraud scam busted in Brazil

SAO PAULO — Authorities arrested 11 people Monday in an alleged U.S. work-visa scam that raked in more than \$50 million from thousands of Brazilians since 2002. Some of those scammed went to the U.S. and wound up as illegal aliens because promised jobs didn't exist.

Brazilians seeking temporary working visas were charged up to \$15,000 each in what a statement from the U.S. Consulate called one of the largest cases of U.S. visa fraud ever. Similar schemes were uncovered in Russia, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Romania and the United Arab Emirates.

NATIONAL NEWS

Smart's kidnapper stalked others

SALT LAKE CITY — The estranged wife of Brian David Mitchell said he stalked other girls in Salt Lake City before targeting 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart in 2002, a psychiatrist testified Monday.

Dr. Michael Welner said in federal court that Wanda Barzee told him Mitchell followed girls on buses and kept track of them but couldn't get their addresses.

Barzee said Mitchell knew Smart's address because he had been hired to work on the roof of the family's home by Smart's mother, Welner said.

"This is how she ultimately came to be targeted," Welner said while testifying at a hearing to determine if Mitchell is competent to stand trial on charges of kidnapping and unlawful transportation of a minor across state lines.

Sex offender arrested in Belize

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — A child sex offender who was featured on the television program "America's Most Wanted" has been arrested in Belize.

Police in Fort Collins, Colo., say 55-year-old Robert Michael Snyder was arrested Friday in Belize City and will be deported.

Police said Monday that Snyder was released from jail Aug. 24, 2008, after he was convicted of two misdemeanor counts of unlawful sexual contact and one felony count of sexual assault on a child by a person in a position of trust. He was supposed to serve 10 years of probation after his release and register as a sex offender but disappeared.

After Snyder was featured Nov. 28 on "America's Most Wanted," Fort Collins police received a tip that he was living in Belize as an elementary school chess tutor.

LOCAL NEWS

Snowstorm sweeps across West

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — A large and powerful storm howled across the West with snow and strong winds Monday, snarling traffic, closing schools and threatening to spawn mudslides in wildfire-devastated Southern California.

Virtually the entire region was suffering — from subzero wind chills in Washington state to heavy snow that closed schools and government offices in Reno, Nev., and left big rigs jackknifed across highways in several states. Blizzard warnings were in effect for northern Arizona and parts of Colorado, with forecasters predicting up to 2 feet of snow around Flagstaff.

DENMARK

Historic climate debate opens

World leaders gather to address global warming as U.S. gives welcome boost

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN — The United States delivered a welcome boost Monday to a pivotal climate conference by saying greenhouse gases blamed for global warming should be regulated as a health hazard.

The Obama administration's announcement came as delegates opened a meeting of 192 nations with emotional appeals to leaders in Washington and elsewhere to take stronger action.

Such regulation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would supplement the cap on carbon dioxide emissions being considered in the U.S. Congress, effectively raising the U.S. offer on emissions reductions in two weeks of hard bargaining in Copenhagen.

"The executive branch is showing what it can do, even while legislation is pending," Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the U.N. scientific network on climate change, said of the EPA action. "It also sends a powerful signal to Congress. It shows a degree of resolve on the part of the president."

The conference climax will come when President Barack Obama and more than 100 other national leaders arrive for the final hours of talks next week. In preparation, Obama was meeting with former Vice President Al Gore, a leading climate campaigner, at the White House on Monday.

Earlier in the day, the European Union had called for a stronger "bid" by the Americans, who thus far have provisionally pledged emissions cuts much less ambitious than Europe's.

The endgame in Copenhagen "will mostly be on what will be delivered by the United States and China," the world's two biggest greenhouse-gas emitters, European Union environment spokesman Andreas Carlgren told



An activist eats an apple near the poster he put up in the city center on the opening day of the Climate Conference in Copenhagen Monday.

reporters. He said he would be astonished if Obama did not put more on the table.

Whether the prospect of EPA action will satisfy such demands — and what China may now add to its earlier offer — remains to be seen. And success in the long-running climate talks hinges on more than emissions reductions. Most important, it requires commitments of financial support by rich countries for poor as they cope with the impacts of a changing global climate.

"The clock has ticked down to zero. After two years of negotiations, the time has come to deliver," Yvo de Boer, the U.N. climate chief, said as he opened the conference in the

chill and foggy Danish capital.

The conference president, Denmark's Connie Hedegaard, called it a last, best chance.

"Political will has never been stronger," she told delegates assembled in the Bella Center's cavernous plenary hall. "And let me warn you: Political will will never be stronger. This is our chance. If we miss it, it could take years before we got a new and better one. If ever."

Some 15,000 delegates, environmentalists, business lobbyists, journalists and others are gathered in the huge convention center for the pivotal talks, along with thousands more outside, planning protests, street the-

ater and scholarly discussions. The colorful global show demonstrates that the future of the Earth's climate is the future of everyone, from Eskimos and Midwest farmers, to oil sheiks and African peasants.

As climate talks have dragged on for two decades, the planet has continued to warm, something scientists blame largely on carbon dioxide and other emissions from the burning of fossil fuel and other industrial, transport and agricultural sources. On Tuesday, the World Meteorological Organization is expected to announce that 2009 ranks as one of the warmest years on record, and this decade as the warmest.

CHINA

Man still jailed despite call for reform

Associated Press

BEIJING — Police took Liu Xiaobo away one year ago, a day before the publication of a document he co-authored that called for more civil rights in China and an end to the Communist Party's political dominance. The former professor has been held without charge ever since and allowed just two visits from his wife.

Other Chinese bold enough to put their names to "Charter 08" — an unusually direct call for a new constitution guaranteeing human rights, the open election of public officials, and freedom of religion and expression — have been interrogated or tailed by

police as part of a government drive to quash the effort.

A news blackout and Internet censorship have left most Chinese unaware that it exists.

Still, a year later, about 10,000 people have signed "Charter 08" and several signatories said Monday that their aspirations are still alive.

Beijing lawyer Mo Shaoping said the document marks a significant step for China and compared it to the document it was modeled on — a charter written by Vaclav Havel and others in 1977. That declaration helped pave the way for the 1989 Velvet Revolution that swept away the communist regime in what was then Czechoslovakia.

"Only a few hundred intellectuals took part in Vaclav Havel's Charter 77, so it was initially much smaller in scope than ours, but they kept at it and well, everyone knows how that turned out," said Mo, who was barred from representing Liu, the document's chief architect, because he too was a signatory. Two other lawyers from his firm have taken the case instead.

Liu was detained Dec. 8, 2008, the day before the charter was released and held at a secret location for six months. The literary critic and former professor was formally arrested in June on suspicion of "inciting to subvert state power" — a loosely defined charge that carries a maximum sentence of 15 years.

School dedicated to syrup educates students

International Maple Grading School teaches the 'ins and outs' of maple regulation, clarity, color, density

Associated Press

SKOWHEGAN, Maine — Tasting maple syrup is a lot like tasting wine. Sniff the aroma, take a sip, hold it on your tongue and savor it for a moment to register the sensation.

At the International Maple Grading School, syrup is serious stuff. At a time when syrup production has boomed to its highest levels in decades, students here learn the sappy sweet nuances of the trade, such as how syrup flavor can be affected by soil type, weather, tree health, production practices and numerous other factors.

"If you think about all the variables that go into producing syrup, it's not surprising there are so many possibilities," Debra Hartford, who owns the Thurston and Peters Sugarhouse in Newfield, Maine, said after swirling and swallowing a sip of syrup to test her tasting abilities.

Let there be no mistake: The subject matter was sickly sweet at this unique school, a two-day session of instruction where syrup buyers, producers, inspectors and educators came together to learn the ins and outs of syrup regulations and the equipment that's used to measure a syrup's color, clarity and density.

They also learned about the complex regulations governing syrup, which vary among syrup-producing locales. For instance, different places have different names for the same syrup — the lightest grade is called "fancy" in Vermont, but is known as "light amber" in

other states and "No. 1-AA" in Canada.

But the most important thing about syrup, as anyone will tell you, is flavor.

Late last week, students sampled more than three dozen syrups to differentiate the light varieties from the heavier styles and to identify the off-flavors of syrup that doesn't make the grade.

The syrup school, now in its sixth year, is sponsored by the Canada-based International Maple Syrup Institute and is held for two days at a different site each year. For the classes last week, about 20 participants gathered at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension offices in this central Maine town.

"When we first cooked up this idea, we thought it would have a one-year run," said Kathy Hopkins, a Cooperative Extension agent and the class instructor. "After the first year we had a waiting list. Now we're on the sixth year and we're booked four years out."

Maple syrup is big business.

Production in the U.S. this year topped 2.3 million gallons, the highest total since 1944. Vermont is the No. 1 state by far, followed by Maine and New York. Syrup is even bigger in Canada, which produces around 6 million gallons a year.

Between the U.S. and Canada, maple syrup has grown to a \$200 million industry.

The grading is important because it determines if the product can be sold for retail sales on store shelves, or for



Brad Moore, 12, covers buckets used for collecting maple syrup while taping maples near his family farm in Loudon, N.H. in this March 2003 photo.

commercial use as an ingredient in products ranging from ice cream to bacon to beer. The better the syrup, the higher the price; in 2008, the U.S. average price was \$40.50 a gallon.

Lisa Mancuso, who's in charge of quality control at Bascom Maple Farm in Alstead, N.H., said the grading system is important because customers have different needs.

For example, consumers generally like to douse their pancakes with a lighter syrup, which has a milder flavor. Food processors, meanwhile,

may prefer darker and robust syrup.

"We have a lot of customers who buy in bulk from us for ingredient purposes — large bakeries, sausage companies — so they want a heavy maple flavor because they're blending it with other ingredients," Mancuso said.

But the product isn't always so sweet after sap is extracted from maple trees and boiled down into syrup every late winter and spring.

For their training, students took sips of syrup out of small paper cups that had hints of tree buds, chemicals, chlorine

and other off-flavors. The taste can go bad from warm weather, how it is produced or even how sugarhouse operators clean their equipment, said Henry Marckres of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

"I once tasted a barrel of syrup you could blow bubbles with," he said.



Wanted man's body found in car of victim

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Police on Monday found the body of a man wanted in two double homicides in Wisconsin in the car of one of his victims, a coroner said.

Tyrone Adair, 38, died of a gunshot wound, Dane County Coroner Raymond Wosepka said at a news conference in Madison. He would not say whether Adair had shot himself. Madison Police spokesman Joel DeSpain said police were not looking for Adair's killer. An autopsy was planned for Tuesday morning.

Adair was charged Friday with killing 33-year-old Tracy Judd and 23-month-old Deja Adair, Judd and Adair's daughter. He also was wanted in the deaths of 25-year-old Amber Weigel and 2-year-old Naveah Weigel-Adair. All four bodies were found Thursday.

The four-day search set the Madison area on edge. Police alerted law enforcement agencies across the country about Adair and warned other women he knew.

Nothing surfaced until Monday morning, when a land owner in Cottage Grove, a village of 1,000 people about 15 miles east of Madison, called police. He said he had located what turned out to be Judd's GMC Acadia outside a storage shed on his property.

The man told police it appeared the sport utility vehicle had been parked there for several days, DeSpain said.

Investigators found a revolver and a 9-millimeter handgun in the vehicle.

Mike Poskie, 66, of Cottage Grove said he was glad Adair was dead. He drove by where the vehicle was found to check it out.

"I don't feel sorry for the guy. I don't. He eliminated the problem and saved us all a lot of money," Poskie said as workers towed the Acadia to the state crime lab.

Detectives suspect Adair killed Judd and Deja Adair on Thursday morning at the suburban town of Middleton home they shared, then went after Weigel and Weigel-Adair at their Madison duplex that evening, Dane County Sheriff David Mahoney and Madison Police Chief Noble Wray said.

According to a police timeline, a surveillance camera at the Branch Street Retreat bar in Middleton picked up Adair around 2 p.m. He remained at the bar for about 45 minutes, then took a cab back to Judd's house.

He left the house in the Acadia around 4 p.m. He then left a "somewhat remorseful" voice-mail for his sister, Mahoney said. He would not say what the message said specifically.

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MAIN LEVEL: 1550 sq. ft. Great Room with Vaulted Ceiling, Fireplace, Dining Area, Open Kitchen, Sliding Doors open to Deck, Master Bed, Luxury Bath, and Walk in Closet, Guest Bed and Bath, Laundry, and 4 additional Closets.

LOWER LEVEL: 1550 sq. ft. Great Room with Windows opening to Ground Level, Ping-Pong Table, Finished Play Room, Complete Bath, Additional unfinished large Room

GARAGE: Attached, 2 car, completely refinished with painted floor.

RESTORATION INCLUDED: Professional painting throughout upper and lower levels, garage, deck, and front door. Professionally installed carpeting. Plumbing upgrades includes: new Water Softener, new Hot Water Heater, new Washer and Dryer. Refrigerator, Gas stove, Microwave, Dishwasher in excellent condition. Security system Activated. Garage Door and Opener serviced. All new window treatments installed. Gutter screens. Terminex Warranty.

Homeowners Association Membership Fee (\$130.00 monthly) includes: lawn and landscape maintenance and snow removal. City Water, Sewage, Trash Removal, NIPSCO Gas, AEP Electric, DISH TV, AT&T Phone, SCI Security, AT&T Phone, Clay Township Schools.

