Proposed Transpo route to run this month

Student gov’t., Student Affairs to finance new service with safety in mind; stops include local bars

By MADILENE BUCKLEY
News Editor

A new Transpo route that will drop students near common student bars and neighborhoods on weekend nights will tentatively start running this November, student body president Grant Schmidt said.

The new Transpo service, one of the main initiatives of the Schmidt-Weber administration so far this year, will run every 18 minutes from Library Circle to South Street Station from about 9 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights, Schmidt said.

This is a new route, tailored to students, that is fast and safe,” Schmidt said. “Students will go off campus regardless so this is a safety issue and a convenience issue.”

The route, with a round-trip of 36 miles, has not been finalized, but the proposed route has a stop on Twyckenham Drive for students living in apartments east of campus, a stop on Edison Street near the Linebacker Lounge as well as stops near Corby’s Irish Pub and The Blarney Stone, commonly referred to as Finnegan’s.

Chip Lewis, chairman of the Board of Directors of Transpo, said Transpo was willing to work with the University to add a new route because of the safety factor. Transpo does not make a profit on the added service.

“The benefit is doing good service for our community and helping students get home safely,” Lewis said. “Certainly getting home from bars at night, students are currently faced with bad situations like overpaying cabs, walking or getting in a car with someone who has been drinking.”

The new route, called 7a, will hit the streets with high numbers of student houses, such as Notre Dame Ave., Washington St. and St. Louis St., pass through downtown South Bend and return to Library Circle via Eddy Street Commons.

Schmidt said one of the biggest advantages for students is that Transpo service is paid for by the University and therefore free for students. “Taxis are not always safe and don’t always provide the best deals,” he said.

Schmidt and student body vice president Cynthia Weber initially began looking into extending Transpo route 7, which currently runs between University Park Mall, Library Circle and South Street Station, but after talks with the University’s Office of Business Operations, they realized it would be more feasible to create a new route.

Schmidt said Business Operations is negotiating a

see TRANSPO/page 4

Contest to measure energy use in dorms

By IRENA ZAJCIOVA
News Writer

As part of an ongoing effort to make the University of Notre Dame more eco-friendly, the Office of Sustainability and student government are hosting a Dorm Energy Competition, which kicked off yesterday and will continue through Nov. 30.

The competition will measure each residence hall’s energy use and determine which dorm saved the most based on figures from the past five years. Hot water consumption will not be included in the measurements.

Patrick McCormick, a student intern at the Office of Sustainability, said there are many ways students can pitch in to help their dorms save energy, including simple actions such as turning off lights when leaving the room and unplugging electronics that aren’t being used.

McCormick also emphasized the community aspect of the competition, and said the contest will be used to promote the idea of everyone at Notre Dame coming together to save energy.

“Those involved realize the idea doesn’t sound conventional,” he said. “It may sound like a silly idea, but people will pay to see guys grow mustaches,” he said. The event will begin on Nov. 3 with every participating male shaving up to a meeting clean shaven and with an initial donation. Patrick said dorms will continue to shave for the next four weeks, the participants will meet at a
Miseducation of an Indie Kid

I am a music snob. I listen to British soul artists, spend hours in music stores searching dusty stacks of scratched vinyl, watch remastered DVDs of decades old concerts, spend more on head phones than most people do on their iPads, endlessly praise the music of Tom Waits, rewatch Prince’s “Purple Rain,” publicly scoff at Pitchfork but still read the reviews, and know who won the Mercury Music Prize last year.

“I’m proud of all this.”

In my defense, this all started back in the eighth grade. As a chubbly 14 year old with asthma, this was the coordination of a lesser evolved species, Napster, and a broadband Internet connection. I needed something to provide a wonderful feeling of superiority. I did some things right (acquire the entire Beatles catalogue, some wrong (piracy) and some to this day that I’m ashamed to admit (acquire the entire Creed catalogue, including several live songs). By the time I made it to high school, I was a full blown music elitist. I couldn’t even stomach a conversation with you unless you knew the finer points of British rap, understood the progression of punk starting in ’77 or had a French bootleg of some lost Whiskytown tracks. This past summer, two events shattered my longstanding relationship with music. First, I sold my own car. Second, I purchased Kanye West’s “808s and Heartbreak.”

Test driving cars with my father, I could have cared less about the make, model or style. It needed a couple of seats, a working stereo, and the ability to make the journey between Minnesota and Notre Dame. In the end, I ended up with a Kia.

“I scoffed, hemmed and submitted Kanye West for my consideration. I really don’t care. While this doesn’t mean the world to me, it did bring a pang of regret for the 70s pop mix tapes I’d subjected them to over the years.”

Mere weeks later, a good friend submitted Kanye West for my consideration. I scoffed, hemmed and hawed, ranted about the state of popular music right up until I listened. It didn’t matter the name or music of you who missed it, “808s and Heartbreak” was, without a doubt, the best album of 2008.

This album ushered a return to the wasteland that is Top 40 radio following a self imposed seven year hiatus. I didn’t miss much in that time, but the singles that I missed were excellent.

It’s a rather long way to do it, but this is my apology for and recognition of the snobbery. While I can guarantee I won’t abandon my ways, if you ever get sick of me raving about Brazil’s newest export, just ask what car I drive.

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Grant funds research on civil wars
Project to highlight sustainable ‘quality peace,’ human rights

Special to The Observer

A National Science Foundation grant to researchers Erik Melander, John Darby and Peter Wallensteen of the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies will support research on how third parties can help end civil wars and promote human rights and social justice. A central aspect of the study is the development of a database with details of all third-party peacemaking in armed conflicts that occurred between 1989 and 2008. Civil wars are by far the most widespread form of armed conflict, according to Melander, a senior researcher at the Kroc Institute. Third-party “outsiders” — including prominent individuals, the United Nations or religious organizations — often are involved in seeking to end such conflicts. Using a combination of in-depth case studies and statistical analyses, the Kroc researchers will study ways to increase the success rate of third parties in mediating and ending civil wars.

"An important part of this project is concern for ‘quality peace,’” Melander said. “We don’t define peace as merely the absence of active fighting. The conditions for justice and human rights also need to be in place for the peace to be sustainable.”

This project is an outgrowth of the Kroc Institute’s partnership with Uppsala University in Sweden. In addition to his position at Notre Dame, Melander is deputy director of the Uppsala University Conflict Data Program. Wallensteen, the Richard G. Starmann Sr. Research Professor of Peace Studies at the Kroc Institute, is the Dag Hammarskjöld Professor in Uppsala’s Department of Peace and Conflict Research. Darby is professor of comparative ethics, philosophy and theology, and the Ontological Values, and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, founded by the University’s Reilly Center for Science, Technology and God.”

Paleontologist to speak today

Special to The Observer

British paleontologist Simon Conway Morris will deliver a lecture titled “Darwin’s Explosion: How Evolution Discovers the Song of Creation” at 8 p.m. today in the auditorium of the University of Notre Dame’s Jordan Hall of Science. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Conway Morris’ talk is the closing event of an international conference titled “Darwin in the 21st Century: Nature, Humanity and God” which was sponsored by the University’s Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values, and the Pontifical Council for Culture's Science, Theology, and the Ontological Quest (STOQ) Project in Rome.

Known as the foremost authority on the Cambrian Explosion, Conway Morris is a professor of evolutionary paleobiology in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Cambridge. He is renowned for his many debates with the late Stephen Jay Gould on the topic of the predictability of evolutionary history.

Conway Morris was elected a fellow of the Royal Society at age 39 and is the author of a number of books on evolution, including “The Crucible of Creation: The Burgess Shale and the Rise of Animals” and “Life’s Solution: Inevitable Humans in a Lonely Universe.” His research interests include the study of Burgess Shale-type faunas, the first appearance of skeletons and the Cambrian “explosion.”

IT resolution passes at Monday’s meeting

By NIKKI TAYLOR News/Observer

The Saint Mary’s Student Government Association (SGA) passed a resolution and new guidelines for sponsorships at their meeting Monday night.

The new resolution passed requires the Saint Mary’s Information Technology (IT) department to give the same support to SGA computers that they give to the other faculty and student computers on campus, student body vice president Megan Griffin said.

This resolution is the second passed by SGA this school year.

The SGA board also voted on the new process through which clubs will apply for sponsorships. The new process has redistributed funds so that clubs will no longer have to pay for campus programming they want to put on out of their allotment funds. Campus wide program funding is now available through sponsorships, student body president Jenny Hoffman explained.

Clubs can now at any time begin to apply for sponsorships and there is no limit on how many times any given club can apply for sponsorship money.

Also, each club will be responsible for showing that their given sponsorship funds are being used correctly. Failure to do this could result in denied sponsorships in the future.

The Board also reviewed the guidelines of the allotment process as they are preparing to enter the process of reviewing and approving campus clubs’ requests for their allotment funding.

“We made the guidelines to make sure that they are fair and consistent,” Hoffman said.

When the clubs are notified of their allotment amounts they will also be given an appeal letter for any grievances they might have with their given allotment.

SGA is continuing their effort to be more visible around campus. Lists of events for the month of November can be found on the tables in the dining hall as well and on the new issue of Stall News that SGA will be placing in bathrooms around campus.

Contact Nikki Taylor at nstaylor@SaintMarys.edu
Energy continued from page 1

"The biggest thing that has changed is our expectations," McCormick said. "It is an invitation to the entire Notre Dame community to renew our commitment to sustainability, the common good of all." Going along with this idea, the theme for this year's contest is "Save Energy, Save Lives." McCormick said the theme is meant to stress the interdependence involved in saving energy, since overconsumption can lead to climate change that affects people in other countries, not just in the United States.

