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Panel examines conscience clause

University professors discuss Church's perspective on controversial topic of abortion

By SCOTT ENGLERT
News Writer

Notre Dame, especially in light of last May's Commencement address by President Barack Obama and the pro-life rallying that came with it, has delved into the political debate on conscience clauses and continues to examine the issue of abortion through intellectual dialogue. On Thursday, a panel of University professors addressed the position of the Catholic Church on the topic.

"We do not regard the intentional killing of human beings as health care," Orlando Carter Snead, associate professor of law at Notre Dame, said.

Snead, along with Margaret F. Brinig, professor of law and

associate dean at the Law School and Fr. Michael Place, chair of the International Federation of Catholic Health Institutions, spoke Thursday at the McCartan Courtroom in the Eck Hall of Law as part of a panel discussion titled "What Would a Good Conscience Clause Look Like? A Catholic University's Perspective." The panel was hosted by the Task Force on Supporting the Choice for Life and the Notre Dame Law School.

Brinig initiated the discussion by focusing on the personal perspective of the woman.

In her extensive research, Brinig found that the most common denominator in abortion cases is a lack of support for the

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MAGGIE O'BRIEN/The Observer

Fr. Michael Place speaks at Thursday's panel discussion about the position of the Catholic Church on issues like abortion.

Alternative teaching methods increase

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

Community-based learning, which brings learning outside the University classroom, has seen an increase on campus in the last few years, according to several professors in the field.

"Certainly the quality of applications from faculty for community-based research and learning projects has grown in number and depth," Daniel Lende, assistant professor of anthropology, said.

Lende, a proponent of community-based learning on campus, said many disciplines across the board use service as a learning tool.

"Within anthropology, I think there is an ethos of community-based learning, both because the students embrace service learning and because it's a good fit with anthropology," he said.

Lende was the 2009 recipient of the Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D. Faculty Community-Based Research Award for his collaborative work in a local community, according to a University press release.

"Community-based learning can be [applied to] classes ... as well as service trips and research — both my own and my undergraduate students'

see LEARNING/page 3

Carroll Hall to host annual Christmas event

By SARA FELENSTEIN
News Writer

It's that magical time of year again — Carroll Christmas time.

Carroll Hall will be hosting its signature annual event, complete with Santa Claus, food, music and plenty of holiday cheer tonight from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m.

"A Carroll Christmas" has been a Carroll Hall tradition for 12 years. Even with pending exams and the opportunity for outlets of entertainment closer on campus, over 1,000 students

made the trip to Carroll Christmas last year.

The same number is expected again this year, junior Robert Wilson, coordinator of Carroll Christmas, said.

"There are some very good events that are held [by dorms] but I think this is one of the highest-attended ones," Wilson said.

Carroll residents have been working on advertising the event over the last week.

"At the Hall President's Council meeting we handed out big flyers for people to post in their dorms. [On Tuesday and Wednesday]

from five to seven we were outside South Dining Hall handing out quarter page flyers and candy canes," Wilson said. "We got rid of 1,400 flyers and 1,400 candy canes [Wednesday.]"

Wilson said that almost everyone in the dorm takes part in the planning process.

"We're a small dorm so we try to get many people involved."

The total cost of the event is around \$2,400, and The Student Activities Office funds about half, he said.

Wilson said one of the most popular and well-known attractions of Carroll

Christmas is Christmas Karaoke. A pianist plays popular Christmas songs and students can go up to the front of the room to sing.

Carroll is also having a toy drive for Hannah & Friends. Bins will be placed at the front doors to accept children's toy donations, Wilson said.

"A Carroll Christmas" traditionally has indoor and outdoor entertainment. Last year there was a tent outside, but Wilson said the tent was too expensive, and

see CARROLL/page 4

Weekend bus to begin route tonight

Observer Staff Report

The new weekend Transpo bus will have its first run this weekend, starting at Library Circle and making its way past area bars and student neighborhoods.

Route 7a begins at 9:40 p.m. Friday and will run until 3:30 a.m. The bus runs every Friday and Saturday.

Student body president Grant Schmidt said there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to send off the first bus at 9:30 p.m. Friday at South Street Station downtown.

The route will run about every 18 minutes from Library Circle to South Street Station, passing several student bars and neighborhoods. Schmidt said the student government initiative is meant to give students a safe form of transportation off campus on the weekends.

Schmidt said student government will make small bus schedules for students to keep in their wallets over Christmas Break.

The new Transpo initiative is a joint effort of student government, the Office of Student Affairs and Transpo to offer students a safe way to travel off campus during the weekends.

Survey reveals views on AIDS

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

In an effort to raise awareness of the global HIV/AIDS issue, the results of a student-generated campus survey on the disease were released yesterday in LaFortune as a wrap-up of World AIDS Week.

The survey, created by the Notre Dame student HIV/AIDS task force, revealed the wide range of opinions of the disease on campus, and it also demonstrated that the disease has personally affected several students.

Students anonymously completed 2,207 surveys prior to

see AIDS/page 3

2009 AIDS Survey*

9.6%

Are personally affected by HIV/AIDS

47.8%

Believe HIV/AIDS affects the ND Community

*2,207 surveys completed

JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

INSIDE COLUMN

Making memories

Who doesn't love going home for Thanksgiving? There's the food, the friends, the family, the anticipation of the Christmas season. Most of all there are the stories.

I mark each Thanksgiving by a memorable event. There is the Thanksgiving where my cousin hid our Grandma's famous pie, and all my aunts went into hysteria looking for it, blaming each of the individual children and then threatening to cancel all dessert.

Or the Thanksgiving where my sister brought home a boyfriend and preceded to break up with him on the flight back to school. I guess he didn't make the cut.

There was the year my family almost got kicked out of Cowboys Stadium for being too rowdy and inciting a possible riot (though we often leave out our involvement in event).

This year marked a whole new form of crazy.

The first change I found at home was in my older sister. Before I left for school she traded in her boyfriend for a dog. Now she has developed a sort of obsession with the animal, spending lots of money on toys, grooming and classes.

Yes, since you were wondering, the dog even has a graduation photo from obedience training. My older sister values the intelligence of the dog so highly that she believes her dog is trying to talk. I, on the other hand, believe the wheezing notices she makes do not indicate her ability to communicate but rather a canine form of asthma.

Once the extended family arrived so did the alcohol. My uncle's friend Jack, my cousin's buddy Tito, dad brought the most sophisticated man in the world, all the gang came. Usually with my family, the best stories begin when the bottles are opened. This weekend was no exception.

Two of my uncles refused to leave each other's sides, telling everyone they were in a bromance. When my aunt told her husband they were leaving, my other uncle said, "I call shotgun," thinking that since they were bros, he could go too.

One of my other uncles attempted to scare one of my guy friends away by first waltzing with him when he arrived and then violating his personal space while telling jokes.

Later in the night, the men of the family, presumably after too many drinks, decided they needed to do something manly in order to make up for their earlier shenanigans. So they fixed one of the toilets. One problem: It wasn't broken. Until they started messing with it.

This week my mom has had the esteemed privilege of dealing with the repercussions of their efforts. One toilet later, we can conclude it was a good Thanksgiving.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Carly Landon at clandon1@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: WHAT FAMOUS MOVIE ROLE WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO PLAY?



Annie McKeon
sophomore Walsh

"Audrey Hepburn in 'Breakfast at Tiffany's.'"



Kolin O'Brien
sophomore Fisher

"Robin William's character in 'Flubber.'"



Rose Raderstorf
freshman McGlinn

"The girl in 'Step Up' because she gets to dance with Channing Tatum."



Kyle Blanco
sophomore Fisher

"Indiana Jones."



Maura Newell
freshman Lewis

"Any of the Bond girls."



Bayo Omoyeni
sophomore O'Neill

"Marcus in 'The Gladiator.'"

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



MAGGIE O'BRIEN/The Observer

The Phoxy ladies of Pangborn Hall show off their Christmas and hall spirit with their holiday decorations on South Quad. Campus decorations began to go up over Thanksgiving break.

OFFBEAT

Georgia 'elf' jailed over dynamite hoax

MORROW — A man dressed as an elf is jailed after police in Georgia say he told a mall Santa that he was carrying dynamite. Police say Southlake Mall in suburban Atlanta was evacuated but no explosives were found.

Morrow police arrested 45-year-old William C. Caldwell III, who was being held without bond Thursday in the Clayton County jail. He was not part of the mall's Christmas staff.

Police say Caldwell got in line Wednesday evening

to have his picture taken with Santa Claus.

Police say when Caldwell reached the front of the line, he told Santa he had dynamite in his bag. Santa called mall security and Caldwell was arrested.

Groom Twitters and Facebooks from the altar

NEW YORK — A Maryland groom has created an viral story storm after he interrupted his wedding last month to update his Facebook and Twitter accounts from the altar.

Dana Hanna, who works

for a pet Web site, also posted a short video of the ceremony on the Internet. It showed him reaching into his pocket for his phone as the minister was about to pronounce the couple husband and wife.

The video has had more than 350,000 views.

"Oh, Dana is updating his relationship status on Facebook," the minister said as the audience at the wedding laughed.

After Hanna finished twittering he continued the ceremony.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A lecture entitled "Civil Society in Africa" will be given today at noon by Christine Bodewes from the University of London. The lecture will take place in room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center.

The opera Aida will be screened today at 1 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$15 for students. To purchase tickets call 574-631-2800 or visit performingarts.nd.edu.

The film Bright Star will be shown in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are \$3 for students, \$5 for faculty and staff, and \$6 for general admission. For more information call 574-631-2800.

The Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform Handel's Messiah Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$3 for students, \$8 for faculty and staff and \$10 for general admission. To purchase tickets visit the box office or call 574-631-2800.

The annual service project the "Aidan Project" will take place Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at South Dining Hall. Volunteers make fleece blankets for cancer patients. The event is sponsored by service club Circle K.

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	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 32	HIGH 26	HIGH 33	HIGH 37	HIGH 35	HIGH 34
	LOW 28	LOW 22	LOW 22	LOW 28	LOW 26	LOW 27

Atlanta 52 / 38 Boston 50 / 35 Chicago 32 / 24 Denver 34 / 22 Houston 43 / 28 Los Angeles 70 / 43 Minneapolis 26 / 19 New York 51 / 38 Philadelphia 53 / 37 Phoenix 64/ 39 Seattle 41 / 33 St. Louis 37 / 23 Tampa 61 / 56 Washington 53 / 41

College to host Renaissance-themed Madrigal Dinners

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
News Writer

Renaissance music, jugglers and a boar's head — all of these point to only one thing: It's Madrigal Dinners time again at Saint Mary's College.

Madrigal Dinners have been a longstanding tradition for Saint Mary's students and staff. This is the 37th year of the event, and it will occur on campus tonight, Saturday and Sunday.

The event is similar to a dinner theatre production. It includes "an evening full of Christmas music, some acting and great food set during the

Renaissance period," Chris Sallak, patron services and marketing manager of Saint Mary's, said.

The event, Sallak said, consists of sacred and secular Renaissance music performed by the women's and collegiate choir of Saint Mary's under the direction of music professor, Dr. Nancy Menk.

Students from the Saint Mary's theatre department will also be performing, and the Andrews University Early Music Ensemble will provide the instrumental accompaniment.

The event also consists of jugglers, a master of ceremonies played by Saint Mary's Communication Studies profes-

sor Dr. Michael Kramer and Renaissance-themed food, Richard Baxter, director of special events at Saint Mary's said.

Included on the menu, he said, are traditional dishes like seasoned prime rib, Waldorf salad, wassail, cheesecake and Cornish game hen.

Audience members are encouraged to simply enjoy the show and the food, but they may be called upon to participate in some juggling demonstrations, Baxter said.

The dinners, he said, take place on Saint Mary's campus in Regina North Lounge.

"It's hard to believe that the Regina North Lounge can be transformed into a medieval

hall, but it magically becomes another place and time," Baxter said.

He also notes that the event is appropriate for this time of year.

"The music, the lighting, the scenery, the costumes, the meal and the manner in which it is served all combine to prepare us for advent," he said.

Students are also excited about the event. Angela Wilson, a Saint Mary's sophomore, will be performing in her second year of Madrigal Dinners. She, along with other performers, will be wearing the traditional Renaissance attire.

"I love wearing the costumes of period dresses and headpieces because all of the little

kids in the audience get a kick out of it," she said. "It is almost like a parade for them."

She also said this event will be unlike traditional choir concerts.

"It is a very intimate experience and there are very few times in my singing career that I have been able to sing in such close proximity to the people that I am singing to," she said, "It is a very different environment than a traditional choir concert."

All shows are sold out, and according to Sallak, an estimated 540 people will attend the event.

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu

SMC show celebrates Christmas

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

In preparation for the upcoming Christmas season, The Patchwork Dance Company (PDC) will present its annual performance of "Christopher's Christmas" this weekend at Saint Mary's College.

"Christopher's Christmas" is a dance performance open to the public that is presented each year at the College's O'Laughlin Auditorium.

When the performance was written 27 years ago, it was first held in at the College, Jennifer Roberts, assistant director of external events, said.

Since that time, she said, it has become a tradition for the dance company to present this show each year for the students, faculty, staff and local community members.

"They come back every year. It's turned into a tradition over

the years to be at Saint Mary's," Roberts said.

The performance, she said, tells a story through dance. With costumes and choreography, audience members follow the journey of a young mouse named Christopher as he attempts to rekindle in his great uncle the spirit of Christmas.

For loyal attendees of the show, "Christopher's Christmas" holds a special place in the community during the holiday season.

"I just think one of the things that is unique about it is it was written by and performed by local dancers and performers to the Michiana area," Roberts said. "I think it's just a really fun way to get into the Christmas spirit."

Performers include the Patchwork Dance Company members, PDC II dancers, which include college and high school age dancers and apprentice dancers of the company.

