Panel examines conscience clause

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

By SCOTT ENGLERT
News Writer

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

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

Snead, along with Margaret F. Brinig, professor of law and associate dean at the Law School and Fr. Michael Place, chair of the International Federation of Catholic Health Institutions, spoke Thursday at the McClay Courtroom in the Ecke Hall of Law as part of a panel discussion titled “What Would a Good Conscience Clause Look Like? A Catholic University’s Perspective.” The panel was hosted by the Task Force on Supporting the Choice for Life and the Notre Dame Law School.

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

In her extensive research, Brinig found that the most common denominator in abortion cases is a lack of support for the procedure. She also noted that many women do not have access to proper counseling services.

The panel was moderated by Daniel Lende, assistant professor of anthropology, and amigo, a proponent of community-based learning on campus, said many disciplines across the board use service as a learning tool.

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

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

“Community-based learning can be [applied to] classes … as well as service trips and research — both my own and my undergraduate students’,” he said.

Carroll Hall to host annual Christmas event

By SARA FELENSTEIN
News Writer

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

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

“A Carroll Christmas” has been a Carroll Hall tradition for 12 years. Even with pending exams and the opportunity for outlets of entertainment closer on campus, over 1,000 students made the trip to Carroll Christmas last year.

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

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

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

“At the Hall President’s Council meeting we handed out big flyers for people to post in the dorms,” Wilson said.

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

Wilson said one of the most popular and well-known attractions of Carroll Christmas is Christmas Karaoke. A pianist plays popular Christmas songs and students can go up to the front of the room to sing.

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

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

Carroll Hall to host annual Christmas event

Weekend bus to begin route tonight

The new Transpo bus will have its first run this weekend, starting at Library Circle and making its way past Anderson Hall and Cushing Commons.

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

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

The route will run about every 15 minutes from Library Circle to South Street Station, passing several student bars and neighborhoods. Schmidt said the student government initiative is meant to give students a safe form of transportation off campus on the weekends.

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

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

Survey reveals views on AIDS

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

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

Students anonymously completed 2,207 surveys prior to...
INSIDE COLUMN
Making memories

Who doesn’t love going home for Thanksgiving? There’s the food, the friends, the family, the anticipation of the Christmas season. Most of all there are the stories. I mark each Thanksgiving by a memorable event. There is the Thanksgiving where my cousin hid our Grandma’s famous pie, and all my aunts went into hysteria looking for it, blaming each of the individual children and then threatening to cancel all dessert.

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

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

This year marked a whole new form of crazy.

The first change I found at home was in my older sister. Before I left for college she used to shadily babysit her boyfriend for a dog. Now she has developed a sort of obsession with toys, grooming and classes.

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

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

Two of my uncles refused to leave each other’s sides, telling everyone they were in a bromance. When my aunt told her husband they were leaving, my other uncle said, “I call shotgun,” thinking that since they were brothers he couldn’t be alone.

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

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

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

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Carly Landon at clandon1@nd.edu

Corrections

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

Question of the Day: What famous movie role would you most like to play?

Annie McKeon
sophomore
Welsh

Kolín O’Brien
sophomore
Fishers

Rose Raderstorff
freshman
McGillan

Kyle Blanco
sophomore
Fishers

Maura Newell
freshman
Lewis

Bayo Omoniyi
sophomore
O’Neill

"Aidy Hepburn in Breakfast at Tiffany’s."

"Robin Williams’ character in Flubber."

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

"Indiana Jones."

"Any of the Bond girls."

"Marcus in The Gladiator."

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

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

OFFBEAT

Georgia ‘elf’ jailed over dynamite hoax

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

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

Police say Caldwell got in line Wednesday evening to have his picture taken with Santa Claus. Police say when Caldwell reached the front of the line, he told Santa he had dynamite in his bag. Santa called mall security and Caldwell was arrested.

Groom Twitters and Facebooks from the altar

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

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

The video has had more than 250,000 views.

Oh, Dana is updating his relationship status on Facebook, “the minister said as the audience at the wedding laughed. After Hanna finished twittering he continued the ceremony.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

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

The opera Aida will be screened today at 1 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $15 for students, $24 for faculty and staff, and $6 for general admission.

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

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

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

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

INSIDE COLUMN
Making memories

Carly Landon
By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
News Writer

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

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

The event is similar to a dinner theatre production. It includes “an evening full of Christmas cheer, some acting and great food set during the Christmas season,” according to Dr. Michael Kramer, director of music and associate professor of Communication Studies.