"We now know that our consumption habits affect people's lives around the world not just next door, but today," McCormick said.

This year, the Office of Sustainability will donate the savings from the winning dorm to the Global Water Initiative, a nonprofit organization that digs wells in Africa to provide water for people in need. Roseberry also said the dorm energy contest connects with the Office of Sustainability's larger focus on using the idea of sustainability to save lives.

"We think the Office of Sustainability has been a really great resource and office on campus and their mission of sustainability ties in really well with the mission of educating people on campus about the need for water," Roseberry said. "We're saving money here on campus but we're also using that money to bring water to parts of Africa through the wells that we save." Contact Irena Zajickova at izajickova@nd.edu

Kids continued from page 1

"The biggest thing that has changed is our expectations. We're hoping for more."

Matt Barnes graduate student

"We're really excited about this," Schmidt said. "It's huge that student government, Student Affairs and Transpo are collaborating on something this big." Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Gaspar continued from page 1

"We worked very closely with Ms. Gaspar to resolve that matter and we think that the terms that both sides have agreed to are fair, and we'll just leave it at that," he said. According to an Oct. 31 article in The South Bend Tribune, Gaspar will repay the debt in incremental payments of $50 each month, "meaning that the entire debt likely would be repaid in about 28 years."

The Tribune also said Gaspar was forced to pledge the car she bought with the mistaken gratuity — a 2002 Volkswagen Jetta — as collateral to secure the agreement. Although the documents were filed last Wednesday, Brown said media outlets did not become aware of the settlement until a court date on Friday.

"We're really excited about this," Schmidt said. "It's huge that student government, Student Affairs and Transpo are collaborating on something this big." Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

"The biggest thing that has changed is our expectations. We're hoping for more."

Matt Barnes graduate student

"The biggest thing that has changed is our expectations. We're hoping for more. Our goal this year is $2,000."

The group intentionally picked this time of year to have the fundraiser. Barnes said.

"With people going home for Thanksgiving, it's a great opportunity to raise money for the fundraiser." Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

Thinking of studying in the Dublin Program?

Have you started your application but have some questions?

Drop in without an appointment to 152 Hurley at any time Thursday, Nov. 5th 9:30 am to 5:00pm
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Venezuelan troops slain near Colombia
CARACAS, Venezuela — Two soldiers in Venezuela’s north have been shot to death near the border with Colombia.

State television says unidentified assailants gunned down the soldiers at a roadside checkpoint in the western state of Tachira. It says Monday’s shooting was confirmed by the National Guard and police.

Phone calls to the National Guard’s offices were unanswered. The guard is separate from Venezuela’s army.

Colombian rebels, paramilitary groups and drug traffickers operate along the remote border.

Animals added to endangered list
GENEVA — A rare tree frog found only in central Panama could soon croak its last, as deforestation and infection push the species toward extinction, an environmental group said Monday.

The Rháb’s fringe-limbed tree frog, which only became known to science four years ago, is one of 1,895 amphibian species that could soon disappear in the wild, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Switzerland-based IUCN surveyed a total of 47,788 species and this year’s “Red List” of endangered species and determined that 17,291 of them are threatened with extinction.

More than one in five of all known mammals, over a quarter of reptiles and 70 percent of plants are under threat, according to the survey, which featured over 2,800 new species compared with 2008.

National News

Jerry Brown resigns spokesman says SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The communications director for California Attorney General Jerry Brown resigned Monday after it was revealed he had secretly recorded telephone conversations with reporters.

Spokesman Steve Alpert said Monday that 56-year-old Michael Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter.

CROWN POINT, Ind. — A prosecutor says a 33-year-old man has been sentenced to seven years in prison for stealing metal heating coils from an elementary school.

He also said the U.S. is “still considering” North Korea’s invitation for U.S. envoy to visit.

“North Korea has a shadowy history and is often employed. The regime’s impatience is understandable,” Denmark’s Minister for Climate and Energy Connie Hedegaard said Monday.

“Counterproductive tactics aimed at getting the regime a second way to enrich uranium, a key ingredient for nuclear bombs, and that it had succeeded in uranium enrichment, which would give the regime a second way to make atomic bombs. Ryomyong was also seen as a pressure tactic aimed at getting Washington to agree to one-on-one talks. North Korea has mixed such threats with a series of conciliatory moves, such as releasing two detained American journalists, after months of raising tensions with nuclear and missile tests. The North has also quit the six-nation nuclear disarmament talks — which involve China, Japan, Russia, the U.S. and the two Koreas. North Korea and the U.S. fought on opposite sides of the Korean War of the 1950s and do not have diplomatic relations. Both nations have tanks and troops on guard at the heavily fortified border dividing the two Koreas.

Pyongyang claims it must develop atomic weapons to defend itself against nuclear threats from the U.S. The regime has long sought direct negotiations with Washington saying it was because of U.S. nuclear threats that the country develop nuclear bombs. Washington has denied it has any intention of attacking the North. But Defense Secretary Robert Gates assured Seoul last month that Washington was prepared to unleash all military capabilities — including its nuclear might — to defend the long-time ally.

Pyongyang’s main Rodong Sinmun newspaper blasted the North’s “nuclear deterrent will be bolstered” if the U.S. refuses to switch its “policy of aggression” toward the North. On Monday, the North’s foreign ministry also said that “meaningful progress” on a nuclear-free Korean peninsula is possible — “if the hostile relations between the North and the U.S. are settled and confidence is built between them.”

Washington has maintained that it is willing to engage North Korea in bilateral talks — if they lead to the resumption of the stalled six-nation disarmament talks.

North Korea’s Ri, who was in the U.S. at the invitation of private organizations, said discussions with the U.S. envoy were “useful,” South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported. Still, both KCNA and State Department officials in Washington said no decision had been made on holding bilateral talks.

The North agreed in 2007 to disable its nuclear facilities — as a step toward its ultimate dismantlement — in exchange for energy aid and political concessions.

SPAIN

Climate delegates call on U.S. for strong policy

Associated Press

BARCELONA — As China’s actions to curb gas emissions garnered praise at U.S. climate talks, the United States came under renewed pressure to come up with a plan to cut pollution blamed for hastening global warming.

Delegates at the weeklong talks in Barcelona pressed Monday for Washington to make specific commitments on reducing carbon emissions and contributing to a global climate fund to help poor countries cope with damage caused by climate change.

“We expect the United States to be able to deliver on one of the major challenges of our century,” Denmark’s Minister for Climate and Energy Connie Hedegaard said.

Delegates expressed frustration Monday that, after two years of talks on drafting a new pact, the U.S. has been unable to make firm commitments because it is waiting for Congress to enact legislation.

World nations hope to finalize a new global warming pact in time for it to be adopted at a major U.N. conference next month in Copenhagen. The deal would replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, but require both industrial countries and developing countries to rein in emissions of carbon and other heat-raising greenhouse gases. Kyoto applied only to industrialized nations, and was rejected by the United States.

Hedegaard noted that President Barack Obama, cited for raising hopes of a more peaceful and climate friendly world, will receive the Nobel Peace Prize in nearby Norway on Dec. 10 — just after the decisive climate conference gets under way.

“It’s very hard to imagine how the American president can receive the Nobel Prize ... and at the same time has sent an empty-handed delegation to Copenhagen,” said the Danish minister, who will chair the Dec. 7-18 talks in Copenhagen.

U.S. chief delegate Jonathan Pershing said the U.S. intended to be part of a deal, but would ensure that any deal it signed would be accepted by Congress.

LOCAL NEWS

Coil thief sentenced to jail

CROWN POINT, Ind. — A prosecutor says a 33-year-old man has been sentenced to seven years in prison for stealing metal heating coils from an elementary school.

Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter.

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Stanley Works buys Black & Decker

This is a unique opportunity to join two great companies, each with first-rate brands, and provide enhanced opportunities to generate superior returns as we build on this new, larger platform," Stanley Chairman John F. Lundgren, who will be president and CEO, said in a statement.

Black & Decker shareholders are to receive about 1.28 shares of Stanley Works for each share they own. The nine members of Stanley Works’ board will remain in place after the deal and six new members from Black & Decker’s current board.

Of the $2.9 billion in costs by $350 million within three years, likely in part through savings will come from reducing corporate overhead and accelerating business units and manufacturing, distribution and transaction and purchasing.

Black & Decker, based in Towson, Md., has 22,100 workers. The combined company, based in New Britain, Conn., has 18,200 workers. The Black & Decker and Stanley Works' board will remain in place after the deal.

The deal is expected to cost by $350 million within three years, likely in part through savings will come from reducing corporate overhead and accelerating business units and manufacturing, distribution and purchasing.

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Stanley Works’ brands include its Stanley tools line and FatMax, Bostitch and Mac Tools, which are used on cars. In addition to its nameake line, Black & Decker owns DeWalt, Porter-Cable and Rockwell, which are popular with both consumers and professionals.

Dayrit said space remains for smaller tool makers that make hand tools, such as Stanley Black & Decker shareholders will hold a 49.5 percent stake after the all-stock deal is complete.

There were many requests from members of the public includ- ed Nancy D’Giacomo, who came from Huntington, N.Y., with her husband, 9-year-old son, mother and sister.

“I just thought it was important to see the transformation of the tragedy’s wreckage, said D’Giacomo. “From that, something else can come of it.”