Property Taxes \$4,500.00, no exemptions filed

PRICE: \$202,900.00

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,390.11	+1.21	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
2,002	108	1,774	519,946,885

AMEX	1,788.31	-4.17
NASDAQ	2,189.61	-4.74
NYSE	7,155.73	-26.98
S&P 500	1,103.25	-2.73
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	10,167.60	+0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	5,310.66	-11.70

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC)	-2.40	-0.39	15.89
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-0.74	-0.03	4.03
SPRINT NXLTEL CP (S)	+13.28	+0.49	4.18
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-0.15	-0.17	110.84

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-1.00	-0.035	3.45
13-WEEK BILL	-62.50	-0.02	0.01
30-YEAR BOND	-0.16	-0.007	4.41
5-YEAR NOTE	-2.67	-0.06	2.19

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-1.67	73.80
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-5.50	1,164.0
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+1.73	84.80

Exchange Rates	
YEN	89.4000
EURO	1.4829
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0516
BRITISH POUND	1.6456

IN BRIEF

Obama, Gore meet on climate change

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has met with former Vice President Al Gore at the White House as the president prepares for his appearance at a major international climate summit in Copenhagen.

Obama met with Gore in a closed meeting with no press coverage.

The former vice president won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 for his work toward combatting climate change.

Obama is also meeting on Wednesday with environmental leaders and U.S. business leaders to discuss climate change.

The president will be at the summit of world leaders on Dec. 18.

GM to invest in Michigan facilities

DETROIT — General Motors Co. said Monday it will spend \$700 million at eight Michigan facilities to get its new rechargeable electric car road-ready — a technological and economic boost for its home state.

GM officials detailed their investment plans for the Chevrolet Volt on the floor of its assembly plant that straddles the border between Detroit and tiny Hamtramck. The plant, which will begin mass producing the Volt in late 2010, is getting a \$336 million upgrade that includes new machinery and other equipment.

GM's combined Volt-related investment also includes \$202 million for a new plant in Flint that will build engine generators; \$43 million for a plant in the Detroit suburb of Brownstown Township that begins making battery packs early next year; \$37 million for a Bay City powertrain plant; and \$27 million for the GM Tech Center in suburban Warren, home to the Volt's battery laboratory.

The state of Michigan last year approved \$135.2 million in tax incentives for those sites and others.

In a year that GM and Chrysler endured bankruptcy protection and announced the closure of nearly 30 plants in the U.S. and Canada, the news was as much a relief as celebration for the politicians and workers who attended the news conference. Many speakers welcomed the chance to talk about something other than the state's economic woes.

EPA: Greenhouse gas harmful

Environmental Protection Agency study revealed in time for climate conference

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration took a major step Monday toward imposing the first federal limits on climate-changing pollution from cars, power plants and factories, declaring there was compelling scientific evidence that global warming from manmade greenhouse gases endangers Americans' health.

The announcement by the Environmental Protection Agency was clearly timed to build momentum toward an agreement at the international conference on climate change that opened Monday in Copenhagen, Denmark. It signaled the administration was prepared to push ahead for significant controls in the U.S. if Congress doesn't act first on its own.

The price could be steep for both industry and consumers. The EPA finding clears the way for rules that eventually could force the sale of more fuel-efficient vehicles and require plants to install costly new equipment — at a cost of billions or even tens of billions of dollars — or shift to other forms of energy.

Energy prices for many Americans probably would rise, too — though Monday's finding will have no immediate impact since regulations have yet to be written. Supporters of separate legislation in Congress argue they could craft measures that would mitigate some of those costs.

Environmentalists hailed the EPA announcement as a clear indication the United States will take steps to attack climate change even if Congress fails to act. And they welcomed the timing of the declaration, saying it will help the Obama administration convince delegates at the international climate talks that the U.S. is serious about addressing the



Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson makes an announcement on the climate during a news conference in Washington Monday.

problem. Obama will address the conference next week.

But business groups said regulating carbon emissions through the EPA under existing clean air law would put new economic burdens on manufacturers, cost jobs and drive up energy prices.

"It will choke off growth by adding new mandates to virtually every major construction and renovation project," declared Thomas Donohue, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which in recent months has been particularly critical of the EPA's attempt to address climate change.

The EPA signaled last April that it was inclined to view heat-trapping pollu-

tion as a threat to public health and welfare and began to take public comments for formal rulemaking. That marked a reversal from the Bush administration, which had refused to issue the finding, despite a conclusion by EPA scientists that it was warranted.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said Monday, "There are no more excuses for delaying," adding that the so-called endangerment analysis from global warming had been under consideration at the agency for three years. After the official finding, she said the agency is now "obligated to make reasonable efforts to reduce greenhouse pollutants under the Clean Air Act."

White House spokesman

Robert Gibbs said President Barack Obama "still believes the best way to move forward is through the legislative process" — something Obama has expressed on a number of occasions as he has pressed Congress to shift the nation's energy priorities away from fossil fuels and to reduce climate-changing pollution.

The EPA said scientific evidence clearly shows that greenhouse gases "threaten the public health and welfare of the American people" and that the pollutants — mainly carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels — should be reduced, if not by Congress then by the agency responsible for enforcing air pollution.

Kennedy criticizes mining practice

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Mountaintop removal mining in Appalachia is a crime, and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said Monday that if the American people could see it, there would be a revolution.

"We are cutting down the Appalachian Mountains, these historic landscapes where Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett roamed that are so much a part of American culture," the environmental attorney said at a rally to stop blasting on southern West Virginia's Coal River Mountain.

"It's God who made these mountains, and it's (Massey chief) Don Blankenship who is cutting them down," Kennedy said.

Kennedy spoke as some 300 environmental activists cheered. At the same time, 200 coal miners jeered. The groups

were kept apart by a line of state troopers and metal barricades.

Massey plans to blast and mine thousands of acres atop the mountain, which has enough coal reserves to feed power plants for 14 years. Organizations including Coal River Mountain Watch and Climate Ground Zero want Massey to stick with underground mining and allow the ridges to be turned into a 200-turbine wind farm.

Before taking the stage, Kennedy waded into the crowd of shouting miners and spent a half-hour debating Massey Vice President of Surface Operations Mike Snelling and others.

"He's very passionate about what he was doing and I have to give him enough credit for walking through a crowd of a lot of people he would consider adversaries," Snelling said. "He just keeps talking about

the environment and the concern for the environment and the mountains of Appalachia, and what we tried to tell him is that we are just as concerned about the mountains — or more than he is, for the fact that we live here."

The rally, held outside the state Department of Environmental Protection headquarters, was the latest of several demanding a halt to blasting on Coal River Mountain, which Massey calls contour and highwall mining, not mountaintop removal. But the protest was also about mountaintop removal and the harm that environmentalists say comes from burning coal.

In mountaintop removal, forests are clear-cut. Explosives blast apart the rock, and machines scoop out the exposed coal. The earth left behind is dumped into valleys, covering intermittent streams.

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Too much faith in humanity

Last November, an unknown source leaked more than 1,000 e-mails and technical documents from the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia in Britain to the Internet. These documents reveal

that a number of scientists within the Unit had engaged in some disturbingly unprofessional behavior in order to downplay, or in some cases eliminate, data that raised doubts about the anthropogenic causes of global warming. From data manipulation and deletion, to suppression of evidence in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, to blacklisting journals whose editorial boards contain climate change skeptics, to subversion of the peer-review process, and finally to at least one threat of violence, it appears that these scientists would stop at nothing to prove that climate change is man-made.

(For those interested, all the documents are available online at www.climate-gate.org.)

What is even more troubling than the e-mails themselves is the reaction to the revelations. A number of media outlets have refused to scrutinize the emerging scandal. Two weeks after the damning documents were released, ABC and NBC have only acknowledged their existence in an offhand manner. Instead of scrutinizing the evidence, they still maintain that "the science is solid" and "the evidence is overwhelming that man is behind climate change."

The Obama administration has also failed to moderate its global warming alarmism, and is working in "full speed ahead" mode toward negotiations at Copenhagen's climate change summit that the President will be attending.

For its part, a working group for the United Nations' International Panel on

Climate Change released a statement stating that it "condemns the illegal act which led to private emails being posted on the Internet and firmly stands by the findings of the AR4 and by the community of researchers worldwide whose professional standards and careful scientific work over many years have provided the basis for these conclusions," despite previous calls for a full investigation of the documents.

Jane Lubchenco, head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, responded with this account of the situation: "Our collective understanding of how the Earth is warming ... rests on a wealth of scientific information that is very diverse and comes from multiple sources and multiple groups. Regardless of what happened in one place, it doesn't undermine the totality of what we know."

Ms. Lubchenco's reassurances, however, do little to quell the concerns among many as to the credibility behind the science of global warming, a speculative science that is based on computer models, which in turn rely on incomplete data and hardly-proven assumptions about how earth's climate works. Denying this reality, especially when researchers have come under fire for pursuing a political agenda, will not make it go away.

Patrick Michaels, a senior fellow in environmental studies at the Cato Institute, weighs in on the serious international and domestic policy implications of the scandal:

"Without the IPCC there would be no cap-and-tax legislation awaiting debate in the Senate. There would be no meeting in Copenhagen, where, next month, world leaders will attempt to globalize cap-and-tax. There would also be no pledge from President Obama to emissions reductions that have never been passed by the Senate."

One would hope that experts and analysts would reconsider their conclusions about the imminent threat of global warming in light of possible corruption and data manipulation, especially when billion-dollar legislation is at stake. Instead, the Obama administration, the

United Nations, the media, and even some in the scientific community have refused to recognize the gravity of the situation.

David Harsanyi of the Reason Institute explains why: "To many of these folks, the science of global warming is only a tool of ideology. To step back and re-examine their thinking would also mean — at least temporarily — ceding a foothold on policy that allows government to control behavior. It would mean putting the brakes on the billions of dollars allocated to force fundamental economic and societal manipulations through cap-and-trade schemes and fabricated "new energy economies," among many other intrusive policies."

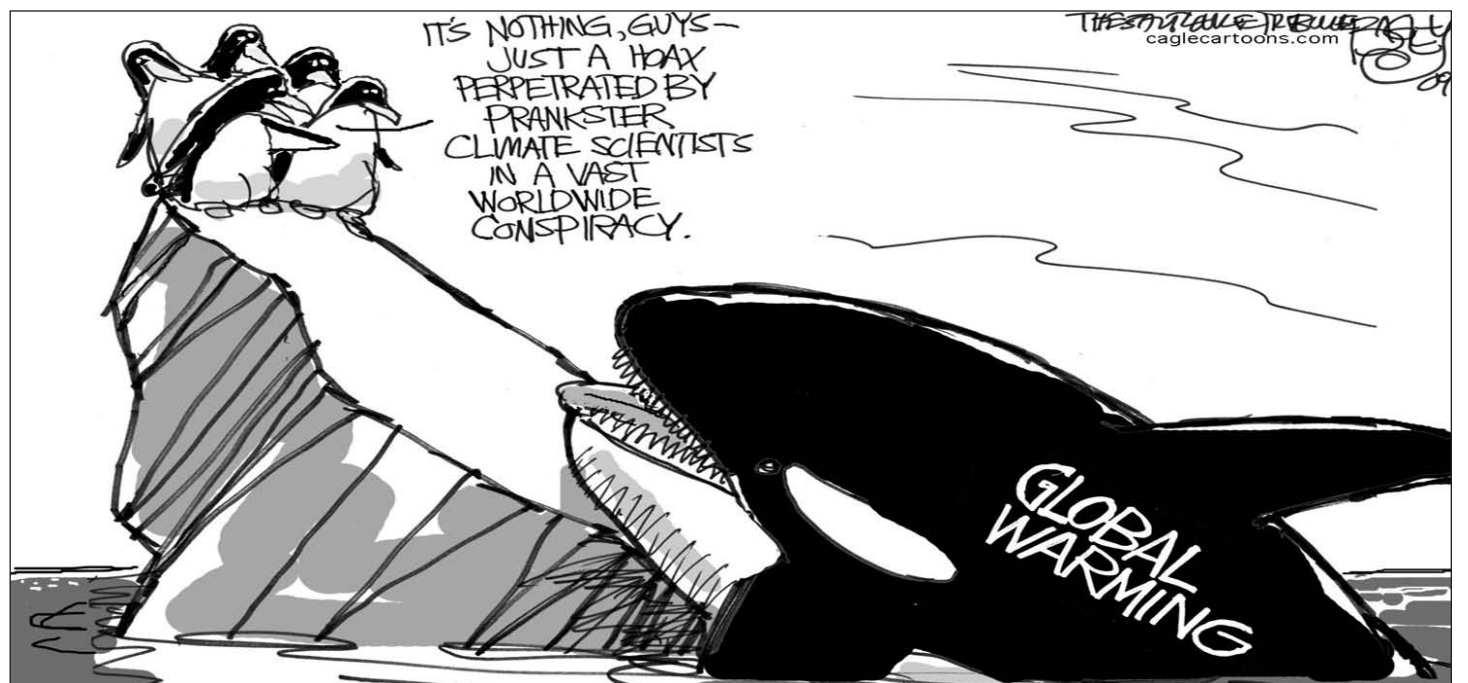
When science, aided by allies in the media and politics, becomes an ends-oriented endeavor rather than an objective search for truth, the basis for knowledge crumbles, and society suffers the consequences. The emails and subsequent attempts at a cover-up may not disprove anthropogenic climate change, but they do cast serious doubt on the methods and motives of the scientists behind the claims. Climategate should provide ample reason for all to pause and reconsider the tremendous faith we have placed in the hands of mankind not only in the scientific field, but in all realms of life. It may turn out that man's capacity to control and manipulate the world is not as sound as some, particularly those who favor governmental engineering of social and economic systems, would like to think.

As prominent 18th-century statesman and political philosopher Edmund Burke once wrote, "Vainglorious man, in the role of guide, equipped with a map compiled from his own abstractions, would lead society to destruction."