Along with company dancers, open auditions were held for local community members to participate in the program. Adult dancers include instructors from South Bend's Debbie Werbrouck's School of Dance.

According to PDC's Web site, the company is "a regional, non-profit, contemporary company dedicated to enriching audiences through performances and outreach programs. Patchwork performs choreography of both nationally recognized and resident choreographers."

The program will be held in O'Laughlin Auditorium On Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday, at 2 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase at the door and cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. A free student ticket is available with the purchase of a \$15 adult ticket.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Learning

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work on their senior theses and other projects," Lende said.

Philosophy professor Essaka Joshua also teaches community-based courses.

"The community-based element of my course runs alongside the more traditional elements. We meet as a class on campus in the normal way, and some of these sessions are set aside for project planning and reflection," she said.

"Reflection' is a term used in community-based learning to describe the analysis of the experience," Joshua said. "In my case, we base our reflection on discovering connections between critical and theoretical approaches to disability and what we learn from experience."

Students also meet outside of class to complete the service projects, Joshua said. This can create close bonds between the students.

"One of the things that are very different about classes that involve community-based learning is the community amongst the students. The students in these classes become friends," she said.

Joshua said service-centered courses help students in applying knowledge beyond the classroom.

"Educational theorists have studied the phenomenon of community-based learning and have concluded that it is active and not passive learning. Students are actively engaged in finding out what they need to know in order

to get the job done. It removes what educationalists call the inert knowledge problem," Joshua said. "This is where information is absorbed in a traditional way, from books and lectures, and then stays in this form rather than being transferred to the range of contexts in which it is applicable. Courses which use community-based learning encourage the transfer of knowledge into real-life situations."

She said community-based learning also combines practical, personal and intellectual development and gives students a sense of self-satisfaction and personal achievement.

"More work is required, in the sense of the active involvement," Lende said. "Basically they have to develop and execute a research project. But really I don't see the time allotment as radically different — it's just distributed differently over the semester."

Joshua said the community aspect of the courses is personally satisfying.

"I feel that I am giving something back to the community. Academics have very little time, as this is a demanding job, and this is a way that I can use my expertise to engage in community action," she said. "I also enjoy watching students grow intellectually and personally when they get involved in the community. There are many surprises, so it is never dull, and the resourcefulness of the students of Notre Dame never ceases to amaze me."

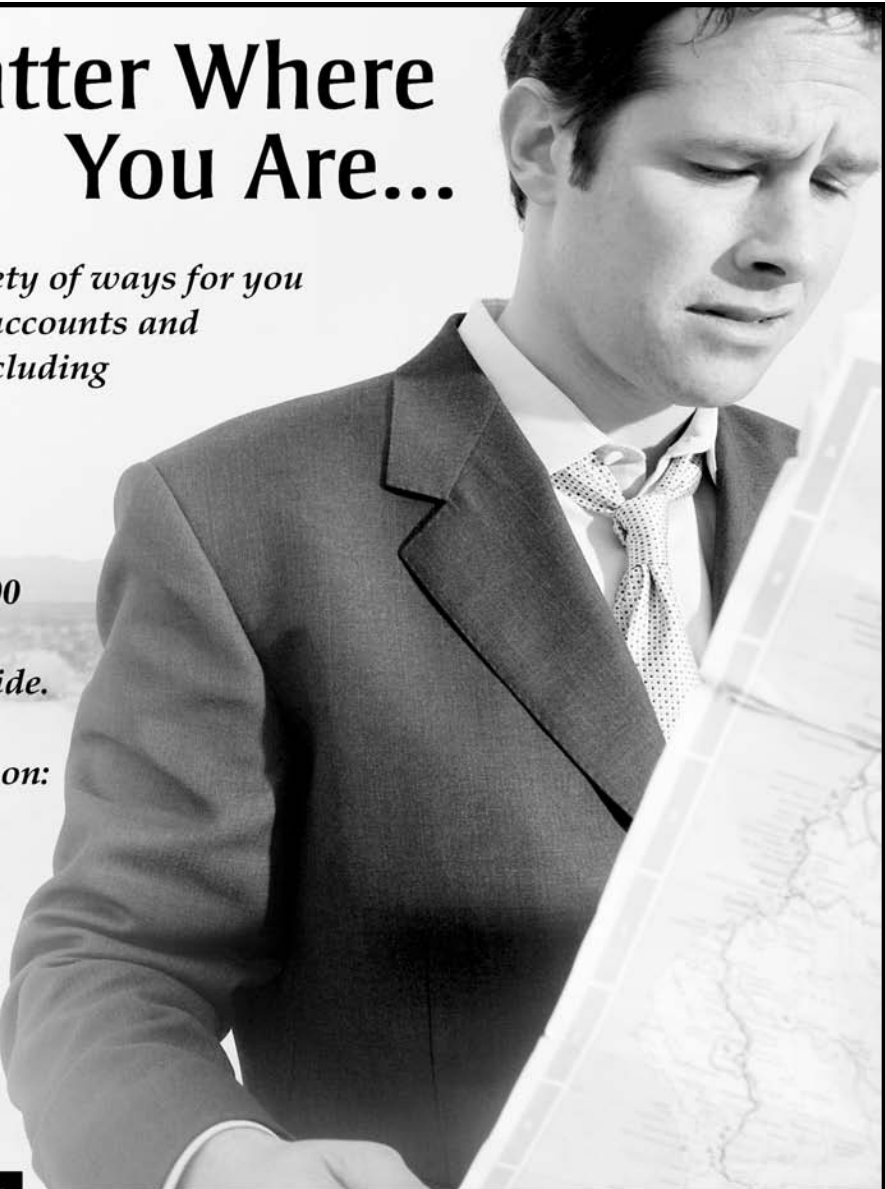
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AIDS

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Tuesday.

According to the survey, 9.6 percent of those who responded personally know someone infected with HIV/AIDS. In addition, 47.8 percent of those who responded believe that the disease affects the Notre Dame community.

The two open-ended questions at the end of the survey allowed students to express their opinions of prevention of the disease and to share their personal experiences.

The responses ranged from ignorance about the issue to personal accounts of living with the disease.

"I have worked with those suffering from AIDS before and the most powerful lesson I learned is that they are still human," one respondent wrote in response to the final survey question. "They deserve respect and dignity just like everyone else. They are still children of God and deserve to be treated with love and kindness."

Several other students recounted the personal struggles of living with the disease, and others discussed the social stigma surrounding

the disease. Some students noted the effects of having loved ones who suffer from the disease.

Not all students who responded, however, believe the disease necessarily is a pertinent topic of discussion for the University.

"I just don't feel like this is something that Notre Dame students have to worry about. It's so rare and if you wear protection you don't have to worry anyway," another respondent said.

The HIV/AIDS task force and the Center for Social Concerns (CSC) cite the wide variety of survey responses as an indication of student interest in the issue.

"People in general were pretty interested in the topic, and there was a pretty good outreach to the student body in general," Margaret Adams, a sophomore member of the HIV/AIDS task force said. "It was shocking to see some negative comments because it's a sensitive issue and it's surprising that there were so many uneducated responses at a university like Notre Dame."

Adams said the task force and the CSC will use the results to determine what needs to be done in terms of increasing awareness of the issue on campus, such as

providing more education about the disease and increasing outreach from local AIDS ministries to the University.

Adams said the taskforce will see what the AIDS ministries need from Notre Dame students to get more students involved with activities and educate people about the issue.

"We want to use World AIDS Day as a starting off point to raise more awareness year-round for the disease because there's a lot to be done here and in the country all year," Adams said. "We also want to use the day to recognize the global issue and make sure students know there are people at Notre Dame and in St. Joseph County affected by HIV/AIDS."

In terms of prevention of the disease, Adams said that realistic, practical means must be utilized to effectively stop the spread of the disease, despite the possible difficulties presented by the University's strong Catholic mission.

"The Church preaches abstinence, but it's not a realistic goal to stop AIDS globally. We need to find a balance between faith and practical means for prevention," Adams said.

On Wednesday night, AIDS Ministries from South Bend provided free, anonymous HIV/AIDS testing for about 20 students, evidencing that people are becoming more aware of their health and the gravity of the disease.

"We wanted to provide this

resource to educate students more about the disease because testing is a factor in prevention and care," Mike Hebbeler, CSC director for student leadership and senior transition, said.

In addition, the film "Your Friends and Neighbors, Living with AIDS in South Bend, Indiana," was shown Tuesday night in the coffeehouse in Geddes Hall and was followed by a discussion session.

The film profiled three people living with AIDS in South Bend.

After the film, Deb Stanley, a community-based learning coordinator who works with AIDS patients, discussed the changing relationship between AIDS ministries and Notre Dame students.

"Fifteen years ago, students volunteered by working with children whose parents were suffering from AIDS. Now people with AIDS in South Bend are healthy and living because medication and knowledge of the disease have improved," Hebbeler said. "Students are now tutoring adults with AIDS because they are going back to school and they can pursue their goals."

The full results of the survey and more selected student responses are available on the CSC Facebook page.

Students can take part in the effort to increase funding for HIV/AIDS in St. Joseph County by visiting the CSC Facebook page.

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

Carroll

continued from page 1

people tended to stay inside regardless.

"This year we bought a bunch of fencing, we're going to build a fence in through our side door and there's going to be food out there, a heater, the tree and blow up Santas and snowmen, he said. "And who knows, maybe we'll get some snow this year."

Another attraction of this year's event is a cookie contest, Wilson said. Attendees can bring their best home-baked cookies to be judged. Prizes, which include gift cards to Chipotle and Borders, will be awarded to the winners.

"I think it's amazing how many people show up and partake in [Carroll Christmas] from other areas of the campus," Wilson said. "We don't have a lot of visitors besides this one night."

Sophomore Michael DeRusso agreed.

"If you ever come to Carroll, Carroll Christmas is the night to come and see the tight-knit community we have," he said.

Contact Sara Felenstein at sfelens@nd.edu



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

University probes climate data

LONDON — A British university said Thursday it would investigate whether scientists at its prestigious Climatic Research Unit fudged data on global warming.

Thousands of pieces of correspondence between some of the world's leading climate scientists were stolen from the unit at the University of East Anglia and leaked to the Internet late last month. Skeptics of man-made global warming say the e-mails are proof that scientists have been conspiring to hide evidence showing that global warming was not as strong as generally believed.

Irish nuns pay for child abuse

DUBLIN — A major Irish order of Roman Catholic nuns, the Sisters of Mercy, offered Thursday to pay child abuse victims, the government and charities a further €128 million (\$193.5 million) to compensate for decades of abuse in its schools and orphanages.

The compensation offer to the Irish Education Department is by far the largest from 18 orders of Catholic priests, brothers and nuns found guilty of chronic child abuse. They ran scores of residential schools, workhouses and orphanages for generations of Ireland's most deprived children from the mid-19th century to the 1990s.

The Sisters of Mercy said in a statement it "wholeheartedly regrets the suffering experienced by the children in their care" and hoped this latest offer would show that its nuns were being "faithful to the values of reparation, reconciliation, healing and responsibility."

NATIONAL NEWS

Ga. House Speaker resigns

ATLANTA — Georgia's powerful House speaker resigned Thursday after a suicide attempt and allegations by his ex-wife of an affair with a lobbyist.

Glenn Richardson, the state's first GOP speaker since Reconstruction, had won sympathy from even his political enemies when he revealed last month that he attempted suicide by swallowing sleeping pills. But then his ex-wife went on TV and accused him of having "a full-out affair" with a lobbyist while they were still married.

Richardson did not address that allegation in a brief statement issued through the House communications office in which he said he will leave both his position as speaker and his House seat on Jan. 1. He did mention his recent admission, made in the wake of his suicide attempt, that he has grappled with depression.

U.S. aid for drug war on track

McALLEN, Texas — The U.S. ambassador to Mexico said Thursday that programs to provide more than \$1.1 billion in equipment and training to help Mexico fight organized crime are on track.

Ambassador Carlos Pascual's comments followed the release Thursday of a government report showing only about \$24 million of the aid had been spent by the end of September. Congress appropriated the first \$400 million for Mexico as part of the Merida Initiative in June 2008.

Pascual said expenditures had increased several times since the report was completed and noted that five new helicopters would be delivered to Mexico in a matter of weeks.

LOCAL NEWS

Day care crash injures children

INDIANAPOLIS — Two robbery suspects fleeing police lost control of their sport utility vehicle and crashed into a day care center Thursday, injuring four children and an employee in a shower of bricks and other debris, police said.

About 18 children were inside the Stepping Stones Child Care when the SUV slammed into the brick building on the city's north side about 12:15 p.m., Lt. Jeff Duhamell said.

Kara Hardister, who runs the church-owned day care, said the crash sent bricks and debris flying into a room for 3-year-olds just before their afternoon nap time.

Senate considers health care bill

Democrats dominate votes on amendments concerning women's health, Medicare cuts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Casting its first votes on revamping the nation's health care system, the Senate rejected a Republican bid Thursday to stave off Medicare cuts and approved safeguards for coverage of mammograms and other preventive tests for women.

The first round of votes ended with a fragile Democratic coalition hanging together.

Senators voted 58-42 to reject an amendment by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., that would have stripped more than \$400 billion in Medicare cuts from the nearly \$1 trillion measure. It would have sent the entire 2,074-page bill back to the Senate Finance Committee for a redo.

Republicans said the proposed cuts to health insurance plans and medical providers mean seniors in the popular Medicare Advantage program will lose benefits. And they predicted lawmakers will ultimately back away from the cuts, once seniors start feeling the brunt.

"Medicare is already in trouble. The program needs to be fixed, not raided to create another new government program," said Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

Democrats said seniors will not lose any guaranteed benefits. The cuts — amounting to a 2 percent slowdown in spending — will help keep Medicare solvent by making it more efficient, they contended. And they pointed out that the health care overhaul bill improves preventive care and prescription coverage.