Lt. Cmdr. Colette Murphy, a Navy spokeswoman, said she was excited for those serving on board to see the city’s “awe-inspiring” welcome. At a ceremony later at Pier 88 near the site of the air- craft carrier, the USS Intrepid, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the USS New York couldn’t have a more fitting name, representing freedom, courage and resilience.

“This ship is actually a physi- cal representation of that spirit with steel from the World Trade Center built into its bow so every friend that sets foot on it and every foe that dares challenge it will feel the power and know that it is literally made from the heart and soul of the city that gave the world the Manhattan ‘hunch,’ ” the mayor said.

Of the 361 sailors serving aboard the ship, around 13 percent are from New York state, which is higher than would nor- mally be the case, Murphy said.

The USS New York passes the Statue of Liberty Monday. The ship was built from steel from the World Trade Center.

Hospital fined for wrong-site surgery

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Rhode Island’s largest hospital was fined $150,000 and ordered to take the extraordinary step of installing video cameras in all its operating rooms to ensure that the savings will come from reducing corporate overhead and accelerating business units and manufacturing, distribution and transaction and purchasing.

Black & Decker, based in Towson, Md., has 22,100 workers. The combined company, based in New Britain, Conn., has 18,200 workers. The Black & Decker and Stanley Works' board will remain in place after the deal.

The deal is expected to cost by $350 million within three years, likely in part through savings will come from reducing corporate overhead and accelerating business units and manufacturing, distribution and purchasing.

Black & Decker shareholders are to receive about 1.28 shares of Stanley Works for each share they own. The nine members of Stanley Works’ board will remain in place after the deal and six new members from Black & Decker’s current board.

Stanley Works’ brands include its Stanley tools line and FatMax, Bostitch and Mac Tools, which are used on cars. In addition to its nameake line, Black & Decker owns DeWalt, Porter-Cable and Rockwell, which are popular with both consumers and professionals.

Dayrit said space remains for smaller tool makers that make hand tools, such as Stanley
**IN BRIEF**

Government unlikely to recover funds

WASHINGTON — Government officials said the U.S. government is unlikely to recover all of its investment in General Motors or Chrysler because the companies’ value would need to “grow substantially above what they have been for the past several years,” they said.

A Government Accountability Office report released Monday is the latest review to cast doubt on the likelihood that taxpayers will fully recoup more than $80 billion invested in the two U.S. automakers.

The report found that Chrysler and GM are not well positioned to sell themselves or their operations at any price that could recoup the taxpayers’ investment. The government’s intent is to sell Chrysler for its full value and GM for its “notional value,” which is less than the U.S. government’s investment in the companies.

The report also found that the U.S. government’s share of Chrysler and GM’s nearly 10 percent stake in Chrysler and 61 percent share of GM. But government officials won’t say when that could happen because they don’t want to undermine the potential return on the investment.

Filmmakers sue over lost Iowa incentives

DES MOINES, Iowa — Filmmakers have filed two lawsuits seeking to force the state to make good on promised incentives to make movies in Iowa.

A telephone message left Monday for Stanley Levin, Iowa’s economic development director, was not immediately returned. The Iowa Department of Economic Development, which administers Iowa’s film promotion program, said it was not authorized to speculate about the lawsuits.

The lawsuits, filed last week in Polk County District Court, claim the state approved $6.5 million in tax credits for them to make a movie in Iowa.

“They are two separate lawsuits seeking to force the state to make good on promised incentives to make movies in Iowa,” said Iowa Eye Entertainment LLC, Baedaln Film AG, C-Films France SAS, Clean Out Film Services Inc. and Clean Out Film Services Inc. have sued the Iowa Department of Economic Development. The agency administers Iowa’s film promotion program.

The companies claim the state approved $6.5 million in tax credits for them to make a movie in Iowa.

A telephone message left Monday for Stanley Thompson, the attorney representing the companies, was not immediately returned. The Iowa attorney general’s office did not comment Monday.

The film incentive program is under investigation after reports surfaced of sloppy bookkeeping in the Iowa Film Office and questionable spending by some movie makers who sought tax credits. A report by the Iowa Department of Economic Development have lost their jobs over the matter and Gov. Chet Culver’s administration has suspended the program.

The lawsuit, filed last week in Polk County District Court, claims the state failed to execute a contract for the incentives after Culver halted the program after allegations of mismanagement.

**MARKET RECAP**

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**Health bill totals $1.2 trillion**

House will vote on measure this week; price surpasses all previous estimates

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The health care bill headed for a vote in the House this week costs $1.2 trillion or more over a decade, according to numerous Democratic officials and figures contained in an analysis by congressional budget experts, far higher than the $900 billion cited by President Barack Obama as a price tag for his reform plan.

While the Congressional Budget Office has put the cost of expanding coverage in the legislation at roughly $1 trillion, Democrats added billions more on higher spending for public health, a reinsurance program to hold down insurance premiums, payments for preventive services and more.

Many of the additions are designed to improve benefits or ease access to government programs. The officials who provided overall cost estimates did so on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to discuss them.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has referred repeatedly to the bill’s net cost of $804 billion over a decade for coverage.

“Ask about the higher estimate,” Pelosi spokesman Brendan Daly said. “We measure not only insures 36 million more Americans, it provides critical health insurance reform in a way that is fiscally sound.

“It will not add one dime to the deficit. In fact, the CBO said last week that it would reduce the deficit both in the first 10 years and in the second 10 years,” Daly said.

Democrats have been inching on passing the health care plan this year to implement a nationally televised speech the president said in early September.

One casualty of the time crunch and threatened Republican delaying tactics may be formal House-Senate negotiations on a final compromise. An alternative is a less formal hurry-up final negotiation involving the White House and Senate Democratic leaders.

Whatever the final cost, the legislation is working increasingly against the White House and Democrats. While a House vote is possible late this week, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., may not be able to begin debate on the issue until the week before Thanksgiving.

Additionally, the Republican leader Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, has hinted at efforts to extend the debate for weeks if not months, a timetable that could extend into 2010.

One casualty of the time crunch and threats of Republican delaying tactics may be formal House-Senate negotiations on a final compromise. An alternative is a less formal hurry-up final negotiation involving the White House and senior Democratic officials.

Pelosi and her lieutenants worked on last-minute changes in the measure to ease concerns among opponents of abortion and a contentious provision relating to illegal immigrants.

Conservative Democrats have expressed concern about the cost of the bill, an evening closed-door meeting gave the leadership its first chance to hear their response.

The bill includes an option for a government-run health plan.

The leadership can afford more than two dozen defec-
tions and still be assured of the votes to prevail on the bill, one of the most sweeping measures in recent years.

Republicans put the cost of the bill at nearly $1.3 trillion.

“Our goal is to make it as difficult as possible for” Democrats to pass it, House Republican Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, said at a news conference. “We believe it is the wrong pre-
scription.”

The day after announcing Republicans would have an alternative measure, Boehner offered few details.

He said it would omit one of the central provisions in Democratic bills — a ban on the insurance industry’s practice of denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions. Instead, he said, it would encourage creation of insurance pools for high-risk individuals and take other steps to ease their access to coverage.

**Plans dropped for South Dakota power plant**

Associated Press

BIG STONE, South Dakota — Developers of a $1.6 billion electric power plant in northeastern South Dakota abandoned the project Monday, saying they were unable to recruit other investors, including one of the principal utility backers pulled out.

The Big Stone II plant, planned for construction near the existing power plant in northeastern South Dakota’s Public Utilities Commission, said construction of Big Stone II plant during a news conference on Capitol Hill Oct. 29.

Steve Kolbeck, vice chairman of South Dakota’s Public Utilities Commission, said construction of Big Stone II and improvements to the nearby power plant would have cut total pollution from the site while greatly increasing its output.

“If we could have gotten it built, we could have actually made the air cleaner up there,” Kolbeck said.

A group of seven utilities were partners in the project when it was announced in June 2005. Planners said they hoped to begin construction of a 630-megawatt plant in 2007 and have the plant operating by 2011.
It has become the latest ploy in the liber- 
ral plot to sell their beloved public op-
 tion to wary Republicans and moder-
 nate Democrats, not to mention a skepti-
 cal public. Last week, House Speaker 
 Nancy Pelosi announced that the lat-
est version of the House bill will con-
tain what she likes to call “the consumer op-
tion.”

“I do think that when people think of it as their option, their consumer option. Because public is being misrepresented as being something that’s paid for by taxpayer dollars, which it is not.”

In other words, Democrats in favor of the public … I mean consumer option are hanging their hopes on voters being gullible enough to believe that a simple name change and a few minor compro-
mises will alter the fundamental flaws embedded in the plan.

Sound familiar? Earlier in 2009, a memo released to Pentagon staff mem-
 bers advised that in place of the phrase “Global War on Terror,” they should begin referring to the effort as the “War on Contingency Operations.” Perhaps the administration hoped the public would assume that because a new phrase was being used, President Obama had kept his promise to bring the war to an end. Yet seven months later, the pres-
ident is complaining another surge in troops, this time in Afghanistan.

And the same time, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano revealed her preferred method of speak-
ing about terrorism:

“In my speech, although I did not use the word ‘terrorism,’ I referred to ‘man-caused’ disasters. That is perhaps only a nuance, but it demonstrates that we want to move away from the politics of fear toward a policy of being prepared for all risks that can occur.”