Christie Pesavento is a senior who is majoring in political science and sociology. She can be reached at cpesaven@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Who will be the next Notre Dame head football coach?

Brian Kelly
Bob Stoops
Skip Holtz
Other

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com.

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I've never quite believed that one chance is all I get."

Anne Tyler
U.S. novelist

Natural law

"The crisis of ... democracies," said Benedict XVI in accepting the credentials of American Ambassador Miguel Humberto Diaz, a Notre Dame alumnus, "calls for ... policies respectful of human nature and human dignity," including "respect for the inalienable right to life from the moment of conception to natural death."

These remarks raise questions we ignore at our peril: Why do we have to be "respectful of human nature?" And where do we get "inalienable" rights?



Charles Rice

Right or Wrong?

Do moral issues, in health care and elsewhere, reflect merely personal or sectarian preferences? Or is there an objective moral order — a natural law — that determines whether an act is right or wrong? In "her interventions in the public arena," said Benedict to European parliamentarians on March 30, 2006, the Church draws attention to "principles which are not negotiable [including] protection of life in all its stages ... These principles are not truths of faith, even though they receive ... light and confirmation from faith; they are inscribed in human nature itself and therefore they are common to all humanity."

Natural law is neither a merely Catholic teaching nor even a Christian invention. Aristotle and Cicero affirmed it. Everything has a nature built into it by its

maker. General Motors built a nature into your Chevy and gave you directions as to how to act in accord with that nature so the car will achieve its purpose. Our "Maker" has built a nature into us that we ought to follow if we are to achieve our goal of eternal happiness.

We can know the law of our nature, as St. Thomas Aquinas put it, by "the light of natural reason, whereby we discern what is good and what is evil." And our Maker has given us directions in Revelation, including the Ten Commandments which express the "principal precepts" of that natural law (Catechism, No. 1955).

The first, self-evident principle of the natural law is, in Aquinas' words, that "good is to be done and promoted and evil is to be avoided." The good is that which is in accord with the nature of the subject. It is good to feed gasoline to a car. It is not good to feed it to a man. And it is not good, i.e., it is evil, to steal or murder, because such acts are contrary to the natural human inclination to live in community. While we can affirm through reason the objective rightness or wrongness of acts, we generally have neither the right nor the ability to judge the subjective culpability of the person who commits that act. To be culpable, one must know the act is wrong and choose to do it.

The natural law provides a standard for human law as well as personal conduct. Martin Luther King cited Aquinas when he said, in his Letter from Birmingham Jail, that "An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law." So, when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus in 1955, she made a natural law statement. Legally enforced racial segre-

gation is unjust and a civil law that mandates it is void.

"Moral truth is objective," said John Paul II at World Youth Day in Denver, "and a properly formed conscience can perceive it." But if reason were our only guide we would be in confusion. Our intellects are weakened by original sin and sincere advocates can be found on both sides of most moral issues. Aristotle, who had a pretty good LSAT score, sanctioned infanticide. Some Christians in the last century upheld the morality of slavery. Today people differ on the morality of abortion. They can't both be right. As St. Thomas tells us, "If ... we consider one action in the moral order, it is impossible for it to be morally both good and evil."

But whose natural law are you going to apply? As Supreme Court Justice James Iredell said in *Calder v. Bull*, in 1798, "The ideas of natural justice are regulated by no fixed standard: the ablest and the purest men have differed upon the subject." If Iredell is right, the natural law is indeterminate and relatively useless as a higher standard for law and a guide for human conduct. An authoritative interpreter is needed. "Christians," however, said John Paul, "have a great help for the formation of conscience in the Church and her Magisterium. As the [Second Vatican] Council affirms: ... '[T]he Catholic Church is by the will of Christ, the teacher of truth. Her charge is to ... teach ... that truth which is Christ ... and confirm the principles of the moral order which derive from human nature itself.' ... The Church puts herself ... at the service of conscience, helping it to ... attain the truth with certainty." *Veritatis Splendor*, no. 64.

Everyone has a pope, an ultimate visible authority on moral questions. If that authoritative interpreter is not the real Pope, it will be a pope of the person's own choosing, usually the person himself. It makes sense to say that we have only one Pope, not seven billion and that his name is Benedict because he is the successor of Peter to whom Christ gave the keys.

"[F]undamental rights," said Benedict, are "accorded universal recognition because they are inherent in the very nature of man, who is created in the image and likeness of God ... [A]ll human beings ... share a common nature that binds them together and calls for universal respect." May 4, 2009. Every state that has ever existed has gone out of existence or will go out of existence. Every human being who has ever been conceived will live forever. That immortal nature of man, created in the image and likeness of God, is the basis of the inalienable, transcendent rights of man against the state.

So when the Church speaks out against abortion, euthanasia, contraception and other intrinsic evils, she is not expressing merely some sectarian preference. Rather she incorporates the teaching of the natural law on those and other issues into her teaching of Christ who is the Author of that natural law and whose birth, described by Benedict XVI as "the central event of history," we celebrate in a few days.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Coaching search

I have never felt compelled to write in or publicly express my feelings about our great University and its football dilemma until now. I have always respected the position of Notre Dame on academics and athletics and believe strongly that we can win and be a relevant force in the FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision) while maintaining academic standards. Having said this we have some to point in our programs history where we need a leader, a proven winner, someone who knows how to motivate and be motivated. I myself liked Charlie Weis but I believe that despite his great football mind he lacked that intangible that takes teams to a higher level. We have great players and they should settle for nothing less than greatness.

That is why I am asking the our great university and our administration to go get a winner and go get Brian Kelly. Don't settle for less, don't settle for a mid-level coach who handles crises well. Get a motivator, a coach and leader. Get us Brian Kelly. At the end of the day it always comes down to the players and their production on the field but it's preparation and coaching that leads to production.

Go Irish!

Mark Bosbous
alumnus
class of 2001
Dec. 7

Elevated discussion

When I first read Mark Easley's letter to the Observer, I was tempted to write a witty reply pointing out inaccuracies and do my best to delegitimize his argument. But Easley's viewpoint is a snapshot of the larger debate raging among the leading thinkers in our world. Instead of firing rhetoric back and forth in *The Observer*, why don't we take this opportunity to elevate the discussion? Both sides, if you really think about it, want the same thing: a bright future for our nation and world. In that sense, we are all talking about sustainability here.

Whether you think the icecaps are melting or this is just a bunch of greenwashing by crazy treehuggers, I challenge you to educate yourself. Go to the experts on both sides and find out what they think. Please, do not just read the *Wall Street Journal* or *New York Times*, but attempt to find the original source. Amazing scientists and scholars come to campus all the time, some even live and work on this campus. Go to some of their talks. Our world leaders will be making decisions in Copenhagen this week that will affect our lives. Don't you want to know where they are getting their information?

Alice Griesemer
senior
off campus
Dec. 7

Best band in the land

I just wanted to take a brief moment to thank the Best D**n Band in the Land. We as players get most of the attention on Saturdays, but I can tell you, what you guys do for both us and the fans deserves to be commended. My favorite aspect of every home Saturday was walking up the tunnel before the game with all of you playing our fight song. Chills would shoot through my body each and every time. It brings a tear to my eye thinking I will never have the opportunity to do that with you guys again.

Win or lose, you guys have always been there for us. Whether it was showing up to our practices on occasion to play for us, or the group of about 20 who would show up at our buses on away weekends to remind us why this place is so

special, to remind us that we play for THE University of Notre Dame. While I was crushed at the end of the UConn game, I knelt in the end zone afterwards and just thanked God for the incredible, life-changing experiences I've had at Notre Dame. The band continued playing while I was praying, and I was just overcome with how truly special this place is. Thank you to each and every one of you who puts in countless hours each week to help us win. I'm going to miss you all. We are ND.

Mike Anello
senior
off campus
Dec. 6

Online abomination

Online homework is an unnecessary hassle. Besides being frustrating due to technical difficulties, it takes up more time than regular, written homework, and thus is not a beneficial way to be taught. The majority of a student's time is spent trying to discover how to please the Web site by submitting answers in the format it likes. Another issue is juggling all the things necessary to complete online homework. It becomes problematic when one has to go from computer to book to notebook and back to computer for every single problem. It would be so much more time efficient if the computer were taken out of the equation; if this were done, all technological issues would be eliminated as well.

Ironically, the two subjects most likely to have assigned web work are mathematics and chemistry. The key to understanding problems in these subjects is to work them repeatedly, which is difficult to do in a reasonable amount of time when working online. Also, it is easy to get caught up in inserting unusual symbols and figures and in doing so, lose sight of the problem itself. Why are we given assignments for the subjects that require the highest levels of comprehension in one of the most

detached venues available: the Internet? The homework should help us learn, so the administrators should assign it in a beneficial format.

This format, at least for math and science-related subjects, is written work. Though it may take longer for professors and TAs to grade, it is much more time-efficient and advantageous for the students, and isn't the goal of any college or university to help students understand, and ultimately succeed? Doing written rather than online homework in the science and math-based subjects would facilitate their comprehension of the material. Yes, these young adults attending universities, especially the University of Notre Dame, should be driven, and should have to work extremely hard. But it makes more sense for their efforts to be put into something productive, rather than spending their time dealing with endless technological glitches, especially when there is a more worthwhile way of learning.

Danielle Guilfoyle
freshman
Badin
Dec. 7

A letter. Write one.

STUDY SPOTS
CAMPUS' BEST AND WORST



By MARY CLAIRE O'DONNELL
Scene Writer

Just as Jack Frost is finally beginning to nip at our noses, so too are finals starting to bite at our heels. They are looming over our heads, and the idea of studying for them is daunting. To help out, the following is a list of the three best and the two worst study spots on campus. Criteria include proximity to caffeine and sugary snacks, potential for distraction and comfort. Let's just hope these spots don't fill up the night before your big Orgo exam.

BEST

1. Library Window Seats

These are some of the best study spots on campus. The library is a quiet place to work with little to distract you from your studies, unless you bring your computer and leave Sporcle open. Also, by snagging one of the window seats, you do not feel stuck inside a cement prison, forced to study until your eyes bleed. Instead, when you find yourself stumped or just completely overwhelmed, you can take a calming breath and just look out across the beautiful Notre Dame campus. Furthermore, you can stop by the Huddle on your way over for some caffeinated beverages and candy to sustain yourself throughout the night. A word of advice, though: grab these spots early, as they fill up quickly, even though there are a few on each floor.

2. LaFortune Booths Behind Subway

These spots are excellent alternatives if all the window seats fill up. The booths are far enough away from the hustle and bustle of LaFortune, affording students a level of isolation conducive to extreme focus. Also, the seats offer the easiest access to caffeine, sugar and other delicious food than any other study locale. If you live on West or South Quad, the shorter walk is also very appealing. The noise, however, is unavoidable, but an iPod loaded with classical Christmas songs will drown out the noise, improve your studying and put you in the right mood for Friday when you head home for the holidays.

3. Mendoza Commons

Mendoza provides a terrific alternative to LaFortune. There are many comfortable study areas inside the building, from small tables under the stairs to couches in the Business Information Center (BIC). As Mendoza lies further away from the dorms than other buildings available for study, it will most likely have less occupants to create noise. There is, however, the longer walk to contemplate. Also, the café closes at 5 p.m., so remember to bring snacks from home.

WORST

1. The Futon In Your Dorm Room

Despite the immense comfort your futon or couch gives you, studying on it may not be your best idea. Unfortunately, it is the comfort itself that will lead to your studying downfall. Inevitably, in your sleep-deprived state, you will curl up, declare you are only going to nap for 20 minutes, set your phone alarm and close your eyes. Two-plus hours later you will wake up to find that, contrary to popular belief, sleeping on your "History of the Roman People" textbook will not help you absorb facts about Augustus's evolution of the Republic into the Principate. Valuable study time will have been lost. Furthermore, unless you illegally set up a coffee maker or hot water heater in your room, caffeine will be out of easy reach. Overall, the opportunity cost of comfort is not worth the hours of studying you will lose.

2. Any 24-hour Lounge

The PDA you will undoubtedly witness in these lounges negates any of their advantages. After parietals, these areas are full of couples studying, playing games or watching movies. The sweet nothings you will hear floating through the air may sicken you. General rule, just avoid the area if you are not one of those couples.

Contact Mary Claire O'Donnell at modonne5@nd.edu



A Christmas Classic:
THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL



By MATT BROWN
Scene Writer

Every Christmas season comes along with a decision that holds within it the power to make it a time to remember or an experience that you wish you could forget. Sugar plums dancing, St. Nick HO HO HO-ing and Christmas caroling are all vital components to a successful yuletide season but in this modern age I dare say that we must add one more box to our holiday checklist, that of the Christmas eve movie.

Now this is not a choice to be made lightly, there are many Christmas movies and all have merit, all have their place:

"Elf," "A Christmas Story," "Bad Santa." But to me there will never be a movie made that can usurp the Christmas eve throne of the "Muppet Christmas Carol."



"Muppet Christmas Carol" combines everything you love about the story: Scrooge, ghosts, tender moments with the Muppets we know and love like Beaker, Animal, Kermit, Rizzo, Gonzo, even Statler and Waldorf.

Kermit and Michael Caine give the performances of a lifetime as Bob Cratchit and Ebenezer Scrooge respectively with seamless give and take that shows why they have been two superstars of the acting world for their entire professional careers.

The Muppets add a fantastic twist to this classic tale with unforgettable songs and hilarious moments which, added with flawless interaction between the human actors and their less than biological co-actors, actually have you believing that the Muppets are a part of this world.

