Pro-life task force hosts panel discussion

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

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

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

The Task Force on Supporting the Choice for Life and the Notre Dame Law School are co-hosting a panel discussion on conscience clauses from the perspective of a Catholic university at 12:30 p.m. today in the McCardan Courtroom of the Law School. The event may lead to the creation of a white paper on the topic, organizers said.

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

Task Force co-chair Margaret Brinig, professor of law and associate dean at the Law School, said that since the group started its work earlier this semester, they’ve spent time talking to various groups on campus — she estimated 100 people in total.

“W hat a t we’ve done is worked in small groups and v a r i o u s p e o p l e have had meetings with different groups,” Brinig said.

She chairs the Task Force with John Cavadini, professor of theology and director of the Institute for Church Life.

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

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

“We’ve met with a whole bunch of the various Right to Life [campus groups] but also with the president of the student body,” Brinig said.

“We’ve talked to a number of the different department heads and deans and people like that,” Brinig said.

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

Discussions have produced a white paper on the topic, she said.

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Project Warmth holds winter clothing drive

By ADRIANA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

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

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

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

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

“If people can give something they’re wearing or something that they’re not wearing, it would be great,” Hebbeler said.

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

The project is being held as a fundraiser for Social Concerns (CSC) in an effort to help raise awareness and participation on campus.

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

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

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

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

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

Housing an issue for abroad returnees

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

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

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

“Coming back to campus is really easy for people who live in dorms with enough space for them,” she said. “For everyone else, it’s really frustrating to feel like you don’t have a home, especially since you make such good friends within a dorm.”

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

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

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INSIDE COLUMN

Coaching candidates

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

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

Off BEAT

School employee loses job

Wednesday.

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

**IN BRIEF**

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive today at Legends from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 574-299-1358 or visit givelife.org and use the code “irish.”

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

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

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

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

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

**CORRECTIONS**

A Dec. 1 Observer article titled “ Notre Dame returns north” incorrectly stated that the women’s basketball team defeated Oregon on Nov. 28. They in fact defeated No. 20 Oklahoma. The Observer regrets this error.
SMC sophomore strings rosaries for troops

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

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Megan Loney at mlonely01@nd.edu

One Mary’s sophomore Remi White creates rosaries, used for prayer, to send to troops deployed in combat zones.
**Profs examine role of university in development**

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

By SAM STRYKER  News Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

“About 57 percent of the students who qualify for university cannot attend due to the lack of space,” Kanyandago said.

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

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

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

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

He said that endogeneity is key in ethical development.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chattopadhay focused on what he called “the transnational perspective.”

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

“There is a big buzz on knowledge for development,” he said.

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Sam Stryker at sstryke1@nd.edu

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**ND astrophysicist to give lecture**

Special to The Observer

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

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

The Gospel of Matthew records a peculiar astro-nomical event that occurred at the birth of Christ. Mathews has applied the tools of modern astrophysics to the search for evidence of this event. His program will examine whether the “Christmas Star” was a nova, a super nova or a planet alignment and discuss the possible identity of the “wise men from the East.”

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

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**Please recycle**

The Observer
Carbon trading legislation fails
SYDNEY — Australia's Senate on Wednesday defeated the government's plan to implement a carbon pollution trading system to fight global warming, dashes hopes of setting an example for other nations as U.N. climate talks next week.

The bill to establish Australia's first carbon trading system, which would have placed Australia alongside the European Union and a handful of other places that have or are considering "cap-and-trade" systems to curb greenhouse gas emissions, and burnedish Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's international reputation as a leader on the issue.

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

Illegal immigrant given consular post
ANGON, Paraguay — Paraguay named an undocumented U.S. immigrant to run its consulate in New York, issuing a legal status only when the man returned home to get his diplomatic papers and was denied a U.S. visa.

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

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

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

By Wednesday, the tunnel runs nearly 1,000 feet from its entry in Tijuana, Mexico, including 660 feet in the United States, the DEA said in a news release.

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

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

Suspect charged with attempted murder
FORT WORTH, Texas — An Army psychiatrist who may face the death penalty after the Nov. 5 shooting in a building on the Fort Hood Army post where soldiers and two civilian police officers were killed, was charged with attempted murder Wednesday.

Maj. Nidal Hasan has already been notified that the Army plans to evaluate his competency to stand trial not long after being deployed. Army officials at the Texas Army post where soldiers and two civilian police officers were injured in the attack, military officials said.

The numbers mark a big change from the Bush administration's limited taxpayer-funded research to about 21 stem cell lines, though that was still in existence as of August 2001. Scientists say newer batches were created in ways that made them far better candidates for successful research. Indeed, only one of the Bush-era stem cell lines is among the 96 now under consideration.