“Yes, a mere “nuance” that attempts to make acts of terrorism seem less, well, terrible. The term “man-caused disas-
ters” makes a terrorist attack sound like an accident, as though faulty engines had caused three planes to crash into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon rather than a group of Islamic extremists bent on murdering innocent civilians to make a political point.

Indeed both parties are guilty of attempting to swerve public opinion with a thud. Frank Luntz, a Republican communications consultant, has made a career out of advising political clients how to sell their message by using more appealing terminology. In an age when 10-second sound bites and late-night comedy shows provide much of the pub-
lic’s political education, it’s no wonder politicians find it necessary to carefully calculate every word. Political mar-
keting strategies have become an essen-
tial component of both campaigns and 
governance, and framing the debate through word choice has been shown to be an effective tool in steering the voters’ perceptions of issues.

But there is a very important, though often times subtle, difference between making a message sound attractive and deliberately attempting to mislead the public in order to make unpopular poli-
cies more palatable.

An easy way to distinguish between the two methods is timing. When a politi-
cian uses a phrase to describe a particu-
lar message or policy from the outset, it is likely that the phrase amounts to, at worst, a mere sugarcoating of reality. Gay G. Bush’s “compassionate con-
servatism” motto during the 2000 elec-
tion provides a good example of this 
method. Call it vacuous, but the term does describe a particular political phi-
losophy that seeks to promote societal welfare through traditionally conserva-
tive means.

However, attempting to change termi-
nology midway through the debate sig-
als a more deceitful plot. Speaker 
Peloosi’s rebranding of the public option; like the rebranding of the War on 
Terror, terrorism and global warming; 
misrepresents the policies more palatable. To put them into perspective, we can compare the pre-
dicted costs of Obamacare to those of a similar entitlement program, like 
Medicare. In 1967, two years after Medicare became law, actuaries and Means analysts predicted that it would cost only $12 billion in 1990. When 1990 rolled around, federal Medicare spending was 
$110 billion. That is almost a $100 billion difference.

Unfortunately, real problems cannot be resolved by changing a name. If a 
did, then Obama could have a lot of easy money by simply renaming Gitmo “The 
Super-Fun Torture-Free Happy Day 
Camp for Detainees.” When a politician attempts to rebrand a policy midway through the debate, remember that “a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” Or in this case, a public option by any other name will be just as disas-
trous.

Christie Pesavento is a senior who is majoring in political science and sociologi-
y. She can be reached at cpesaven@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
“A charm and nothing but charm at last grows a little tiresome. It’s a relief then to deal with a man who isn’t quite so delightful but a little more sincere.”

W. Somerset Maugham
English dramatist & novelist

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Tuesday, November 3, 2009
The Observer

The Observer

He had been here before. He couldn’t remember where or why, but he recognized it. Perhaps it had been in a dream, or maybe he was experiencing a moment of déjà vu. But as much as he tried to push against that brick wall, he could not remember how to get through. His fingers gripped the cold brick and tore down the wall, but he only came away with a bloody, fingerless hand. He kicked, he punched, he yelled, but nothing worked. All he knew was that he had to get to the other side soon. His life was depending on it.

Part 2 by Christine Fagan

Desperate for a way through, he decided to try a new approach. He swallowed all that was left of his pride and leaned his whole body into the brick wall, simply leaned, and with that he could feel movement. The wall ebbed and flowed as if controlled by breath. This wall works remarkably like a lung, he thought as he continued his leaning. In almost an instant he felt swallowed. The wall consumed him in his entirety and he clumsily fell through the bricks. Given the chance he would have screamed, but a contradictory mix of pride and an endless fear overtook him, and he remained silent. After a few seconds of eternity, he was on the other side. Once he regained his balance he stood ready to face the council. He was going to win, if only because he was not ready to die.

Want to write the next paragraph to the story? Submit your paragraph to ND Lishtorystory@gmail.com. Limit of 200 words. Title it "NDLF Short Story." The challenge will continue until Nov. 16. If your paragraph is selected, it will be published in Viewpoint, and you will get to read it at the NDLP panel discussion Nov. 19. The visiting authors will write the ending paragraphs. Take advantage of the opportunity to write a story along with three New York Times bestselling authors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Notre Dame Boxing Club has supported the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh for 80 years. This Spring will mark a number of achievements for one of Notre Dame’s proudest traditions. In addition to celebrating the 95th anniversary of our founding, the one million dollar raised in donations will be over to help build and maintain schools. The Bengal Bouts will also release the feature documentary, “Strong Bodies Fight,” to the public with a student-only screening at 9:30 p.m. on Friday Nov. 6 at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC). While the program has historically supported the missions through a donation check from the annual celebrate the Bengal Bouts has developed a much more tangible relationship with the people of Bangladesh. For the first time in the summer of 2008, five boxers witnessed first-hand how far our support goes. We are no longer just a check received, we are part of a nationwide crusade against global poverty through the tool of education. The Bengal Bouts now sends boxers every summer as part of a Notre Dame ISLP to help teach classes at our educational facilities that have been built. Children now have hope — they have developed a profession through years of educational instruction.

Mark Weber ’09 and other producers have put forth a lot of time to effectively portray the transformation of the Bengal Bouts. The film captures a special relationship that continues to improve. Please support the 200-plus men and women who continue to give hope to the lives of many. And come spring, please remember to support your friends in the Bengal Bouts.

Chris Caglairi
senior
off campus
Nov. 2

Strong bodies fight

Greetings, ND Community

We all know who Soulja Boy is. He is the performer of one of the worst songs to ever reach No. 1 in the U.S. Many of us have even seen his interviews, with the faulty grammar and the air of undeserved superiority. But what if all of it was a satirical play to make fun of new wave hip hop rap? The only way to pull off a successful deception in a performance is to sell the deception before and after the song. The deceiver has to live his entire life in a way that lives up to the people’s expectations. Knowing this, it would not be enough for Soulja Boy just to create awful music. To be successful in this plot, Soulja Boy has to live his entire life the way his music portrays him. This would be Soulja Boy’s motivation to act like a mannequin in interviews and in life in general.

Soulja Boy’s songs are proof of this conspiracy. Honestly, how could anybody actual- ly be that monumentally ignorant? All of his songs are ridiculous (not to mention awful) in wildly different ways. Even though he claims not to rap about sex and violence, “Crank That (Soulja Boy)” is only about violent sex, and he can be seen holding a gun in the original Crank that D’cote video. Not to mention the beat sounds like a meth addict left alone with a steel drum.

Bottom line, nobody possibly could be this dumb in so many ways. His songs and interviews don’t just show us how ignorant he is, they are a proclamation to the world that deliberately says, “Hey world, I’m brain- less!” I don’t believe that Soulja Boy is actually this ignorant, he only pretends to be dumb to make fun of rap and other rappers. He pulled a big one over all of our heads.

Danny Masse
freshman
Nov. 2

Ignorant or genius?

A Notre Dame short story

Calling all priests

“Ideal Daughters and Sons” will be performed this week (Nov.-Dec.) at the Library Auditorium, and I highly encourage all in the community to go see it, to raise awareness of the issue of sexual harassment and violence both on our cam- pus and in our society. I saw this performance last year, and it made a huge impact on me, as an alum, father of a current Notre Dame student, and as a man in general. The method of presenting this topic was a deep impact that can not be matched by simply reading about this sub- ject.

I especially call upon all Notre Dame priests to come see this performance. Priests counsel students on a wide range of issues, however students who are victims of sexual harassment/violence often hold their pain inside. When they do seek coun- seling, due to the nature of the incident, they more often than not seek out female counselors rather than male counselors.

After the performance, there is a panel-led discussion. When it was my turn to ask a question, I said I was shocked at how prevalent these incidents seem to be, even at our beloved Notre Dame, which some alumni (such as myself) mistakenly think is immune to this type of behavior. I then asked, “Do the priests ever discuss this issue at the homilies during Sunday Mass in the dorms?” No one on the panel or the audience could ever recall this being the subject of a homily. This may be because priests are not as aware of this topic as they need to be. Thus, I encourage the priests of Notre Dame to attend this performance, and find a way to work this topic into their homilies in the dorm Masses.

Just before Fr. Malley left office, he made a statement that I found somewhat controversial. He said, “I have been President for 18 years, and I was proud to be President every one of those days, except for one — the day Notre Dame hired Ty Willingham.” While that incident may have deserved critique, I was still proud to be part of Notre Dame on that day. I was still proud to be part of Notre Dame when we lost to Navy and Syracuse. If we were a Notre Dame priest, the days we would not be proud would be the ones when another of these incidents occurs to the RedHawk life. On those days, none of us should be proud, for we all have failed to set the moral com- pass of those students who commit these offenses. The failure comes primarily from the offenders, but also partially from all of us (parents, rectors, priests, peer students) who did not provide strong enough moral leadership to let every student know that such offenses are completely unaccept- able.

The “Ideal Daughters and Sons” per- formance puts this important topic out into the public forum in a unique and very compelling way. I encourage all (especially the priests) to attend and increase your awareness of this very important issue.

Mark Rolfs
alumnus
Nov. 2

Don’t forget to check out the upcoming Literary Festival activities!

Nov. 12: Student Lit Night & Acoustic Cafe 10 p.m. LaFortune Basement

Nov. 17: Frank Delaney 7 p.m. Coleman Morse Student Lounge

Auditorium, and I highly encourage all in the community to go see it, to raise awareness of the issue of sexual harassment and violence both on our cam-

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Tuesday, November 3, 2009
By DECLAN SULLIVAN  Scene Writer

Last year, the duo Shwayze burst onto the music scene with their self-titled debut, an album that successfully combined rock and rap into a sound that has only been described as California beach music. Despite being on the Vans Warped Tour and being involved in a multitude of side projects — ranging from running a record label to producing a movie — Aaron Smith, another musical era is taking today's music industry by storm. After two half years, Michael Bublé has music industry by storm. After two

Scene.

