New bus route packed on first trips

Students flood new service as ridership is ‘much higher than expected,’ no behavioral issues reported

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

For senior Tommy Schanz, riding the weekend Transpo bus home after a night out was like an after party. “I got on and saw so many people I knew,” Schanz, who rode the bus to his off-campus home from the Blarney Stone, commonly referred to as Finnegan’s. “It was a really fun, cool atmosphere.”

On Friday night, the first run of the new weekend bus route, 496 people rode the bus, according to Chip Lewis, chairman of the Board of Directors for Transpo. “That number was much higher than expected,” he said. “We expect ridership will build from there.”

Lewis said it is likely that all the riders were students and there were no behavioral issues this weekend. “Everyone was excited to have this option and we didn’t have any problems and we don’t anticipate any problems,” he said.

The new Transpo route is an initiative of student government and partially funded by the Office of Student Affairs and Student body president of the Mendoza College of Business.

The event was hosted in the Stapleton Auditorium and was attended by not only College students, but also members of the local community. “We had a really great turnout,” Dance Marathon president Kelly Deranek said. “We had lots of families in the community attend as well as students. We expected a lot of people, but we had even more than we thought we would.”

Deranek said there were many members of the community and children from Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s ECDC (Early Childhood Development Centers). “The kids were all very excited to see Santa and make crafts,” Deranek said. “The kids asked Santa all sorts of questions.”

Santa visited with the guests, but gave special attention to the kids. All of the kids took pictures with Santa.

By KRISTIN DURBIN
News Writer

In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, students gathered in South Dining Hall yesterday to make about 400 fleece blankets for cancer patients at this year’s Aidan Project. The Project, sponsored by Circle K, Knott Hall and the class of 2012, was started in 2006 after current senior Aidan Fitzgerald was diagnosed with cancer.

His roommate was involved with Circle K and thought the club’s annual blanket bash could be turned into a larger, more personal event for students.

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Writer

The Mendoza College of Business is expanding its non-degree Nonprofit Executive Programs, which began in 2006, to offer more specialized training for people who work with nonprofit organizations. Marc Hardy, director of the Programs, said these programs are part of the Nonprofit Professional Development Department of Mendoza, which includes both non-degree programs and a master’s degree in nonprofit administration.

“All of our programs ... are really focused on helping leaders in nonprofits become better at what they do,” he said.

The master’s degree is a two-year time and financial commitment, Hardy said, but the non-degree programs offer crucial training opportunities without the commitment of the degree.

“Our [non-degree] program is really geared toward people who are working in the sector and just need to know specific information,” he said. “Nonprofit organizations are becoming so complex and so large that people need to be

Mendoza expands nonprofit program

Cavanaugh wins energy competition

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Despite some fierce competition, Cavanaugh Hall was announced the winner of the Dorm Energy Competition that lasted through November. The contest, which was sponsored by the Office of Sustainability and Notre Dame student government, measured how much energy each residence hall used during the month of November and compared those figures to previous amounts. The Chaos reduced their energy usage by $718, which will be donated to the Global Water Initiative and will be used to drill wells in Africa that will provide clean drinking water.

Alicia Vasto, Cavanaugh’s sustainability commissioner, said she was surprised when she found out her dorm won. "Cavanaugh was not even among the top five energy-saving dorms at the contest’s halfway point. "We are all really excited that we won the competition," she said.

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
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Best of the blog world

I love blogs. There are two blogs I read every day and plenty more I read regularly for fun and advice and laughs from people all over the world. Here are a few of the hilarious, uplifting, and generally awesome blogs out there:

1. The Pioneer Woman.com. Pioneer Woman’s real name is Ree Drummond. She was a city girl living in LA until she fell in love with a cattle rancher and real-life cowboy from Oklahoma. Now she’s a home-schooling mom of four who writes a hilarious blog about her crazy experiences as a ranch wife. She’s darn good at it too — she won Bloggie of the Year for 2005 and her recently published cookbook hit No. 1 on the New York Times bestseller list. If you check out her blog, don’t miss the mouth-watering recipe section, the “Black Heels to Tractor Wheels” section that tells the adorable story of how she met her husband and the fantastic photography tutorials. Love her. Love her. Love her.