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

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

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

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

Legislators propose lowering consent age
Puerto Rico's teen pregnancy rate is doing, even if it's irresponsible." She said girls are out of touch on what they are doing, even if they agree to have sex.

"I don't know what world they're liv- ing in," she said. "They know what they are doing, even if it's irresponsible." Puerto Rico's teen pregnancy rate has dropped every year from 2003 to 2007, the newest figures available, but the rate still remains slightly higher than that of the U.S., according to the island's health department.

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Housing continued from page 1

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

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

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

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

Marina Ramos junior

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

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

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

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

But several months later, Ramos heard that there was space in Badin Hall and jumped on the chance to live there with a friend who is also abroad this semester.

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

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

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

For students who didn't arrange to live in a certain hall, the housing will be posted after finals at the end of the semester. Woodman said but with 360 students returning and 450 leaving, Woodman said he is confident that everyone who wants to live on campus will be able to do so.

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

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

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

Sunday, Dec. 6
9:00 p.m.
Coleman-Morse Center
Chapel of Notre Dame Our Mother

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

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

Housing

Senator reviews student government's progress

Senator reviews student government's progress

By SARAH MERVOSH  News Writer

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

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

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

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

Student body president Grant Schmidt said, "If you ask what is the function of student government, it's to respond to the issues of the voice of the student body. I don't think there has been an issue on campus that we haven't discussed in [Senate] or you haven't discussed in your committee." He added, "Whether it's the little things such as the light between Siegfried and Knott, or the big things such as Trups."

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

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

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

"When something happens on campus, something like the Commencement decision last semester or the change in the economics department," Weber said. "Weber said another goal of this administration was to increase the collaboration between student government and local South Bend leadership. Examples of this were community meetings to promote safe neighborhoods and the Transit project, she said.

"The final goal of student government was to increase its social consciousness of its role in the country and the world," Weber said. "As leaders of the student union, of the student body of Notre Dame, to encourage collaborative efforts to promote Notre Dame's impact on the world, which that's exactly what the Global Water Initiative is designed to do this year, and the remainder of the year that's designed to do," she said.

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

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

University Affairs chair Jeff Lakusta said the administration is willing to take on larger issues and make an impact globally.

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

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

Senators also discussed room for improvement for the next semester.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senators also filled out forms evaluating student government for the spring semester and submitted anonymously to Schmidt and Weber at the end of the meeting.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu
Thursday, December 3, 2009

**MARKET RECAP**

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**IN BRIEF**

**Market Recap**

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**In Brief**

**Kia Sorento adrops crossover design**

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

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

**Comcast deal to be reviewed**

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

**WASHINGTON**

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

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

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

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

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

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

- "This is a new administration that has promised to be a tough cop on the beat," said Concept Capital analyst Paul Gallant said.

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

- NBC Universal owns the NBC and Telemundo broadcast networks; 16 local TV stations, an array of popular cable channels including CNBC, Bravo and Oxygen; the Universal Pictures movie studio and theme parks, and a stake in Hulu, which distributes free television programming online.

- Comcast, meanwhile, has 23.8 million cable TV customers, 15.7 million high-speed Internet subscribers and 7.4 million customers for its phone service.

- The company also owns some cable channels already, including E! Entertainment and the Golf Channel, and a controlling interest in the Philadelphia 76ers and Flyers.

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

**Livestock company to lose organic certification**

- Lincoln, Neb. — Promiseland’s practices violated organic standards.

- Promiseland’s facilities in Nebraska and Missouri. But the judge did not rule directly on whether Promiseland will likely lose its organic certification, and that the USDA under President Barack Obama appears to be more aggressive in its response to complaints about companies not following the organic rules.

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

- Kast said Promiseland made it harder for small organic dairy farmers to compete because it wasn’t following organic standards in its operations, so Promiseland had lower costs.

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Special to The Observer

G. K. Chesterton famously described original sin as "the only part of Christian theology which can really be proved." Not everyone agrees with Chesterton; the abundance of evidence in support of his assertion is certainly compelling. Familiarity with the effects of sin, overuse and abuse of the term and the exhaustion of religious vocabulary seem to have dulled the culture's appreciation for this intrinsic element of human life and striving.

Notre Dame theologian Gary Anderson's book, "Sin: A History," recently published by Yale University Press, examines the literary significance. Anderson's book describes original sin as "the place went to acts of charity. For personal amendment and pride of the early church, the forgiveness of their debts he gives witness to one of the most revolutionary moments in religious thought."