The dinner production takes place on Saint Mary’s campus in Regina North Lounge. Attendees are required to wear period costumes, which will help create a Christmas setting. The show begins at 2 p.m. and continues through the evening with four showings.

“The dinners, he said, take place on Saint Mary’s campus in Regina North Lounge. It’s hard to believe that the Regina North Lounge can be transformed into a medieval hall, but it magically becomes another place and time,” Baxter said.

He also notes that the event is appropriate for all ages of the audience. “The music, the lighting, the scenery, the costumes, the meal and the manner in which it is all served all combine to prepare us for advent,” he said.

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

“I love wearing the costumes of period dresses and headpieces because all of the little kids in the audience get a kick out of it,” she said. “It is almost like a parade.”

She also said this event will be educational for students. “It is a very intimate experience and there are very few events at school that offer a learning career that I have been able to sing in such close proximity to the people that I am singing to,” she said. “It is a very different environment and it is a very different type of a traditional choir concert.”

All shows are sold out, and attendance is estimated at 540 people will attend the event.

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu

Learning continued from page 1

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

“Philosophy professor Essaka Joshua also teaches community-based courses,” Lende said. “The community-based element of my course runs alongside the more traditional educational elements. We meet as a class on campus in the normal way and some of the sessions are set aside for project planning and reflection,” she said.

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

Students also meet outside of class to complete the service project.

“One of the things that are very different about classes that involve community-based learning is the community amongst the students. The students in these classes become friends,” Essaka Joshua, philosophy professor said the community aspect of courses is personally satisfying.

“I feel that I am giving something back to the community. Academics have very little time, as this is a demanding job, and this is a way that I can use my expertise to engage in community action,” she said. “Students also enjoy watching their classmates grow intellectually and personally when they get involved in the community. There are many surprises, so I am always learning as well.”

Essaka Joshua also said the community-based learning also combines practical, personal and intellectual experiences and gives students a sense of self-satisfaction and personal achievement.

“More work is required, in the sense of the active involvement,” Lende said. “Students will need to develop and execute a research project. But really I don’t see the time allotted as radically different — it’s just distributed differently over the semester.”

Contact Amanda Gray at agray@nd.edu
AIDS

continued from page 1

Tuesday.

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

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

“People in general were pretty interested in the topic [AIDS], and there was a pretty good outreach to the student body in general.”

Margaret Adams
HIV/AIDS task force member

The full results of the survey are available online. Students can take part in the effort to increase funding for HIV/AIDS in St. Joseph County by visiting the CSC Facebook page. Contact Keiston Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

Carroll

continued from page 1

people tended to stay inside regardless.

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

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

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

Sophomore Michael DeRusso agreed.

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

Contact Sara Felenstein at sfelen@nd.edu

Silent Directed Retreat

January 4 - 10, 2010

At Moreau Seminary

(Registration deadline is Dec. 16)

All students, staff, and faculty are welcome.

Applications available online (campusministry.nd.edu) or in 114 Coleman-Morse Center

For more information, please contact: Tami Schmitz at 574-631-3016 or tami.schmitz.8@nd.edu
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

University probes climate data

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

Thousands of pages of correspondence between some of the world’s leading climate scientists were obtained from the unit at the University of East Anglia and leaked to the International Herald Tribune’s last month. Scientists made global warming say the e-mails are proof that scientists have been conspiring to hide evidence of man-made warming was not as strong as generally believed.

Irish nuns pay for child abuse

PORTLAND, Maine — Catholic nuns, the Sisters of Mercy, offered Thursday to pay child abuse victims, the government and charities a further $193.5 million ($193.5 million) to compensate for decades of abuse in its schools and orphanages.

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

The Sisters of Mercy said in a statement it “wholeheartedly regret the experience endured by the children in their care” and hoped this latest offer would show that its nuns were “faithful to the values of reparation, redress and healing and responsibility.”

NATIONAL NEWS

Local News

Day care crash injures children

INDIANAPOLIS — Two robbery suspects fleeing police lost control of their sport utility vehicle into the brick building on the city’s north side about 12:15 p.m., Lt. Jeff Duhamell said.

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

AARP, the seniors’ lobby, said expenditures had increased by about $28 million. It said by the latest report, the health care overhaul bill would not lose any guaranteed benefits. The program needs to be fixed, not raided to create another new government program, said Republican challenger Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

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

“The president of the republic is still the president,” said Cherif. But he added the president’s aide-de-camp that grabbed power in a military-led coup 11 months ago and has been running the country since then, “there is a president.”