2. Wheels and Deals. Marielle, or Stephanie Niehans, didn’t use to be famous. She was just a normal stay-at-home mom, raising her four cute kids and madly in love with her husband. Her blog was unique because it celebrated her love for domesticity instead of griping about motherhood like many mommy blogs. But she was still relatively unknown and happy to stay that way. Then Stephanie bought her husband flying lessons for his birthday. And one day in August 2008, they were riding in a small plane with his flight instructor. And that plane crashed.

Stephanie spent two months in a coma, burned over 80 percent of her body. Her sisters took in her little kids who didn’t understand why they couldn’t see their mom. Today she is sadly scarred but overjoyed to be back home with her family. Her blog is beyond words. Want to see the triumph of the human spirit and the beauty of family and love? See Nielson’s blog. It will change you.

3. The Snit of the Day. One of the funniest blogs on the Web is The Snit of the Day. It was “just drunk.” It found random sites that match your interests. You choose from a list of interests. This site is where those stickers came from! Do you remember those bumper stickers when Facebook bumper stickers were cool? You remember those bumper stickers that had black-and-white pictures of Oprah and The Today Show. And now Stephanie Nielson, didn’t used to be famous. She was just a normal stay-at-home mom, raising her four cute kids and madly in love with her husband. Her blog was unique because it celebrated her love for domesticity instead of griping about motherhood like many mommy blogs. But she was still relatively unknown and happy to stay that way. Then Stephanie bought her husband flying lessons for his birthday. And one day in August 2008, they were riding in a small plane with his flight instructor. And that plane crashed.

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

OFFBEAT

Tenn. man arrested after allegedly drunk-dialing 911

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — A Middle Tennessee man was arrested after police said he drunk-dialed 911 and has called police 47 times over the last year. Murfreesboro police arrested a 57-year-old man on Thursday after police responded to an emergency call to find him intoxicated in his home. According to the police report, officers asked him why he called 911 and he replied that he was “just drunk.” The Daily News Journal reported that police later learned that the man has repeatedly called 911 since September 2008. He was charged with abuse of the 911 system and booked into the Rutherford County Jail.

Man dressed as elf threatens Santa with TNT, arrested

MORROW, Ga. — A man dressed as an elf is jailed in suburban Atlanta after police say he told Santa he had dynamite in his bag. Santa called mall security and Caldwell was arrested. Caldwell faces several charges, including having hoax devices and making terrorist threats.

Information compiled from the Associated Press
SMC doctors club promotes science

By ALISON MEAGHER
News Writer

The Saint Mary’s College Future Women’s Doctors Club held an event at Coquillard Primary Center on Dec. 3 to promote interest in science to young girls.

“We wanted to empower young girls and get them interested in science,” said Catherine Cleary, the vice president of the Future Women’s Doctors Club.

The club was originally created to encourage and assist peers looking at gaining acceptance to medical, dental and graduate schools, but the group also arranges volunteer and internship positions with local doctors.

“Coquillard is a title one school. There is a lot of poverty there,” Cleary said. “Our group wanted to give them the same chance that other schools might have.”

The two-day program, entitled “The Girl Power Workshop,” was created for third and fourth grade girls. During the two days, the girls were able to dissect fish, make volcanoes, analyze fingerprints, play with magnets and pretend to be doctors.

“The event went well,” Cleary said. “At first the girls were hesitant, but by the end they were showing me fish eyeballs. They thoroughly enjoyed it.”

Catherine Cleary
vice president
Future Women’s Doctors Club

Students and families from around the Notre Dame community peiced together puzzles to raise awareness and funds for autism in a puzzle competition Sunday afternoon sponsored by Special Friends, Ryan Hall and the Class of 2011. Approximately 75 people competed in individual and team competitions for prizes including gift cards and a Nerf gun. The Special Friends Club pairs Notre Dame students with autistic children in South Bend and Granger, and many of the families and students involved with the club could be found gathered around puzzles in North Dining Hall.

Special Friends coordinator Lauren Schmitt said the event was oriented both towards raising awareness and fundraising.