Gary Anderson
Theology Professor

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

Intercessors of the Lamb Conference - December 5-6, 2009
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me"
McKenna Hall

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

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

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Opening and Welcome
12:00 noon to 1:00 pm - Lunch
1:00 pm to 6:00 pm - Conference with Mass at 6:00 pm

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

For more information call Dave and Jan Torma at 574-707-3381 (cell) email Jan at theartearain@msn.com
Nancy McCue at 574-272-3094(home); 574-220-5322(cell).
(Intercessors of the Lamb are not affiliated with the University of Notre Dame or Saint Mary's College.)
Enhancing Great Lakes fishery with invasive carp DNA

By David McNew

HARTFORD — An attorney for Annette Yale, a Yale lab technician charged with killing a graduate student, said Wednesday that he has told authorities she is seeking a sample of her DNA.

Robert Berke, attorney for Jennifer Hramadka, told The Associated Press that it’s unclear why authorities want her DNA. He says she was riding in a car when 24-year-old Le five days before Le’s wedding in September. Berke said investigators wanted to interview Hramadka shortly after the crime, but the interview did not take place.

Berke declined to comment on his reaction to the move. A judge and police declined to comment.

Clark and Hramadka were seen being in a car in which “blood-like stains” were found hours after Le was killed, according to search warrant affidavits. New Haven police said in September that they didn’t expect to make more arrests in Le’s killing.

Le’s body was found on Thursday, December 3, 2009, after Le was killed, according to the recent past, the affidavits said. Her e-mail address was found in a laboratory locker labeled “Ray,” the documents said.

Clark has not yet entered a plea. His public defender, Joe Lopez, has said he intends to plead not guilty. The affidavits show that police searched for evidence in Clark’s apartment, to his car, and in his computer.

The suspect “has gone to great lengths to hide evidence in multiple locations throughout his premises,” the affidavit said.

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

Portions of the affidavits released Wednesday were blacked out. Police had previously revealed that they discovered other items linking Clark to Le’s death, including a green-ink pen under Le’s body with her blood and Clark’s DNA.

Police have said Clark signed into the secure building with a green pen on March 8, the day Le disappeared.

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

In arrest warrant affidavits released last month, Clark’s DNA was found in unusual places, the affidavit said. They had also said DNA from Le and Clark was on a bloody soak hidden in a ceiling. Elsewhere in the building, they found a pair of work boots labeled “Ray- C” that had blood-like stains on them, and a hospital scrub shirt with blood-like stains on the back. They also found a white shirt Clark wore that day, police had previously said.

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The Observer

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VIEWPOINT

Are you there, world?

It’s me, Advent.

I don’t mean to sound bitter, but this happens every year. For my entire four-week span, I am largely ... ignored. I am, please, recall, an entire season. I’m four whole weeks; some years, nearly five, more than half the length of Lent and with no fasting or abstinence required. I have my own colors — two of them, in fact — and my own music. I get some of the best readings in the entire Bible. By the time I pass the torch to the 12 Days of Christmas, I’ve been short enough that I haven’t worn out my welcome but long enough that you could really sink your teeth into me. If you were paying attention, that is.

But no. By about Halloween — earlier if you frequent the big-box craft stores full of plastic poinsettias and more Christmas craft projects than you could do in a lifetime — the entire country is already breaking the speed limit trying to get to Christmas. A consumer’s Christmas. Thanksgiving only gets any notice because the food is so good people can eat their way into fourteen pounds of turkey by the time they pass the Turkey Day. Early Christmas is accepted as a fact, and with no fasting or abstinence, people can eat more than they can at Thanksgiving. But I think that’s a mistake.

I’m sorry if I sound all attitude-y. And I don’t mean to sound bitter, but this is the way of the Lord,” but those preparations get drowned out by too many other noises. Get away from the ads for free shipping and deep discounts, from the super-intense group study sessions, even from the Grinch, Charlie Brown and your favorite Christmas carols. Go to your hall chapel or the Basilica or the Grotto and enjoy the silence. Walk around the lakes, which are pretty cool even when the weather’s not great.

The people of Israel, who also waited for the coming of the Lord, hoped that he would deliver them from oppression, from poverty, exile and pagan rulers. They asked John the Baptist what they could do to prepare. His response, which you’ll hear when you listen to the gospel on my third Sunday, seems a perfect reminder of how we too can get ready for the coming of Christ. He came as an infant 2,000 years ago and we will celebrate that. We also believe that Christ lives in the world now, in the poor, the vulnerable, the victims of terrorism, war and poverty, and that he will come again to bring about the Kingdom of God in its fullness. Maybe you’ve already friended me, so you know what the world is missing when it blows right by me to get to Christmas. Go tell a few people. Invite them to an Advent prayer or reconciliation service. Put some Advent music on your iPod (there’s actually a lot of it, you know). Go to Mass more often or read the daily readings of the Church (http://www.usccb.org/nab/). It just doesn’t get any better than the selections from Isaiah chosen for almost every day of Advent.