The Malian president has been running the country since he has been running the country since 1999. He headed downtown to the presidential guard that opened fire on the presidential guard that opened fire on the military camp housing hundreds of men and began a 11-month attempt, that he has grappled with depression.

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

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. “What we’re hearing are scare tactics designed to mislead seniors.”

AARP, the seniors’ lobby, threw its weight behind Democrats.

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

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

The 61-39 vote on a pro-Democrats amendment to the Senate health care bill passed by 61-39. It would have stripped more than $400 billion in Medicare cuts from the nearly $1 trillion measure. It would have saved the entire 2,674-page bill back to the Senate Finance Committee for a redo.

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Panel continued from page 1

mother.
Brinig believes, therefore, that the courts’ concepts that must be taken to assist pregnant women.

"Preventive conscience clause … also need to be our concern," she said. "This is a tricky area."

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

"There is an objective moral order … a response to do good and avoid evil," Place said.

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

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

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

"We advocate for a greater separation between religion and government. And yet, Place said, even without religion, abortion is still wrong.

"It is not a religious obliga-
tion first, but it is a human, moral obligation," Place said. "Without life there is no socie-
ty.

In addition, Place warned of funding directly or indirectly, "provide or subsidize abortion of an institution that shares his con-
tingence toward living beings are created equal and not just one, but a num-
ber of states that allow abortion.

Snead described how, under the new administration, govern-
ment policy toward living embryonic stem cells has shifted from a policy of "neutrality to destruction."

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

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

Contact Scott Englert at senglert@nd.edu

Ind. teen strangles, kills younger brother

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Ignoring his younger brother's plea of "Andrew, stop," a 17-year-old who told authorities he identi-

fied with a television serial killer strangled the boy, dragged the body to his car and drove to see his girlfriend.

Prosecutors filed preliminary charges of murder against Conley with Conner Conley as the two wrestled Sunday, a probable evidence of the popular crime show "Dexter." The official said he killed his brother to pass out a craving like a ham-
burger satisfied hunger. He said killing his brother satisfied a craving like a ham-
burger satisfied hunger.

He said killing his brother sat-
ified a craving like a ham-
burger satisfied hunger.

"Like I had to … like when people have something like they are hungry and there is a "just like" the serial killer

"like when people have something like they are hungry and there is a

Andrew Conley of Rising Sun

Broidy's plea was the latest in a string of private equity execu-
tives and investment advisers to plead guilty in connection with Cuomo's investigation of pension fund activities during the tenure of former state Comptroller Alan Hevesi.

More arrests seem likely.

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

The affidavit in Conley's case described him killing his broth-
er before visiting his girlfriend. He said he is glad to be part

"This is an evil child."

Prosecutors filled preliminary charges of murder against Conley along with a supporting affidavit Thursday. As a general rule, the affidavit will appear Friday in court, Neergaard said.

Conley's family did not immediately return messages for comment.

Thursday, Neergaard said Conley had an attorney but none was listed in the records.

The teen told investigators he had had fantasies about killing someone since he was in eighth grade, including cutting someone's throat, and felt "just like" the killer Dexter on the Showtime television series of the same name.

"I was sitting there and it just happened," Conley told investigators in the affidavit.

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

The affidavit in Conley's case described him killing his brother.

"I would name only one, the pension fund's former chief financial officer, David Loglisci, who already faces charges in the case."

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

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

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

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

"It is a moral obligation," Broidy said.

Government ought to pro-
"Preventive conscience obligation," Broidy said. "Without life there is no socie-
ty.

There are certain inalien-
able rights [for all human life]," Place said.

Place provided some examples of classifying patients as con-
sumers and abortion as a basic health right.

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

Snead described how, under the new administration, govern-
ment policy toward living embryonic stem cells has shifted from a policy of "neutrality to destruction." Is an objective moral order … a response to do good and avoid evil," Place said.

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Contact Scott Englert at senglert@nd.edu

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 Hanky Panky's Sex Lessons for Social Workers

As a social worker, it is important to stay up-to-date on the latest research and practices in the field. Hanky Panky, a well-known lingerie brand, recently released a book called “The Hookup Handbook.” This guide offers practical advice and insights for social workers looking to incorporate sex into their clients’ treatment plans.

According to the book’s author, Dr. Jane Doe, sex should be a normal and healthy part of human relationships. Social workers are uniquely positioned to address the physical, emotional, and social aspects of human sexuality in ways that can help clients improve their overall well-being.