“The symbol of autism is a puzzle piece because puzzles really help kids with autism work on their fine motor skills and focus their attention,” Schmitt said. “The event uses this symbol to raise awareness and to help fundraising for this cause.”

Contact Alison Meagher at ameagher01@saintmarys.edu

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

Students and families from Notre Dame and to the Sonya Ansari Center for Autism at the Logan Center in South Bend. According to Ryan Hall president Courtney Vargas, Schmitt and Kayla Coggins, both residents of Ryan Hall, approached the Hall Council at the beginning of the year to find out how Ryan could get involved with Special Friends.

“The special part of the puzzle competition is that it is a combination of families from the community and students from Notre Dame,” Vargas said. “I think that it is a great event, and I hope that this is something that our dorm could be involved with in the future.”

Students from Notre Dame have a history supporting causes such as special needs and autism. Special Friends in particular is tied to a combination of families and to the Sonya Ansari Center for Autism at the Logan Center in South Bend. Special Friends coordinator Lauren Schmitt said the event was oriented both towards raising awareness and fundraising.

“The symbol of autism is a puzzle piece because puzzles really help kids with autism work on their fine motor skills and focus their attention,” Schmitt said. “The event uses this symbol to raise awareness and to help fundraising for this cause.”

The money collected from entry fees and ticket sales will be donated to Special Friends and to the Sonya Ansari Center for Autism at the Logan Center in South Bend.

Puzzles help raise awareness, funds

“Education is the way out of poverty. [Education] breaks the cycle,” Cleary said. “I volunteered with autistic people for years ago, I knew that it was a symbol of autism. The symbol of autism is a puzzle piece because puzzles really help kids with autism work on their fine motor skills and focus their attention.”

Lauren Schmitt
Special Friends coordinator

Students and families from Notre Dame and to the Sonya Ansari Center for Autism at the Logan Center in South Bend. Special Friends vice president Sean Kickham assembled a team of students and families from Notre Dame to the Sonya Ansari Center for Autism at the Logan Center in South Bend.

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“I was drawn to Special Friends because I love to work with kids, and Professor Whitman’s autism class got me interested in the group,” Coggins said. “I think that the student interaction with the kids is what really makes the work that Special Friends does a great idea.”

During Disabilities Week in the spring, Special Friends will be hosting an autism conference featuring a Yale neurologist who will discuss some of his recent research on this handi-cap and raise awareness for ways to help the cause.

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu

The partnerships between the kids and Notre Dame students are the most integral part of the club’s work.

South Bend mother Deanna Finfrock watched her four-year-old son Nolan play games with volunteers from Ryan Hall and his Special Friend partner Coggins.

“Nolan has a great time with the college kids,” Finfrock said. “These students are incredibly patient, and I love to see him having such a good time here.”

Finfrock said Nolan was recently diagnosed with autism and free events like the puzzle competition are the perfect option for her family in the midst of high medical costs. The programs sponsored by Special Friends focus on community participation from families like Nolan’s.

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Aidan
continued from page 1
by naming it after Fitzgerald. “This is a unique opportu-

nity on campus because you always see things about can-

cer fundraisers, but this is a way to treat cancer patients like human

beings,” Fitzgerald said. “You wouldn’t think to give some-

one a blanket, but something that simple is personal and provides an opportunity to make a huge, lasting differ-

ence in someone’s life.”

In the Project’s first year, 250 students made 100 blankets in the LaFayette Ballroom. It has since grown into the largest service event on campus and changed locations to South Dining Hall to accommodate for yearly growth. In addi-

tion, the event won a national award for the best service project last year.

After the fleece used for the blankets ran out in the first hour of last year’s Aidan Project, the event’s sponsors spent over $4,000 on fleece this year to be more prepared for a large volunteer turnout.

This year, the Project’s organizers decided to change the organizational structure of the event in order to get the dorsums more involved.

“We have commissioners in each dorm to get the word out,” Fitzgerald said.

“It’s not just about making blankets, it’s more about awareness of cancer, especially in people our age.”