Waiting is very underrated. People are too used to speed, and you know, you get way too impatient with anything slow. But don’t forget that half the fun of a big event is the windup, the anticipation, the waiting. I am the season of waiting, and yet most of you just race to decorate for and celebrate as Christmas as early as possible. So I’m here to ask you, please, slow down. Christmas can wait. Get truly ready for Christmas by hanging out with — ahem — me for a while. Otherwise, Christmas will come and you won’t be ready. Oh sure, you’ll have turned in your papers and taken your finals, maybe you’ll have all your presents wrapped, but will your heart be ready to welcome Christ the Lord? After you slow down, quiet down. I am the season that calls us to “Prepare the way of the Lord,” but those preparations get drowned out by too many other noises. Get away from the ads for free shipping and deep discounts, from the super-intense group study sessions, even from the Grinch, Charlie Brown and your favorite Christmas carols. Go to your hall chapel or the Basilica or the Grotto and enjoy the silence. Walk around the lakes, which are pretty cool even when the weather’s not great.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Envy is the ulcer of the soul.”
Socrates

Greek philosopher

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Examine what is said, not him who speaks.”
Arab Proverb
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please don’t waste food

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

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

These shops on campus can simply give away expired food at the end of the day. Those shops can give food to homeless people in the neighborhood or hungry students. The shops are not losing anything, for they can’t sell the leftover food. If they don’t give food away for free, they are still going to throw it away in the morning. While we thank God with gratitude for the food He gives us, we are wasting it everyday on Notre Dame’s campus. But giving food to people puts food to good use. This is what we should do. This is our responsibility.

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

Qiong Li
freshman
Farley Hall
Dec. 1

Thank you Weis

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

Daniel Quinlan
junior
St. Edwards Hall
Nov. 30

So-called discounts

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

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

Christopher Marquad
senior
off campus
Nov. 24

Come on Notre Dame

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

Molly Rivard
senior
St. Edwards Hall
Dec. 1

Losing the meaning of a contract

My godfather was a dean at Notre Dame and a member of the University’s athletic council for over 40 years. I have had the fun of hearing many behind-the-scenes stories of Notre Dame football etc. The most common themes were about Notre Dame “handshake” relationship with coaches and that Notre Dame athletes were students first. To that end Coach Weis has exceeded all former standards with the team cumulative average at 3.0. We have not won as many games as we and Coach Weis would like but he is a Domer and true to his roots with the standards of excellence he has set for the young men he teaches every afternoon in the fall.

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

Steve Sturtz
alumnus
Class of 1977
Nov. 24

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Thursday, December 3, 2009

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senior
St. Edwards Hall
Dec. 1

Entertain us please.

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

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

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

These shops on campus can simply give away expired food at the end of the day. Those shops can give food to homeless people in the neighborhood or hungry students. The shops are not losing anything, for they can’t sell the leftover food. If they don’t give food away for free, they are still going to throw it away in the morning. While we thank God with gratitude for the food He gives us, we are wasting it everyday on Notre Dame’s campus. But giving food to people puts food to good use. This is what we should do. This is our responsibility.

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

Qiong Li
freshman
Farley Hall
Dec. 1

Thank you Weis

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

Daniel Quinlan
junior
St. Edwards Hall
Nov. 30

So-called discounts

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

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

Christopher Marquad
senior
off campus
Nov. 24

Losing the meaning of a contract

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

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

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

Steve Sturtz
alumnus
Class of 1977
Nov. 24
Well known among the indie rock crowd for their off-kilter yet influential musical style and a wondrous sound contrasted with heavy, catchy guitar hooks, the Boise-based band Built to Spill has been an influence on several other alternative rock bands in the Northwest, including, but certainly not limited to, Modest Mouse and Death Cab for Cutie. Built to Spill's front man Doug Martsch has cited Dinosaur Jr., Neil Young and Pavement as his own influences.

The rock band produced some of the most ambitious, creative and inspiring indie rock albums of the 1990s. From their debut, 1993's "Ultimate Alternative Wavers" to 1997's "Perfect from Now On" to 1999's "Keep It Like A Secret," Built to Spill could do no wrong in the realm of genuinely inspired and critically acclaimed records. The 90s brought such singles as "Car," "I Would Hurt a Fly" and "Carry the Zero." Built to Spill's albums of the 90s. With the emotional urgency which drives the album.

"Hindsight," has a philosophical element to the piece. "And if God / Does exist / I am sure He / Will forgive / Me for doubting Him / For He'd see / How unlikely He / Made Himself seem." "Pat" begins with fast-paced rockin' guitar riffs and even faster-paced seemingly desperate lead vocals, but the guitar solo in the middle is very well-executed. The lyrics channel the same blistering sense of desperation with, "Nothing's worse than never / Falling in a dream's where / We can see together." In contrast, "Done" is a typically laid back slow-paced ballad, with ambling guitar melodies and drawing vocals, with the lyrics, "It's forgiven it's for you / All the problems will come true / Said it once I'll say it once again / It's all forgotten." Altogether, the album is a creative effort on Martsch's part, back up to par with the Boise band's albums of the 90s. With the emotional level added to the intriguing lyrics and instrumentation, "There's No Enemy" leaves the audience with better expectations for albums to come.