Cino — think "Tropic Thunder." Look for Aaron Smith's take on Shwayze's success, coming soon in Scene.

Declan Sullivan: Okay, there's something that I've always been confused about and have to get out of the way first. Is Shwayze the rapper known as Aaron Smith, or is it the name of the group under which you and Aaron perform?

CA: Cisco Adler. Well, it's both.

DS: So, last question. I see that you're doing the Party Rock Tour right now with LMFAO, and I have to say, I'm sad. I'm seeing places like Des Moines, Iowa on there, but no Notre Dame. Are you coming out here anytime in the near future?

CA: I'm kind of sad, too. (Laughs.) I wish we had more control, but with all the things that go into planning a tour ... it just all has to fit in, magically. Believe me, we want to go to more places that we haven't gone to, and there are certain places we really want to check out. Notre Dame is one of those, and I'm sure we'll get there soon — we're touring for this record all the way till next summer. I will make a point of it.

DS: I'm glad to hear that. I mean, if you're going out to Des Moines, at the very least ya gotta make it to South Bend. I mean, come on — Iowa? Really? (Laughs.) Yeah, we'll definitely make it out there.

CA: Cool, man. Just tell people to check out "Let It Beat," we're really proud of this record. We took the sound everyone fell in love with and gave them a little bit of that, but then we evolved it and grew a little bit. We're not a one-trick pony over here.

Contact Declan Sullivan at duull9@uol.com

By KATHERINE GREENSPON  Scene Writer

A jazz man who is said to be from another musical era is taking today's music industry by storm. After two and a half years, Michael Bublé has done it again, releasing his newest album, "Crazy Love." With inspirations like Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles and Louis Armstrong, Bublé makes sure that their spirits shine through in his remastered melodies. The young Canadian crooner is best known for his all-American classics and for a warm voice that has earned him the reputation of a modern-day Sinatra. His wicked charm and charisma on stage are breathtaking, and his versatility is incredible as he interweaves himself in the jazz, rock, blues and pop genres that have taken custody of so many young and old souls. "Crazy Love" focuses on Bublé's renditions of famous American tunes like "Georgia on My Mind" by Ray Charles and "Cry Me a River" by Julie London. One of the album's highlights is Bublé's hit single "Crazy Love," an adaptation of the song originally performed by Van Morrison. Morrison was a master of soul music, and his passion for his art inspired Bublé to try to put some time aside to shoot it up.

With a voice that sounds effortless and a passion that comes through on each cut, it is impossible to think this guy doesn't have talent. Bublé's music is easy on the ears and perfect for those long drives home or long nights in the library studying. He is consistently putting out swinging beats and an attitude that will hypnotize listeners. When concentrating on these upbeat songs, it is hard not to picture Bublé and all the collaborators having a blast in the recording studio. Bublé has progressed and matured very vocal ensemble that really lend their voices to the oldie "Stardust," and fellow Canadian songwriter Ron Sexsmith contributed a ballad in the track "Whatever It Takes." For years Bublé has worked with the big boys of blues, but on this album he has transformed into a cool, controlled and heartfelt singer who is coming into his own not only as an artist, but also as an assured performer.

With its fun ballads and over-the-top arrangements, performances can only become infatuated with "Crazy Love." Bublé is constantly influenced by the jazz aesthetic, and in "Cry Me A River" we get a jazz club feel with a smooth beat all the way through.

Bublé's music is easy on the ears and perfect for those long drives home or long nights in the library studying. He is consistently putting out swinging beats and an attitude that will hypnotize listeners. When concentrating on these upbeat songs, it is hard not to picture Bublé and all the collaborators having a blast in the recording studio. Bublé has progressed and matured very vocal ensemble that really lend their voices to the oldie "Stardust," and fellow Canadian songwriter Ron Sexsmith contributed a ballad in the track "Whatever It Takes." For years Bublé has worked with the big boys of blues, but on this album he has transformed into a cool, controlled and heartfelt singer who is coming into his own not only as an artist, but also as an assured performer.

With its fun ballads and over-the-top arrangements, performances can only become infatuated with "Crazy Love." Bublé is constantly influenced by the jazz aesthetic, and in "Cry Me A River" we get a jazz club feel with a smooth beat all the way through.

Contact Katherine Greenspon at kgreeno1@saintmarys.edu
As the concert progressed, the band steadily improved, especially Cronin. His voice started to show signs of its original form, especially when the band performed ballads which didn’t require him to sing over the electric guitar. Their performance of “Keep On Loving You” was a particularly well-done rendition of one of their two number one hits. But Cronin seemed to have saved his voice for their penultimate song, “Roll With the Changes,” which he belted out to near perfection.

The opening act of the night was another famous rock band from the 70s, the British rock group Foghat. It seemed that some members of the audience actually had come to see Foghat rather than R.E.O., and the band did not disappoint. Saving their three most famous songs for last, Foghat performed “I Just Want to Make Love to You,” “ Fool for the City” and finally “Slow Ride” to perfection. Though he is not the original singer, lead vocalist Charlie Huhn performed the songs almost exactly as they originally sounded. Guitarist Brian Bassett, originally from Molly Hatchet, and original Foghat drummer Roger Earl kept the band running smoothly.

Both hands performed excellently considering their ages and the wear that the rock and roll style must have put on their bodies. And despite the average age of the crowd, R.E.O. Speedwagon delivered a performance that, because of the familiarity of the songs and the pure enjoyment they expressed on stage, could be enjoyed by rock lovers of all ages.
Mike Brown isn’t placing restrictions on the team’s first three games. He wasn’t ready yet.

“I’m not worried about his minutes if he’s active,” Brown said. “He had a great game when he came back. I’m not even thinking about it.”

West made his debut for the Cleveland Cavaliers during Saturday night’s 90-79 win against Charlotte, scoring 13 points in 24 minutes. He was the third in their race with a time of 6:39.

Cavs guard West to ride bench after return to team

The Notre Dame women’s volleyball team will challenge the University of Maryland. Last week, his wife filed a domestic violence report against Washington.

Brown said Monday he is “definitely going to go with what we’ve been doing, and if that sounds like that, if he can play, he’s going to play.”

West started 64 games for the Cavaliers last season and averaged 24 minutes in the play-offs, when Cleveland was eliminated by Orlando in the Eastern Conference finals.

Brown told West that he can play either guard position and evolved into the team’s second-most important player behind senior Landon James.

The Cavaliers are 2-2 after opening the season with losses to Boston and Toronto. Brown and James both cautioned during the preseason that Cleveland could get off to a shaky start until West’s situation was resolved and the new faces blended with the old.

After one week, that’s already happening.

“I think he’s one of the best guards to come out of college in a long time,” Head of the Eagle this past Saturday to compete at the Head of the Eagle this past Saturday to compete at the

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Florida coach Urban Meyer has suspended Brandon Spikes, left, for the first half of Saturday’s game against Vanderbilt after the star linebacker attempted to gouge the eyes of Georgia running back Washaun Ealey.

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla.— Top-ranked Florida will be without star linebacker Brandon Spikes for the first half of Saturday’s game against Vanderbilt.

Coach Urban Meyer suspended Spikes on Monday, two days after the defensive captain apparently attempted to gouge the eyes of Georgia running back Washaun Ealey in a 41-17 victory.

“I don’t condone that,” Meyer said. “I understand what goes on on the football field, but there’s no place for that. We’re going to suspend Brandon for the first half of the Vanderbilt game. I spoke with him. That’s not who he is. That’s not who we are. He got caught up in emotion.”

Spikes issued a statement apologizing for what he did.

“I accept responsibility for my actions and I accept the consequences of my actions,” he said. “I would like to apologize to my team and the coaching staff and Washaun Ealey. Football is a very physical and emotional game, but there is no excuse for my actions.”

Meyer’s wife mentioned Spikes’ actions to him Monday morning. Meyer then spoke to Spikes’ actions to him Monday morning. Meyer’s first reaction was said his first reaction was.

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Florida quarterback Tim Tebow and Washaun Ealey.

If Ovechkin is out a week, he would have until the start of next week to activate Hardy or place him on season-ending injured reserve.

The Bills (5-4) are off this week and have until the second of next week to activate Hardy or place him on season-ending injured reserve.

Promoting Hardy would require the Bills to drop a player, potentially one of the six receivers currently on their roster.

The Bills are banged-up entering the break after four starters went down during a 31-10 loss to Houston.

PGA Tour suspends first player for substance abuse

Barron, a 40-year-old journeyman who lost his tour card three years ago, became the first player to be suspended by the PGA Tour for testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance.

Barron has been suspended for one year. He played eight full seasons on the tour, with his best finish a tie for third at the Byron Nelson Championship in 2006.

“I would like to apologize for any negative perception of the tour or its players resulting from my suspension,” Barron said in a statement released by the PGA Tour on Monday.

“Thank you for your patience and understanding. I am focused on the future and will use this time as an opportunity to reflect on my actions and the choices I made.”

Barron is the first player to be suspended by the PGA Tour for testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance.
Associated Press
[37x1057]BEREA, Ohio — The owner is sick about the state of his NFL team. The fans are in an uproar. The starting quarterback is historically inefficient and may be looking to lose his job. The star running back may retire with one year left on his contract.