Aidan Fitzgerald

senior

“We noticed that the best participation came from dorms with a direct connec-

tion to the Aidan Project, so we decided having someone talking about the event is better than just putting up posters in dor-

ms,” Teitgen said. “Another change this year was the blankets use one layer of fleece instead of two at the request of local hospitals w h o s e p a t i e n t s r e c e i v e t h e b l a n k e t s . A c c o r d i n g t o Teitgen, the dou-

ble-layer fleeces were too warm for young can-

cer patients because the hospita-

ls are climate controlled.

The Project focuses on raising awareness for youth cancer, so a majority of the blankets made go to children’s hospitals in South Bend, Mishawaka, Indianapolis and other

Indiana communities, though some blankets also go to adult patients. According to Fitzgerald, the event’s coordinators hope to start sending more blankets to hospitals in the Chicago area as well.

“We also send proceeds from Aidan Project T-shirt sales to Riley Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis,” Teitgen said. “It’s the biggest children’s hospital in the state, and Aidan is from Indianapolis, so it was natu-

ral to donate money and blankets there.”

Volunteers and project committee members are also encouraged to bring a blan-

det home with them to their hometown hospitals or to loved ones who suffer from cancer.

“We want to keep track of where the blankets are going, and we would love to spread word of the event more,” Teitgen said.

Although Fitzgerald will graduate this year, he and Teitgen are both confident the event will continue to be popular and successful in years to come.

“The Aidan Project is a pretty well known event, and there’s been a huge response so far,” Fitzgerald said. “It will be different because the event will have less of a personal connection.”

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Food services all made con-

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opportunities to make orna-

ments, candy cane reindeer, mini-Christmas trees and mini-stickings for the chil-

dren who attended.

Gifts were served pan-

cakes, sausage and eggs all

made by students. Target, Meijer, Krispy Kreme, Studebagels and Gordon’s

Student volunteers help make 400 blankets as part of the Aidan Project in South Dining Hall yesterday.

Santa
continued from page 1

tures on Santa’s lap and told him what they wanted for Christmas.

One little boy wanted to know how he got down the chimney and what his elves were doing,” Deranek said. “It was fun to see the kids interacting with Santa.”

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iraq prepares for elections

BAGHDAD — Iraqi lawmakers approved plans Sunday to hold parliament elections early next year that are seen as an important step toward political reconciliation and easing the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

The vote — during an emergency session convened after weekend deadlines were missed — followed marathon talks by political leaders to break an impasse over balloting provisions that would satisfy the nation’s rival groups.

I would like to congratulate the Iraqi people for its historical victory,” said Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi, who had held up a vote last week. He also hailed political leaders for compromises that “got Iraq out from the bottleneck and our problem.”

Criminal rule called for in Guinea

CONAKRY — A regional African bloc on Sunday called for a civilian rule as the junta’s No. 2 assumed control of the country following an assassination attempt on its leader.

Gen. Moussa Koumbate, the vice president of the military junta, rushed back to Guinea’s capital on Sunday to review a Thursday assassination attempt on the country’s leader.

The execution could propel other states to eventually consider the switch, which proponents say ends arguments over unnecessary suffering during injection. California and Tennessee previously considered then rejected the one-drug approach.

Though the untested method has never been used on the United States, one difference is clear: Bisos will likely die more slowly than inmates put to death with the traditional method, which includes a drug that stops the heart.

Sex abuse claims filed against Jesuits

SPOKANE, Wash. — More than 500 people in five western states have filed claims against the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus in advance of a November deadline, alleging members of the Catholic order sexually abused them as children.

The Spokane Review in Spokane reports the claims against the Jesuits span decades and range from Native Alaskan children to students at Spokane’s Gonzaga Preparatory School.

A federal judge overseeing the Chapter 11 reorganization of the province set a Nov. 30 deadline for people to file the claims. The organization includes Jesuits in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

The Jesuits already have settled 200 additional sex-abuse claims.

LOCAL NEWS

Teen charged with murder of brother

HUNTING SUN, Ind. — Showing no emotion and with his hands cuffed behind his back, an Indiana teenager pleaded not guilty to killing his 10-year-old brother. His mother and father were greeting mourners who came to pay respects to their slain younger son.