Contact Alex Kilpatrick at akilpatrick@hotmail.com

There Is No Enemy
Warning Bros. Records Inc.

Studio: Warning Bros. Recording Inc.
Recommended Tracks: "Hindsight," "Nowhere Lullaby," "Done," "Oh Yeah," "Pat"
Cormac McCarthy passages, “A Serious Man”

Anton Chigurh, and no brilliantly deep without an ounce of blood dropped and no woven, darkest of dark comedies, “A Serious Scene Writer

By SHANE STEINBERG

Thursday, December 3, 2009

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

Contact Genna McCabe at gmccabe@nd.edu

The O bserver Graphic I ANDREA ARCHER

"Taking Woodstock’ @ 10 p.m. in DeBartolo Hall 101

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

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

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

Joshua Radin Concert 10 p.m. @ Legends

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

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

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

Contact Genna McCabe at gmccabe@nd.edu

By SHANE STEINBERG

Scene Writer

“No Country for Old Men” and the Coen brother’s newest film, an immaculately woven, darkest of dark comedies, “A Serious Man,” are made for each other. Like two perfectly fitted pieces of a puzzle, together they form a universally bleak view of the world and speak volumes about human isolation and the fog of religion. Surprisingly though, without an ounce of blood dropped and as Anton Chigurh, and no brilliantly deep Cormac McCarthy passages, “A Serious Man” reduces its counterpart to “lighter fare,” and without an ounce of blood dropped and no woven, darkest of dark comedies, “A Serious Man” is to Judaism and Hashem what “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Scrubs” and “American Idol.” Originally educated in the fine arts, Radin pursued a music career at the request of friends and fans. He released his first album, “We Were Here,” in 2006 to much acclaim. It was followed up by “Simple Times” in 2008. Radin has collaborated with several well known artists including Ingrid Michaelson and Imogen Heap. Influenced by the Beatles, Paul Simon and Bob Dylan, Radin has a soothing, smoky element to his voice. Radin will appear at Legends on Saturday night.

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“A Serious Man

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Contact Genna McCabe at gmccabe@nd.edu

A Serious Man

Focus Features

Director: Joel and Ethan Coen
Starring: Michael Stuhlbarg, Sari Lennick, Aaron Wolff

Contact Shane Steinberg at steinb2@nd.edu
**NFL League concussion policies made more stringent**

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

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

NFLPA head DeMaurice Smith said that the league has surveyed 160 NFL players and found that 20 percent said they or an acquaintance have played down the effects of a concussion.

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

NFLPA assistant executive direc-tor George Atallah said the union is “encouraged by this new policy.”

He added that the NFLPA will continue to examine these issues independently to recommend the best possible policies and procedures.

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

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

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

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

They were among 11 players listed on Wednesday’s league-wide injury report with concussions.

Another eight were listed with head injuries.

The two starting quarterbacks from last season’s Super Bowl — Pittsburgh’s Ben Roethlisberger and Arizona’s Kurt Warner — sat out last Sunday after saying dur-ing the week they planned to play despite getting head injuries the previous week.

“The evidence demonstrates that team medical staffs have been addressing concussions in an increasingly cautious and conser-vative way,” Goodell wrote in Wednesday’s memo. “This new return-to-play statement rein-forces our commitment to advanc-ing player safety. Along with improved equipment, better edu-ca-tion, and rules changes designed to reduce impacts to the head, it will make our game safer for the men who play it, and set an important example for players at all levels of play.”

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**NCAA Football**

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

Associated Press

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

The Clemson all-purpose player was named Wednesday the league’s top player following a season in which he was the ACC’s top player for the first time.

He scored at least once in all 12 games and had 24 touchdowns during his career. Lewis had previ-ously said he would retire at the end of the season. His teammate, starting cornerback Leon McFadden, also went on IR after getting at least his fourth known concussion last weekend.

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**Classifieds**

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 824 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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

NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Coaches’ Poll

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NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Coaches’ Poll

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Iverson leaves retirement for 76ers

In Brief

Woodies apologizes for unnamed transgressions

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

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

Woods did not offer details of any alleged relationship.

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

Hines Ward apologizes to distraction

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

Ward called Roethlisberger on Monday to say he was sorry for questioning why the quarterback didn’t play in the Steelers’ 26-17 loss to Baltimore the night before. Ward said he wasn’t aware a team doctor advised Roethlisberger not to play because of lingering headaches resulting from a concussion.

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

Braves upgrade pitching by signing closer Wagner

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

“Next up the offense.”