The Cleveland Browns are beyond bad.

Their coach doesn’t believe it will last.

Eric Mangini believes his plan for turning around the brutal Browns will work despite a horrid first half of the season. On Monday, Mangini said he spoke by phone with Randy Lerner and has the owner’s support despite Cleveland’s 1-7 start to a season growing worse.

“I never got a feeling otherwise in all my conversations with Randy,” Mangini said.

The bye week arrived just in time for the Browns, who were thumped 30-6 on Sunday by the Chicago Bears, Cleveland’s latest lopsided loss. After the game, an upset and frustrated Lerner told reporters he was “sick about the team’s slide but remains confident the Browns will improve.

“This is a process,” Mangini said.

“It’s very easy to think about that quite a bit, and that doesn’t change. There’s things that go along with that and that doesn’t mean we’re not looking to win every game, it doesn’t mean we’re not looking to improve each week. On the contrary, that’s exactly what we’re going to do.

“Randy and I share the same vision and that’s something that we talked about and what we do talk about quite a bit is what’s the best way to achieve that. I’ve always had good conversations with him and always will.”

Mangini said he shared Lerner’s distaste for the Browns’ putrid performance so far.

“But I also believe in the things that we’re doing and I understand that doesn’t happen overnight,” he said. “There’s not one formula in terms of specific ingredients, but there is a very specific approach that you have to take and I believe in that. It has been successful. It will be successful here.”

Mangini and his coaching staff will spend the next week — the Browns don’t play again until Nov. 16 — evaluating and analyzing every aspect of the team.

Despite Cleveland’s offense being ranked 31st overall and scoring just five touchdowns, Mangini has no plans to change offensive coordinator Brian Daboll’s duties.

However, he may rely more on quarterbacks coach Carl Smith, a former offensive coordinator with New Orleans and Jacksonville.

Mangini’s also holding off on making a decision at quarterback.

Derek Anderson posted a 10.5 rating in Sunday’s game against Chicago, Cleveland’s latest lopsided loss.

After the game, an upset and frustrated Lerner told reporters he is “sick about the team’s slide but remains confident the Browns will improve.”

“This is a process,” Mangini said.

Schwartz has never been forth coming about the status of injured players, and that didn’t change Monday. When asked if he expected to have Johnson back for Sunday’s trip to Seattle (2-2), he said only that Johnson’s return was “closer.”

Along with Johnson’s return, Schwartz said the coaching staff is working to build back Detroit’s offense after last week’s 31-10 loss to the Rams.

“The difference between running the ball effectively and expeditiously, he said. “We’ve made consistent yards, but we need to break some longer runs — make a safety miss and go for 40 yards. That’s really where our running game has been lacking.”

Because of Kevin Smith’s shoulder problems, he and Maurice Morris split time in the backfield against the Rams, but Schwartz said that isn’t the plan going forward.

“Kevin is our workhorse running back,” he said. “He’s the guy that we want to get to most of the carries,” he said. “We’ve always wanted to get Maurice some work, that’s the case everywhere. As great as Adrian Peterson is, Chester Taylor gets a lot of carries. We don’t see this as a 50-50 split, but in this game, injuries kind of pushed us to that.”

NEWSDMC COLUMNS

Lions attack anemic receivers going into bye week

Associated Press

Allen Park, Mich. — Jim Schwartz doesn’t want his Detroit Lions to play an overly conservative game.

Without Calvin Johnson, he doesn’t think he has much of a choice.

Even with a bye week to prepare and the return of rookie quarterback Matt Stafford, the Lions (4-6) couldn’t move the ball consistently against the hapless St. Louis Rams on Sunday, losing 17-10 to a team that hadn’t won a game in over a year.

Calvin affects the coverages we see and everything that teams do against us,” Schwartz said Monday.

“’I’m the only true NFL team. The fans want to always look at it in those terms and not understand it,” Schwartz said.

The Lions have scored only one touchdown in the two games Johnson has missed with a knee injury.

Against the Rams, Stafford hit on just 14 of 33 passes for 168 yards, and didn’t complete a throw to a wide receiver until the fourth quarter.

Schwartz said the coaching staff counted six drops by Detroit receivers, including five in the first half. The first — and possibly most damaging — came on the Lions’ opening drive, when Bryant Johnson couldn’t hold onto a long pass that would have put Detroit into field-goal position.

“This is the first game where we have consistently had drops,” Schwartz said.

Wide receivers are going to drop some balls — it is unrealistic to think that they will catch every single pass — but when you have a situation like we had with Calvin out, there is consistency drops, there has to be some accountability.

Lions rookie tight end Brandon Pettigrew agreed.

“There were some drops and some that would have been tough plays, but we’ve got to start making tough plays,” he said.

The Lions are a matter of focus, Schwartz said, but to have to do more than just routine execution.

“Are we going to play the way we know we can play?” Schwartz asked.

With Johnson’s return, the Lions head coach said the team will be analyzing the way to achieve that. I’ve always had good conversations with him and always will.”

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“But I also believe in the things that we’re doing and I understand that doesn’t happen overnight,” he said. “There’s not one formula in terms of specific ingredients, but there is a very specific approach that you have to take and I believe in that. It has been successful. It will be successful here.”

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Wide
Mora threatens to shake up roster

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — The skidding Seahawks aren’t worried about T.J. Houshmandzadeh’s stomping and gesturing after he doesn’t get the ball.

They have too many other concerns. Such as keeping their jobs.

Coach Jim Mora put his 2-5 team on notice following Sunday’s 21-point loss at Dallas, which came after a 24-point home loss to Arizona.

He basically said, “I will evaluate this organization up and down and if I feel I’ve got to make changes, I’m going to make changes. If that means I’ve got to fire people, I’m going to fire people,” quarterback Matt Hasselbeck said. “We’ve definitely been put on notice that the scrutiny is going to go up.”

The Seahawks captain said that while some teammates are working harder to get better, “there are some guys just happy to have a job.”

Travis Fisher no longer has one. The veteran was released to have a job.”

People will reveal themselves at the crunch time Sunday and shouted: “This is what I do! If anyone wants me, come find me!”

“You have to remember, these two guys, they’ve only had seven games together. They’re trying to learn each other,” Hasselbeck said. “There was no animosity.

“You have to remember, these two guys, they’ve only had seven games together. They’re trying to learn each other,” Hasselbeck said. “There was no animosity.

“Sounds like a challenge to me,” the coach said. “Sounds like he’s competing and challenging people.”

“I don’t like to lose,” he said.

The coach had been optimistic and upbeat amid Seattle’s many injuries and defeats. That was before the Cowboys blew out his team amid penalties, fumbles and missed assignments. A 14-10 game late in the second quarter became a 36-10 runaway.

Just as he did the day before, Mora relayed a statement e-mailed to him Friday by Bruce Brown, his old coach at Hyak Junior High School in the Seattle suburb of Bellevue.

“Adversity turns weak people into victims, and it turns strong people into competitors,” was Brown’s message.

“We are going to find out who the strong people are, and they are going to be here fighting with us until the end,” Mora said Monday. “And we’re going to find out who the victims are, and they aren’t going to have us fighting to the end.

“We’re up against it a little bit. People will reveal themselves at these times. And I will be looking hard.”

Houshmandzadeh, who signed a $40 million, five-year contract in the spring, has repeatedly proclaimed he wants the ball more in his first season with Seattle. Then Sunday the NFL’s leading receiver over the last three seasons entering 2009 angrily gestured toward Hasselbeck to throw the ball with more loft immediately after he tried to run a hard pass to the tightly guarded receiver while he was one-on-one with a defender near the goal line in the first quarter. The discussion continued at the bench. Both players made gestures but did not appear to be arguing so much as explaining themselves.

“Sounds like a challenge to me,” the coach said. “Sounds like he’s competing and challenging people.”

Belles to joust with Knights in playoffs

By CHRIS MICHALSKI
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary’s volleyball team will take on the Calvin Knights for the second time in five days tonight, but with much more on the line.

The No. 7-seed Belles played their first round game of the MIAA tournament against the No. 2-seed Knights, a team that dominated Saint Mary’s 3-0 on Saturday. The game was never close, and the Knights took the second set 25-4, the worst set score for the Belles all year. The Knights also swept the Belles 3-0 in the Dig for the Cure match on Oct. 6.

The Belles are currently on a seven-game losing streak, finishing the regular season with a sweep by non-conference foe Hanover. However, Belles coach Ton Kuschel said she hopes to have her starting middle hitter, junior Andrea Saagen, back from injury for the playoffs. Saagen, prior to her injury, had been an asset on offense, providing a second threat apart from primary target of senior captain Lorna Slupczynski. Saagen notched a total of 181 kills, which is currently third highest on the team behind Slupczynski and freshman outside hitter Stephanie Bodien. She also has been an asset on defense, accumulating nine solo blocks and 47 total blocks, both of which lead the team.

The Knights, on the other hand, are hitting their stride at just the right time, winning six of their last seven and amassing an overall record of 26-4. In conference play, their only trouble has come against Hope College, the No. 1 seed in the tournament, whom they lost to 3-2 and 3-0 in the regular season.

Other than that, the Knights have been the MIAA powerhouse they have been historically, outscoring opponents 2475-1995 over the course of the season. The Knights have won the tournament the past four years, not including last year when the semifinals and finals were cancelled due to illness on Hope College campus, and have finished either first or second in the regular season of every year since 2002.