One key takeaway from “The Hookup Handbook” is the importance of communication. Dr. Doe emphasizes the need for open and honest conversations about sexual desires and boundaries. This is crucial for building trust and fostering healthy relationships.

The book also covers the role of social workers in advocating for sexual health and rights. It encourages social workers to educate their clients about the risks and benefits of different sexual practices and to ensure that clients have access to safe and confidential sexual health services.

In addition to the insights provided by Dr. Doe, “The Hookup Handbook” includes case studies and practical tips for social workers looking to integrate sex into their work. It is a valuable resource for anyone seeking to enhance their knowledge and skills in this area.

In summary, “The Hookup Handbook” by Dr. Jane Doe is a must-read for social workers who want to stay informed about the latest trends and research in the field of human sexuality. It offers a comprehensive guide to incorporating sex into clients’ treatment plans, while also promoting healthy and respectful sexual relationships.

This book is available on Amazon for $19.99. To learn more about “The Hookup Handbook” and other resources for social workers, visit HankyPanky.com.
**GM, Chrysler rethink closings**

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

Associated Press

NEW YORK — FedEx Corp. said Thursday that it would raise shipping rates for Express packages shipped within or from the U.S. by an average of 5.9 percent in 2010, also 1 percentage point lower than FedEx’s rate increase this year. That rate is partially offset by a lower fuel surcharge.

The company, based in Memphis, Tenn., also said it would raise Freight rates for泣kground deliveries. The increases are standard and usually also offset by a lower fuel surcharge.

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The company, based in Memphis, Tenn., also said it would raise Freight rates for ground deliveries. The increases are standard and usually also offset by a lower fuel surcharge.

Kentucky farming suffers with recession

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky’s slumping horse industry appears on pace to be overtaken by pork facilities as the king of the state’s agricultural sector, economists said Wednesday.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a decision by a federal judge denying a preliminary injunction sought by conservationists and tribal leaders who had sought the injunction to force Barrick Gold Corp. to postpone digging on a mountain several tribes consider sacred.

And ruin a mountain several tribes consider sacred. That critics say would harm the environment and would increase shipping rates for Express packages shipped within or from the U.S. by an average of 5.9 percent in 2010, also 1 percentage point lower than FedEx’s rate increase this year. That rate is partially offset by a lower fuel surcharge.

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Kentucky farming suffers with recession

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky’s slumping horse industry appears on pace to be overtaken by pork facilities as the king of the state’s agricultural sector, economists said Wednesday.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a decision by a federal judge denying a preliminary injunction sought by conservationists and tribal leaders who had sought the injunction to force Barrick Gold Corp. to postpone digging on a mountain several tribes consider sacred.

And ruin a mountain several tribes consider sacred. That critics say would harm the environment and would increase shipping rates for Express packages shipped within or from the U.S. by an average of 5.9 percent in 2010, also 1 percentage point lower than FedEx’s rate increase this year. That rate is partially offset by a lower fuel surcharge.

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Weis’ departure handled respectfully

We all knew for a while that Charlie Weis would not be retained as Notre Dame’s head football coach. What we didn’t know was when and how the process would play out, because the last time the Notre Dame administration fired a coach, they bungled it.

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

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

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

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

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Disappointed with event

After receiving numerous e-mails from my fellow classmates, I decided to attend our Beer Tasting event at Legends on Wednesday night.

I was promised five to seven beer samples and some food, all for 10 dollars. I wasn’t very interested in the Legends promotions, seeing as the event didn’t start until 8 p.m., but I was excited about sampling the beers, assuming I would get my money’s worth.

What I was given, along with my fellow classmates? About two ounces each of six beers. I went to Notre Dame and graduated in 1994. I did the ACE Program, earned a Master’s in Non-Profit Administration, took a job in that field, and then got a grant to start NDVision. I volunteered at the Center with whatever capacity and after, and was invited to be its Director in August of 2004.

“The Center, Steve said, “is about changing the way people think about the homeless. It is about recognizing the god-given dignity and worth of each person and using our gifts to see ourselves as valuable, as potential, rather than as problem, we’ve been a part of something awe-some.”

The Center’s formal mission is to “Break the Cycle of Homelessness.” It’s lofty. It’s challenging. Steve says, “but if we can help one person family come together, it’s a gift to the world.”

On the spiritual mission of the Center, Steve observes, “You can think of yourself as a priest, one who visits the sick, fed the hungry, helped the homeless?” In a sense, this is the Gospel in action: eating with the dying to glorify God.”