"My colleagues on the Republican side have resorted to the politics of fear to preserve a broken health care system," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. "What we're hearing are scare tactics designed to mislead seniors."

AARP, the seniors' lobby, threw its weight behind the



AP

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., right, and Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., meet with the press to discuss health care on Capitol Hill Tuesday.

Democrats.

The votes Thursday came after three days of angry debate in which Democrats accused Republicans of stalling to try to kill the bill, and Republicans protested that they were only exercising their right to give the complex legislation full scrutiny.

The first votes were held under a special agreement requiring 60 votes to prevail. That tested the coalition Democrats are counting on to move President Barack Obama's signature issue. The margin was close on the women's health amendment, which aims to safeguard coverage of mammograms and preventive screening test under a revamped system.

The 61-39 vote on a pro-

vision by Democrat Barbara Mikulski of Maryland and Republican Olympia Snowe of Maine was the first substantive ballot in an acrimonious debate that promises to go on for weeks.

After that will come an amendment to restrict abortion funding, except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. Drafted by an abortion opponent — Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska — it looms as a major challenge for the Democrats.

Though Democrats have 60 votes in the Senate, two Democratic senators voted against the Mikulski amendment — Russ Feingold of Wisconsin and Nelson. The measure was saved by three Republicans

voting in favor — Snowe, David Vitter of Louisiana and Susan Collins of Maine.

Thursday's vote followed the heated controversy over a government advisory panel's recent recommendation that routine mammograms aren't needed for women in their 40s. Although the advisers' recommendation was nonbinding, it prompted fears that the health care legislation would usher in an era of rationing.

The Mikulski amendment gives the health and human services secretary authority to require health plans to cover additional preventive services for women. The Congressional Budget Office said the amendment would cost \$940 million over a decade.

GUINEA

Guinea's president wounded in attack

Associated Press

CONAKRY — A renegade faction of Guinea's presidential guard opened fire on the African country's leader Thursday, slightly wounding him amid rumors of deep divisions within the army nearly three months after a military-led massacre of protesters at a peaceful rally.

President Moussa "Dadis" Camara was shot at by his military aide, who heads the presidential guard, Communications Minister Idrissa Cherif said. A statement read on state TV said the 45-year-old president had been slightly wounded but that his life was not in danger.

"The president of the republic is still the president of the republic and he is in good

health," Cherif said as military helicopters and sporadic shooting could be heard in downtown Conakry.

Cherif said Camara had left the country's main military barracks from where he has been running the country since seizing power in a military-led coup 11 months ago. He headed downtown to a military camp housing hundreds of men under the control of Abubakar "Toumba" Diakite, the president's aide-de-camp. The shooting occurred inside the camp.

The incident underscores the deep rifts inside the military clique that grabbed control of the nation of 10 million on Africa's western coast just 11 months ago. Camara had initially promised to quickly organize elections, but then reversed

course and began hinting that he planned to run for office, prompting a massive protest Sept. 28.

Toumba is accused of having led the presidential guard that opened fire on the peaceful demonstrators that had gathered inside the capital's national stadium. At least 157 people were killed and dozens of women were raped by the red beret-wearing presidential guard who also assaulted them with bayonets, rifle butts and with pieces of wood. At least 20 women were kidnapped and driven away in military trucks to private villas where they were drugged and videotaped while they were being gang raped over several days, according to three survivors as well as several human rights groups.

Panel

continued from page 1

mother.

Brinig believes, therefore, that certain steps that must be taken to assist pregnant women.

“Preventive conscience clause ... also need to be our concern,” Brinig said. Support, she said, can be offered “through prayer, service and sometimes financial help.”

Place followed Brinig and discussed the Catholic view of moral order.

“There is an objective moral order ... an affirmative response to do good and avoid evil,” Place said.

He explained how this view is upheld traditionally in the Constitution.

“There are certain inalienable rights [for all human life,]” Place said.

Place also discussed the role of religion in society, citing the post-Vatican II stance on the state-religion interaction.

“Government ought to provide space for the free exercise of religion and the personal conscience of society,” Place said.

There are, he said, three principle ways religion influences a state: forming of conscience, advancement of society through institutional works

and a shared moral vision.

Some people today, however, advocate for a greater separation between religion and government. And yet, Place said, even without religion, abortion is still wrong.

“It is not a religious obligation first, but it is a human obligation,” Place said. “Without life there is no society.”

In addition, Place warned of those who use language as a tool, citing the examples of classifying patients as consumers and abortion as a basic health right.

Snead concluded the panel and reiterated the two foundational premises of the pro-life argument: that all human beings are created equal and that life begins at the moment of conception.

Snead described how, under the new administration, government policy toward living embryonic stem cells has shifted from a policy of “neutrality to destruction.”

He said he is glad to be part of an institution that shares his view on the dignity of human life.

“It is my position that public funding should not be used to provide or subsidize abortion funding directly or indirectly,” Snead said.

Contact Scott Englert at senglert@nd.edu

Exec pleads guilty to bribery

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A California venture capitalist pleaded guilty Thursday to charges that he helped his company land a lucrative deal with New York’s public pension fund by giving nearly \$1 million worth of illegal gifts to state officials.

Markstone Capital Partners chairman Elliott Broidy made an unannounced appearance in a Manhattan courtroom to admit to a felony charge of rewarding official misconduct.

Prosecutors said the state invested \$250 million in Markstone after Broidy showered them with gifts and favors, including trips, pay-outs to friends and relatives, and a secret investment in an obscure movie called “Chooch,” produced by an official’s brother.

“This is an old-fashioned payoff of state officials,” said New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. “This is effectively bribery of state officials, and not just one, but a number of state officials in the comptroller’s office.”

Broidy is the latest in a string of private equity executives and investment advisers to plead guilty in connection with Cuomo’s investigation of pension fund activities during the tenure of former state Comptroller Alan Hevesi.

More arrests seem likely.

Cuomo announced Thursday that four high-level officials in the comptroller’s office had improperly accepted gifts or other lucrative benefits from Broidy.

He would name only one, the pension fund’s former chief financial officer, David Loglisci, who already faces

charges in the case.

Cuomo said he couldn’t talk about the three others because the investigation was not yet complete.

However, the Attorney General’s office said Broidy had subsidized five trips to Israel, and one to Italy, by a “very high ranking” official in the comptroller’s office in connection with Markstone’s attempt to get business from the pension fund.

Those trips included first class air travel, luxury hotel suites, a helicopter tour, a car and driver and a security detail, all at a cost of about \$75,000.

The official was not named in court, but state travel records show that Hevesi himself made several trips to Israel in 2005 and 2006 during the period when Broidy is alleged to have arranged for travel. The records also show taxpayers picked up some at least some expenses associated with those trips, including

\$20,894 in airfare.

Hevesi’s lawyer, Bradley Simon, declined to comment.

Previously, Hevesi has denied accepting any improper gifts or bribes. He resigned in late 2006 after pleading guilty in an unrelated scandal involving the improper use of a state chauffeur and security detail.

A Broidy spokesman, Christopher Clark, said in a written statement that his client “regrets the actions that brought about this course of events, but is pleased to have resolved this matter with the NYAG and will be cooperating in the ongoing investigation.”

In court Thursday, Broidy described other gifts to higher-ups in Hevesi’s administration, including an official who he said arranged for him to pay \$90,000 to cover his girlfriend’s rent and hospital bills, plus another \$44,000 in payments to the girlfriend’s relative.

Ind. teen strangles, kills younger brother

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Ignoring his younger brother’s plea of “Andrew, stop,” a 17-year-old who told authorities he identified with a television serial killer strangled the boy, dragged the body to his car and drove to see his girlfriend, an Indiana prosecutor said Thursday.

Andrew Conley of Rising Sun was calm and showed no remorse or emotion as he described strangling 10-year-old Conner Conley as the two wrestled Sunday, a probable cause affidavit said. Conley told investigators he dumped his brother’s body near a park in the Ohio River community about 90 miles southeast of Indianapolis.

“Sometimes people are just evil,” Dearborn-Ohio County Prosecutor Aaron Negangard said. “This is an evil child.”

Prosecutors filed preliminary charges of murder against Conley along with a supporting affidavit Thursday. Conley is being charged as an adult and will appear Friday in court, Negangard said.

Conley’s family did not immediately return messages for comment Thursday. Negangard said Conley had an attorney but none was listed in the affidavit.

The teen told investigators he had had fantasies about

killing someone since he was in eighth grade, including cutting somebody’s throat, and felt “just like” the serial killer Dexter on the Showtime television series of the same name. He said killing his brother satisfied a craving like a hamburger satisfied hunger.

“Like I had to ... like when people have something like they are hungry and there is a hamburger sitting there and they knew they had to have it and I was sitting there and it just happened,” Conley told investigators in the affidavit.

The slaying comes six weeks after 15-year-old Alyssa Bustamante told Missouri authorities she strangled, stabbed and cut a 9-year-old neighbor’s throat because she wanted to know what it was like to kill someone.

The affidavit in Conley’s case described him killing his brother before visiting his girlfriend and other friends. It said:

The two brothers were wrestling while their parents were at work. Conley put Conner in a headlock, causing the younger boy to pass out and fall to the floor. Conley dragged Conner to kitchen, put on a pair of gloves and choked the younger boy for about 20 minutes until he noticed blood flowing from Conner’s nose and mouth.

He told investigators the child’s last words were “Andrew, stop.”



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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones

10,366.15

-86.53

Up:

Same:

Down:

Composite Volume:

1,354

128

2,411

1,272,311,121

AMEX

1,787.38

-19.30

NASDAQ

2,173.14

-11.89

NYSE

7,157.05

-65.37

S&P 500

1,099.92

-9.32

NIKKEI (Tokyo)

9,959.62

-27.12

FTSE 100 (London)

5,313.00

-14.39

COMPANY

%CHANGE

\$GAIN

PRICE

BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC)

+0.70

0.11

4.05

CITIGROUP INC (C)

-1.22

-0.05

110.38

S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)

-0.78

-0.87

110.38

FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)

-0.30

-0.30

14.36

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE

+1.72

+0.057

3.38

13-WEEK BILL

-0.00

-0.01

0.04

30-YEAR BOND

+1.29

+0.055

4.33

5-YEAR NOTE

+1.87

+0.039

2.13

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)

+0.03

76.90

GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)

+5.20

1,218.2

PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)

-1.23

81.08

Exchange Rates

YEN

88.1950

EURO

1.5057

CANADIAN DOLLAR

1.0565

BRITISH POUND

1.6544

IN BRIEF

FedEx raises delivery rates

NEW YORK — FedEx Corp. said Thursday it will raise shipping rates for its Ground and Home Delivery units by an average of 4.9 percent in 2010 — 1 percentage point less than this year's rate hike.

FedEx announced in September it will increase shipping rates for Express packages shipped within or from the U.S. by an average of 5.9 percent in 2010, also 1 percentage point lower than FedEx's rate increase this year. That rate is partially offset by a lower fuel surcharge.

The company, based in Memphis, Tenn., said Thursday that SmartPost rates also will change, but didn't specify how. SmartPost is FedEx's partnership with the U.S. Postal Service.

All of the rate increases will go into effect on Jan. 4.

FedEx's larger rival UPS Inc. also is hiking 2010 ground rates by an average of 4.9 percent. The base rate increase for air express and international shipments is 6.9 percent, also offset by a lower fuel surcharge.

Both package delivery companies' rate increases are standard and usually announced in the fall.

Court blocks gold mine project

RENO, Nev. — A federal appeals court has temporarily blocked construction of a massive gold mine project in northeast Nevada that critics say would harm the environment and ruin a mountain several tribes consider sacred.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed part of an earlier decision denying a preliminary injunction sought by conservationists and tribal leaders. The groups had sought the injunction to force Barrick Gold Corp. to postpone digging a 2,000-foot-deep open pit at the Cortez Hills mine 250 miles east of Reno.

The 17-page ruling issued Thursday in San Francisco said the U.S. Bureau of Land Management failed to adequately analyze the potential for the mine on Mount Tenabo (tuh-NAH'-boh) to pollute the air with mercury emissions and dry up scarce water resources.

THE OBSERVER
BUSINESS

GM, Chrysler rethink closings

Automakers attempt compromise to sidestep legislation; dealers hope to remain open

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — General Motors and Chrysler will reconsider decisions to close thousands of dealerships as part of a compromise meant to stave off federal legislation that would require them to keep showrooms open.

The decision by the two automakers, announced Thursday, raises the prospect of new life for some of the more than 3,000 dealerships that were slated to close as part of a broad industry restructuring. Dealers have loudly protested the decisions, saying they are unfair.

The new plans call for face-to-face reviews with dealerships and offer binding arbitration with those who face closure of their showrooms. GM, the largest U.S. automaker, also said it would be more transparent about how it picked the dealers that will close. It will also speed up payments to assist those targeted for shutdown.

Dealer groups and a key lawmaker questioned the automakers' latest plans, however, opening the possibility of Congress considering the dealer legislation anyway. The National Automobile Dealers Association said the GM proposal does not create "a sufficiently meaningful process that provides for a reasonable opportunity for dealer reinstatement."

The dealer group said it would "continue to work with Congress on the pending 'dealer rights' legislation in the event a non-legislative solution cannot be achieved on this important issue which affects thousands of people's jobs and lives in their communities."

Rep. Christopher Van Hollen, D-Md., who has criticized the dealer cuts, said the GM and Chrysler plans "still fall short of what is needed to help reinstate profitable car dealers and put their



In this June 1 file photo, a customer walks through a Burlingame, Calif. dealership. General Motors is reconsidering its decision to close more than 3,000 dealerships.

employees back to work."