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

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

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

Around the dial

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

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

AP
TCU’s Patterson agrees to contract

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Patterson, 49, came to TCU as a defensive coordinator with coach Dennis Franchione after the 1997 season, when the Frogs were coming off a 1-10 season. He was promoted when Franchione left three years later for Alabama, though the school did a national search before making that move.

“We had a vision, as you can see on that pyramid,” Patterson said, referring to the pyramid of goals in the team’s meeting room. “That pyramid has not changed since we started, of reaching a BCS bowl, going to a national championship and doing a lot of things. And a lot of people laughed and a lot of people shook their heads and they were just saying, well, that’s nice.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Patterson, Longhorn, is the Haynes Award Winner

The Observer

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

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

Weiner hopes the length of the postseason can be shortened next year and was happy to hear commissioner Bud Selig say he will try to cut off games in the first 20 days of the playoffs.

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

Because the postseason extended into November, the off-season marketplace began later than usual. Just nine of 171 free agents have reached agreements, causing some agents to accuse owners of possible collusion.

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

Weiner was unanimously approved as executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association during the annual meeting of its executive board in Scottsdale, Ariz. The 47-year-old Harvard Law School graduate was hired by the union as a staff lawyer in 1988 and was promoted to general counsel in 2004. He succeeds the 61-year-old Fehr, who had been in charge since December 1983 and in June announced his intention.

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

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

Baseball owners have said they plan to compete the following year as part of a longer-range plan to compete has a plan that calls for them to be at a particularly low payroll for a given year as part of a longer-range plan to compete the following year or years after that, management should have that flexibility,” Weiner said.

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Michael Weiner
Head of MLB Players’ Union

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Michael Weiner
Head of MLB Players’ Union

Deadline to apply for Fall 2010 has been extended to Wednesday, January 13, 2010.
First Year students and Sophomores may apply; all majors welcome.

www.nd.edu/~wp
Contact Liz.LaFortune.3@nd.edu
163 Hurley, 631-7251
Luongo, Canucks overcome Devils

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

 Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — For one night at least, Henrik Luongo had the upper hand over Martin Brodeur in the duel to be Canada’s starting Olympic goalie.

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

Luongo made 27 saves, and the Canucks were fortunate to get a hand in three first-period goals as the Vancouver Canucks beat the New Jersey Devils 5-2.

“I was checking to my phone to see if Steve Yzerman texted me,” said Luongo with a smile, referring to the executive director of Canada’s Olympic team.

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

Luongo was at his best late in the game, and showed he can make the point-blank stops on Zach Parise who had his 10-game point streak snapped.

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

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

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

That’s not a bad way to impress Canadian Olympic hockey fans.

Alex Burrows, Sami Salo, Daniel Sedin, Alexander Elder and Henrik Sedin each had two of the NHL’s top goalies.

Burrows got the Canucks rolling with his third goal in four games. Daniel Sedin flipped a shot on net that Burrows deflected. It hit Brodeur’s glove before trickling behind him. Salo got the second Canucks goal with a slap shot from the right point at 1:36. Mikael Samuelsson, right in front of the crease, screened Brodeur. The Canucks caught the Devils in a line change, leaving Daniel Sedin wide open in the left circle to rip a shot past Brodeur at 12:32.

Then the momentum shifted in New Jersey’s favor.

Borgfors put the Devils on the board, and the Devils made a 2-on-1 and scored, and the Devils made a 2-on-1 break on Brodeur and made it 1-1. Luongo made his first point streak in 10 minutes, the tempo turned fast for a loop — fans, media, reporters, then sat in a seat above center court with Del Harris, the former Dallas assis- tant who will join him on the bench.

“Nobody likes to lose. Period. And obviously we made it clear and you all know this is a develop- mental year, but nobody expected it,” said Mike Vlasic before the game.

The long-time losers had their chances to avoid history. They led Minnesota by 19 in the third quarter on opening night before losing 95-98 on Damien Wilkins’ putback at the buzzer, and lost 81-80 on Nov. 14 at Miami when Dwayne Wade made a 3-pointer with 0.1 seconds left.

New Jersey hung around for a quarter in this one. The Mavs shot 71 percent in the first peri- od, but the Nets turned six Dallas turnovers into 11 points and fought their way to a 28-22 tie.

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

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Associated Press

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

The big man, known simply as "Z," finally had his moment. "As coach James Dolan stood in front of his locker after the game, he fielded no questions about the All-Star center, but he was more concerned about his team's defensive lapses.

"They just destroyed us," said Toronto coach Jay Triano. "It got a little intense the last couple of minutes. The Hawks took it to us at the end there. It's just a matter of getting used to it."

The=Raptors suffered their third straight loss. "We've got to figure it out on the bench most of the final quarter," a disconsolate coach Mike Brown said Tuesday night and fell to 0-4 in the second game of back-to-backs.