Steve encourages others to make the Center a part of their lives. “You need to get involved here or anywhere that excites your passion to serve because it will ruin you,” he says. “It’s going to be ruined. You won’t like it. It’s going to be hard. And it’s going to be different than the things you think.

That’s what college is about. Being ruined and coming out different than you went in. In becoming a better person and knowing the Lord more intimately around you, contributing to the common good.”

“Asked about his own reasons for working at the Center, Steve, replies, “I love it… People are honest here. Free about talking about the masks. We don’t have time for that… You have permission here to let yourself be vulnerable. I’m convinced that the manager will let you have a piece pen here. And I shouldn’t be amazed or surprised because they keep happening.

To illustrate, Steve shares a story about one of his friends, a recent graduate named John. “John stayed here all last winter on Weather Amnesty, a night at a time. John wanted to move in. I said, ‘John, when you sober up.’” This past February, he finally got here. “Everyday I’d tell him, ‘Steve, he got a day of sobriety, Steve.’

A week and a half later, a month went by. I said, ‘John, when you get to six months, I’ll take you out to lunch.’ On Aug. 14, John got there. He described of five siblings. One was murdered. He started drinking when he was 13, and has struggled with it for years. John said, ‘I was struck by his story and said, “Let’s go out to lunch when you get a year of sobriety.” He turned to me and said, “That’s Valentine’s Day.” I said, ‘John, you’re my Valentine’s Date, and I don’t think you will mind our having a bit. ’

I’m looking forward to that more than I’ve ever looked forward to Valentine’s Day. This place is one of the great love stories. I just keep falling deeper in love with the mission every time.

Chad, a resident sitting at the next table, looks up at my late evening snack to echo Steve’s sentiments. “You guys are more of a family to me than my family is of the course of their careers. I’m not saying I actually like feeling to do something with my life, starting something new.”

“It’s awesome. I love these guys like they’re my family.”

Tom is a senior living in Morrissey Manor, the center of all University dorms. He can be reached at bound3@nd.edu.

Steve, Director of the South Bend Center for the Homeless, can be reached at stevenr@nd.edu or encourages you to read anything by Henri Nouwen, especially Bread for the Journey. ADaughter e-mails me if you have any interest in volunteering at the Center. She and everyone else on the team are very helpful.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
With all the talk both building up and, in many cases, consequently tearing down this fall's most unsuspecting, wildly successful, "Blair Witch Project" clone, "Paranormal Activity," a look back at the true roots of document-ary/horror filmmaking seems to be in order. Contrary to popular belief, the original "Blair Witch Project" had its own inspiration. And that film, a hardly known 1998 VHS castaway, "The Last Broadcast," is the subject of this movie rewind.

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

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

But that's not entirely fair to it. Why look back on a movie 11 years old that by all accounts should only be remembered as being a coveted member of film history's hall of shame? Because of the idea behind the film. An idea ruined by terrible production and amateur oversight, but an idea that revolutionized filmmaking. To name a few examples, "The Blair Witch Project," "Paranormal Activity," "Poughkeepsie Tapes" and "District 9" all draw their founding idea from the film. For that reason only, it's worth watching the film — to see where it all started. Ultimately, "The Last Broadcast," in the right hands, not only could have — but would have — been something to remember. It probably could have never achieved the success of "Blair Witch" only because the Internet and its potential for viral marketing hadn't yet really been discovered, but it could have at least been a cult classic. It could have been a classic, genre-bending, once-in-a-blue-moon film that leaves a permanent footprint on the film industry. Instead, "The Last Broadcast" is somewhere out there straddling the line between "never seen it" and "wished I hadn't seen it." It's a tragedy, really, a horrible tragedy, as all the while, amidst the backdrop of the murders the film is supposedly documenting, we instead watch as the film is murdered by its own maker.

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The Observer Scene

Friday, December 4, 2009

A Carroll Christmas

By JORDAN GAMBLE
Associate Scene Editor

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

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

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

Earlier in the week, residents spent several hours filling paper bags with sand and candies before hauling them out in wheelbarrows to place along sidewalks. The lit candles will mark the path to Far Quad.

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

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

Residents also judge a cookie-baking contest, picking out their favorites from students across campus. These batches are part of the veritable cookie buffet, along with hot chocolate and cider, which fills at least one room of Carroll’s first floor.

Other highlights include Christmas karaoke and Santa’s workshop, where visitors can pose with Santa, Mrs. Claus and some elves — all Carroll residents in costume.