"Earlier this year, after receiving billions of dollars in taxpayer money, Chrysler and GM announced they were terminating more than 3,000 dealerships, many of them profitable small businesses employing thousands of people in communities all across the nation. Their logic didn't make sense then, and it still doesn't make sense today," Van Hollen said in a statement.

As part of its deep restructuring this year, GM has said it will cut 2,400 dealers from its 6,000-dealer network by next fall. Chrysler announced similar plans, slashing 789 dealers as part of its bankruptcy proceedings this summer. Both automakers say the

cuts are needed to better align their dealer network with much lower demand for cars and trucks.

But dealers accused the automakers of closing lots that were still profitable, and said the auto companies weren't forthcoming about the criteria they used to decide who will close and who stay open.

The House passed legislation in July that would force the companies to reverse their closure plans, though the Senate has not taken it up. The Obama administration opposes the measure.

If dealers refuse to accept the GM and Chrysler proposals, some lawmakers could insist that the House-approved legislation be included in a

spending plan expected to be considered by the House and Senate later this month, setting up a potential confrontation with the White House.

The White House has opposed the legislation over concerns that it could hamper the attempts by General Motors and Chrysler to rebound from government-led bankruptcies. The federal government holds a majority stake of GM and 10 percent of Chrysler.

Talks brokered by Congress between the dealer groups and the automakers began in September, but had stalled over disagreements over factors like the review process for dealers slated to close.

Kentucky farming suffers with recession

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky's slumping horse industry appears on pace to be overtaken by poultry farming as the king of the state's agricultural sector, economists said Thursday.

In a state where horses are a mainstay of the cultural and economic lifeblood, the new top perch for chickens in the pecking order of Kentucky agriculture once seemed unlikely.

But the equine sector has been battered by deep recession, and the poultry industry has enjoyed years of steady growth. As a result, University of Kentucky agricultural economist Lee Meyer predicted that receipts from the

poultry sector this year would outpace those from the horse industry by about \$180 million.

Meyer said that poultry production, concentrated in western Kentucky, is expected to generate about \$930 million in receipts this year. The equine sector is projected to generate about \$750 million this year, down from a 2007 figure that exceeded \$1.1 billion, he added.

That projection was seen by former Gov. Brereton Jones, owner of a Kentucky horse farm, as further proof that the state's horse industry is in decline and needs a boost.

"You can go anyplace around the world and tell people you're from Kentucky, and the first thing they

want to talk about is the Kentucky Derby and the thoroughbred industry," he said. "We risk losing that if everybody refuses to pay attention."

Jones supports expanding gambling at Kentucky's horse racing tracks. A measure to allow video slot machines at tracks passed the Kentucky House but died in a Senate committee during this year's special session.

Thoroughbred sales and breeding stud fees are the two main income sources for the industry, but have taken a big hit from the global recession, UK economists said at a news conference Thursday that coincided with the Kentucky Farm Bureau's annual convention in Louisville.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

THE OBSERVER

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Weis' departure handled respectfully

We all knew for a while that Charlie Weis would not be retained as Notre Dame's head football coach.

What we didn't know was when and how the process would play out, because the last time the Notre Dame administration fired a coach, they botched it.

The University fired its last coach, Tyrone Willingham, after just three seasons, before he had a chance to develop his recruits and integrate them into his system. After Willingham was fired, then-Director of Athletics Kevin White admitted that school officials had pressured him to let Willingham go against his better judgment. The administration thought they could snag Urban Meyer, formerly the head coach of Utah and an assistant at Notre Dame. But then, like Meyer to Florida, things headed south in a hurry.

This time, so far, they've got it right.

As firings go, Weis' has gone incredibly smoothly. Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick said the decision was tougher than most would imagine, which is understandable given how much everyone wanted Weis to work out as a coach. He was an alum who loved the school, he won in the NFL and he had success in his first two seasons with the Irish. He made Brady Quinn a Heisman contender and a first-round draft pick and led the Irish to two BCS bowls in two years.

Just what dragged the team into the depths of college football is tough to pinpoint. The recruits poured in but the wins slowed down. The team looked unprepared to beat teams it was supposed to beat (Syracuse and Navy — twice) and had trouble winning big games. Swarbrick said the direction of the program left him unconvinced that next year would bring significant improvement, so Weis had to be let go.

It's important to remember that Weis did not destroy the program by any means. He brought in great recruits, he graduated his players and, for the most part, he kept them out of trouble. Off the field, his work with the Hannah and Friends charity is admirable and will continue to improve lives.

But, bottom line, Weis did not prepare his talented team to win, and for that reason letting him go was the correct move.

Swarbrick handled the unsavory situation as best he could. He recommended the move to University President Fr. John Jenkins, who approved it — the way decisions should be made at this level. Swarbrick said he had a dialogue with Weis and informed him of his fate after the Stanford game, in a timely, professional manner indicative of the way this situation has played out.

By now, the circus that surrounds a coaching change at Notre Dame is in full swing. The media attention focused on the Irish program intensifies every move Swarbrick makes. ESPN has camped out near Legends to film updates on the coaching search. Each hour brings new rumors from message boards to usually credible media outlets eager to break the news of who will become Notre Dame's 29th head football coach. Finding a coach who can win at the Division I level is tough in a vacuum. Under this microscope, it's near impossible.

But Swarbrick can't let that stop him. His decision — and he reiterated Monday that it will be his decision — has to be the right one.

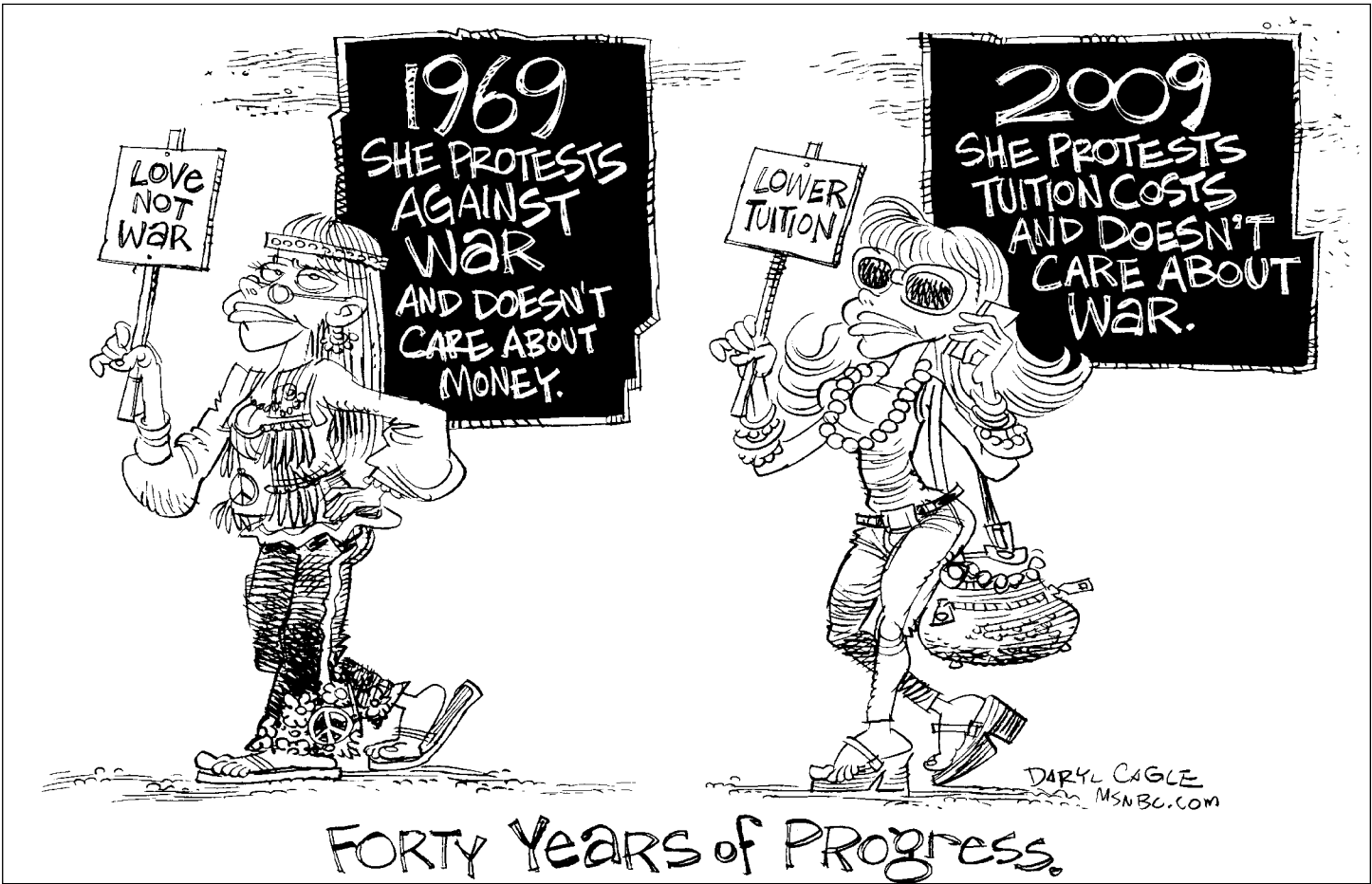
Swarbrick's previous involvement with athletics and the contacts he has made over the years should help him evaluate all the possibilities, not just those the media has pigeonholed as candidates with mostly baseless speculation.

It's not about a big name, it's not about an offensive or defensive background and it's not about getting him — whoever that may be — here in time for a bowl game. It's about preparing the team to succeed next year and the program to excel over the next 10 years by molding and motivating talented athletes into a cohesive, productive unit.

That's where Charlie Weis fell short, and that's what the next head coach must do. Now it's up to Swarbrick to find him. And if what we've seen this week is any indication, he will.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Nobody will ever win the Battle of the Sexes. There's just too much fraternizing with the enemy."

Henry Kissinger
U.S. diplomat and scholar

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We would accomplish many more things if we did not think of them as impossible."

Vince Lombardi
Former Green Bay Packers coach

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

In a New York
State of Mind



By Bill Brink

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | No Sleep Til Brooklyn – The Beastie Boys |
| 2 | New York, New York – Frank Sinatra |
| 3 | Christmas in Hollis – Run DMC |
| 4 | N.Y. State of Mind – Nas |
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| 10 | Angel of Harlem – U2 |
| 11 | Christmas in the City – Mary J. Blige |
| 12 | Shattered – The Rolling Stones |
| 13 | Wouldn’t Have It Any Other Way – Elton John |
| 14 | An Open Letter to NYC– The Beastie Boys |

I grew up on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, and fell in love with it. Sadly, I don’t live there anymore, but the spirit of the place stuck with me and I go back as often as I can to visit family. Part of it is the pizza, part of it the sports teams, part of it the dirty subways, the noise, the plays, Seinfeld and a whole host of other factors that make New York City the best place in the world. Jay-Z’s “Empire State of Mind” got me thinking about all the other songs dedicated to New York. There are thousands, and I don’t claim that these are the best, but here’s a sample.

By SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

With all the talk both building up and, in many cases, consequently tearing down this fall’s most unsuspecting, wildly successful, “Blair Witch Project” clone, “Paranormal Activity,” a look back at the true roots of documentary/horror filmmaking seems to be in order. Contrary to popular belief, the original “Blair Witch Project” had its own inspiration. And that film, a hardly known 1998 VHS castaway, “The Last Broadcast,” is the subject of this movie rewind.

Call it lost in translation, or lost in production. Either way, somewhere along the lines, a groundbreaking idea of a film with a pretty solid storyline to boot, became the real murder victim in this genre-changing horror of a horror film. Put together a team of creative minds and tell them to come up with a brand new take on the horror genre, then give that idea to an untalented writer only to watch him run off of a proverbial cliff with it. Purposely cast low-grade actors, some of whom can’t even be convincing as ordinary, everyday people, and put in charge two directors whose specialty is taking movies out back behind a shed and shooting them dead and you’d have “The Last Broadcast” in a nutshell. What a bomb. What a “could have been.” And that’s not even the half of it.

Steven Avalos and Lance Weiler’s horror/documentary veiled as a documentary of the gruesome murders of two television hosts out in the Pine Barrens in New Jersey, is ruined by its own attempt to amateurishly go about being clever and build up to an all-or-nothing big twist. All it takes is a somewhat keen ear and maybe one partially opened eye to react to the big twist the same way you’d react to seeing blank wall in front of you. Only, a blank wall doesn’t carry with it the tag of “utter disappointment.” A blank wall isn’t laughable, or lasting for all the worst possible reasons. No, instead, to be quite honest, it’s not even just the film’s obviousness that kills it, but so many (I’d make a list, but I’ll spare you) other things. To make a long story short, almost everything from beginning to end is what makes “The Last Broadcast” a failure in the truest sense of the word. The end credits are, sadly, one of the film’s highlights.