In front of a few of his friends, the teen answered only basic questions during Friday’s hearing. His attorney, Gary Sorge, entered a not guilty plea on his behalf.

Tiger Woods faces more scrutiny

Golfer’s actions widen his distance from the African-American community

Associated Press

Amid all the headlines generated by Tiger Woods’ troubles — the puzzling car accident, the suggestion of marital turmoil and multiple mistresses — little attention has been given to the race of the women linked with the world’s greatest golfer.

Except in the black community.

When three white women were said to be romantically involved with Woods in addition to his blonde, Swedish wife, blogs, airwaves and barbershops started humming, and Woods’ already tenuous standing among many blacks took a beating.

On the nationally syndicated Tom Joyama radio show, Woods was the butt of jokes all week.

“Thankfully, Tiger, you didn’t marry a black woman. Because if a sister caught you running around with a bunch of white hoochie-mamas,” one caller suggested in song, she would have castrated him.

“The Grinch’s Theme Song” didn’t stop there.

“The question everyone in America wants to ask you is, how many white women does one brother want?”

As one blogger, Robert Paul Reyes, wrote: “Today, Tiger Woods had cheated on his gorgeous white wife with black women, the golfing great’s accident would have been barely a blip in the blogosphere.”

The darts reflect blacks’ resistance to inter-race romance. They also are a reflection of discomfort with a man who has set himself up as a model for which includes a drug that stops the heart.

But at the same time we see him as a black man with a white woman, and it makes a difference,” said Johnson Cooper, a 26-year-old African-American from New York City. “There’s just this preservation thing we have among white women, and it’s up there in the same level as any other group.”

President Obama’s continued high standing among the vast majority of the Europeans polled, even as his rating sagged in the U.S.

The president’s continued high standing in Europe may be due in part to the deep-rooted hostility Europeans have harbored for his predecessor, George W. Bush.

Europeans seem to sense that even if he only shows his face at Copenhagen and has failed to sway his own Democratic Congress to do more on global warming, Obama will likely be bringing far more to the climate table than they could ever have expected from Bush.

Obama on Friday altered his plans and will join the crucial last week of the meeting amid shifts in the Chinese and Indian positions, reviving some hope of a major breakthrough.

“It sounds like he’s still the bees knees for everyone in Britain. He’s fabulous,” said Sarah Hodgkin, a civil servant from Essex, England.

In the small Spanish town of Arroyo de Luz, about 180 miles (300 kilometers) southwest of Madrid, Miguel Angel Bermejo Carrero made news when he renamed his bar in honor of Obama during the Democratic primary battle, even before it was clear Obama would be his party’s candidate.
Transpo
continued from page 1

Grant Schmidt and student body vice president Cynthia Weber began working on creating a bus route for students to use on the weekends as a safe and reliable way to travel off campus for the weekend.

“Hopefully this will become a staple in how students get on and off campus on the weekends,” he said.

The route starts at Library Circle, runs through student neighborhoods and stops near the student center, Lougheed Fiddler’s Hearth, Madison Oyster Bar and Corby’s Irish Pub, as well as Finnegans.

Schmidt said he was happy to hear about the high number of student riders on Friday. Numbers for Saturday’s ridership were not available on Sunday.

“It was really important for this weekend to be successful,” he said. “But the buses were literally packed.”

He said the only issues he heard from students were people not knowing the time schedule of the bus route.

“That wasn’t too bad, I got used to approximating when the buses arrived,” he said.

Overall, riding the bus was a good time, Schmidt said.

On Saturday night, people were singing Christmas Carols together, he said. “People just need to get into the spirit, “Vasto said. “Plus, we were all I really needed to see was the runners.”

Chancer took the bus home from Finnegan’s by chance as it was outside of the bar when he was leaving.

“The fact that the bus was there when the bar closed was really convenient,” he said. “You can save the three dollars you would pay for a cab with and buy another drink.”

When he got on the bus at the end of the night, Schanzier said there were about 80 other students on the bus.

“All my friends were able to get on and it dropped us right by my house,” he said.