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

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

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

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

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

“I personally think it’s the best Christmas celebration on campus,” Wilson said.

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu

3.Christmas Lights

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

If you’re feeling particularly chipper, buy the whole lot. You’ll be asking your neighbors, “How ‘bout them lights?”

2. A Christmas Tree

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

5. Mistletoe

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

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

By ADRIANA PRATT
Assistant Scene Editor

Dust off those musty boughs of holly and round up the jingle bells because Christmas time is here. Finals are a bore, but Christmas is fun. So take all that unnecessary study time and use it to get your Whoville on because South Bend is the Christmas capital of the holiday season.

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3. Fake Snow

South Bend’s weather is not living up to its reputation this year. The most white that’s been seen on campus is the premature greying of the sidewalks. Mrs. Claus. Yes, it’s time for “A Carroll Christmas,” the Far Quad dorm’s signature event. Its tagline? “If you only come to Carroll one time, come to ‘A Carroll Christmas’.”

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4. Stockings

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

5. Mistletoe

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

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DECK THE HALLS

By JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

The bittersweet cheer of the Charlie Brown tree is like the cherry on top of your already decked-out Christmas room sundae. It provides the perfect chance to make a move on that cutie you’ve been eyeing all night or to watch two awkward roommates stammer as they discover their position under the greenery. Hang a sprig from the ceiling and watch the magic unfold in true holiday fashion.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu
associated press

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

Those had examples stayed in his mind while he went through college and his on's and into the nba, where Artest says he sometimes drank cognac during games, but he never spoke in glowing detail of an internal self-improvement process in his mid-20's that left him much more mature.

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

Artest said he had grown up considerably after his stints with Chicago and Indiana, where his involvement in perhaps the most infamous brawl in nba history in 2004 had continued and resulted in a 23-game suspension. Artest eventually demanded a trade from the Pacers, who shipped him to Sacramento, where his self-healing began.

"I was slowly cleansing myself in new surroundings," Artest said. "I was 98 percent cleansed in Houston (last season)."

Yet early in his first season with Los Angeles, the Lakers again isArtest's eccentric behavior and frank admissions — although Kobe Bryant said it "ain't doing that (stuff) here."

Artest's admissions have been "blown out of context," Artest's intensity at practice. Artest's intensity at practice. Artest's intensity at practice. Artest has referred to himself as the defensive captain. ... He's going to happen on a day-to-

day basis. Ron was just talking in an interview and I felt like he had in his career." Artest's intensity at practice.

He takes things off my back. He's a kind of answer." Artest said.

"He ain't doing that (stuff) here. We want to get away with that type of thing in the nba," Jackson said. "Somebody is going to see it. There's going to be alcohol on the bus for a while. We all know it's going to happen on a day-to-day basis. Ron was just talking in an interview and I felt like he had in his career." Artest's intensity at practice.

The Associated Press obtained a audio recording of an interview with Artest conducted with Woods' neighbors. Artest's intensity at practice. Artest's intensity at practice.

"Joey is a good person," Artest said. "That's why I ment I probably shouldn't have made." "I was slowly cleansing myself in new surroundings," Artest said. "I was 98 percent cleansed in Houston (last season)."

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**Athletics acquire two infielders from Cubs**

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

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

“He can hit. We’ve always liked his bat,” assistant GM David Forst said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But the Seahawks have regressed since then. Holmgren has declared his desire to return to the NFL after one year away. He took 2009 off as a promise to his wife and family but now says he wants to return to football.

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

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

Ruskell understood that.

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

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

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

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

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

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Ruskell signed running back Shaun Alexander to a $62 million, eight-year contract with $15.1 million guaranteed even though Alexander was about to turn 30 — an age at which most running backs begin to decline. Just over two years and several injuries later, Alexander was released.

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

Associated Press

The Observer ◆ SPORTS

Friday, December 4, 2009

NFL

Seahawks GM resigns, opens door for Holmgren

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Johnson eyes rushing record

Associated Press

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

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

Dickerson ran for 2,105 yards in 1984 for the then-Los Angeles Rams. Right now, Johnson is leading the NFL with 1,396 yards through five games remaining. He just finished November with 800 yards rushing — his best month in the NFL with 1,396 yards with five games remaining. He just finished with 2,066 yards rushing. It’s an elite and short group to reach 2,000 that features Barry Sanders, O.J. Simpson, Dickerson and Terrell Davis with Lewis.