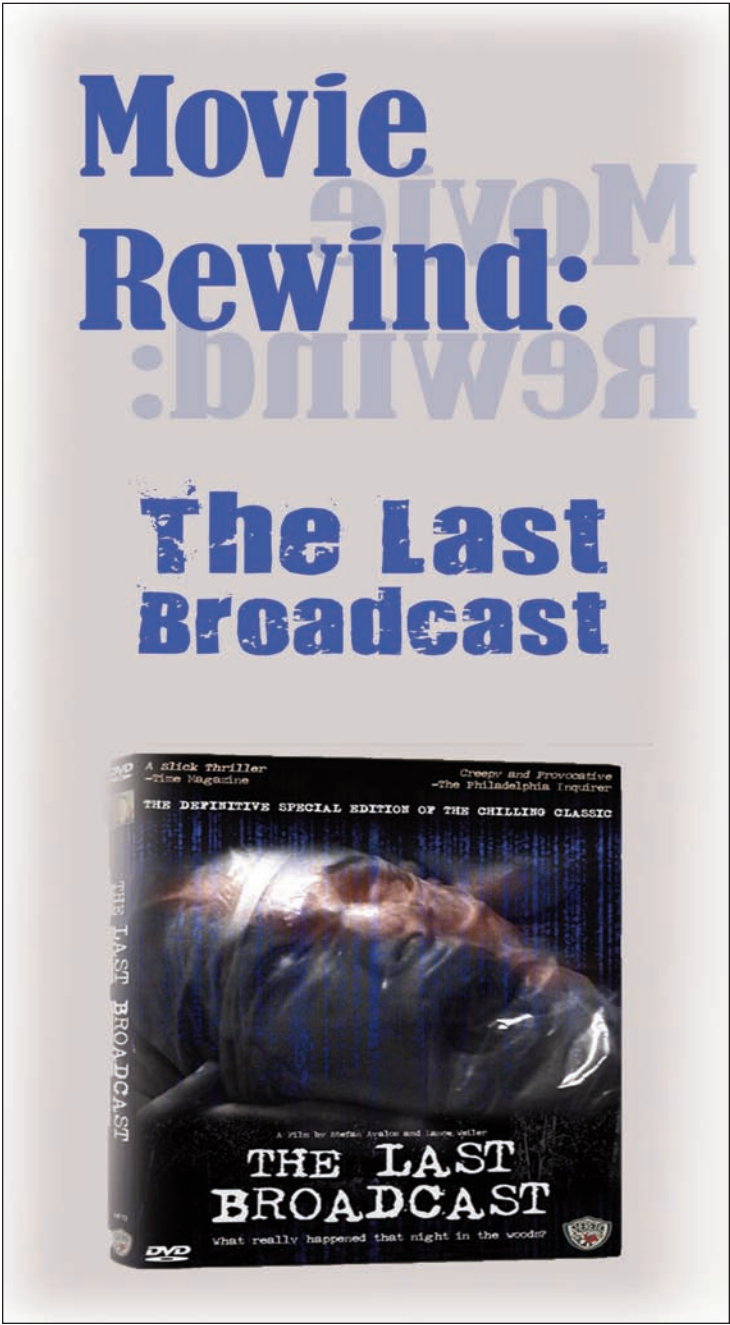
But that’s not entirely fair to it. Why look

back on a movie 11 years old that by all accounts should only be remembered as being a coveted member of film history’s hall of shame? Because of the idea behind the film. An idea ruined by terrible production and amateur oversight, but an idea that revolutionized film-

making. To name a few examples, “The Blair Witch Project,” “Paranormal Activity,” “Poughkeepsie Tapes” and “District 9” all draw their founding idea from the film. For that reason only, it’s worth watching the film — to see where it all started.

Ultimately, “The Last Broadcast,” in the right hands, not only could have — but would have — been something to remember. It probably could have never achieved the success of “Blair Witch” only because the Internet and its potential for viral marketing hadn’t yet really been discovered, but it could have at least been a cult classic. It could have been a classic, genre-bending, once-in-a-blue-moon film that leaves a permanent footprint on the film industry. Instead, “The Last Broadcast”

is somewhere out there straddling the line between “never seen it” and “wished I hadn’t seen it.” It’s a tragedy, really, a horrible tragedy, as all the while, amidst the backdrop of the murders the film is supposedly documenting, we instead watch as the film is murdered by its own maker.



The Last Broadcast

Directed by: Stefan Avalos and Lance Weiler
Featuring: David Beard, Jim Seward, Stefan Avalos and Lance Weiler



Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu





By JORDAN GAMBLE
Associate Scene Editor

Three hundred paper bags filled with sand, tables heaped with cookies, a giant tree and ... a guy dressed up as Mrs. Claus.

Yes, it's time for "A Carroll Christmas," the Far Quad dorm's signature event. Its tagline? "If you only come to Carroll one time, come to 'A Carroll Christmas.'"

Hall president Rob Wilson, a junior, said that close to 1,000 people trekked to the event for the 2008 edition, and he hopes the mild weather will bring big crowds this year.

Earlier in the week, residents spent several hours filling paper bags with sand and candles before hauling them out in wheelbar-

rows to place along sidewalks. The lit candles will mark the path to Far Quad.

These luminaries go "all the way up to Lyons, because, quite frankly, not that many people have ever been to Carroll Hall," Wilson said.

Wreaths, paper snowflakes and artificial trees decorate the dorm's first floor, while a giant real tree takes a place of honor on the front lawn. After its lighting ceremony on Friday night, it will be able to be seen across the lake and even from the top floor of the

Hesburgh Library. Residents also judge a cookie-baking contest, picking out their favorites of the entries from students across campus. These batches are part the veritable cookie buffet, along with hot chocolate and cider, which fills at

least one room of Carroll's first floor.

Other highlights include Christmas karaoke and

"Santa's workshop," where visitors can pose with Santa, Mrs. Claus and some elves — all Carroll residents in costume.

"There's not a lot of people in the dorm — just a hundred," Wilson explained, so each resident takes up some of the work — which includes freshman duty as Santa's elves, tights and all.

Wilson said that the event is also hosting a toy drive for the charity Hannah & Friends. Visitors can bring along unwrapped toys and place them in the marked boxes before heading inside to get their fill of cookies and karaoke.

Besides providing yet another place to wear that snazzy sweater from Goodwill, "A Carroll Christmas" gives students an opportunities to stretch their boundaries, so to speak.

"We're really proud of the event, and we try really hard to get as many people as we can to come. A lot of people have never been out to Carroll before."

The Christmas party grew out of a Halloween haunted house tradition, which was shut down in 1997 amid some controversy. Carroll decided to take up another holiday event and started with the open house that has grown over the years.

"I personally think it's the best Christmas celebration on campus," Wilson said.

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu



By ADRIANA PRATT
Assistant Scene Editor

Dust off those musty boughs of holly and round up the jingle bells because Christmas time is here. Finals are a bore, but Christmas is fun. So take all that unnecessary study time and use it to get your Whoville on because South Bend needs a good dose of cheer. As the two wise men of "Wedding Crashers" said, "Rule Number 76. No Excuses. Play like a champion."

The 5 Christmas Decorating Essentials:

1. Christmas Lights

Yes this might seem obvious, but never underestimate the power of a good set of lights. String them around your room, the hallways and, hey, maybe even the bathrooms. Energy month is over, so go all out. Many dorms are hosting floor-decorating contests this year, so it's time to bring your A-game. Because there's a wide variety to choose from, you'll need to decide which look you're going for. There are the always classy and elegant white lights, the fun and spirited multi-colored, flashing lights for the spunky bunch and big bulbs for the old-school traditionalists. If you're

feeling particularly chipper, buy the whole lot. You'll be asking your neighbors, "How 'bout them lights?"

2. A Christmas Tree

Another traditional staple of the holiday season is the Christmas tree. A real one is preferable, but probably unrealistic for both dorm life and the college budget. Don't worry, Target, Meijer and Walmart are here to help. They've got your mini glitter trees, twig and berry trees, fiber optic trees and even some pre-lit palms for those dreaming of Hawaii. However, nothing tops the bittersweet cheer of the Charlie Brown tree.

3. Fake Snow

South Bend's weather is not living up to its reputation this year. The most white that's been seen on campus is the premature graying of some stressed out science students' hair. Time is running out so we are calling in the backup. Nothing does the trick like a can of fake snow and a bag of some white fluff. Shake up the can and spray the edges of your window for a frosted look without the freezing temperatures and lump some cotton on the windowsills for a nice illusion. Sometimes you have to take matters into your own hands to make your dream of a white

Christmas come true.

4. Stockings

Everybody knows Christmas is the season of giving, so give your friends the opportunity to shower you with gifts by hanging a stocking outside your door. A personalized one is preferable to avoid receiving awkward gifts clearly intended for your roommate. If your dorm does an anonymous gift exchange, a stocking is the perfect tool to make it easy for an efficient and sneaky drop-off and also gives you that rush of anticipation every time you walk by the door, waiting to see if there's a prize inside. Give yourself a taste of the joy you'll feel on Christmas morning and watch the presents line up.

5. Mistletoe

Mistletoe is like the cherry on top of your already decked out Christmas room sundae. It provides the perfect chance to make a move on that cutie you've been eying all night or to watch two awkward randos stutter as they discover their position under the greenery. Hang a sprig from the ceiling and watch the magic unfold in true holiday fashion.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

NBA

Artest plans youth program

Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Although Ron Artest’s streetball games in New York usually included breaks for water or Gatorade, the Queens teenager knew other players who would recharge with Olde English malt liquor.

Those bad examples stayed in his mind while he went through college at St. John’s and into the NBA, where Artest says he sometimes drank cognac during halftimes early in his career with the Chicago Bulls.

“You’ve got to watch who you look up to,” Artest said Thursday after practice at the Los Angeles Lakers’ training complex. “I’ve got some people who I wish I would not have looked up to, but I still love.”

Artest recently made several provocative admissions in an interview with the Sporting News, most notably saying he sometimes drank during games in Chicago, where he spent his first 2½ seasons. He acknowledged buying alcohol at a liquor store down the street from the United Center and slipping it into his locker.

Artest also said he only made his admissions because he plans to begin a youth program in Los Angeles in which he’ll teach others about managing the dangers and temptations of young adulthood.

“I understand I’m in a situation where I have to be a role model,” said Artest, who has discussed his in-game drinking in speeches to at-risk youth in the past four years. “I’m just in that situation, so that’s something I’m working towards. It’s not something I’m running from, but I have to tell people

what I’ve been through, because when it comes up later, I’m not going to want it to be a shock. I tell people what I’ve been through, and I think it’ll help me be more of a role model for the future.”

In his typically engaging yet enigmatic style of discourse, Artest said his drinking was a result of getting “big-headed,” and having too much responsibility too soon in his life as a 19-year-old father. Artest didn’t specify when he stopped drinking during games, but spoke in glowing detail of an internal self-improvement process in his mid-20s that left him much more mature.

“I was living two lifestyles, and they were both going in opposite directions,” the 30-year-old Artest said. “Luckily, my wife took me back.”

Artest said he has grown up considerably after his stints with Chicago and Indiana, where his involvement in perhaps the most infamous brawl in NBA history in late 2004 cemented his mercurial reputation and resulted in a 73-game suspension. Artest eventually demanded a trade from the Pacers, who shipped him to Sacramento, where the self-healing began.

“I was slowly cleansing myself in Sacramento,” Artest said. “I was 98 percent cleansed in Houston (last season).”

Yet early in his first season with the Lakers, Artest again is attracting attention for his eccentric behavior and frank admissions — although Kobe Bryant said it’s nothing that’ll concern the Lakers.

“What fallout?” Bryant asked. “He ain’t doing that (stuff) here. It’s got nothing to do with us.”

Indeed, Bryant said Artest gets an “A-plus” as a teammate during his first few months with the Lakers, who signed him as a free agent as the only new addition to last season’s championship-winning roster. Artest has referred to himself as the captain of the Lakers’ defense, and Bryant agrees.

“He takes things off my plate,” Bryant said, noting Artest’s intensity at practice. “(In previous seasons) I’ve had to be the offensive captain, the defensive captain. ... He’s another person that’s as extremely intense as I am in practice, goes at it even more.”

Although Lakers coach Phil Jackson hadn’t yet spoken to Artest, the 10-time NBA champion coach said he suspects Artest’s admissions have been “blown out of context.” Although Jackson heard of similar issues when he was a player with the Knicks, he doesn’t believe Artest’s in-game drinking could have been more than an occasional, minor dalliance.

“I just don’t think as a player, you can get away with that type of thing in the NBA,” Jackson said. “Somebody is going to see it. There’s going to be alcohol on your breath. It’s just not going to happen on a day-to-day basis. ... Ron was just talking about the struggles that he’s had in his career.”

Artest also criticized NBA referee Joey Crawford, and spoke about his still-simmering dislike for Ben Wallace, the Pistons forward whose conflict with Artest set off the 2004 brawl that went into the stands.

“Joey is a good person,” Artest said. “That was a comment I probably shouldn’t have made.”

PGA TOUR

Rumors continue to swirl around Tiger

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — A potentially explosive news conference with an alleged mistress was canceled Thursday and more details trickled out about the car accident that started all the trouble for Tiger Woods.

The news conference in Los Angeles for Rachel Uchitel, the woman who denied a tabloid report about an affair with Woods, was canceled about an hour before it was to begin.

High-profile attorney Gloria Allred, who was to make a statement about Uchitel’s relationship with golf’s No. 1 player, said it was called off because of “unforeseen circumstances.” Allred said she would have no further comment.

For the first time since last Friday, when Woods ran his SUV into a fire hydrant and a tree outside his Florida home, there were no news conferences involving police nor any statements from Woods on his Web site.

His last one was Wednesday, when he issued a statement conceding that he had “let my family down.” That followed a report in Us Weekly magazine of a cocktail waitress claiming to have had a 31-month affair with Woods.

The Associated Press obtained an audio recording of an interview the Florida Highway Patrol conducted with Woods’ neighbors after the accident. Troopers interviewed Jarius Adam, who called 911, and his sister, Kimberly Harris.

Harris told troopers that Woods’ mother, Kultida, and

mother-in-law, Barbro Holmberg, were at the scene, but the AP could not confirm that.

A voice that strongly resembles Woods’ mother is heard in the background during the 911 call saying loudly, “What happened?”

A spokeswoman for Holmberg, mother of Elin Nordegren, didn’t know if she was in Florida when the accident happened.

“I don’t know for sure, but I don’t think so,” spokeswoman Ewa Malmberg said. “I have not been informed about that. She was here again working on Monday again anyway.”