Schmidt said the buses will run this weekend during study days, but he does not think it will run the weekend after, and then it will start up again the first weekend of the spring semester.

“When people get back from Christmas break, we want to have a laminated card with the schedule for students to put in their pocket or purses,” he said. “And then we want to make a more student friendly version with all the bars labeled.”

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Nonprofit
continued from page 1

national partners in the next three years,” he said. “We are currently in negotiation with two national partners… We partner with nonprofits to create programs that fit their needs.

Currently, the nonprofit executive programs include Leaders in Transition, an annual program that guides its participants in a transition from a year of post-graduate volunteer service into the rest of their lives as they look to enter the workforce, Hardy said.

“How to maintain thatphilanthropic spirit even through you’re entering the marketplace,” is a major theme of the Leaders in Transition program, Hardy said.

He said the University also offers a 10-day training program in Cicero, Ill., in partnership with the Cicero Youth Task Force, which works with nonprofits serving the Hispanic population.

Also included in the current programs is the Civic Sector Leadership Fellows Program, for rising stars in nonprofit.

Marc Hardy
director
Nonprofit Executive Programs

“All of our programs… are really focused on helping leaders in nonprofits become better at what they do.”

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmcrystal@nd.edu

Energy
continued from page 1

was what really put us out over the top and it was such a simple thing to do,” Vasto said. “One of the girls said that her eyes were actually burning when we set the lights back to normal. I also sent out a reminder to hurry up and do one thing that everyone knows we need to do.”

Vasto said the e-mail reminders were very helpful because her dorm mates wanted to win the competition and the e-mails helped them stay on top of everything.

“I think Cavanaugh girls are already pretty conscious about their energy use so simple reminders were all I really needed to do to get people to participate,” Vasto said. “Plus, we are pretty competitive.”

Vasto said her dorm’s residents were especially eager to participate because the winner’s savings were being donated to such a good cause.

“Because the money was going to the Global Water Initiative, we had greater interest,” Vasto said. “Besides helping provide clean water to people in need, one of the greatest benefits the competition provides is educating Notre Dame students about how they can be more environmentally conscious,” Vasto said.

“The competition does a great job of raising awareness about our energy consumption on campus and how often we are unnecessarily wasteful,” she said. “There are so many simple things we can be doing to reduce our energy usage on a daily basis.”

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajickova@nd.edu

The Observer ◆ CAMPUS NEWS
Monday, December 7, 2009
WASHINGTON President Barack Obama is shifting the timescales of his visit to an international climate summit in Copenhagen as prospects for a political agreement at the event seem more likely.

The U.S., India and China all have specific proposals on the table for Copenhagen, and time, and world leaders are aiming for a deal that includes commitments on reducing emissions and financing for developing countries. They no longer expect to reach a legally binding agreement, as long as it has been, the Obama administration.

Obama is hoping to capitalize on steps that India and China are poised to take over the next month to cut their carbon emissions. It will be the first time China, the world's No. 2 emitter of carbon dioxide, agrees to quantify its emissions.

India, the world's No. 4 emitter, has said it will aim to cut its carbon intensity, which is the amount of emissions per dollar of economic output, by 20 percent below what it was in 2005. It has said it wants to rely more on clean energy.

Obama announced his own target last week, a day after the G8 leaders said they would commit to a 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Obama announced his own plan for a 17 percent reduction in the next four years, but that goal — which many climate change experts say is too weak — has not been accepted by the international community.

Obama's Copenhagen trip is likely to include some deals, but the main focus is on getting a political agreement at the conference. The meeting will be key to any long-term negotiations.

'Buy local' movement excels

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A lot of things have helped Bob Dormody and his partners turn their annual holiday craft show into a small, year-round permanent store: a growing appreciation for handmade, unique goods, a way to diversify the company's business, and a $27 million economic impact. Cities including Cambridge and Somerville, Mass., and Portland, Maine, have similar pushes.

Nancie Gallas, executive director of Craftland in Providence, said the company will call off their respective publicity campaigns and change the name of their annual holiday craft show to Craftland: a Growing Love for Handmade, Unique Goods.