The match is scheduled for 7 p.m. today. The winner will advance on to play the winner of No. 3 seed Alma vs. No. 6 seed Kalamazoo on Friday.

Contact Chris Michalski at jmichalski@nd.edu
Women continued from page 20

Capabilities
Walsh took advantage of its tal-  
enteu-ray of backs, junior Amy Langner,  
in its victory against Lyons Sunday evening. While it  
was a 50-50 game, intensively, Langner capitalized on Walsh’s penalties and on field goal posi-  
tion provided by key defensive  
stops. She threw one touchdown late in the first quarter to put the Wild-  
cats on the board. Their sec-  
tond touchdown came on a pass to junior Lindsay Schanzeu.

Lyons did not score a single point this season and lost six games in the process. The team’s starting quarterback, senior Clair Connell, injured her knee in the season opener and never returned to lead the team. The offense was never able to gain much ground due to a consistent replacement quar-  
terback.

Lyons’ sophomores receivers Caroline Maroney, Carolyn Henderson, and Katrina Rodriguez put forth a solid effort against Walsh, but were unable to string together enough plays to get to the end zone.

“This has been tough since we lost our quarterback early in the season,” Maroney said. “Next year we hope to have a permanent quarter-  
back and it will be a lot easier for our offense to find a rhythm.

The team that came out with a strong effort and held Walsh to the lowest number of points scored against a season long, such improvements inspired Maroney to think about the future of the team.

We have a very young team, so we have to be on back to back and more seasoned,” she said. “We may not have scored a point, but we have a lot of hustle and we are going to make the greatest comeback in interhall history.”

Henderson echoed Maroney’s high expectations for the future of Lyons football, stressing the importance of staying positive throughout the season.

“We didn’t just base the success of our season on wins or losses, and we had a lot of fun,” Henderson said.

Walsh will play Pasquerilla East in the opening round of the play-  
offs Sunday.

Badin 25, Ryan 0
Badin ended its season with an anticlimactic 25-0 rout of Ryan.

The Bullfrogs (2-4) scored early in the second quarter when sophomore receiver Ryan Coney took a hand off and scampered 15 yards for a touchdown on an end-  
around.

She has optimum cutting abili-  
ties. Badin coach Michael Browder said. “She knows how to  
run with the ball and make moves. That’s just something that can’t be taught.”

One of the Wildcats’ next possi-  
tions, Bullfrog linebacker Ashley Okonta intercepted quarterback Kenzie Bowen and returned it for a touchdown. It was the first of six  
Wildcat interceptions. Okonta had two, senior cornerback Kelley Daniels one, and Coney had three picks herself to pad her offensive statistics.

“We were very disappointed to have our defense com-  
ing into this game,” said Coney. “So we decided to do just about whatever we could.”

And they did. The defense cir-  
cle preparation Okonta before Ryan  

The game ended true to form,  
as Bullfrog freshman receiver Tomsamma Dehl caught her first  
touchdown pass of the year, but most importantly, earned her first  
start in the Badin touchdown cele-  
bration.

Badin and Ryan capped their seasons with opposite results, but  
both teams enjoyed the process.

Paghnohn 20, Cavanagh 13
Two playoff teams faced off in their final tune-up of the regular season, as Pangborn edged Cavanagh 20-13.

Pagborn clinched a play-  
off berth with the win, taking the third seed from their division. The Pyros (13-1) reached a  
playoff berth with their 14-0 win over Lyons Sunday, wind up with the fourth  
slot.

The Phoxes, coming off a 27-0  
thrashing of Lyons on Thursday, didn’t miss a beat jumping out to a 14-0 lead in the first half. Junior quarterback Cortney Thomas threw a long touchdown pass and the Phoxes took advantage of an inter-  
ception deep in Chaos territory, punching it in to go up two scores.

“We didn’t play as well as we did in the first half,” Cavanagh sophomore wide receiver Brittni Alexander said. “They had to catch us and then it was tough to come back.”

But Chaos did make a game of  
it. They scored two touchdowns of their own, on a 15-yard touch-  
down pass from sophomore quar-  
terback Rebecca Cink to Alexander and a quarterback run. But the Phoxes added another touchdown of their own on an-  
erother deep pass by quarterback Tate, and pulled away just enough to get the victory.

“We played okay. It definitely wasn’t a bad game for us,” Alexander said. “We could have played better but (Pagborn) played a good game.”

Both teams now turn their  

Senior captain Tara Pilla said that the Pyros offense needed some work before their first playoff  
game.

“Our offense was (full of frus- 
tration),” Pilla said. “We have a lot  
to do before we start the playoffs next week.”

The Phoxes defense was only  
frustrating to Farley, stopping the  
Finest and punching it in the end zone.

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Badin and Ryan capped their seasons with opposite results, but  
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The Observer SPORTS
It was a win or die situation, and we're still standing."

Aiden Fitzgerald
Juggernoggin's captain

**Otters continued from page 20**

From there, the momentum was back with another touchdown early in the second half on a long run right up the middle by sophomore Matt Pepe, who went untouched after bursting through the defense. After a missed extra point following the first touchdown, a successful two-point conversion pass to senior receiver Jeremy Black brought the score up to 14-0.

“We have yet to give up a point this season,” Meint said. “We weren’t about to let it happen today in our last game of the season,” freshman linebacker Colin King said.

The Gentlemen had a few opportunities to score, but were never able to capitalize. The best opportunity came with three minutes left in the fourth quarter, when a fumble by Sorin was recovered by the Gentlemen, who quickly moved the ball downfield. But on fourth-and-goal, a Sorin interception by Bruck ended the drive, leaving the score at 14-0.

Sorin remains not only still standing, but continues with a strong record free of losses. During the regular season, they outscored their opponents 48-0.

“Defense wins championships, and our defense can play with anybody,” junior defensive end John Zic said. “Run, pass, we don’t care. We play with anybody,” junior Wideout Tony Rizzo said.

During the regular season, the Gentlemen had a few close finishes relying on young talent. Keough has turned their program around for the future by overwhelming their offensive line and putting pressure on the quarterback. The game plan we come up with some points on the board after a series of crucial passing drives. Though the Ramblers strug-

**O’Neill 6, Keenan 0**

In a must-win game, Siegfried (2-1-1) rode a smothering defensive effort and a strong ground game to a 14-0 win over Dunedin (0-3-1).

Going into the game, the Ramblers knew their best route into the playoffs was a win followed by a Morrissey win over Knott in the following week. The Ramblers wasted no time in taking care of their own business, forcing Dunedin to fumble to close its own end zone near the end of the first quarter. Sophomore running back Mike Isaacs quickly capitalized on the opportunity, reaching the end zone on a run around the right end.

Though the Ramblers struggled to pass the ball, Siegfried junior quarterback Matt Meint said runs like Isaacs’ helped to define the team in the game.

“The game plan we came into every game with is to play tough and run the ball,” Meint said. “We want to play smash mouth football. We don’t care. We play with anybody,” junior Wideout Tony Rizzo said.

O’Neill continued to advance the ball through the air, and a revitalized receiving package showed little life after the demoralizing interception. A 27-yard completion to Keough showed itself in low snaps, long-developments and minimal lobs to make sure the team’s progression. On the defensive side of the ball, Morrissey could not find an answer to the efficient pass game established by the Juggernoggin (3-0-1).

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At quarterback, Bruggeman’s fourth down pass attempt to senior wideout Joe Maier fell incomplete.

“With nearly seven minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, the O’Neill defense for playing Bruggeman’s fourth down pass attempt to sophomore Griffin Naylor leading over three defenders for the Knights first and goal. “Griffin’s catch was big,” senior captain Chris Gill said. “He played phenomenally at wide receiver.”

Two downs later, another pass to Naylor scored the first touchdown of the game. The Knights (4-0) then confounded the defense by faking the extra point kick and throwing to junior Dave Galibus for the two-point conversion.

After a missed field goal attempt and an intensive defensive struggle through the third quarter, the Knights could not get their second try in and out of reach of the intended receiver, which would ultimately decide the game.

In the fourth quarter, the Knights scored the game’s only touchdown. The game’s outcome could have easily been decided by Keough’s pressure on the quarterback, but the game ended with no added points.

With Sunday’s loss Keenan is now out of the playoff race, but the game ended with no added points.

I’m disappointed with the overall season but we played great today, even though we didn’t win in the end,” Mahoney said. “We’re looking forward to next season.”

For the Knights, however, the season is not over. They go off next week with a new name. They face a new team, and will face St. Edwards in the first round.

We’ll continue doing what we’re doing and hopefully we’ll be back [healthy] next week,” Gill said.

Note:
◆ Zahn (0-4) forfeited its scheduled game Sunday against Fisher (1-2-1). This was the Green Waves’ first win since 2007, but did not impact the playoff picture.

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CCHA continued from page 20

Western Michigan, Michigan State earned a 2-1 win at home Friday night before notching a 5-3 victory at Kalamazoo Saturday. Arizona State (1-2, 2-0-0), opened CGHA play by beating Ferris State 3-1 and 3-2, respectively, in Findlay, Neb., where the Irish will face the Nooks this weekend. Likewise, Michigan (4-2-0, 2-0-0) began its conference slate with a pair of easy wins over Lake Superior State. The Wolverines posted wins by the scores of 5-1 and 6-3, respectively.