In the FHP interview, a trooper asked Harris about the women and if they talked to anyone at the scene.

“The cops came, the Windermere cops came first, then the security guards came,” Harris said. “And then it appears Mr. Woods’ mom, and Tiger’s wife’s mom came out after the fact. I don’t know if they heard the commotion, I don’t if she, his wife, left and came back. But they walked across the grass and were outside as well.”

Woods’ peers, meanwhile, went from talking about him to playing in his \$5.75 million golf tournament.

He previously pulled out of the Chevron World Challenge at Sherwood Country Club, an 18-player event that pays \$1.35 million to the winner. Participants spent most of the week taking questions on their sport’s biggest star, most offering support and curious about details and some of the allegations.

MLB

Phillies sign Polanco to three-year, \$18 million contract

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Placido Polanco is putting aside his Gold Glove and switching positions to have a chance at winning a championship.

Polanco returned to the Philadelphia Phillies on Thursday, agreeing to an \$18 million, three-year contract.

The 34-year-old free agent won Gold Gloves at second base for the Detroit Tigers in 2007

and this year, but will shift to third base, which hasn’t been his primary position since 2002. He replaces Pedro Feliz, who became a free agent after the Phillies declined his \$5.5 million option.

“I always wanted to be here, I never wanted to leave,” Polanco said. “One of the reasons I wanted to come back is because it’s pretty obvious the team is committed to winning. And I want to win. That’s it. They asked me if I

was willing to play another position and I was like, ‘Sure.’ I can play third base. I played in college, in St. Louis and I also played some third here. I feel pretty confident about it.”

Polanco first joined the Phillies in the trade that sent Scott Rolen to St. Louis in July 2002. He hit .297 with 38 homers and 160 RBIs in parts of four seasons in Philadelphia. Once Chase Utley become the regular second baseman, Polanco’s role was

reduced. He was traded to Detroit in June 2005 for reliever Ugueth Urbina and infielder Ramon Martinez.

Polanco batted .285 for the Tigers last season with 31 doubles, 10 homers and 72 RBIs. He hit .341 and made the All-Star team in 2007.

“For him to come back to Philadelphia to change positions, it’s just one of the things he’s about,” Phillies general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said. “He’s not

only a tremendous professional and a championship-type player, but he’s a championship-type person, and that’s what we’re trying to do here, bring championship-type people, both talent-wise and personnel-wise.”

Polanco gets a \$500,00 signing bonus, \$5 million next season, \$5.25 million in 2011 and \$6.25 million in 2012. The deal includes a \$5.5 million mutual option for 2013 with a \$1 million buyout.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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andersonNDrentals.com. HOUSES

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PERSONAL

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-17819 or Ann Firth at 1-2685. For more information, visit ND's website at: http://pregnancysupport.nd.edu

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, we can help. For more information, visit Notre Dame's website: http://csap.nd.edu

Considering Adoption? ND Alums Hoping to Adopt. If you are an expectant mother searching for a family, please see our website at http://www.pauldiana-adoptionpro-file.net.

"What else do you know about me?"

"You are a planned organism, the offspring of knowledge and imagination rather than of individuals. You are carefully watched by many people. The unplanned organism is a question asked by Nature and answered by death. You are another kind of question with another kind of answer."

"The human organism always worships. First, it was the gods, then it was fame, next it will be self-aware systems you have built to realize truly omnipresent observation and judgment." "You underestimate humankind's love of freedom." "The individual desires judgment. Without that desire, the cohesion of groups is impossible, and so is civilization."

Go then, there are other worlds than these.

"First of all, what is it really all about? What is it you object to? You want to abolish Government?" "To abolish God!" said Gregory, opening the eyes of a fanatic. "We do not only want to upset a few despotsims and police regulations; that sort of anarchism does exist, but it is a mere branch of the Nonconformists. We dig deeper and we blow you higher. We wish to deny all those arbitrary distinctions of vice and virtue, honour and treachery, upon which mere rebels base themselves. The silly sentimentalists of the French Revolution talked of the Rights of Man! We hate Rights as we hate Wrongs. We have abolished Right and Wrong."

NCAA Football Top 25 Coaches Poll		
	team	previous
1	Florida	1
2	Texas	2
3	Alabama	3
4	TCU	4
5	Cincinnati	5
6	Boise State	6
7	Ohio State	8
8	Oregon	10
9	Penn State	11
10	Iowa	13
11	Virginia Tech	14
12	Georgia Tech	7
13	BYU	15
14	LSU	17
15	Pittsburgh	9
16	Oregon State	18
17	Miami (Fla.)	21
18	Houston	20
19	Southern California	22
20	Nebraska	23
21	Oklahoma State	12
22	California	NR
23	West Virginia	NR
24	Stanford	NR
25	Utah	19

NCAA Football AP Top 25		
	team	previous
1	Florida	1
2	Alabama	2
3	Texas	3
4	TCU	4
5	Cincinnati	5
6	Boise State	6
7	Oregon	10
8	Ohio State	9
9	Iowa	13
10	Penn State	12
11	Virginia Tech	14
12	Georgia TEch	7
13	Oregon State	16
14	Pittsburgh	8
15	LSU	17
16	BYU	18
17	Miami (Fla.)	19
18	Houston	25
19	California	21
20	Southern California	24
21	Nebraska	NR
22	Oklahoma State	11
23	Stanford	NR
24	West Virginia	NR
25	Clemson	15

NCAA Women's Soccer		
	team	Record
1	Stanford	10-0-0
2	North Carolina	14-3-1
3	Portland	17-1-0
4	Florida State	14-3-1
5	UCLA	15-2-1
6	NOTRE DAME	15-3-1
7	Boston College	15-2-1
8	UCF	15-3-1
9	Florida	14-4-2
10	Penn State	11-5-2

around the dial

NBA

Bulls at Cavaliers

8 p.m., ESPN

Heat at Lakers

10:30 p.m., ESPN

MLB



Former Chicago Cubs third baseman Jake Fox hits a two-run home run against the St. Louis Cardinals Sept. 20. Fox and former Cubs second baseman Aaron Miles were traded Thursday to the Oakland Athletics for three other players.

Athletics aquire two infielders from Cubs

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oakland Athletics acquired third baseman Jake Fox, second baseman Aaron Miles and cash considerations from the Chicago Cubs on Thursday for three players.

The Cubs got right-handed pitcher Jeff Gray, minor league outfielder Matt Spencer and minor league righty Ronny Morla.

The trade gives Oakland added depth in an infield that has been injury plagued in recent seasons. While general manager Billy Beane hopes six-time Gold Glove third baseman Eric Chavez will be healthy after season-ending back surgery, the A's knew they needed a contingency plan.

Chavez could now spend a good chunk of his time as designated hitter. The last-place A's recently signed free-agent third baseman Dallas McPherson to a minor league contract and invited him to spring training.

Fox gives Oakland versatility considering he also plays the outfield. In two stays with the Cubs this year, he hit .259 with 11 home runs and 44 RBIs in 82 games. He began the season at Triple-A Iowa, batting .409 with 17 home runs and 53 RBIs in 45 games.

The Athletics were looking for some much-needed pop from the right side, and wanted Fox.

"He can hit. We've always liked his bat," assistant GM David Forst said.

The switch-hitting Miles signed a two-year, \$4.9 million contract with the Cubs last winter, then batted a career-low .185 with no home runs and five RBIs in 74 games. He spent two stints on the disabled list, with a strained right shoulder strain and a hyperextended right elbow.

"Aaron Miles coming off a disappointing year, we thought this might give him a better chance to make a ballclub and play for the A's," Cubs general manager Jim Hendry said.

"Jake Fox really did a quality job for us and has been with us quite a while. I think we're giving him a real good opportunity to play more on a regular basis in the American League. He's too young in his career just to be a bat off the bench.

We certainly felt like we maximized his value in the trade."

With Thursday's acquisitions, Oakland appears to have moved on without former AL Rookie of the Year shortstop Bobby Crosby and perhaps also free-agent second baseman Adam Kennedy.

Mark Ellis remains Oakland's second baseman, Forst said. Ellis signed an \$11 million, two-year contract in October 2008 that includes a club option for the 2011 season.

Gray was with Oakland four different times in 2009, going 0-1 with a 3.76 ERA in 24 relief appearances. He also went 2-2 with a 1.54 ERA and a team-high 16 saves in 37 appearances with Triple-A Sacramento.

IN BRIEF

More injuries for Colts despite returns from Hayden, Freeney
INDIANAPOLIS — Colts defensive end Dwight Freeney returned to practice Thursday and cornerback Kelvin Hayden worked out for the second straight day, meaning both could play Sunday against Tennessee.

Freeney missed last week's game with an abdominal injury. Hayden has missed four straight games with a knee injury.

Indy had 23 players on its practice report, and seven missed both practice days.

Two players out were receiver Anthony Gonzalez, who hasn't played since the season-opener, and kicker Adam Vinatieri, who has missed the last six games.

Other key players who sat out both days include running back Donald Brown (chest), defensive tackle Keyunta Dawson (knee) and left tackle Charlie Johnson (foot).

UConn defeats Vermont for its 46th consecutive win
STORRS, Conn. — Maya Moore scored 20 points as Connecticut overwhelmed Vermont 84-42 Thursday night in a rematch of last year's first-round NCAA tournament game.

Tina Charles added 18 points and nine rebounds, giving her 1,059 rebounds for her career and moving her into second place on the school's all-time list behind Rebecca Lobo.

The Huskies (7-0), who beat the Catamounts 104-65 in March on their way to a sixth national title, have won 46 consecutive games, and 44 in a row at home. All seven wins this season have come by at least 25 points.

Courtney Pilypaitis led Vermont (4-1) with 20 points. May Kotsopoulos, who had been averaging over 20 points a game, was held to five.

The defending America East tournament champions beat Boston College and North Carolina State on the road this season. But they were no match for the Huskies.

Australian Open takes a break due to strong winds in Sydney
SYDNEY — Strong winds on the New South Wales Golf Club ocean-side links course have suspended second-round play at the Australian Open.

Play was stopped early Friday after balls slid off greens. Officials were hoping to get play under way after about a four-hour delay.

Only several groups of players made it onto the course before the suspension, with co-leader Stuart Appleby parring his opening two holes to remain 6 under. Fellow Australian Scott Hend, who also shot 66 in his first round, had not started play Friday.

"It's nothing to do with the golf course," tournament director Trevor Herden said. "No matter where you were today you wouldn't be able to play with those wind gusts."

NFL

Seahawks GM resigns, opens door for Holmgren

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Tim Ruskell has been pushed out as president and general manager of the Seahawks, leaving the door open for Mike Holmgren's possible return to Seattle.

Ruskell announced his resignation Thursday, weeks before his five-year contract with the team ends. He asked the team if he was going to be retained so he could begin planning for offseason moves. Owner Paul Allen, the ailing Microsoft Corp. tycoon, and Seahawks chief executive officer Tod Leiweke told Ruskell no, so he left.

"Obviously there's great sadness today but I will leave here with great memories of this place and the people. It's been the people for me," Ruskell said, his voice breaking and holding back tears during a news conference attended by his sister and the team's staff.

The team's ownership gave Ruskell full authority to shape the franchise soon after he arrived before the 2005 season. Seattle made its only Super Bowl that season.

Since then, he has presided over failed top draft choices, expensive free-agent busts — and the awkward ouster of popular coach and former GM Mike Holmgren at the end of his contract this past January.

Ruskell brought in his own coach for 2009, Jim Mora. The 4-7 Seahawks are on their way to a second straight season without a playoff berth. Last season they finished 4-12, their worst record since 1991.

"Quite simply, we didn't win enough games," Leiweke said. "I work for a man, Mr. Paul Allen, who has exacting standards."

Ruskell understood that.

"It didn't happen quickly enough," he said, "but it wasn't because we didn't do it right."

Seahawks vice president for player personnel Ruston Webster will serve as interim general manager.

Leiweke added that he expects Mora to remain the coach, Webster would be a good GM candidate, and "stability is something we will try to push for."

No conceivable candidate knows the Seahawks better than Holmgren, who became their longest-tenured and winningest coach from 1999-2008. The first four years, he was also their GM.

Holmgren has declared his desire to return to the NFL after one year away. He took 2009 off as a promise to his wife and family but now says he wants to return to football. He hasn't specified where, or whether it is to coach or be an executive.

But the former Super Bowl-winning coach has long coveted a second chance to be a GM. He's often said how much he admires the position Bill Parcells, a good friend and another former coach, now has atop the Miami Dolphins' franchise. Holmgren still owns a home in the Seattle area.

When asked whether Holmgren is a candidate, Leiweke said, "I'm just not going to go there. I'm just not going to talk about that today."

Ruskell arrived in February 2005 as a veteran of 20 years in scouting following a stint in Atlanta as the assistant GM, when Mora was the Falcons' coach. Ruskell presided over three consecutive NFC West titles to begin his Seattle tenure, including that Super Bowl season of 2005 when he overhauled the defense and scored a major coup in drafting overlooked linebacker Lofa Tatupu.

But the Seahawks have regressed since then.

Ruskell was part of the decision that allowed perennial Pro Bowl offensive lineman Steve Hutchinson to leave for Minnesota as a free agent soon after the 2006 Super Bowl; Seattle's line hasn't been the same since.

Ruskell signed running back Shaun Alexander to a \$62 million, eight-year contract with \$15.1 million guaranteed even



Seahawks CEO Tod Leiweke, left, stands with r GM Tim Ruskell, right, after a press conference Thursday.

though Alexander was about to turn 30 — an age at which most running backs begin to decline. Just over two years and several injuries later, Alexander was released.

To replace him, Ruskell spent millions on veteran running backs Julius Jones, T.J. Duckett and Edgerrin James. Jones is fighting for his job with emerging Justin Forsett, a seventh-round draft choice in 2008 whom the Seahawks cut last year then brought back.