"I don't consider him my worst block of Suns guard Damon Williams. "We really are not going to panic."

Ilgauskas choked back tears. "I love this team. I love my teammates. They are like a family to me," he said. "I know when I go to bed at night my conscience is clear."

It was the second straight loss for the Suns, who have scored 94-88 in the second game of back-to-backs.

"We've got to figure it out," coach Mike Brown said. "We've got to get better, and it's not anything we can do when we get a couple of practice days."

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

Hawks 146, Raptors 115

"We've got to get better. When that pride team just score at will, like they did tonight."

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

"Boosh sat out much of the first half with foul trouble and most of the second half after the Hawks led by more than 20 points. The two points were Bosh's low total since scoring one point at Milwaukee on Nov. 6, 2007. Bosh's only points came on two free throws in the third period, but he was more concerned about his team's defensive lapses.

-- Dwight Howard added 19 points, had 11 rebounds and 10 blocks. The Magic have won nine of their last 10 games.

Wilson Chandler had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Mickael Pietrus had 27 points as the Raptors suffered their third straight loss.

Reserve Nate Robinson didn't play for the Knicks even after the guard scored 24 points -- 22 in the fourth quarter -- in a loss to the Magic last week in New York.

"We want to win, and if he's conducive to winning, then he'll obviously be back in the line-up," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said. "If not, then not. I'm not going to explain everything. I did not play Darko (Milicic). No one asked me about that. Why didn't I play?"
NHL

Bruins sign Savard to 7-year extension

Associated Press

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

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

Savard said Wednesday the contract allows him to stay with a contending team in a city that loves sports. “I think I stated earlier in some articles that I wanted to stay in Boston for the rest of my career and it looks like I’m going to have that chance,” Savard said at a news conference. “So I’m happy about that. Over the last few years, I’ve

contract allows him to stay with the Bruins.

BOSTON — Center Marc Savard had four goals against the Tampa Bay Lightning, Savard had four goals and six assists. He missed 15 games with a broken foot before returning. Last season, he led the Bruins with 25 goals and 63 assists.

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

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

Savard came to Boston with an attitude the performance on a puck start with 23 seconds remaining with a fourth-down touchdown passing with 6 1/2 minutes left in the fourth quarter that might have fed to another Atlanta loss.

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

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

Jason Elam

Former Falcons kicker

Elam's career has always been there, but I see it maturing. I see it growing and it’s really consistent and compatible with the identity of the team,” Bruins general manager Peter Chiarelli said. “The face-offs and penalty killing, the shooting the puck more is something that we’d like to try to find here.”

It also was an unceremonious ending for a 39-year-old kicker who is tied for the longest field goal in NFL history, a 62-yarder in 2006. One day after the funeral for a tryout Tuesday, four days after his team lost in the inaugural UFL championship game.

“It’s not my dream end-

but I feel like it was a pretty good dream career,” he said. “I never anticipat- ed it lasting this long. I wish it would have been different circumstances that I was going out. But I gave them everything I’ve got. I can look myself in the mirror and feel good.”

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

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“You know he’s strong-willed, given what he’s gone through in his background,” Dimitroff said.

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

While Elam said he’ll take a few days to decide on whether he wants to pursue a job with another team, he sure sound-

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ter Thomas Dimitroff told the AP. “We felt like we needed to make a move.”

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

“Matt came in and kicked very well at our indoor facili-

ty,” Dimitroff said. “He stroked it well, he had good pop and he showed some accuracy.

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

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Belles continued from page 24

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

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

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

The Belles began shooting better, but weren’t able to find consistent success and Ohio Northern’s lead increased to 39-41.

Each time the Belles took the lead at 45-42 when freshman guard Skal Whitfield converted a three-pointer in play with 11:09 remaining and the team never looked back. Dickson had 11 points, 15 points, six rebounds and three steals, but was 0-for-4 from the three-point line.

“They weren’t there mentally,” McGraw said. “We couldn’t catch them in that second half. We just weren’t in a good place and it showed.”

The Irish finally retook the lead at 50-49 with 1:32 left when junior guard Liz Wade had a three-pointer.

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

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

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

“I look back at all the assistant coaches and all the players that I’ve had, and I have been so blessed to be able coach at the University of Notre Dame,” McGraw said of the honor. “It’s such an amazing place and I count my lucky stars every day when I come to the office.”

Contact Alex Barker at abarker@nd.edu

NCAA FOOTBALL

Pitt ready for high-powered Bearcats

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

“Don’t let him get the ball very often. While the Bearcats don’t give up big yards and points as quickly as they produce them, they yield a lot. 1-338 yards and 102 points in their last three games. If the Panthers avoid turnovers, get a big day from freshman running back Dion Lewis (1,446 yards) and Bill Stull (19 TD passes, 6 interceptions) spreads the ball among his receivers, their best defense against Cincinnati might be a good offense.