The Great Gonzo knows the story like the back of his hand narrating as Charles Dickens and Rizzo adds enough doubting and side comments to keep him guessing and the audi-

ence laughing. Their antics as they attempt to follow Scrooge on his journey through time and space to save his Christmas spirit are flat out hilarious whether you are 5 or 55. The rats combine to make a diligent work force under Scrooge despite the chilled conditions of the office and the ice-skating penguins may be the highlight of the opening song and credits.

The plot is basically identical to the one we all grew up with, know and love but with plenty of Muppets to make it approximately a bajillion times better.

The Ghost of Christmas past takes him to see Sam the Eagle, his old school teacher,

and also Fozzy Bear, owner of Fozzywig's Rubber Chicken Factory, famous for his Christmas soirees where Scrooge had his first job.

From there he meets the ebullient ghost of Christmas Present who wastes no time

inviting him to "Come in and know me better man!" Scrooge then proceeds to travel through Christmas celebrations and I'll just leave you with this: at some point Rizzo is dancing on a turkey.

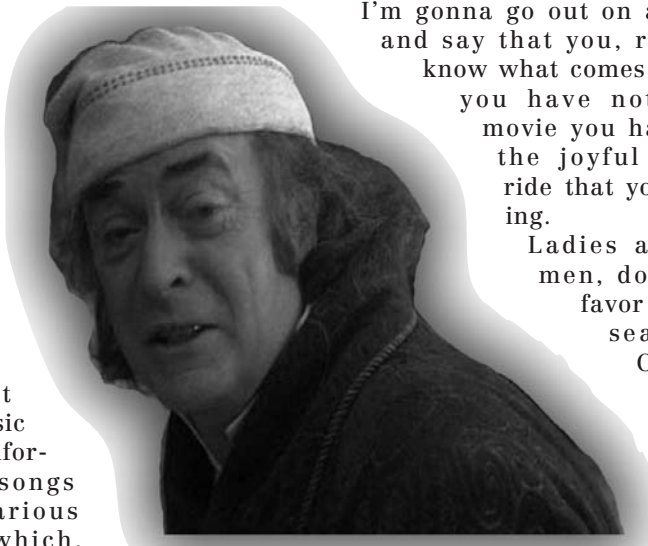
The third and final ghost is actually pretty frightening for a Muppet creation and this Ghost of Christmas Future shows Scrooge what will happen if he doesn't change his ways.

I won't ruin the ending for you but I'm gonna go out on a limb here and say that you, reader, may know what comes next. But if you have not seen the movie you have no idea the joyful Christmas ride that you are missing.

Ladies and gentlemen, do yourself a favor this Holiday season. This Christmas eve, curl up with your mom, dad, siblings or dog, pop in the

"Muppet Christmas Carol" and get caught up in the joy of the season. Christmas is a magical time that only comes once a year, give your all, love your all and Merry Christmas to all, to all ... a good night.

Contact Matt Brown at mbrown14@nd.edu



Handel's Messiah

By ERIC PRISTER
Scene Writer

The English oratorio "The Messiah," originally composed by George Frideric Handel, held well to the tradition of the composition and was performed excellently by Notre Dame's official concert choir, the Chorale.

In a modern context, only the first of three parts of "The Messiah" are performed, and the Chorale did the same, replacing the final song of the first part with the most famous song of "The Messiah," the 'Hallelujah' chorus, which brought the entire crowd to their feet and which earned a solid amount of applause following the show.

Handel composed "The Messiah" in 1741 and revised it throughout his life. It premiered in Dublin, with Handel himself playing the harpsichord for the performance.

The oratorio, which is often performed around Christmas, utilizes gospel



passages taken from the King James Bible to celebrate the prophecies and birth of Jesus, set to polyphonic choral pieces accompanied by arias and recitatives. The passages come primarily from the Old Testament, focusing on prophecies of the birth of a savior; the lyrics were composed by Charles Jennens, who borrowed mainly from the King James Bible, except for the Psalms. Originally, "The Messiah" was composed in three parts. The

first, which is the most frequently performed part, deals mainly with the birth of Christ, and the prophecies that predicted the coming of a savior. The lyrics for this part come mainly from Isaiah and are supplemented by passages from Haggai and Malachi.

The second part dealt with the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, and was meant to conclude with the famous 'Hallelujah' chorus. The third part then deals with prophecies of the second coming, mainly from the book of Revelation.

The star of the show was certainly senior tenor Joshua Diaz, who performed the first recitative, "Comfort ye, my people," and the first aria, "Every valley shall be exalted." He finalized his performance by singing the final aria before the "Hallelujah" chorus, 'Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron,' and he received the longest ovation after this capstone.

His voice was powerful and clear, two of the most important parts of performing a composition like "The Messiah," which has lyrics that can become incomprehensible if not sung well. The lyrics serve as one of the main connections between the audience and the performers, and Diaz perfectly accomplished this task.

The most impressive part of the show, particularly from the aspect of a college student, was that it has the ability to hold the interest of its listeners.

Unlike many compositions from the time period, "The Messiah" is sung in English, which helps to keep the interest of those listening. Its music is also lively enough to keep the enjoyment level high, even for those who don't have an affinity for classical music.

"The Messiah" is likely performed around Christmas because of the upbeat nature of the music, by which one cannot help but be uplifted. Though it is to see the Chorale's excellent performance of the Handel's most famous work, this reviewer highly recommends finding a CD of the performance to truly get oneself into the Christmas spirit.

Contact Eric Prister at epriester@nd.edu

"Bright Star" Shines at DPAC

By MAIJA GUSTIN
Assistant Scene Editor

"Bright Star", written and directed by Oscar winner Jane Campion, tells the story of poet John Keats and his sort-of lover, Fanny Brawne. Campion's lush and breathtaking rendering of this happy-then-tragic tale is sure to draw a lot of attention come awards season this spring. The film features an excellent script full of wit, passion and levity, is shot with a stunning eye, and the cast gives what must be some of the finest performances of their respective careers. Some may recognize Paul Schneider, otherwise known as Mark Brendanawicz from "Parks and Recreation," as well as Thomas Sangster, that cute kid from seasonal favorite "Love, Actually."

John Keats and Fanny Brawne's romance hardly seems like a whirlwind, but it comes out of nowhere. It is established early in the film with the clear attraction between the poet and the hopeful seamstress. But while their emotions progress quickly, their rela-

tionship is forced to remain stagnant as Keats has no living and therefore cannot marry.

As Keats, Ben Whishaw is generous and soft-spoken. But his love comes across powerfully in the slightest glance from his glassy eyes. The object of his affection, Fanny, is played remarkably by Australian actress Abbie Cornish. She has been garnering the most praise for her subtle portrayal of the untouchable object of a poet's affection. Her name will surely be heard frequently once March rolls around. Both actors manage to infuse a story about a love that cannot be, written in the heightened prose of the early 1800's, with humor and something that feels very much like real life.

To some, "Bright Star" is just another period piece where fancy costumes take the lead. But what Campion, Whishaw, Cornish and the rest of the cast and crew have managed to capture in this film is that feeling of real timelessness that so many other period pieces forget. It doesn't feel like the story of a couple living 200 years ago. It feels like a painful and fractured

love affair that is compelling even to the most cynical modern audience. "Bright Star" never feels contrived, and it deserves more than the period-piece label attached to it.

In true period piece fashion, however, the scenery and cinematography do take a central role in the narrative. Campion's scenes, particularly those outdoors, are rich with the vibrancy and excitement of Keats and Fanny's natural surroundings, framing their love story with the flowers, tree and butterflies Keats so eloquently wrote about in his poems. The word 'frame,' though, is significant. Campion's eye for detail simply adds to the story, never detracting or distracting from the central narrative.

"Bright Star," which played at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center this past weekend, is an unexpected movie. Unexpected because, even in the height of their restraint, the passion that Keats and Fanny show for each other, physically, verbally and emotionally, seems so unlike that seen in other comparable period pieces. Despite their cold and distant outward appear-


ances, their love is evident from the beginning, making the ending, when their feelings finally burst out of them, all the more heart-wrenching. This isn't "Pride and Prejudice" and this isn't "Titanic." It's a new love story that falls into so many different categories, but stands on its own nonetheless.

"Bright Star" will be released on DVD on Jan. 26, 2010.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

Bright Star
Jan Chapman Pictures

Director: Jane Campion
Starring: Ben Whishaw, Abbie Cornish, Paul Schneider, Thomas Sangster



NFL

Goodell urges Dolphins to upgrade stadium

Associated Press

MIAMI — NFL commissioner Roger Goodell says the Miami Dolphins' stadium needs more upgrades if South Florida is to remain competitive in bidding for future Super Bowls.

The 22-year-old stadium underwent \$250 million in improvements in 2007 but is still falling behind the competition with new stadiums opening in Dallas, Phoenix, Indianapolis and New York, Goodell said Monday.

Miami will host the Super Bowl for an NFL-record 10th time Feb. 7. Goodell spoke at a kickoff luncheon for the game.

"They've done a great job hosting Super Bowls here in the past," Goodell said. "The key thing is to make sure the stadium is state of the art and that it can compete with the stadiums in some of these other communities. They are moving to another level in some of these stadiums."

Deficiencies with the Dolphins' home include lighting and the location of lower-level seats, which are not close to the playing field. The league doesn't seek a retractable roof, Goodell said.

Dolphins owner Stephen Ross said the franchise is studying possible upgrades. It's unclear whether the team and league will seek public money. Ross said the Dolphins have yet to come up with a cost estimate or a proposed source of funding.

"We're looking at different ideas," Ross said. "We're still in the planning stage, and it's premature to talk about dollars. We know it's hard to put up dollars in South Florida in this economy."

"We're trying to keep it as low as possible and work with the league. We've got to show a package. That's what we're looking to do — put together a package."

A new stadium isn't being considered, Ross said.

The Pro Bowl will be played in Miami for the first time Jan. 31. Goodell supported experimenting with a new location and schedule slot for the all-star game, which in recent years has been played in Hawaii the week after the Super Bowl.

"If this doesn't work out, it will be my fault," Goodell said.

On other subjects, the commissioner said:

—Players perform in a "very safe environment," thanks in part to recent stricter league guidelines regarding concussions. "We're all learning more about concussions, the medical community as well as the NFL. We've been studying this for 15 years and have changed our policies as the medical science becomes more advanced. Everyone is treating this more conservatively, as they should. It's a serious injury, and you have to be careful. You want to make sure it heals properly."

—Negotiations on a new labor agreement are progressing slowly, with another meeting scheduled this week. "The good news is we're talking. It's pretty clear that things don't happen until you get your back up against the wall a little bit. I would expect as we get a little closer to an uncapped season (in 2010) that things will be a little more focused."

—Despite the league's plan to



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell talks to reporters after attending a luncheon Monday in Land Shark Stadium in Miami. AP

cut a \$100 million annual supplemental revenue-sharing program that subsidizes lower-revenue franchises, teams will still spend competitively. "We have great revenue sharing in the league. We have a number of systems we have collectively bargained that will ensure that."

—He doesn't expect the overtime format to be altered, despite many suggested changes. "I actually think the overtime system has worked pretty well for the NFL."

—Benefits for former players will be improved. "We need to do more, and we will do more."

Rodney Barreto, chairman of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee, said the need to upgrade the Dolphins' stadium is a community issue.

"The community has to come together and say, 'Look, is this important for us? Do we want to keep doing this?'" Barreto said. "Football is going to be much better if we can be a football-only stadium."

Founding Dolphins owner Joe Robbie paid to build the stadium at a cost of \$115 million, and it opened in 1987 as a multi-use complex. It has been the Florida Marlins' home since their first game in 1993, and they're scheduled to move into their new ballpark in 2012.

"With the Marlins leaving in a couple of years, there's an opportunity to make this truly a football stadium and make it a great facility that can host multiple Super Bowls," Goodell said.

NFL

Bengals' schedule gets tougher with Vikings and Chargers

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The easy times are over for the Cincinnati Bengals.

The Bengals secured their second winning record in 19 years by winning two of three during a stretch of games against struggling teams, including a 23-13 victory on Sunday over the Detroit Lions. Now comes crunch time: On the road against Minnesota and San Diego.

And the level of play that got them through the last three isn't going to work against those first-place teams.

"If there's anything we're guilty of, it's playing to the level of our opponents," quarterback Carson Palmer said. "When we've played good teams, we've played better. It was hard not to look forward to these two upcoming games."

The next two weeks will go a long way in deciding whether the AFC North leaders clinch a playoff spot and get some home-field advantage. The Bengals (9-3) trail Indianapolis (12-0) for the best record in the AFC and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. They're tied with San Diego (9-3) for the second-best record, making the next two weeks very important.

"At this point in the season, you want to peak," Palmer said. "You want to play your best football in late December and January. We have two big weeks ahead of us with Minnesota and San Diego."

In the past three, they've been less than the best.

The defense and the running game have been their two constants against down-and-out teams. The Bengals lost in

Oakland 20-17, beat Cleveland 16-7 and then finished off the Lions. Cincinnati has given up only 187 points, the fewest in the league, and ranks sixth overall in rushing.

The wins at home against the Browns and Lions were so humdrum that fans repeatedly booed. The offense knows it will have to score more points — one of their touchdowns against Detroit came on an interception return — to keep up with the Vikings and Chargers.

Minnesota (10-2) has scored 359 points, second only to New Orleans.

"Especially going into a dome next week, it's going to be very critical for us to be at our best," receiver Chad Ochocinco said. "I'm sure that's what we're going to do. I'm sure next week it will be the other way around: We'll

be playing to the level of our competition and not below it."

Coach Marvin Lewis criticized his team at halftime against the Lions for playing down to their level. Cincinnati managed only 47 yards in the first quarter, and the defense got pushed around initially. They also had stretches against the Raiders and Browns when they didn't show a lot of crispness or emotion.