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NFL

Johnson eyes rushing record

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee running back Chris Johnson appreciates being named the AFC's offensive player of the month for November. His goals are set just a bit higher.

He says Eric Dickerson's single-season rushing record is within his reach.

Dickerson ran for 2,105 yards in 1984 for the then-Los Angeles Rams. Right now, Johnson is leading the NFL with 1,396 yards with five games remaining. He just finished November with 800 yards rushing for the best month in the league since the NFL-AFL merger in 1970.

That earned him the AFC offensive player for the month Thursday, making him the first player from this franchise to win this award since Steve McNair for October 2003.

"I'm pleased with that,"

Johnson said. "I'm just trying to keep being consistent, keep doing the right thing and continue to keep having good games and hopefully get closer to that record."

Consistency has not been a problem for the second-year back out of East Carolina.

He currently is on pace for 2,030 yards having averaged 126.9 yards per game this season. He has rushed for at least 125 yards in six straight games, tying the NFL record set by Dickerson and fellow Hall of Famer Earl Campbell (1980). Dickerson tied Campbell in his record-setting season in 1984.

Johnson already has made NFL history by becoming the first player to average 5 yards or better per carry in each of those six games. Jim Brown did that in five games in 1958.

He has talked about 2,000 yards being a goal of his this sea-

son. Jamal Lewis was the last to hit that number in 2003 when he fell short of Dickerson's mark and finished with 2,066 yards rushing. It's an elite and short group to reach 2,000 that features Barry Sanders, O.J. Simpson, Dickerson and Terrell Davis with Lewis.

"I feel like I can get it," Johnson said of 2,000.

Titans coach Jeff Fisher knows Johnson is setting his sets high when asked about the running back pushing himself by setting his goals.

"I know first and foremost he wants to try to win this ballgame, that's the most important. Anything else that comes off of that is good," Fisher said.

Johnson has some extra motivation Sunday when the Titans (5-6) visit Indianapolis (11-0).

The Colts held him to a season-low 34 yards on nine carries Oct. 11 in a 31-9 loss. Teammate LenDale White split the work with him in that game, getting 10 carries for 51 yards. Johnson credits the Colts for a good job defending him but notes the Titans had to turn to the pass after falling behind.

"I just feel this game, if we can stay close, I'll have more carries," he said.

This will be Johnson's first game at Lucas Oil Stadium. The Titans sat him last December rather than risk an injury to the rookie in the regular season finale with Tennessee already having clinched the AFC's No. 1 seed.

NFL

Cowboys workers badly injured in fall

Associated Press

DALLAS — Two workers doing maintenance on the icy roof of towering Cowboys Stadium slipped and tumbled at least 50 feet Thursday morning before landing on a rain gutter. Authorities said both workers suffered "significant injuries."

The two were working on the top hatch of the retractable-roof venue in suburban Arlington around 7:20 a.m. when they fell, Assistant Fire Chief Don Crowson said. They were not using safety equipment, he said.

"I know that it is a common practice that you should be wearing safety gear in a high elevated position," Crowson said. "The reports I have right now is that they were not using safety equipment."

One worker lost consciousness after breaking a leg and suffering injuries to his head and chest, Dallas Cowboys spokesman Brett Daniels said. He was taken by helicopter to a hospital. The other worker suffered a back injury and was transported by ambulance.

Arlington police spokeswoman Tiara Ellis Richard said the men fell from the top of the upper roof to a lower

part. Daniels estimated they fell between 50 feet and 75 feet down to what he called a "parapet."

"It's bigger than your average rain gutter," Daniels said. "It's a pretty major channel there around the bottom of the (upper) roof."

Although the parapet stopped the men from falling to a lower roof, it likely caused their injuries, Crowson said.

"They got some pretty good speed up and when they hit that parapet, they suffered significant injuries," he said.

There was no immediate word on the workers' conditions from area hospitals, whose officials declined to release information. Crowson said one of the men was in "very, very serious condition."

The injured are iron workers, according to a statement from Birdair Inc., an Amherst, N.Y.-based contractor that specializes in long-span structures. The company said on its Web site that it was the roofing subcontractor for the stadium, which features the "largest, longest and steepest retractable roof ever constructed."

Karen L. Mathews, Birdair's general counsel, said the company is investigating the accident.

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Miami

continued from page 20

barometer of where are on the season,” Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. “If [the team] can’t get up for this, we can’t get up for anything.”

Notre Dame is riding a five game unbeaten streak into the match-up, winning two and tying three. In total, four of the games went into overtime. Jackson said the close games could help the Irish in what should be stiff competition this weekend.

“We’re learning about pressure under fire,” he said. “Hopefully that helps with the times of pressure; we’ll be better in those situations and play a complete hockey game.”

Playing a complete hockey game is something Notre Dame has struggled with. The Irish defense has surrendered third period leads in two of the overtime games during the brief streak.

“We need to do a better job in the third period of those [close] games because we’ve had the lead a couple of times and been unable to sustain it,” Jackson said. “It is disappointing in some ways with the veteran team that we have, especially on the defensive side, we should be making more plays in those situations.”

Notre Dame will need to be on guard for a third period comeback against the RedHawks. Miami has a penchant for tiring teams out throughout a 60-minute game.

“They are a deep team. Our depth is going to be challenged from the forwards to the defense,” Jackson said. “[Miami] can go four lines. Last game [in a 4-4 tie with Bowling Green] was one of the first games where we’ve actually had some pressure from our fourth line.”

To counter Miami’s depth, Notre Dame will hope to continue its recent offensive surge. In two of the last three games the Irish have scored four games, their highest goal totals of the season. In those two games, the line of senior center Kevin Deeth, sophomore wing Billy Maday and junior wing Calle Ridderwall have led the way with a combined five goals and nine assists, including three Ridderwall goals and four Maday assists in the tie with Bowling Green on Nov. 28.

“I think ever since we put together that line they’ve been successful,” Jackson said. “I’ve been able to put that line back together, and it’s pretty solid offensively. It can really generate something.”

Deeth, Maday and Ridderwall will lead the Irish against Miami tonight at 7:35 p.m. and Saturday night at 7:05 p.m.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

Tate

continued from page 20

dates Colt McCoy, the Texas quarterback, and running backs Mark Ingram of Alabama and Toby Gerhart of Stanford. The other receiver named to the team was Cincinnati’s Mardy Gilyard.

“I’m still not happy about the season and the situation right now, but it’s an honor to be mentioned with some of those names and win those awards,” Tate said. “Personally, I still always think I could have done more to put the team in a better position to win, but at the same time, I think some of the things I did helped us win a couple of those games.”

Tate likely isn’t finished receiving attention for his individual accolades, as he is also a finalist for the Biletnikoff Award, presented each year to college football’s top wide receiver. The other two finalists are Texas’ Jordan Shipley and Bowling Green’s Freddie Barnes.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu



DAN JACOBS/The Observer
Junior wide receiver Golden Tate turns upfield during Notre Dame’s 45-38 loss to Stanford Saturday night. The junior was named to the AFCA All-American team Thursday.

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TRACK & FIELD

Season opens with Blue and Gold meet Friday

By CHRIS MICHALSKI
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame track and field squad will open its indoor season this Friday in its annual Blue and Gold Meet, held in Loftus Center.

With cross country just finishing up, this one-day event will give Irish athletes a chance to compete as a team and see where everyone stands physically.

"This is the first time of the year where everyone gets together as a group, because you have the cross country kids doing something and we have kids working at different times during the day," head coach Joe Piane said.

Notre Dame will be host to DePaul, Detroit Mercy and Marquette, the same schools that were invited the past two years.

"[The Blue and Gold Meet] is essentially a glorified time trial so we're looking to see what kind of shape kids are in," Piane said. "And we're really interested in the sprinters and field events kids because they have had no opportunities to compete, whereas the cross country kids have been competing throughout the fall."

The Irish had success in last year's Blue and Gold Meet, with then-senior Mary Saxer qualifying for the NCAA Championships in the pole vault in the first meet of the season. Including Saxer, who ultimately placed third

in the Pole Vault in the Championships and was named to the Track and Field All-Academic Team, the Irish lost a total of 18 seniors from last season, including distance runner Patrick Smyth, who placed fourth in the 10,000 meters at the NCAA Championships and was named a First-Team Academic All-American.

Despite the losses, the Irish also return a variety of talent, including seniors Joanna Schultz and Jaclyn Espinoza, junior NCAA Decathlon competitor Justin Schneider and 2009 Big East Pole Vault Champion senior Matt Schipper. Espinoza has been a consistent contributor over the years, reaching the NCAA Finals for three consecutive years and placing third overall in the discus last year.

The Irish as a team set the bar high last year, taking first in the Big East Men's Outdoor Championships and second in the Indoor Championships. The women's team, despite playing fifth in the Big East Outdoor Championships, sent four athletes to the NAAs and placed 24th overall, compared to the men's 48th place.

The high jump and pole vault will mark the start of the meet at 5 p.m. followed by the first running events, the 60-meter hurdles, at 6 p.m.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles to face off vs. Trine

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's hosts Trine on Saturday in the MIAA opener for both teams. The Belles look to rebound from a disheartening 80-62 loss to Ohio Northern on Wednesday, which dropped Saint Mary's record to 3-2, while the Thunder come off Tuesday's 68-50 loss to Indiana Tech at

4-2.

The Belles swept last year's season series against Trine with two relatively easy victories by margins of 8 and 11, respectively. These wins played a pivotal role in Saint Mary's second-place finish in the MIAA last year with a 13-3 conference record, while the Thunder finished tied for third but well behind at 9-7. Trine looks to improve on last year's record with the addi-

tion of 11 new freshmen, while the Belles look to live up to the high expectations in the preseason MIAA poll, which had Saint Mary's at third in the conference behind only defending champion Hope and Calvin.

The Belles take on Trine at 3 p.m. on Saturday at the Angela Athletic Facility.

Contact Allan Joseph at
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NAC

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Unlike previous events, the Irish will enter the invitational at full strength, which includes two of the most highly touted fencers in the country in sophomores Courtney Hurley and Gerek Meinhardt. Hurley recently returned from Germany where she captured her third consecutive gold medal in a junior world cup in November.

But Bednarski believes all of his fencers will be tested in the upcoming open tournament, where junior category players will compete against the nation's elite.

"It's hard to predict,"

Bednarski said. "I know that only a few of them can get a medal, or even the possibility to get a medal, because it's the strongest tournament on the continent. Now we are swimming in much bigger waters."

Nevertheless, Bednarski and the entire coaching staff are excited by the opportunity open to the underclassmen to prove their mettle on the highest level. Rising stars such as freshman Lian Osier and sophomore R a d m i l a Sarkisova will have the chance to earn international recognition.

"A lot of the younger fencers are not yet maybe well known in the world or in the country because fencers like Hurley, Meinhardt and others were getting medals at the world championships," Bednarski said. "But the young group, they will try to show that at the end of the competition they are aspiring to be on the national team."

One of the team's greatest assets is its commitment to teamwork and unselfish play. A strong sense of unity and great team chemistry can only serve the Irish well in the future as they compete against the best teams in the nation.

"We have a great transmission of experience from the older players to the others. They are helping them a lot. It's a part of the game also to get older by helping the younger, so the group is very close together and the atmosphere is great. The coaches are helping to build this atmosphere, and we are having a good season so far."

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UCF

continued from page 20

said. "What's our identity after we take the punch? We're going to be in this situation a few times, how do we bounce back?"

Leading the Golden Knights is junior forward A.J. Tyler, who is averaging 10.3 points and 4.7 rebounds per game. Tyler had 18 points in the big win over Auburn, and earned high praise from Brey.

"He's kind of like a Big East guy in my mind," Brey said. "A couple different guys have to guard him for us. A Scott, a Harangody, a Broghammer, possibly Abromaitis, different guys are going to have to defend it."

Leading Central Florida in scoring is 6-foot-3 guard Isaac Sosa, who has averaged 12.9 points per game. Sosa is 20-of-39 from 3-point range this season, and could be a threat to a Notre Dame team that has struggled at times defending on the perimeter.

Redshirt freshman Dave Diakite has provided the best low-post presence for the Golden Knights, tallying 9.3 points and 7.4 rebounds per game.

Brey said he wants to see improvement in areas on both sides of the court.

"I think sometimes we put it on the floor a little too soon," Brey said of the half-court offense. "I think a strength of ours is passing the ball and when we move it with limited dribbles we stir the defense up more."

"Then defensively, a little more ball pressure early in the game. Those are the two things we talked about coming back to work on. And then overall, I think you have to let this group keep playing together."

The Irish will tip off against the Golden Knights noon Sunday at Purcell Pavilion.

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Notre Dame travels to Ohio State Invite meet

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame joins 14 other schools as they travel to the Ohio State Invite this weekend, a meet that will be modeled after larger tournament meets such as the Big East Conference Championship and the NCAA Tournament meet.

Irish Coach Tim Welsh looks at this meet as a turning point in the season as the Irish prepare for their winter training trip.

"This is the focal meet for our fall semester, we put a lot of importance on what happens here," Welsh said. "We want to learn

where we are, and what we need to improve on. It will shape our training trip between semesters, and will tell us the areas we need to emphasize in the weeks in Puerto Rico. This is a significant test."

The Irish are 4-1 heading into the Ohio State Invite and are coming off of their first conference victory over Pittsburgh. The early portion of the season has been used as a learning tool for Notre Dame, and they will attempt to take those findings and implement

them in this meet.

"This week we have been trying to clean things up a bit," Welsh said. "We've tried to sharpen our technique up a lot, clean up our races so the paces are well placed. We've been cleaning things up to make them race ready."