Ohio State (2-5-1, 1-2-1-1) remains ahead of the Irish and Nebraska-Omaha (4-0-2, 1-0-1) in the CCHA standings — with five points to Notre Dame's four — after stealing a point with Saturday’s shootout win.

Nebraska-Omaha cracked the country's top 10 for the first time this week after the Mavericks earned their first conference win at home Saturday, 3-1 over Bowling Green. The previous night, Nebraska-Omaha had fallen to the Falcons in a shoot out.

Bowling Green, Ferris State, Northern Michigan and Western Michigan all opened conference play over the weekend without a victory — and only the Falcons notched a point with their tie. But both Ferris State and Northern Michigan are expected to be competitive, particularly because of the strong defensive style each traditionally employs.

Because of college hockey's incredibly long season — the CCHA tournament does not begin until March, and the national title won't be decided until April 10 at Ford Field in Detroit — the results of the conference season's first weekend or two aren't especially important in determining playoff positioning or the course of a team's season. But if the first few games have been any indication, the Irish will be in for a dog fight if they hope to recapture the CCHA tournament title they earned at Joe Louis Arena last season.

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Rowing continued from page 20

The Irish hosted Indiana, Iowa and Michigan State as they concluded their fall season with races on both Saturday and Sunday. The event's crowd was rather pro-Irish, team members said, but the three visiting teams also brought fans — some of whom created a tailgate-like atmosphere with RV's parked alongside the St. Joseph River in South Bend, where the race was held. Some dressed up for the Halloween holiday while others waved Irish flags to cheer on the host squad. Robinson said.

The race began where the Logan Street bridge crosses the river and finished near the Notre Dame dock near Joyce Center.

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Defense continued from page 20

second in the Big East Preseason Coach's Poll, an accolade that McGraw is pleased to have received, but one that she believes the team has to work hard to justify.

"It is nice to look and say we have gotten some respect, it's nice to have respect, but now we have to earn it," McGraw said. "We have the ranking and now we want to get the work in behind it." McGraw also has high expectations for her team, as she knows they have to experience necessary to have a special season.

I have really high expectations for this year, we have a really veteran team." McGraw said. "This year we are practicing more against ourselves," McGraw said. "Skylar is playing well and Turner is doing some good things. We will get better as we go along."

Working on their defense is McGraw’s number one priority for the preseason, and playing a team like Indianapolis at this early stage will provide a good gauge of where the team is. Working on our defense and trying to create an attitude of defensive pressure, McGraw said.

The preseason is also an important time for McGraw to develop her subsituting strategies and see who plays well with whom.

"I have not been able to practice, how I am going to sub yet, and that's something else I am going to look at," McGraw said.

The Irish return all 12 members of the squad that went 22-9-9 last year and earned a bid to its 13th consecutive NCAA Tournament.

"We have a veteran lineup, so our captains can concentrate on themselves a little bit more then having to worry about what the other ones are doing," McGraw said. "Whoever we have in the game there are going to be some veterans to help the freshman."

McGraw said the chemistry is going to be good," McGraw said. "In the chemistry is going to be good." McGraw said. "It is going to be a lot more competitive."

To create this competitive atmosphere, McGraw has increased the intensity in practice and allowed to girls to rough it up a little bit.

"This year we are practicing more against ourselves," McGraw said. "We do not have the guy practice players and we are beating up on each other a lot more than we did last year."

Sophomore guard Natalie Novosel has been the most improved player of the offseason, according to McGraw, and she said she expects to see big things out of her this upcoming season.

"(Novosel) is certainly the most improved player on the team," McGraw said. "Natalie is more confident, she is shooting the ball more, she is more competitive, and she is just playing and looking to score and to make things happen."

Joining the team this year are two well-regarded freshmen, guard Skylar Diggins and Kaila Turner, whom McGraw expects to be helped by the veteran presence on the team, develop nicely as the year continues.

"I need to see what they can do in game situations," McGraw said. "Sky is playing well and Turner is doing some good things too. It will be good for them to get the uniform on, get in some game situations. It is hard to be a point guard as a freshman, but I think they have learned a lot. I am really pleased with both of them."

McGraw said the teams hope to create a powerful and intimidating atmosphere by playing teams in the new arena.

"It's just exciting walking in," McGraw said. "Just coming in the tunnel and looking around and you feel like it's a high-time arena. It will be exciting to see the student body and fans come out." McGraw said. "It is going to be a little bit more intimidating when the opponent steps on the floor."

The game will begin at 7 p.m. in the Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center.

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Study in Mexico

Information Meeting for Sophomores and First Year Students

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

7:00 PM 201 DBRT

Puebla: All Colleges
Pre-med Program
Teaching Program

Monterrey: Business & Engineering in English and Spanish; Beginning Spanish Courses

Mexico City: Social Science/ History Majors

Contact: The Observer

Please recycle The Observer.
ND Women’s Basketball

No. 4 Irish begin play with exhibition game

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

The No. 4 Irish will open up their preseason schedule tonight in the Purcell Pavilion against a scrappy Indianapolis team that defeated a well-respected Valparaiso squad in their preseason opener. Indianapolis currently sits at No. 4 in the Div. II polls.

“We don’t know a lot about Indianapolis, but from what we do know they are exactly what we need right now,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “They shoot a lot of 3s, and they run a lot of screens. They are going to be a great challenge for our man-to-man defense.”

The Irish were picked to more win to be able to secure one of the top seeds for the playoffs. Although they already had locked up a playoff spot, the game still remained vital for Howard.

Throughout the game, the Ducks held control of the contest. Despite their win, the players know that they still have room to improve. Just one or two mistakes in a playoff game can cost a team a shot at the championship, junior captain Kayla Bishop said.

“We will be putting in plenty of time in practice to be sharp for the playoffs,” Bishop said.

Howard played a steady game and was consistent in the run and pass game. The Ducks also managed to capitalize on a number of Breen-Phillips turnovers. The Ducks converted a few of the turnovers into scores, with one of the interceptions being returned for a touchdown.

With the Ducks ending the season with a win and an undefeated record, this year’s team will remain in the history book. This is the first time that Howard has finished a season undefeated.

However, the season begins again as the teams enter into the playoffs.

“There is a brand new slate when we get in the playoffs,” Bishop said.

Despite a losing effort, Breen-Phillips (8-6) looks toward a more positive season next year.

Howard looks towards the playoffs as one of the top seeds and will face McGlinn Sunday at 1 p.m.

Walsh 13, Lyons 0

Walsh defeated Lyons 13-0 in its final test before the playoffs begin. The Wild Women finished the season 5-1, only losing at the hands of undefeated Pasquerilla West. Throughout the season, Walsh proved that it would be a force to reckon with in the playoffs, particularly because of its offensive line entering the final game of the season, Howard coasted to a 20-0 victory over Breen-Phillips.

The O bserver

Men's Interhall Football

Sorin remains undefeated

By MEGAN FINNERAN, CHRIS ALLEN, LEX DENNIS, BARRICK BOLLMAN and KEVIN BALDWIN
Sports Writers

In the final match up before the playoffs, both Sorin (3-0-1) and St. Edward’s (2-2) believed a win was essential to advance their seasons. In the end, it was the Otters who took control of their fate with a 14-0 victory.

With a little over a minute left in the second quarter, freshman receiver Ryan Robinson caught a long fourth-down pass from senior quarterback Casey McGushin in the end zone, scoring the first touchdown for the Otters. “It was great,” Robinson said. “I had to look hard to find the pass, but it was a great play by the quarterback.”

Sorin receiver and a St. Edwards defender vie for the ball Sunday in the Otters’ 14-0 win over the Gentlemen.

Women’s Interhall Football

Howard continues perfect season with win over BP

By TIM SINGLER, KAITLYN MURPHY, COLIN KING, JOHN HELMS, MATTHEW ROBISON and KELLY ZENERE
Sports Writers

With an undefeated season on the line entering the final game of the season, Howard coasted to a 20-0 victory over Breen-Phillips.

The Ducks (6-0) entered the weekend with a 14-0 victory. In the end, it was the Otters (5-0) who came out on top, 20-0.

Walsh 13, Lyons 0

Walsh defeated Lyons 13-0 in its final test before the playoffs begin. The Wild Women finished the season 5-1, only losing at the hands of undefeated Pasquerilla West. Throughout the season, Walsh proved that it would be a force to reckon with in the playoffs, particularly because of its offensive line entering the final game of the season, Howard coasted to a 20-0 victory over Breen-Phillips.

The O bserver

Hockey Commentary

Hockey Commentary

CCHA stays country’s premiere conference

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

With four teams in the top 10 and a total of six in the top 20, the CCHA is making its case as the best conference in college hockey.

No. 1 Miami, No. 4 Michigan, No. 9 Notre Dame, No. 10 Nebraska-Omaha, No. 13 Alaska and No. 17 Michigan State have all estabished themselves as some of the top teams in the country.

One other team, Ohio State, fell out of the rankings after a loss and a shootout win against the Irish (4-3-1, 1-0-1-0) over the weekend.

While none of the conference’s top teams have looked invincible in the early going, the same could be said for the best squads across the nation. Every team in the top 20 has at least one loss or tie — with the exception of Cornell and Yale, which had both played only one game through the weekend.

The top-ranked RedHawks (6-1-1, 3-1-0) have held the No. 1 spot all season and haven’t done anything to suggest they don’t deserve it. They posted 4-3 and 3-1 wins against Michigan State (6-2-0, 3-1-0) to begin the conference slate.

The Spartans currently hold the second position in the conference standings following a sweep of previously unbeaten