"I guess people would say this was a hard three-game stretch for us as far as keeping the focus," Lewis said. "If it was, then it was. Now we get to go do what we need to do, and that's go play the Vikings. There will be no excuses now."

The one constant on offense has been the running game. Cincinnati has brought in an extra offensive lineman to block on some plays, overloading the

line to one side. Cedric Benson returned after missing two games with a hip injury and ran for 110 yards against Detroit, but averaged only 3.1 yards per carry against a defense that was geared to stop him.

"They said, 'If we got in a situation where we have to stop the run, we'll throw some exotic things in there,'" offensive tackle Andrew Whitworth said.

The Bengals have had three different backs — rookie Bernard Scott, newcomer Larry Johnson and Benson — top 100 yards in each of the past three games, the first time that's happened in the NFL since 2006.

"That's pretty big-time in this league because you've got to run the ball to win championships, no doubt about it," Benson said. "The guys up front are making that happen."

CLASSIFIEDS

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Or simple as...
Do re mi
A, B, C, 1, 2, 3, baby, you and me
girl!

AROUND THE NATION

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

page 13

NCAA Men's Basketball Division I AP Top 25

	team	W-L	previous
1	Kansas	7-0	1
2	Texas	6-0	2
3	Villanova	8-0	3
4	Kentucky	8-0	5
5	Purdue	7-0	4
6	West Virginia	5-0	7
7	Syracuse	8-0	8
8	Duke	7-1	6
9	Tennessee	6-1	11
10	Florida	8-0	13
11	North Carolina	7-2	10
12	Michigan State	6-2	9
13	Ohio State	7-1	15
14	Connecticut	6-1	14
15	Georgetown	6-0	16
16	Texas A&M	7-1	19
17	Washington	6-1	12
18	UNLV	7-0	24
19	Cincinnati	5-1	22
20	Wisconsin	6-1	NR
21	Gonzaga	6-2	17
22	Butler	6-2	23
23	Texas Tech	8-0	NR
24	Georgia Tech	6-1	NR
25	Mississippi	7-1	NR

NCAA Men's Basketball USA Today/Coaches' Top 25

	team	W-L	previous
1	Kansas	7-0	1
2	Texas	6-0	2
3	Villanova	8-0	3
4	Kentucky	8-0	4
5	Purdue	7-0	6
6	Syracuse	8-0	7
7	West Virginia	5-0	8
8	Duke	7-1	5
9	Tennessee	6-1	12
10	North Carolina	7-2	11
11	Florida	8-0	17
12	Connecticut	6-1	13
13	Georgetown	6-0	14
14	Michigan State	6-2	9
15	Ohio State	7-1	15
16	Washington	6-1	10
17	UNLV	7-0	21
18	Texas A&M	7-1	22
19	Cincinnati	5-1	24
20	Butler	6-2	20
21	Georgia Tech	6-1	23
22	Gonzaga	6-2	16
23	Wisconsin	6-1	NR
24	Vanderbilt	6-1	NR
25	Clemson	7-2	NR

Women's Basketball Big East Standings

	team	W-L
1	Syracuse	8-0
2	Connecticut	7-0
3	NOTRE DAME	7-0
4	Pittsburgh	7-0
5	Providence	7-1
6	St. John's	7-1
7	West Virginia	7-1
8	DePaul	7-2
9	Georgetown	7-2
10	South Florida	6-2

NCAA FOOTBALL



Alabama running back Mark Ingram has been invited to the Heisman Trophy presentation in New York after leading Alabama to the BCS National Championship game. Ingram rushed for 15 touchdowns this season.

Suh, Ingram among Heisman finalists

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tim Tebow added another Heisman first to his long list of accomplishments just by being selected a finalist for this year's trophy.

Tebow became the first player to be invited to the Heisman Trophy presentation ceremony three times when the Florida quarterback — along with Colt McCoy, Mark Ingram, Toby Gerhart and Ndamukong Suh — was named a finalist Monday for college football's most prestigious player of the year award.

"Having the chance to go back to New York means a lot to me," Tebow said in a

statement. "It is a special honor but it wouldn't be possible for me to have this opportunity without my teammates and coaches."

The Heisman Trophy will be awarded Saturday in Manhattan. The presentation ceremony has been televised since 1981 and since 1982 at least three players have been invited to attend.

The last time as many as five players were invited to New York was 2004, when USC quarterback Matt Leinart won the award.

Tebow, who was the first sophomore to win the Heisman in 2007, is trying to become the second two-

time Heisman winner, joining Ohio State's Archie Griffin. Tebow finished third in the voting last year, while getting the most first-place votes.

He's also the first player to finish in the top five of the Heisman voting three times since Georgia tailback Herschel Walker did it in the early 1980s.

McCoy was the runner-up last season to Oklahoma's Sam Bradford and has led No. 2 Texas to the BCS national championship game this season.

Ingram has rushed for 1,542 yards and scored 15 touchdowns for No. 1 Alabama.

Stanford's Gerhart, meanwhile, has run for

more yards (1,736) and scored more touchdowns (26) than any player in the nation.

And Nebraska's Suh had 4 1/2 sacks in an attention-grabbing performance against Texas in the Big 12 title game. He is the first defensive player to be a finalist since 1997, when Michigan cornerback Charles Woodson became the first full-time defensive player to win the Heisman.

Tebow and McCoy entered this season as heavy Heisman favorites, but neither has been as productive this season as last and neither will go into Saturday's presentation as the front-runner.

IN BRIEF

Yankees trade Bruney to Washington at meetings

INDIANAPOLIS — Brian Bruney was dealt Monday to the Washington Nationals from the New York Yankees for a player to be named in the first trade of the winter meetings.

The 27-year-old right-hander was 5-0 with a 3.92 ERA in 44 regular-season appearances but pitched just once for the Yankees from mid-April until mid-June because of a strained right elbow, an injury he blamed on time he spent warming up during an umpires' video review.

"I've heard a lot of good things about him, kind of a power arm to go toward the end of our bullpen, and just we feel like we needed a little help out there," Nationals manager Jim Riggleman said. "He's got experience, and he's got a good arm."

Riggleman, who took over as Nationals manager in July, isn't worried about Bruney's elbow.

Jets QB Sanchez misses practice, may still play

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Mark Sanchez did not practice for the New York Jets on Monday while recovering from a sprained right knee, but coach Rex Ryan is optimistic about the rookie quarterback's chances of playing Sunday at Tampa Bay.

Sanchez sprained the posterior cruciate ligament in the knee while diving for a first down in New York's 19-13 win over Buffalo on Thursday night.

"He's so much better," Ryan said. "We thought we were going to get good news from the MRI, we did. Just the way he's approaching his treatment and rehab and everything else, you can tell he is definitely willing. That's for sure."

Ryan said Sanchez spent the majority of the weekend at the team's facility rehabilitating the injury.

Collaros to avoid jail time, join offender program

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati backup quarterback Zach Collaros avoided jail time by signing up for a first-time offender program.

Collaros on Monday told Hamilton County Municipal Judge Bernie Bouchard that he had signed up for the court-mandated, eight-hour class on the ills of underage drinking. Bouchard accepted his guilty plea to an underage drinking charge, which will be erased upon completion of the program.

Now 21, Collaros was 20 when cited for presenting a fake ID to get into a bar near campus. Bouchard last month sternly threatened him with jail if he didn't get moving on the program, warning him that skipping it isn't like "blowing off" a math class.

On Monday, Bouchard asked Collaros what he had learned, and the youth replied: "Just be accountable."

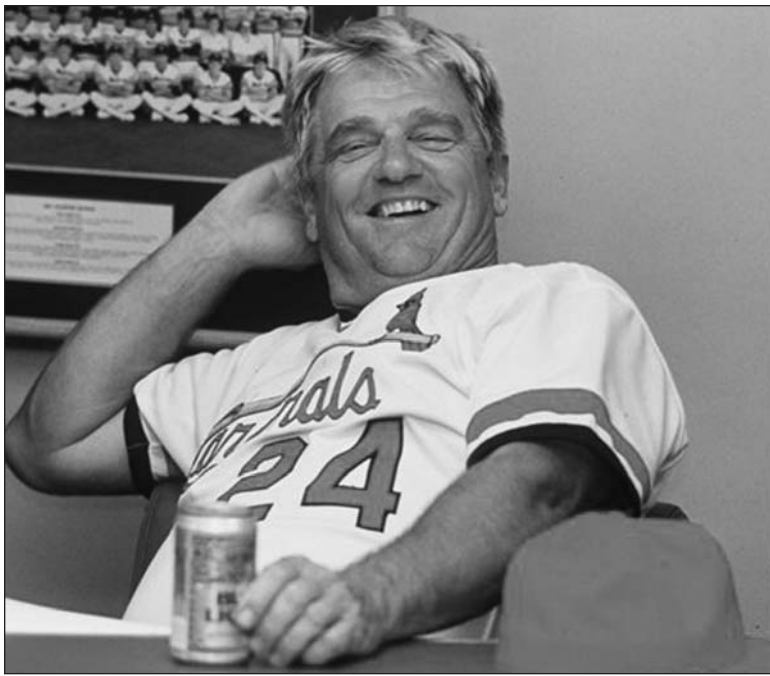
around the dial

NCAA Men's Basketball
Butler vs. Georgetown
7 p.m., ESPN

NCAA Men's Basketball
Indiana vs. Pittsburgh
9 p.m., ESPN

MLB

Herzog and Harvey elected to Hall of Fame



Former St. Louis manager Whitey Herzog relaxes at the Astrodome in Houston after the 1986 All-Star Game.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Whitey Herzog spent a good, long time stewing about a blown call in the 1985 World Series. So in a strange way, perhaps this fits: He's going into the Hall of Fame, standing next to an umpire.

Herzog and prominent crew chief Doug Harvey got the call Monday, elected to the Hall by the Veterans Committee.

Herzog was a single vote short in his previous try, and might've made it sooner with another crown on his resume. But he was forever linked to Don Denkinger after the ump's infamous miss in Game 6 so long ago cost the St. Louis Cardinals a chance to clinch.

"No, I'm not bitter at Denkinger," Herzog said at Busch Stadium. "He's a good guy, he knows he made a mistake, and he's a human being. It happened at an inopportune time but I do think they ought to have instant replay in the playoffs and World Series."

Herzog and Denkinger made their peace over the years.

"We didn't always see eye-to-eye. That's pretty obvious. Enough has been printed about what happened," Denkinger told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"It didn't deter from how I feel about Whitey. He deserves to be in the Hall. I have the utmost respect for him," he said.

The long-ago play that ruffled Herzog came leading off the bottom of the ninth with St. Louis leading the Royals 1-0. Pinch-hitter Jorge Orta was called safe at first, even though replays showed first baseman Jack Clark's toss to pitcher Todd Worrell was in time. A missed popup helped Kansas City rally for two runs to win Game 6.

"How could he miss that call?" Herzog shouted that night, mixing in an expletive as he stormed down a runway tunnel. The next night, the Royals romped 11-0 in Game 7.

As for Harvey, Herzog joshed: "I don't know why he should get in. Doug kicked me out of more games than any other umpire."

Like Herzog, Harvey fell one vote shy in the last election. This time, they both easily drew enough support to reach Cooperstown.

"I don't think I would've had my heart broken if I'd missed by

another vote or two. But I'm damn happy it's over," Herzog said. "It was just in the last few years when I was only missing by a few votes that I thought, maybe I do deserve it."

Among those who came close this year was former players' union head Marvin Miller. He was on a separate slate for executives and officials, and fell two votes short.

"Very few individuals have had as significant or as positive an impact upon the history of baseball as Marvin," union head Michael Weiner said in a statement. "The Hall remains incomplete without Marvin's plaque."

Herzog was a fixture in major league dugouts for two decades. He won the 1982 World Series and three NL pennants with the Cardinals and three division titles with Kansas City. He became the 19th manager to make the Hall.

"I think he was one of the guys who started managers looking at doing more creative things," said Hall of Fame shortstop Ozzie Smith, one of Herzog's star players. "You'd see him take a relief pitcher and put him in right field."

Smith was a late addition to the 16-member panel that considered managers and umpires. Candidates needed 12 votes (75 percent) to make it, and Herzog got 14 in voting Sunday at the baseball winter meetings. Results were announced Monday, and the 78-year-old Herzog was told he was in.

Dorrel Norman Elvert Herzog drew his nickname because of his light blonde hair while playing minor league ball. He wasn't much of a major league outfielder, but made his mark with the Runnin' Redbirds.

"He's the best baseball man I've ever been around," said Washington manager Jim Riggleman, a former member of Herzog's staff. "If you worked under Whitey, you had a chance to manage in the major leagues."

Herzog started managing in 1973 with Texas and compiled a .532 career winning percentage.

"He gave his entire life to the game," said Hall of Fame manager Tom Lasorda, another Veterans panel member. "When he didn't make it last year, I was very, very down. This year, everyone understood he belonged there."

NFL

Gradkowski filling in nicely

Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — When Bruce Gradkowski saw a couple of offensive linemen looking at a replay on the scoreboard when the Oakland Raiders were trying to get up to the line during a 2-minute drill he let them know how just he felt.

"I'm not going to say exactly what I said. But I said, 'Hey, get in the huddle, we'll look at the scoreboard after we score,'" Gradkowski recalled Monday. "I was kind of mad because I was aggravated like hey, 'Get in the huddle. Focus on this. Let's score first and then we can watch the game after.'"

The players followed Gradkowski's lead and he delivered on his promise, throwing an 11-yard touchdown pass to Louis Murphy with 9 seconds left in Oakland's 27-24 victory at Pittsburgh.

With his second fourth-quarter comeback in three starts since replacing JaMarcus Russell, Gradkowski is solidifying his spot as the Raiders starting quarterback.