Notre Dame will compete against two Big East teams (Pittsburgh and West Virginia) as well as three Big Ten teams, including host Ohio State and the always formidable Minnesota. All other schools will only compete in the diving events.

"All six teams are strong, and we come here to try to beat a couple of them," Welsh said. "We're hoping for great things in every event."

An added bonus of the Ohio State Invite is that the NCAA championships take place in the same pool, so Notre Dame will get a preview of things to come.

"One of the other pluses is the men's NCAA championships will be at Ohio State, so this is like a dress rehearsal for the men's NCAA championships at the pool where that event will be held."

Contact Eric Prister at
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"This is the focal meet for our fall semester, we put a lot of importance on what happens here."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

NCAA

continued from page 20

ment appearance and the fourth meeting of the two teams, with the Bobcats holding a 3-1 edge over the Irish.

Since her arrival as head coach for the Irish in 1990, Brown has led her team to the national tournament 15 times, earning consecutive bids from 1992-2006. Prior to her arrival, Notre Dame had made only one visit to the tournament. The Irish have an all-time record of 14-16 in NCAA Tournament play, including six trips to the round of 16 and a 1993 finish in the quarterfinals. This year, Brown earned the Big East Coach of the Year honors, her sixth since the Irish joined the Big East in 1995.

In the team's last NCAA appearance three years ago, the Irish fell to Wisconsin in the first round. The six seniors on this year's team were freshmen then and have been working to get back to the tournament for the last two seasons.

"We're led by a very motivated group," Brown said of the seniors.

The class of 2010 has been making its own mark in the Notre Dame and Big East record books this fall. Outside hitter Serinity Phillips made her 1,000th career kill Oct. 10 against Cincinnati, becoming the 18th player in program history to do so. On Oct. 19, she also picked up the Big East Player of the Week Award, and has made 324 kills this season. Classmate Jamel Nicholas, the team assists leader, currently has 3,045 career assists, making 1,096 of the

team's 1,246 this season and placing her with the fifth-most in school history. She is also ranked 27th nationally with 11.16 assists/set. Nicholas and fellow senior outside-hitter Christina Kaelin have each earned their own Big East Player of the Week Awards.

However, the seniors are not the only ones who have worked to get to where they are this weekend. This Irish team has relied heavily on its underclassmen's experience throughout the season.

"There is no one on this team that doesn't believe in what we can do," Brown said. "We're excited to have this opportunity to practice and play this week and to be here this weekend."

Standing out among the underclassmen are sophomore outside hitter Kristen Dealy and junior middle blocker Kelly Sciacca. Dealy was named Big East Player of the Week for the week of Sept. 14. She is second on the team in kills and points with 307 and 349.5, respectively. Sciacca is second in blocks with 90.

Overall, the Irish rank in the top 50 nationally in hitting percentage (25th, .258), win-loss (30th, .778), kills per set (36th, 13.86), assists per set (46th, 12.71) and blocks per set (49th, 2.41). Ohio ranks 11th, 23rd, 19th, 29th, and 15th in those categories, respectively.

Despite Notre Dame's statistics and undefeated regular conference season, the team was unable to take the Big East tournament title after winning a string of 15 consecutive matches, and lost at Florida Nov. 28, 3-1. Since then, Brown has been doing some fine-tuning on the court.

"We've changed and adjusted some things, have overcome some injuries that were hurting us before and have worked on getting people healthy."

The Irish will have to be at their best this weekend as the winner of Friday's match will face either 13th-seeded Michigan or Niagara Saturday. Positioned in the Stanford Regional, the bottom half of their bracket features Saint Mary's (Calif.), UC Santa Barbara, Long Island and Stanford, a team Notre Dame already defeated earlier this season.

Of the 64 teams in the tournament, the Irish have faced nine (Cincinnati, Florida, Florida State, Louisville, LSU, Miami, Michigan, Stanford, and Tennessee) and defeated four (Cincinnati, Miami, Stanford and Louisville). It is also the first time since 2006 that three Big East teams have advanced to the national tournament (Notre Dame, Louisville and Cincinnati). First-and second-round action will occur on 16 campus sites with winners advancing to four pre-determined regional sites.

Notre Dame will face Ohio University today at 5:30 p.m. in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"We know there is nothing to save anything for," Brown said. "We're going after it and are putting our best foot forward."

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- Across**

1 It no longer circulates around the Seine

6 Skate part

9 Must, informally

14 Rite reading for some 13-year-olds

15 ___ state

16 One may be significant

17 Whitney Houston hit recorded for the 1988 Summer Olympics

20 Fat standard, say: Abbr.

21 One of Steinbeck's twins

22 Salt additive?

23 Turning meas.

24 1974 Rolling Stones hit

28 Thread: Fr.

29 Long time: Abbr.
- 30 Bookie's charge, for short

31 Home for an addax and dorcas gazelle

37 Tic-tac-toe loser

38 Im-ho-___, Boris Karloff's role in "The Mummy"

39 Celtic sea god

40 Vote in une législature

41 Maisonette

45 Cartoonish cry

46 Behind

47 "___ Town Too" (1981 hit)

48 André Gide novel whose title comes from Matthew 7:14

54 Kind of flakes

55 Went nowhere

56 Anthropomorphic film villain

57 Parisian pronoun
- Down**

1 Mil. base until 1994

2 Concerto component

3 Bailiwick

4 Site of many '60s tours

5 Sweet little things with points to them

6 Soil water saturation limits

7 Travel guide listing

8 Country music

9 Taken things a bit too far

10 Diamond figure on a 2006 postage stamp

11 Like grandchildren

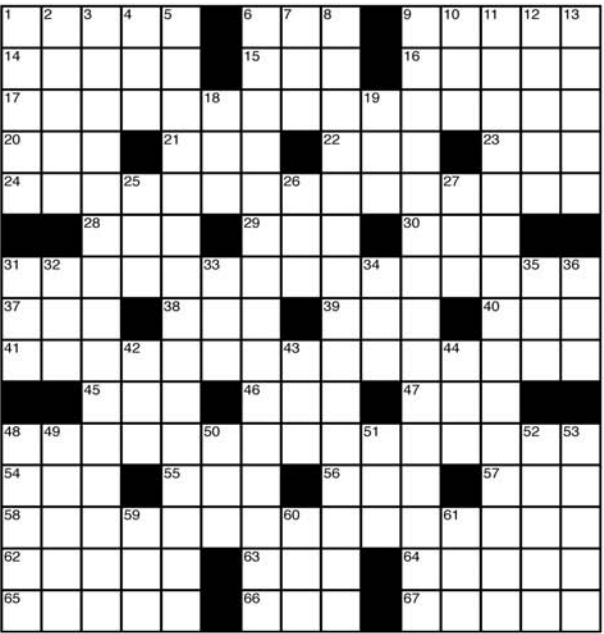
12 A musician might pick it up

13 Childish comeback

18 He said "Learn from the masses, and then teach them"

19 Like some candidates: Abbr.

25 Slam



- Puzzle by David Levinson Wilk
- 26 Canto contraction

27 French suffix with Québec

31 Death, in Deutschland

32 The Astros, on scoreboards

33 Spell

34 Austrian article
- 35 "Bull Durham" director Shelton

36 Charge stuff

42 Green land

43 Hearing aids, briefly

44 Stewie's sister on "Family Guy"

48 "A pity"

49 Like a lion's coat
- 50 Cross character

51 Ate

52 Odds' end?

53 German indefinite article

59 Nick, say

60 Bears make them, in brief

61 The Blue Jays, on scoreboards

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Prepare to do things yourself. Taking on someone else's fight will tax you more than you realize. Be patient and let everything fall into place before making your next move. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't put yourself in a compromising position because you don't want to be challenged. You have what it takes to win if you push your own needs and desires. A short trip will clear up some pending issues. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Money matters will escalate if you try to buy your way out of a sticky personal situation. You may not want to give in to someone's demands but, if it will allow you the freedom to do something you want to do, it will be worth it in the end. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Separate your personal and professional goals in order to get the most mileage out of your efforts. Showing your ability to multitask will impress someone who can make a difference to your future. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take an entertaining approach to whatever situation you face at home or at work. An interesting partnership will enable you to find new means of raising or making money. Don't wait or give anyone a chance to catch up. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you don't put in your two cents worth, you cannot expect to have a voice when you don't like what's happening around you. You can make a difference not only to yourself but to those counting on your expertise. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your concern and interest will help you draw attention to something you believe in and want to pursue. Don't be afraid to contact someone for input. Your thoughts will be heard and met by someone with influence. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may feel motivated to take matters into your own hands but consider the people who will be affected by your actions. Change may be inevitable and, if handled properly, can actually benefit you. Don't let your emotions get involved. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think big. Put your thoughts into motion. You will come up with a plan that should benefit you financially. A change forced on you by a personal partnership will be to your advantage. Let the situation run its course. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Taking on too much will be your downfall. You may not like what someone is doing but, by being a good sport, you will be spared some of the blame when things don't turn out as planned. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you cannot follow through with the promises made you will lose the respect and confidence of someone important. There is no point in trying to push someone who isn't going to budge. Find a new venue for something you want to promote. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do whatever it takes to get people to recognize what you are up against or trying to prove. You may not win everyone's favor but you will gain enough support to get started. Don't make someone else's confusion your problem. ★★★★★

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THE OBSERVER

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FOOTBALL

Tate caps record-breaking season with All-American honors

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

It's been a rough week for the Irish players, but at least one — junior wide receiver Golden Tate — received some good news Thursday, when he was named to the American Football Coaches Association's All-America Team.

"It's not one of the things you sign up for when you sign up to play for Notre Dame,"

Tate told The Observer Thursday. "I came in with the mentality that I wanted to play hard and put the team in the best position to win. With myself succeeding ... the two kind of go hand in hand."

Tate's numbers speak for themselves, as he tied or broke six Notre Dame records this season. Tate's 93 receptions, 1,496 yards and nine 100-yard receiving games this year set school records, and his 15 receiving touchdowns

tied the Irish single-season mark. He also set Notre Dame career records by eclipsing 2,707 yards and 15 100-yard receiving games.

"I've never really worried about [statistics], just played the game the best I could and try to keep everyone up every week," Tate said. "Just showing up and playing every game hard, I think it helped the team out."

Perhaps more impressive than Tate's numbers are the

fact that he posted a significant portion of them with Notre Dame's other top receiver, sophomore Michael Floyd, sidelined by injury.

"I took it as an opportunity to put my name out there and show that I was capable of leading this team with one of the best players in the country out for a few weeks," Tate said. "I think I did a good job with that, and the coaches did an excellent job designing plays to get me the ball."

Tate became the first Notre Dame player to be named to the AFCA All-America Team since 2002, when cornerback Shane Walton earned the honor. Tate was the first Irish offensive player selected to the team since former Notre Dame tackle Aaron Taylor was chosen in 1993.

Tate was joined on the offensive All-America Team by the likes of Heisman candi-

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ND VOLLEYBALL

The big stage

Irish return to NCAA tournament vs. Ohio

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

The Irish are back in the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2006 and the 17th time overall, as they take on Ohio University in the opening round tonight.

"It's our aim to come here and to advance and to win," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "We're taking it one match at a time. We know Ohio is a good team and a strong opponent."

The Irish received an at-large bid into the tournament after going 14-0 in the Big East regular season but falling to Louisville in the semifinals of the conference tournament.

The Bobcats (26-6, 15-1 MAC) claimed their sixth MAC title in the last seven years by taking down Western Michigan 3-1 on Nov. 22. This year marks Ohio's seventh-straight NCAA tourna-

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PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Sophomore outside hitter Kristen Dealy goes for the kill during Notre Dame's 3-1 win over Seton Hall Oct. 31. Dealy and the Irish will take on Ohio tonight in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

FENCING

Team faces challenge with USFA

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

The Irish look to send a strong message to the rest of the fencing world at the United States Fencing Association (USFA) North American Cup this weekend as they wrap up the individual season of bouts. With intercollegiate play approaching, the Irish will compete to raise their individual rankings against the toughest field on the continent.

"This is the North American Cup, which is bringing all the best fencers from Canada and all the states," head coach Janusz Bednarski said. "This tournament is like a tryout for the national team, with points going towards world cup tournaments and world cup championships, so it's a very strong tournament."

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HOCKEY

ND takes on No. 1 Miami

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

No. 15 Notre Dame faces the best of the best this weekend in a two-game series against top-ranked Miami (Ohio).

The No. 1 RedHawks (9-2-5, 6-1-3-1 CCHA) have resided at the top of the rankings for eight weeks now. Notre Dame (7-5-4, 4-2-4-2) travels to the Goggin Ice Center knowing the series is one of the more important of the season.

"[The two-game series] should be [one of the most important series] when you play the top team in the country. It'll be a good

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GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

Freshman center Riley Sheahan skates for the puck during Notre Dame's 2-2 tie against Northern Michigan Nov. 15.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame returns to action against UCF

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Associate Sports Editor

The Irish will face one of the toughest tests of their non-conference schedule this weekend, hosting Central Florida at Purcell Pavilion on Sunday.

The Golden Knights are 6-1 in the young season, with an 84-74 win over Auburn the highlight of their year thus far. While this is the first true road game for UCF, Irish coach Mike Brey said he expects his squad to be challenged.

"I'm very impressed with their team, they're well coached," Brey said. "And it's a group coming out like us early, they're learning how to win. So

you got a confident team coming in here on Sunday."

Notre Dame (7-1) has responded well to its first loss of the season, a 72-58 defeat to Northwestern in the Chicago Invitational Challenge. Since the disappointing loss, the Irish have rebounded with wins over Saint Louis and Idaho State.

Brey said after a loss like the one to the Wildcats, he doesn't focus on the failures in the game but on how the team will bounce back.

"I didn't talk about any breakdowns, what we didn't do. Real simple: I want to see how we bounce back," Brey

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