“Every time we go on the field, we’re going to be able to score on every possession,” coach Dave Wannstedt said. “That’s the way it’s drawn up. That’s how we practice. That’s what our kids believe.”

The Panthers played their poorest game of the season effectively while losing to rival West Virginia 19-16 on Friday, dropping them from No. 8 to No. 14 in the AP poll and making Saturday’s de facto Big East championship game less attractive nationally. Two Top 10 teams in a season-ending game would have been a showcase for the conference.

To avoid a second successive loss that would likely send a team that was in the Top 10 two weeks ago to a lower-tier bowl — a major disappointment given their 9-1 start — the Panthers know they must get their offense back in a hurry. They trail only Cincinnati in total offense in the conference.

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

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

We definitely can match them because we’re not going to let them come in here and do what they want to do,” Pitt tight end Dorin Dickerson said.

“We’re going to run our offense and run our defense and play our game. We’re going to be the better team at the end of the day. That’s what we’re striving for, and that’s what we have to do this week.”

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

If Pitt needs any further incentive beyond the obvious, here’s something to ponder:

Nine wins for Pitt, rather than their first 10-win regular season since 1981, could mean the Papajohns.com Bowl in Birmingham, Ala., or the International Bowl in Toronto rather than, possibly, the Sugar Bowl.

“Coach Wannstedt hit on it,” linebacker Adam Gunn said. “Last year we were happy with nine wins, and we were excited to play in the Sun Bowl (a 3-0 loss to Oregon State). This year, we have nine wins, but we’re not happy at all.”
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Dealy and junior middle blocker Kellie Sciacca have both started 26 of the 27 matches this season and have played 93 and 91 total sets, respectively. The only match they did not start was the senior game against South Florida.

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

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

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

“We talked about it on Tuesday and just made sure we’re all really focused,” she said. “It’s a really fun atmosphere.”

The Irish (21-6) will take on Ohio (25-6) Friday in Ann Arbor, Mich., and the winner of that game will play the winner of No. 23-seeded Michigan and Niagara Saturday.

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

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

“I feel like with the last two losses, the (tournament) is a way to start fresh,” Dealy said.

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

“We try not to talk too much about the past,” she said. “But they’re just really excited and their energy feeds down to everybody.”

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

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

Kristin Dealy Irish outside hitter

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

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

ESPN.com predicts the Irish to visit Mobile and so does cbssportsline.com. Should the Irish go? Here are some effects to consider.

Pros:

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

◆ More practice for the players, no matter who’s coaching them. If a new coach is in place, they can learn his system and adapt to his play calls, signals and terminology. It also will give him a feel for what he has to work with going into spring ball.

◆ One more chance to see Jimmy Clausen and Golden Tate play for the Irish. Odds are at least one of them goes to the NFL, and it would give them a platform to go out on top. It would also allow the seniors to leave without the bitter taste of four straight losses in their mouths.

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

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

Cons:

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

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

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

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a team that has struggled to find consistent rebounding outside of senior forward Luke Harangody.

“Tate, if to concentrate on defense and rebounding, and letting the offense come to me, not trying to force too many things on offense,” Scott said. “My confidence is building a lot. Just everyday, taking a little bit every time, and we all feed off each other, and the guys are trusting me, so we’re just getting better every day.”

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Scott emerges as low-post threat off bench for Irish

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

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

“I think Scott is a guy that can ignite some stuff with the shooting time. By focusing on defense and rebounds, Scott has been able to play more, which has improved his offensive game as well. I just wanted him to think about helping us out there and just fitting in on offense.” Brey said. “I think the first three or four games he was worried about ‘when will I get a shot?’ And we witnessed some very bad shots by him, shots where you go ‘what is he thinking?’ I looked him out after one, and that was kind of the crossroads. To his credit, he’s a sharp kid. He played key minutes for us in Chicago, and I think now it’s been four straight games where he has done that, it’s hard to take me out of the rotation.”

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

“I just did my role.” Scott said. “Coach said I needed to defend and rebound more, and that’s what I did. He said if I did that, it’s hard to take me off the floor. Scott struggled early in the season, particularly with his shot selection, so Brey was hesitant to give him early playing time. By focusing on defense and rebounds, Scott has been able to play more, which has improved his offensive game as well. "I just wanted him to think about helping us out there and just fitting in on offense." Brey said. “I think the first three or four games he was worried about ‘when will I get a shot?’ And we witnessed some very bad shots by him, shots where you go ‘what is he thinking?’ I looked him out after one, and that was kind of the crossroads. To his credit, he’s a sharp kid. He played key minutes for us in Chicago, and I think now it’s been four straight games where he has done that, it’s hard to take me out of the rotation."