"I'm pretty confident in my abilities and being a starter in this league," Gradkowski said. "If yesterday cemented it, that's good. My goal is to continue to be successful and put this team in position to win football games. And that's my job, and I have to just be the

manager on offense. And whatever happens after that will happen."

Coach Tom Cable said Gradkowski has made the most of his opportunity and will keep the starting job as long as he keeps performing.

Cable said at the time he made the change that Russell is still the team's quarterback of the future after being the first overall pick in 2007. Cable wouldn't address the team's plans for 2010 on Monday.

"That's not for me to even think about right now," he said. "Right now I have to be focused on what's at hand this season and all that. That's for after the season, evaluating your team and all that, so I would have no thought for that right now. No time for that."

Gradkowski's transformation has been remarkable, considering he was out of a job for part of last season before hooking up with Cleveland late in the 2008 season. He had one ineffective start with the Browns before being sent back to the street again after the season.

Gradkowski started 11 games as a rookie in 2006 with Tampa Bay, but was cut by the Buccaneers, St. Louis and Cleveland in less than a nine-month stretch.

"It's tough," he said. "I've seen each end of it, the starting

quarterback side and then the side when you're on the street for a while. It's just a matter of staying confident in yourself and knowing this happens sometimes. Look at Kurt Warner and Jake Delhomme and guys that have been on the streets, Jeff Garcia coming from Canada. Just examples like that. I think the main thing in this league is you have to persevere, and if you're strong enough to do that you'll succeed."

Since taking over for Russell, Gradkowski rallied the Raiders with a late touchdown pass in a 20-17 win over Cincinnati, lost at Dallas on Thanksgiving and then had his best performance of all in the fourth quarter in his hometown of Pittsburgh.

He engineered a 57-yard drive to start the quarter, capped with a 17-yard touchdown pass to Chaz Schilens that gave the Raiders a 13-10 lead. After the Steelers took only two plays to take back the lead, Gradkowski connected on a 75-yard touchdown pass to Murphy that put Oakland back on top with 5:28 to go.

But Pittsburgh wasn't done, retaking the lead on Ben Roethlisberger's 11-yard TD pass to Hines Ward with 1:56 remaining. That's when Gradkowski took over, taking command of the huddle and the game.

MLB

Winter Meetings begin in Indiana

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — In a town known for fast moves around the speedway, baseball's wheelers and dealers were slowly mulling their options at the winter meetings.

Roy Halladay, Curtis Granderson and Dan Uggla were some of the big names being dangled on the trade market as baseball's annual swapfest opened Monday. Toronto appeared to be moving quite deliberately in talks involving Halladay, the much-coveted 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner.

"Nothing's happened. If he comes to a team in our division, I would be interested. He's really good," Boston Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

Detroit right-hander Edwin Jackson was another player who could be traded, but there were just two minor deals that actually were made in the first few hours of the four-day session.

Washington acquired right-handed reliever Brian Bruney from the New York Yankees for a player to be named and Texas obtained left-hander Clay Rapada from Detroit for a player to be named or cash.

Among free agents, Detroit agreed to a one-year contract with shortstop Adam Everett. Also, the Yankees said left-hander Andy Pettitte's representatives told them he wants to return for 2010. New York was prepared to make him an offer upward of \$10 million, a baseball official familiar

with the talks said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because talks were ongoing.

"I've been told in the right circumstances he wants to pitch," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

Cashman also acknowledged he was interested in right-hander Jason Marquis. The GM said he traveled to Indianapolis on Sunday on "Air Levinson" — the private plane of the pitcher's agents, Sam and Seth Levinson.

"Obviously, he's very successful — pitched in tough markets," Cashman said. "He's a New Yorker, so he's tough."

Cashman, who received his budget only last Friday, also must decide what offers to make to left fielder Johnny Damon and designated hitter Hideki Matsui, who like Pettitte became free agents. Matsui, the World Series MVP, wants to stay in the major leagues.

"I manage two Japanese players and it's fun," Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "I love it because all of a sudden when you get fired from the United States, you might have a chance to manage in Japan. You never know."

Jason Bay and Matt Holliday, the top two free-agent hitters, appear to have slow-moving markets. Given the recession, many teams are reluctant to spend top dollar for stars.

"We are not in that bidding at all," Atlanta Braves manager Bobby Cox said.

Even the Yankees appear

to be trying to reduce their \$200 million-plus payroll. Cashman said one of the reasons he traded Bruney was that he was eligible for arbitration after making \$1.25 million last season.

Still, other teams are wary of the financial might of the World Series champions.

"They have a couple of things that make life difficult for us: They have a lot of money and they have smart people running what they are doing," Francona said. "They are not going to go away. I hope they don't get better. But they are there, so we have to deal with them."

Teams also were waiting for the midnight Monday deadline to pass for about two dozen free agents to decide whether to accept arbitration offers from their former clubs.

Boston agreed to a small deal with right-hander Scott Atchison, who spent the last two seasons with the Hanshin Tigers in Japan's Central League. Hanshin purchased the contract of outfielder Matt Murton from Colorado.

The New York Mets, coming off a dismal first season at Citi Field, have held numerous trade talks but weren't close to any deals.

Also, former agent Dennis Gilbert was at the hotel. Now a Chicago White Sox executive, he is among the bidders trying to purchase control of the Texas Rangers from current owner Tom Hicks. Gilbert said he hopes to find out whether his bid succeeds by a Dec. 15 deadline that's been set.

NBA

Iverson takes court in Philly for first time since '06

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The A.I. Show took center stage again in Philly.

And the early returns have Philadelphia 76ers fans in love with the revival as much as the original.

Iverson took a familiar route to the Wachovia Center on Monday night for his first game since returning to the Sixers last week. He pulled in to the player's parking lot at 5:55 p.m., waving to fans who waited in the cold for a glimpse of one of the most polarizing athletes in Philadelphia's deep sports history.

He hit the court for warmups to the sound of fans screaming his name and holding "Welcome Home" signs. He took passes from his former 76ers backcourt teammate Aaron McKie, now an assistant coach.

He hit shot after shot to the delight of the crowd and broke out in a wide smile as they erupted in cheers.

Iverson, who did not talk pregame, was in the starting lineup Monday against the Nuggets.

"It's going to be tough on me," Iverson said at shootaround. "But you never know with the way the adrenaline is going to be pumping."

Iverson was edited out of highlights and banished from the team in the week leading up to his acrimonious 2006 trade to Denver. But he got his own greatest hits montage on Monday and

a near-sellout crowd stood and roared in approval.

There was an NBA finals electricity in the arena for a team that hasn't won a playoff series since 2003 and was 29th in attendance.

Iverson was introduced fourth, bowed and kissed the logo at midcourt, then joined his teammates for a little dance. Iverson gave a friendly point to former coach George Karl and hugged ex-teammate Carmelo Anthony.

He missed his first shot, a mako-layup early in the first quarter.

Coach Eddie Jordan said Iverson may start the rest of the season for the struggling Sixers. Iverson will play his first game with Philadelphia since 2006.

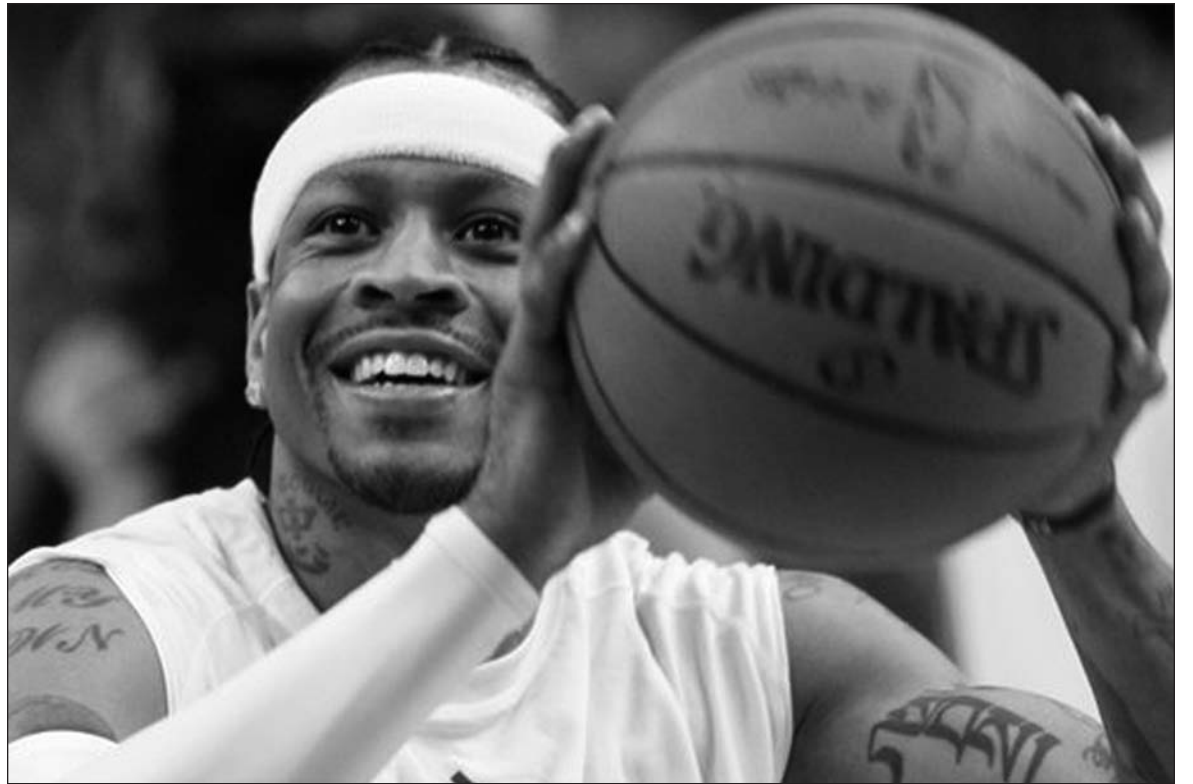
"I feel like I am home," Iverson said. "Just seeing people I'm accustomed to seeing, seeing the reporters, seeing some of the fans when I go out to eat. Just the smell of Philadelphia when I go outside."

Iverson's not sure how many minutes he can play because of his limited basketball activity over the past year. His stint in Detroit was cut short with a back injury and he played only three games for Memphis this season.

Iverson said he has some concerns about playing in game condition.

"If I can't get my scoring on like I want to, I just want to do other things on the basketball court that will help us win," Iverson said.

The Sixers have lost nine



Philadelphia guard Allen Iverson smiles during warm-ups before the Sixers game against Denver Monday. Iverson is returning to the Sixers after a three-year absence.

straight games and hope Iverson can lead them back into the win column. He'll play against Denver, one of three teams he played for after leaving Philadelphia.

Karl, who had Iverson for two-plus seasons in Denver, said he was surprised Iverson was back with the Sixers.

"I was thinking it would be a team trying to win a champi-

onship that needed points," he said. "He always had a love affair with the city and he took them on an incredible run."

Iverson always considered Philly home and dreamed of a return to the team he led to the 2001 NBA finals.

"In your dreams, you always hope for the best," he said. "That's what I'm doing. I love

these people here. They know that. They love me back. Hopefully, it'll just be a great experience.

"Hopefully, I don't get emotional because it will take away from my game."

Iverson broke down in tears at his press conference after he signed a non-guaranteed deal with the 76ers last week.

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HOCKEY

Goals slow in coming for Notre Dame offense

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

Despite not being shut out until this past weekend, Notre Dame's offense is the main culprit in the Irish (7-7-4, 4-4-4-2 CCHA) stumbling to a .500 record halfway through the season.

Miami (Ohio) topped Notre Dame 1-0 Friday night and routed the Irish 4-0 Saturday night. The last time the Irish did not score in a two-game weekend series was in January 2005, the season before current Irish coach Jeff Jackson took the reins of the program.

"[A lack of scoring] has just been a continuous problem," Jackson said. "We had some good chances Friday night. Saturday night our chances were minimal. A lot of that had to do with our ability to possess the puck."

Some of the weekend's woes can be seen as a credit to Miami (11-2-5, 8-1-3-1), the top-ranked team in the country for nine weeks now, but Notre Dame has struggled to score goals all season.

"You get to this stage of the season, we are at the midway point of the year, and we need

to get more production out of some guys," Jackson said. "If we were scoring three goals a game, we might have four more wins."

The Irish currently average 2.11 goals per game; three goals per game would jump the team from 11th in the CCHA standings to second. One goal more per game on many occasions boils down to a bounce here or an inch there, captain Ryan Thang said.

"The bounces aren't going our way, whether it being hitting on pipes or just not capitalizing on chances," Thang said. "For some reason [the

puck] is hitting the post and not going in, whereas other teams are hitting the post and it is going directly in. It is a matter of centimeters and inches."

For one Irish forward, the puck has been able to find the back of the net. Junior Calle Ridderwall leads the team with 10 goals.

"I think the times I've been scoring have been a couple of backdoors, or good passes from teammates," Ridderwall said. "Sometimes you just have the puck bounce your way a little bit. Fortunately I've had that happen to me a couple times this season."

"If we were scoring three goals a game, we might have four more wins."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

Junior forward Calle Ridderwall fights for the puck against a Northern Michigan defender during Notre Dame's 3-2 defeat on Nov. 14. Ridderwall leads the Irish with 10 goals this season.

Ridderwall's success bodes well for the rest of the Notre Dame offense. Maybe the turning point really will come down to a fluke goal, or an unexpected change to the lineup, and the rest of the team will start knocking in goals as the Sweden native has this season.

Jackson said a prolonged scoring drought is cause for concern, but he has seen a team snap out of such before.