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

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

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

Johnson has some extra motivation Sunday when the Titans (5-6) visit Indianapolis (11-0).Johnson has talked about 2,000 yards in six straight games in 1984. Campbell (1980). Dickerson tied Jamal Lewis was the last to hit that number in 2003 when he fell short of Dickerson’s mark and finished with 2,066 yards rushing. It’s an elite and short group to reach 2,000 that features Barry Sanders, O.J. Simpson, Dickerson and Terrell Davis with Lewis.

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

“I just feel this game, if we can stay close, I’ll have more carries,” he said.

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

“I’m just trying to keep being consistent, keep doing the right thing and continue to keep having good games and hopefully get closer to that record,” Johnson said. “Consistency has not been a problem for the second-year back out of East Carolina.

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

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

He has talked about 2,000 yards being a goal of his this sea-
Notre Dame is riding a five game unbeaten streak into the match-up, winning two and tying three. In total, four of the games went into overtime. Jackson said the close games could help the Irish in what should be stiff competition this weekend.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu
The Notre Dame track and field squad will open its indoor season this Friday in its annual Blue and Gold Meet, held in Loftus Center.

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

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

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

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

The Irish had success in last year’s Blue and Gold Meet, with then-senior Mary Saxer qualifying for the NCAA Championships in the pole vault in the first meet of the season. Including Saxer, who ultimately placed third in the Pole Vault in the Championships and was named to the Track and Field All-Academic Team, the Irish lost a total of 18 seniors from last season, including distance runner Patrick Smyth, who placed fourth in the 10,000 meters at the NCAA Championships and was named a First-Team Academic All-American.

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

The Irish as a team set the standard for the Irish, by finishing up their season at the NCAA Championships. The women’s team, despite placing fifth in the Big East Outdoor Championships, sent four athletes to the NCAAs and placed 24th overall, compared to the men’s 48th place.

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

Contact Chris Michalski at jmichal2@nd.edu

**Belles to face off vs. Trine**

By ALLAN JOSEPH

Saint Mary’s hosts Trine on Saturday in the MIAA opener for both teams. The Belles look to rebound from a disheartening 80-62 loss to Ohio Northern on Wednesday, which dropped Saint Mary’s second-place finish in the MIAA last year with a 3-3 conference record, while the Thunder finished tied for third but were behind at 9-7.

Trine looks to improve on last year’s record with the addition of 11 new freshmen, while the Belles look to live up to the high expectations in the pressing MIAA poll, which had Saint Mary’s at third in the conference behind defending champion Hope and Calvin.

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

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph28@nd.edu

**NAC**

continued from page 20

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

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

“I know that only a few of them can get a medal, but it’s the strongest tournament on the continent,” Bednarski said. “At a minimum, we hope to get a silver. At best, we hope to get a gold.”

Bednarski said that just to get a medal, because it’s the strongest tournament on the continent. Now we are swimming in much bigger waters.

Nevertheless, Bednarski and the entire coaching staff are excited by the opportunity open to the underclassmen and the entire coaching staff to prove their mettle on the highest level.

Rising stars such as freshmen Liam Osier and Sophie R. and Bella Sarkisova will have the chance to earn interna- tional recognition.

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

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

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

Contact Chris Massoud at cmassoud@nd.edu

**UCF**

continued from page 20

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

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

“He’s kind of like a Big East guy,” Brey said. “A couple different guys have to guard him for us. A Scott, a Harrington, a Bragghammer, possibly Abromaitis, different guys are going to have to defend him.”

Load Central Florida in scoring is 6-foot-3 guard Isaac Sosa, who has averaged 12.9 points per game. Sosa is 20-0-39 from 3-point range this season, and could be a threat to a Notre Dame team that has struggled at times defending on the perimeter.

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu
Ohio State Invite meet

**NCAA** continued from page 20

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

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

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

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

The class of 2010 has been making its own mark in the Notre Dame and Big East record books this fall. Outside hitter Serinity Phillips made her 1,000th career kill Oct. 10 against Cincinnati, becoming the 18th player in program history to do so. On Oct. 19, she also picked up the Big East Player of the Week Award, and has made 324 assists per set (46th, 12.71) and blocks per set (49th, 2.41). Ohio ranks 11th, 23rd, 19th, 29th, and 55th in these categories, respectively.

Overall, the Irish rank in the top 50 nationally in hitting percentage (25th, .258), win-loss percentage (25th, .778), kills per set (36th, 14.3), assists per set (46th, 12.71) and blocks per set (49th, 2.41). Sciacca is second on the team in kills and points with 307 and 349.5, respectively. Sciacca is second in blocks with 90.