"We had the same kind of problem in the second half two years ago, the year we went to the Frozen Four," he said.

"January, February and early March we had a real difficult time scoring."

Surprisingly, an injury to the team's leading scorer sparked a scoring surge at an ideal time.

"Then we got to the NCAA Tournament, and Erik Condra got knocked out, and he was our best player," Jackson said. "All of a sudden we score seven against [New Hampshire] and score five against Michigan. We got to the Tournament, and we came to life. Any little thing potentially

could trigger [an offensive outburst]."

Not that Notre Dame's best player has been knocked out this season, but perhaps that little thing has already taken place, and its effects have been slow in coming.

"We're all asking the same thing: when are things going to turn around?" Thang said. "Maybe things are turning around already and we just don't know it."

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NFL

Rodgers leads Packers past Ravens on MNF

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The standings say the Green Bay Packers are in good shape for the playoffs. But Monday night's victory over the Baltimore Ravens showed they still have some work to do to be taken seriously once they get there.

Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes, including two to tight end Jermichael Finley, and the Packers beat the Ravens 27-14 in a penalty-filled game Monday night.

It was the fourth straight win for the Packers (8-4), solidifying their spot in the NFC wild-card race. But it certainly wasn't pretty.

Baltimore Ravens' Haloti Ngata is seen on the bench during the second half of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers Monday, Dec. 7, 2009, in Green Bay, Wis. The Packers won 27-14.

The teams committed 23 penalties for 310 yards, tying for the second-highest yardage total in an NFL game.

Packers coach Mike McCarthy called the penalties "unbelievable for both sides" but said he was happy with the way his team responded to trying circumstances—something they hadn't done well early in the season.

"I'll say this about our football team: I was very proud and excited the way they overcame the adversity," McCarthy said.

The Ravens (6-6) struggled in coverage without star safety Ed Reed, who sat out with hip and

ankle injuries.

But Ravens coach John Harbaugh insisted his team still can save its season.

"We are still breathing," Harbaugh said. "We are still alive."

Baltimore was called for five pass interference penalties, the most by a team in a single game since the New York Giants in 2001. The Packers were flagged four times for pass interference.

Rodgers was 26 of 40 for 263 yards with two interceptions, only his sixth and seventh of the season.

While Reed's replacement, Tom Zbikowski, came up with one of the interceptions, the Ravens struggled in coverage.

Baltimore's Joe Flacco was 15 of 36 for 137 yards with a touchdown and three interceptions. The Packers sacked him three times.

The win is a continuation of a significant momentum swing for the Packers, who were 4-4 after looking bad in back-to-back losses to Minnesota and Tampa Bay in early November but haven't lost since.

They've worked out some of their pass protection problems — Rodgers was sacked only once Monday night — and their defense appears to be getting more comfortable in the 3-4 scheme installed by defensive coordinator Dom Capers in the offseason.

"If our defense plays like it did tonight, we're going to be tough to beat," Rodgers said.

Leading 17-0 at halftime and seemingly cruising, the Packers

suddenly found themselves scrambling after a pair of turnovers, both involving Donald Driver, allowed Baltimore to get back in the game.

The Packers were driving on their first possession of the second half when Driver caught a pass in Ravens territory and fumbled as he turned to run upfield. Former Packers defensive back Frank Walker recovered, giving the ball back to the Ravens at their own 29.

Flacco drove the Ravens to the Green Bay 12, where he faced third-and-7. Given a free play after defensive lineman Johnny Jolly jumped offside, Flacco found Kelley Washington in the corner of the end zone for a touchdown. Washington tried to do a "Lambeau leap," but fans pushed him out of the stands.

The play was upheld on a replay review, cutting the Packers' lead to 17-7.

After the Packers nearly fumbled the ensuing kickoff, Rodgers watched as his first pass of the next possession bounced off Driver's leg and into the arms of linebacker Jarret Johnson, giving the ball back to Baltimore at the Green Bay 42.

Flacco went deep, drawing pass interference on Packers cornerback Tramon Williams. Willis McGahee scored on a 1-yard touchdown run two plays later, cutting the lead to 17-14 in the third quarter.

The Packers drove to the Baltimore 17 thanks in large part to a 15-yard face mask

penalty by Ray Lewis on Greg Jennings, but the Packers were pushed back by a holding penalty on right tackle Mark Tauscher and the Packers had to settle for a field goal — but Mason Crosby missed from 38 yards.

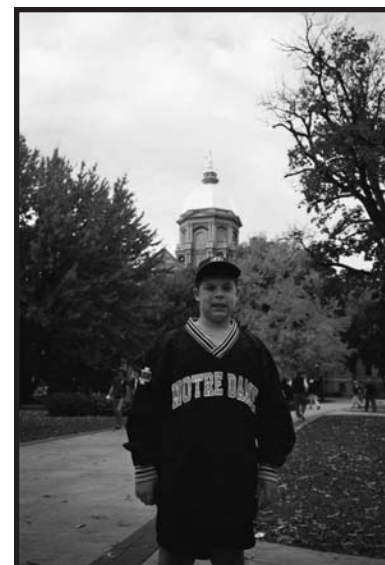
Flacco then threw deep downfield to Derrick Mason, who caught the ball but was called for offensive pass interference against Charles Woodson. Mason compounded the problem by drawing an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty afterward, and the Ravens had to punt from their own 9-yard line.

The Packers got the ball back at the Baltimore 49, and Rodgers threw to Korey Hall and Driver for first downs before finding Finley for a 19-yard touchdown pass and a 24-14 lead with 10:31 remaining.

But Lardarius Webb ran the ensuing kickoff 68 yards — another special-teams meltdown for a Packers team prone to giving up big returns — and Tramon Williams was called for pass interference.

But Williams recovered two plays later, picking off Flacco in the end zone to give the ball back to the Packers and preserve the lead.

A.J. Hawk then picked off another Flacco pass, and the Packers drove for a 32-yard field goal by Crosby to seal the victory.



Happy
Birthday
Wishes to
Kevin Casey

Love Ya,
Mom & Dad
Go Irish!!

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

IPFW comes to Purcell to face undefeated Irish

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

The No. 5 Irish will play host to a struggling Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne team tonight at 7 in the Purcell Pavilion amid hopes that Notre Dame will be able to extend its winning streak to eight.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw is anxious about complacency amongst her players and said that the Mastodons (3-4) could possibly pull an upset against an undefeated Notre Dame (7-0) team that has been sloppy since returning from the Paradise Jam in the Virgin Islands.

"I am really disappointed in the way we have been practicing since coming back from the Paradise Jam," McGraw said. "I feel like we are complacent. I don't know if we are reading our rankings, or what we are doing. We are not playing hard, we don't have any intensity, and we are not focused. And I think that is why we played poorly against Eastern Michigan, and I am not sure what to expect tomorrow."

McGraw said she hopes the senior leadership will be able to step up and keep the ship sailing in the right direction, but senior guard and captain Melissa Lechlitner has been hobbled this week in practice after injuring her quad and hamstring.

"Lechlitner hasn't practiced," McGraw said. "She had a pulled hamstring and she pulled a quad yesterday when she tried to practice."

McGraw said she believes Lechlitner will be able to make it onto the court and play tonight, but she knows that she will need to get help from other players.

"It is hard without her out there," McGraw said. "[Senior guard Ashley] Barlow is doing everything she can to get the intensity up. [Junior guard] Brittany Mallory is doing the same thing, but other than those two I do not feel like anybody is really doing what they need to do."

The team would also like to see junior forward Becca Bruszewski get more time on the court and stay out of foul trouble, as McGraw said she is key to the team's success.

"Really, overall she has only

17 fouls in 7 games, which is really just two per game," McGraw said. "It is really just in the last three that she has gotten into foul trouble. I would certainly like her to stay on the floor longer, because overall she is playing really well."

The inconsistent play is a great worry for McGraw, and she said she believes the team might need a wake-up call to snap out of a post-Virgin Islands malaise.

"We will probably have to lose a game is probably what will be the reality check," McGraw said. "I thought Eastern Michigan would be a wake-up call, but apparently it wasn't."

IPFW brings a lot of skill and size to the table against Notre Dame, and McGraw said she wants the team to get up and ready for what should be a stiff challenge.

"I am worried about their post game, [and] their guards are quick," McGraw said. "[Junior guard Chelsey] Jackson is kind of a tough matchup for us. She is quick and she can score. Their post can score around the basket and away from the basket, which leads to match-up problems with us having to guard them. With the way we are playing it is a little scary going into the game."

The Irish should not take a struggling IPFW squad lightly,



TOM LA/The Observer

Senior guard Melissa Lechlitner sizes up the Iona defense during Notre Dame's 80-45 victory on Nov. 22.

McGraw said. "You can't take anybody lightly, there have been so many upsets," she said. "We saw that with Eastern Michigan. Any team can come in here and just come out and play hard. It is the Super Bowl for them. This is the

biggest game of the year for the teams coming in. They get a chance to play a ranked team, Notre Dame. You bring your A-game and you have to be ready."

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu

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Decision

continued from page 20

never contended for a BCS berth, much less a national title. And, as Clausen admitted when asked directly about his legacy at Notre Dame, "To be honest, I don't know. I think that's still to be determined."

I don't know either, and it's truly a shame, because these are two players with unbelievable skills. In truth, they have both made plays that none of their Irish predecessors ever made — Tate's Hail Mary grab against Washington State comes to mind.

Now's not the time to dig up the regrettable but unforgettable comments a teenage Clausen made about Heisman trophies and national championships at his infamous signing day press conference, just as last Monday wasn't a time to rehash Charlie Weis' opening thoughts on 6-5 not being good enough. Like their former head coach, the legacies of Clausen and Tate won't follow the storybook plot that includes team triumphs and a final ride into the sunset worthy of a John Wayne Western.

But like director of athletics Jack Swarbrick's decision to let Weis go, this decision was the right one. It wasn't an easy one, but it was the right one. And we wish you luck, Jimmy and Golden.

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

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu.

Clausen

continued from page 20

the player I am today."

Clausen began to display his talent on an improved unit in 2008, passing for more than 3,000 yards and recording 25 touchdowns for the Irish. The quarterback was the co-MVP of Notre Dame's 49-21 Hawaii Bowl win, snapping a nine-game bowl losing streak for the program.

The best year of Clausen's career came in 2009, as he finished second in the nation in passing efficiency. Clausen led the Irish to several close victories early in the season, including a fourth-down touchdown pass to Kyle Rudolph with 25 seconds left at Purdue and a go-ahead drive with less than two minutes left against Washington.

"I don't think we could have done more than we did the past year," Clausen said. "Golden [Tate] has played great, I've done my part. I think this is just the best time for us to go out."

Despite not accomplishing goals of leading Notre Dame back to the BCS, Clausen said it was time to move on.

"When you come to a college program you want to go to the national championship and win as many games as you can. Obviously, we didn't really do that and didn't reach our full potential," Clausen said.

While many viewed Clausen's choice to go the NFL as a foregone conclusion, the junior said it was a tough decision.

"I've always wanted to play

professional football. But at the same time I'm going to leave a lot of good friends and people that I have met here and that are going to be my friends for the rest of my life," he said. "It's going to be a hard transition for me."

Clausen will hand the reigns of the team over to sophomore Dayne Crist, who is currently recovering from an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury.

"[Crist is] going to do a great job," Clausen said. "I told him to get healthy as fast as he can and get these guys going."

While excited about realizing his dream of playing in the NFL and seeing what his future holds, Clausen said he will miss the experiences and relationships he built at Notre Dame.

"When I think about not being here next semester and next year, it gives me the chills," Clausen said. "It's been a great time in my life, I couldn't ask for anything more."

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu



Clausen and Tate shared MVP honors in last year's Hawaii Bowl.

Tate

continued from page 20

Perhaps what's most memorable about Tate's junior campaign, though, was how he turned in his best performances when fellow wide receiver Michael Floyd was out with a broken collarbone.

In the five games that Floyd missed, Tate averaged 7.4 catches for 125.2 yards and more than a touchdown per game. On the year, Tate caught 93 passes for 1,496 yards and 15 scores, in addition to running for an additional 186 yards and two touchdowns.

"Coming into my junior season Coach Weis and I actually had a conversation," Tate said. "He said I wouldn't leave after junior year unless I had 17 touchdowns and about 1500 yards. He hit the nail right on the head."

As for his decision to leave for the NFL, Tate said the choice was harder than some may have thought.

"When you come to Notre

Dame you know you're going to develop some very good relationships with people," Tate said. "Going into this year, I'm expecting to be here for another year after my junior year. Then for it to become a reality that I might not be here and to leave the people up here that I love so much and develop great relationships with, it's tough."

As for the factors that went into Tate's decision, he said that the ongoing coaching search, as well as Clausen's decision to declare early, played a role. Tate said that the main reason for his decision, though, was the fact that he didn't feel he could improve on his record-breaking junior season.

"After having the year that I had, I'm not sure if I can even do much better," he said. "So I just feel like it was the right time. Go out while you're hot, you know."

ESPN.com's Scouts, Inc. has Tate ranked as the 26th-best available overall prospect, and draft projections range from the first to third round.

Right now, though, Tate said he's just worried about finding an agent and taking the next steps in the draft process. He said that, ultimately, he plans to return to school and finish his degree. As for all the draft projections, that's a worry for another day.

"I've talked with a few people, and I think they predict me to go between the first and the seventh (final) round, so somewhere between there," Tate said in complete deadpan. "But I'm not sure. I'm just going to start working towards being up there."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

ARE YOU STAYING?



VS.



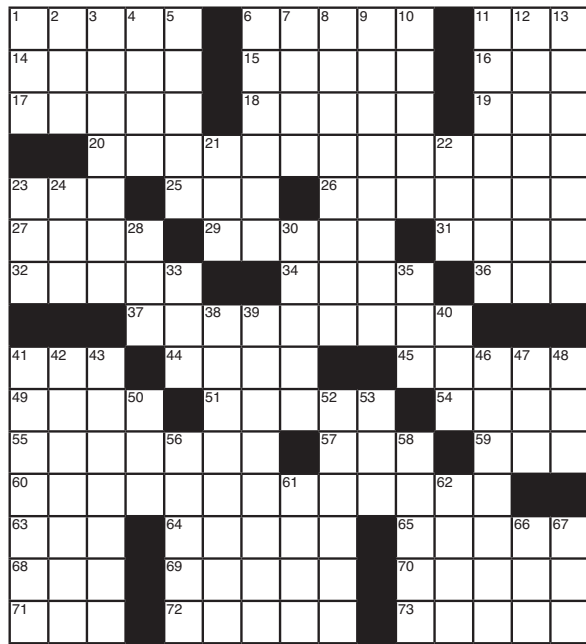
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 With 73-Across, former New York governor
 - 6 Enter unannounced, with "in"
 - 11 Military mess workers, for short
 - 14 Improve
 - 15 Lucy's friend on "I Love Lucy"
 - 16 W.W. II female
 - 17 Gila woodpeckers nest in them
 - 18 Layers of paint
 - 19 ___ crossroads
 - 20 Start of a quote by 1-/73-Across
 - 23 Rank below cpl.
 - 25 Not talking
 - 26 What Fred Ott did in the first movie to be copyrighted
 - 27 Crème ___ crème
 - 29 Astronaut's work environment, for short
 - 31 Actress Turner
 - 32 Put down, as an uprising
 - 34 Not ___ eye in the house
 - 36 Brits call it "the pond": Abbr.
 - 37 Middle of the quote
 - 41 "Gimme ___ ding!"
 - 44 ___ gin fizz
 - 45 Fires
 - 49 Memo starter
 - 51 Win the World Series in four games, say
 - 54 Perlman of "Cheers"
 - 55 Sign painter's help
 - 57 Crosses (out)
 - 59 ___ McMuffin
 - 60 End of the quote
 - 63 Prefix with cycle or sex
 - 64 Ancient Aegean region
 - 65 Surgeon's assistant
- Down**
- 1 Start of many a Scottish family name
 - 2 Flu fighters: Abbr.
 - 3 One of the three green R's
 - 4 Call ___ question
 - 5 Hatred
 - 6 Turned out
 - 7 Basic building block
 - 8 Gershwin composed one "in blue"
 - 9 Blow one's top
 - 10 Elmer the Bull's mate
 - 11 December celebration
 - 12 "Beware the fury of a ___ man": John Dryden
 - 13 Iran-Contra, e.g.
 - 21 Slangy response to "Why?"
 - 22 Hair goop
 - 23 Instantly, for short
 - 24 Fire: Fr.
 - 28 Matterhorn, e.g.
 - 30 ___ show (carnival attraction)
 - 33 Part of U.C.L.A.
 - 35 Casual greetings



Puzzle by Barry Boone

- 38 "Hamlet" setting
- 39 Water-skiers' holds
- 40 Former Mideast inits.
- 41 Emotion conveyed by wrinkling one's nose
- 42 Willa Cather's "My ___"
- 43 Golfer Lee
- 46 "Toodle-oo!"
- 47 Unit of gunpowder
- 48 Slump
- 50 Cincinnati-to-Pittsburgh dir.
- 52 Ones living abroad
- 53 Each
- 56 "I can't remember if I ___" ("American Pie" lyric)
- 58 ___ the Hedgehog (video game)
- 61 Paper cut, e.g.
- 62 Navigator on the Enterprise
- 66 Uncle ___
- 67 Old Tokyo

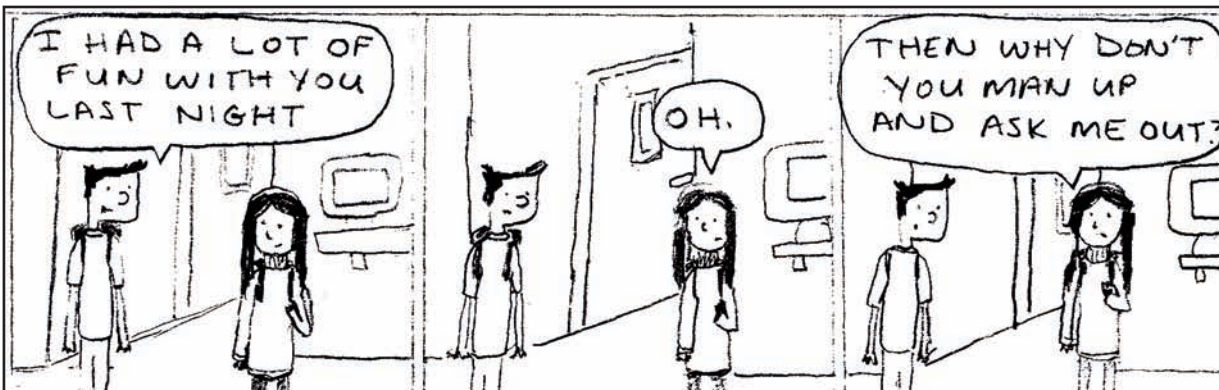
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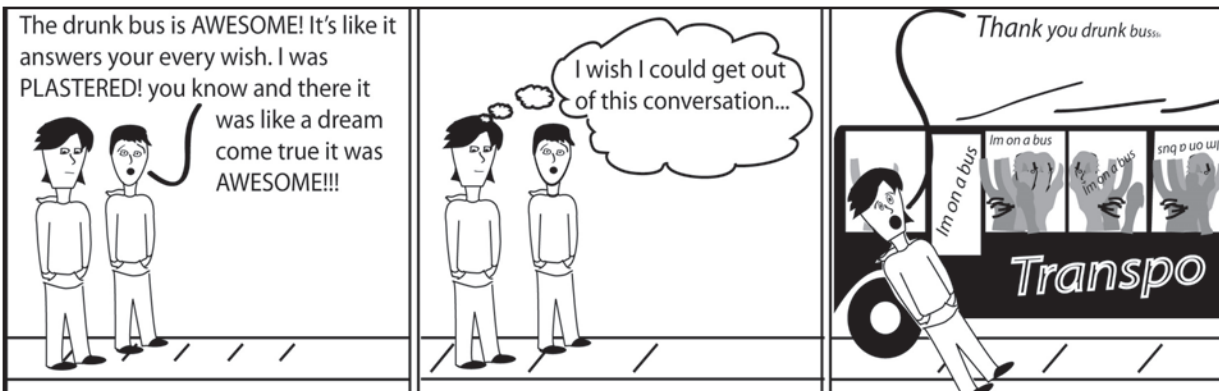
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JUMBLE

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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.

RAPAT

VELED

FLOWL

BARKEY



Answer: " "

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

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWOOP BULGY DEBTOR TRIBAL
Answer: What the farm family ended up with during the drought — A DUST BOWL

THE OBSERVER

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FOOTBALL

Clausen, Tate opt for NFL Draft

Irish stars make the tough, but right, choice

This was the right decision for Jimmy Clausen and Golden Tate. It wasn't an easy one, and as these guys walk around campus over the next few days, they'll probably realize it wasn't a popular one. But it was the right one.



Matt Gamber

Sports Editor

Notre Dame fans, myself included, will miss watching No. 7 hit No. 23 in stride

on those perfectly thrown go patterns that debuted against Purdue in 2007 and that we've seen in just about every game over the past two seasons. We'll miss Clausen's laser-beam out routes, pinpoint accuracy and the fiery, competitive attitude he showed this year, during which he made a tremendous leap from a talented, cocky player into a more polished, mature leader. We'll miss Tate's unmatched ability to bring down jump balls, make defenders look silly in space and provide sound bytes like those he uttered after jumping into the Michigan State band and added to Monday, when he laughed off a question about a potential future in baseball by saying, "maybe in six or six years, I'll enter some softball league."

The fact is both Clausen and Tate are special talents, and while Notre Dame has potential star power on its roster, replacing two of the most productive Irish players in recent memory won't be easy. And while both Clausen and Tate certainly could have helped Notre Dame as seniors next season, those tempted to call the decision to opt for the NFL selfish need to look in the mirror to find someone guilty of that charge.

There are so many concrete reasons for both Clausen and Tate to leave. The potential for a rookie salary cap for players chosen in the 2011 NFL Draft means, in all likelihood, more money for those who decide not to wait.

With the numbers each posted this season, it's almost a statistical improbability they could improve in that regard, especially under a new coach, who, by the way, hasn't yet been hired. And, for Clausen specifically, it's no secret he chose Notre Dame because he thought it would further his dream of playing in the NFL — a fact that, for the record, I have no problem with, considering the tremendous effort he gave the Irish in three tumultuous seasons.

Still, I held out an ounce of hope that Tate, if not both, would return for one more year. Both left several school records and probably serious individual national hardware on the table. Neither player, despite the incredible individual performances and well-deserved accolades of each, was able to will Notre Dame to a winning regular season. They



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Junior quarterback Jimmy Clausen, former coach Charlie Weis and junior receiver Golden Tate look on at Monday's press conference.

A week ago Monday, it was made official that Charlie Weis would not return for a sixth season as the Notre Dame head coach. This Monday, it was star juniors Jimmy Clausen and Golden Tate who announced they would not return for another season in Irish uniforms, opt-

ing to enter the NFL Draft at a time when, as they put it, their draft stock couldn't get much higher.

"I'd like to offer my personal congratulations and best wishes to both Golden and Jimmy, considering the decisions they announced today," Weis said in a

statement issued at Monday's press conference. "They've both put themselves in positions to advance their football careers to the next level and have a great chance to be successful, and that's a credit to how hard they've worked and what they've accomplished."

Clausen: 'One of my lifelong dreams'

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Associate Sports Editor

Jimmy Clausen, regarded as the top high school recruit in his class after committing to Notre Dame, could be the first player off the board in the NFL. The junior appears to be a first-round lock and in the early discussion as the No. 1 pick. "Growing up as a kid, one of my lifelong dreams has been to play in the NFL and with that being said, with the support of my family and coaches I will be forgoing my senior year and entering the 2010 NFL Draft," Clausen said.

Despite playing only three seasons, Clausen leaves South Bend with his name all over the Irish record books. He ranks second in career passing yards and touchdown passes, and set records for passer rating and completion percentage this season.

Clausen broke out as one of the top quarterbacks in the nation in 2009, passing for 3,722 yards and 28 touchdowns against only four interceptions.

The junior said following the season, former Irish coach Charlie Weis said it was time to take his game to the next level.

"The first conversation [Weis] just told me I'm ready to go," Clausen said. "Whether he was going to be here or not, it was my time to go. He thinks I'm ready for the NFL."

As a high school prospect at Oaks Christian High School in California, Clausen was one of the most highly touted recruits of the decade, never losing a game in his career. Called "the LeBron James of high school football" and "the kid with the golden arm," Clausen committed to Notre Dame on the weekend of the Blue-Gold Game following his junior year at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend.

After enrolling a semester early in 2007, Clausen and Notre Dame struggled throughout his freshman season.

Battling injuries after off-season elbow surgery and being sacked a team-record 34 times, Clausen and the Irish won only three games and finished with the most losses in school history.

"I've made leaps and bounds since I came in as a freshman," Clausen said Monday. "I think I've worked really hard. I give coach Weis and [quarterbacks] coach [Ron] Powllus all the credit for making me

"The first conversation [Charlie Weis] just told me I'm ready to go."

Jimmy Clausen
Irish quarterback

see CLAUSEN/page 18

Tate: 'Go out while you're hot'

By SAM WERNER
Associate Sports Writer

If you had told Golden Tate two years ago that he'd be in this position, he might have called you crazy.

"My freshman year, you can ask some of [the other players], you could tell me a play and I still wouldn't know how to run it," Tate said. "So I think I've grown a lot. I've made big steps. But, no, I never would have thought I'd be sitting here after my junior season declaring to go to the draft."

Starting just two games in 2007, Tate caught just six passes in his rookie campaign. He did, however, provide one of the highlights of a dismal 3-9 season. Against Purdue, the then-unknown freshman hauled in three difficult catches for 104 yards and a touchdown.

Tate didn't play much over the rest of the season, but he had already made an impact with Notre Dame fans. Shortly after the breakout game against the Boilermakers, students began printing t-shirts with the slogan "Golden is Thy Tate," and Tate's signature fly route on the back.

Entering 2008, not much was expected of Tate, especially after the dual-sport star missed most

of spring practice due to baseball. In the season opener against San Diego State, though, Tate caught a team-high six passes for 93 yards and a touchdown.

"The game has slowed since last year," Tate said after the game. "I have time to think about the coverage and my routes. It's great. I felt like I was playing football and really enjoying it."

During his sophomore season, Tate led the team with 58 catches for 1,080 yards and 10 scores, including a six-catch, 177-yard,

three-touchdown performance in Notre Dame's 49-21 romp over Hawaii in the Hawaii Bowl.

Even Tate, though, could not have predicted the improvement he would make from his sophomore to junior year, which included numerous broken records and a selection as a finalist for the Biletnikoff Award, given annually to the best receiver in the country.

As it stands, Tate holds Notre Dame records for receptions in a season, receiving yards in a season, receiving yards in a career and touchdown receptions in the season. He is second in career touchdown receptions and total touchdowns in a season.

"I never would have thought I'd be sitting here after my junior season declaring to go to the draft."

Golden Tate
Irish receiver

see TATE/page 18

see DECISION/page 18