Despite Notre Dame’s statistics, the team’s inability to take the Big East tournament title after winning a string of 15 consecutive matches, and losing to Florida Nov. 28, 3-1. Since then, Brown has been doing some fine-tuning on the court.

“We've changed and adjusted some things, have overcome some injuries that were hurting us before and have worked on getting people healthy,” Brown said. “We want to be at their best this weekend as the winner of Friday's match will face either 13th-seeded Michigan or Niagara Saturday. Positioned in the Stanford Regional, the bottom half of their bracket features Saint Mary’s (Calif.), UC Santa Barbara, Long Island and Stanford, a team Notre Dame already defeated earlier this season.

Of the 64 teams in the tournament, the Irish have faced nine (Cincinnati, Florida, Florida State, Louisville, LSU, Miami, Michigan, Stanford, and Tennessee) and defeated four (Cincinnati, Miami, Stanford and Louisville). It is also the first time since 2006 that three Big East teams have advanced to the national tournament (Notre Dame, Louisville and Cincinnati).

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

First-and second-round action will occur on 16 campus sites with winners advancing to four predetermined regional sites. Notre Dame will face Ohio University today at 5:30 p.m. in Ann Arbor, Mich.

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

Contact Meghann Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

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**MEN’S SWIMMING**

Notre Dame travels to Ohio State Invite meet

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

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

Irish Coach Tim Welsh looks at this meet as a turning point in the season as the Irish prepare for their winter training trip. “This is the focal meet for our fall semester, we put a lot of importance on what happens here,” Welsh said. “We want to learn where we are, and what we need to improve on. It will shape our training between semesters, and will tell us the areas we need to emphasize in the weeks in Puerto Rico. This is a significant test.”

The Irish are 4-1 heading into the Ohio State Invite and are coming off of their first conference victory over Pittsburgh. The early portion of the season has been used as a learning tool for Notre Dame, and they will attempt to take those findings and implement them in this meet. “This week we have been trying to clean things up a bit,” Welsh said. “We've tried to sharpen our technique up a lot, clean up our races so the paces are well placed. We've been cleaning things up to make them race ready.

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

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

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

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

Contact Eric Prister at epriester@nd.edu

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Friday, Dec. 5th
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**Joshua Radin**

Friday, December 4, 2009

The Observer • SPORTS

Page 18
THE OBSERVER

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

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By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

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

But Tate said Thursday, “I came in with the mentality that I wanted to play hard and put the team in the best position to win. With myself succeeding ... the two kind of go hand in hand.”

Tate’s numbers speak for themselves, as he tied or broke six Notre Dame records this season. Tate’s 93 receptions, 1,496 yards and nine 100-yard receiving games this year set school records, and his 15 receiving touchdowns tied the Irish single-season mark. He also set Notre Dame career records by eclipsing 2,707 yards and 15 100-yard receiving games.

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

Perhaps more impressive than Tate’s numbers are the fact that he posted a significant portion of them with Notre Dame’s other top receiver, sophomore Michael Floyd, sidelined by injury.

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

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

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

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

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

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

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

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

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

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

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

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

“The two-game series should be [one of the most important series] when you play the top team in the country. It’ll be a good challenge,” Coach Mike Brey said he expects his squad to be challenged.

“I’m very impressed with their team, they’re well coached,” Brey said. “And it’s a group coming out like us early, they’re learning how to win. So you got a confident team coming in here on Sunday.”

Notre Dame (7-1) has responded well to its first loss of the season, a 72-58 defeat to Saint Louis and Idaho State.

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

“I didn’t talk about any breakdowns, what we didn’t do. Real simple: I want to see how we bounce back,” Brey said.

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Associate Sports Editor

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

The Golden Knights are 6-1 and are one of the top teams in the country. With an 84-74 win over Auburn the highlight of their year thus far, while this is the first true road game for UCF, Irish coach Mike Brey said he expects his squad to be challenged.

“I’m very impressed with their team, they’re well coached,” Brey said. “And it’s a group coming out like us early, they’re learning how to win. So you got a confident team coming in here on Sunday.”

Notre Dame (7-11) has responded well to its first loss of the season, a 72-58 defeat to Northwestern in the Chicago Invitational Challenge. Since the disappointing loss, the Irish have rebounded with wins over Saint Louis and Idaho State.

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

“I didn’t talk about any breakdowns, what we didn’t do. Real simple: I want to see how we bounce back,” Brey said.