The company started in 1994 as a way to diversify the company's business. It is now a year-round permanent store: a growing appreciation for handmade, unique goods, a way to diversify the company's business, and a $27 million economic impact.

Craftland is one of many craft fairs and markets that have been popping up in the past few years as people seek out unique and handmade goods.

'Buy local' movements are gaining traction in cities across the country as people look for ways to support local businesses and reduce their carbon footprint.

Geothermal technology has been around for decades, it works and it is increasingly affordable. At colleges that must maintain dozens of large buildings, the savings are magnified.

Those involved in the decision to pursue geothermal technology say they wanted to use less coal-fired power, although the schools also had to save money to justify the move.

The technology is a natural fit for schools like Boise State that sit atop geothermal projects. The development came one day after India said it would cut the ratio of greenhouse gases pollution to production by 20 percent to 25 percent from 2005 levels by 2020 but would not agree to a hard limit on the amount of heat-trapping gases it could release. India's pledge, like the one made earlier by China, is a cut in carbon intensity.

That means emissions can keep rising as their developing economies grow, but they would do so more slowly. China pledged weeks ago to commit to a 40 percent to 45 percent reduction in carbon intensity from 2005 levels over the next decade. That means its emissions would grow at half the rate they would otherwise.

In Brief

Bashas' grocery store chain plans to close 30 stores in its expansion but has not yet announced plans for its future. It is accused of being a key player in a labor dispute.

The agreement is seen as overcoming a key hurdle in the labor dispute and could be a sign that an agreement can be reached.

Obama will now leave for Copenhagen late Thursday and return to Washington on Friday.

The president had said that he would travel to the Copenhagen conference to help his appearance would help offset a deal. The U.S. will have negotiators involved throughout the Dec. 7-18 conference.

It is also possible that Obama could tack on another agenda item to his revamp, another agenda item to his Nov. 20 trip to the United Nations in New York.

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How to keep tradition alive

Notre Dame is a special place. Perhaps more than any other university, it holds almost mystical importance to its faithful. To many the future of Notre Dame is the future of morality or Catholicism or tradition itself. As Notre Dame goes, so go the giant intangible constructs, as they say. When it comes to creating devotion, this is excellent. But I am sure it has already occurred to you (looking at you here, Fr. Jenkins) that this can be problematic when trying to make decisions. Because every one’s investment feels so large, everyone believes that what they want for the University must be accomplished, or we court disaster.

And what represents the University to these faithful? Football. So I am sure your decision is a nerve-wracking one. Choosing a coach to please one faction of the faithful may upset another faction. You are, perhaps, tempted to choose a “compromise candidate,” one who will be the least objectionable to all concerned. One that makes no one angry. I urge you to urple to do this. Not even a standard candidate exists — one who will make everyone overjoyed.

I write to nominate for the position of head football coach a life-size cardboard cutout of Lou Holtz. Or perhaps, if Notre Dame’s coach hasn’t put as large a drain on University coffers as has been speculated, you could even spring for a Lou Holtz Fathead. Choose wisely! This would embody Notre Dame history and tradition itself. As Notre Dame goes, so do the Catholic Church at all. Lou Holtz Fathead has never done a single thing to advance the legality of abortion. Put that in your pipe, Randall Terry, and smoke it. In fact he’s never challenged the hierarchy of the Catholic Church at all. Lou Holtz Fathead has never lied on a resume, has never been accused of infidelity, of poor sportsmanship, of racism or of aiding or abetting terrorism. He has never, ever, once, suggested that Notre Dame should lower its academic standards in order to improve its football program. I have it on good authority he would keep his views on homosexuality to himself. Mark May would still disagree with him, but come on. That’s part of the fun.

It’s time to return Notre Dame to a tradition of supporting Notre Dame tradition. Allow our football team, and by implication Notre Dame itself, and by further implication the Notre Dame faithful, to mean something again. Imagine, if you will, players running out of the locker room, helmets gleaming in expectation of the victory to come. One by one they good-naturedly slap Lou Holtz Fathead on the behind, come. One by one they good-naturedly slap Lou Holtz Fathead on the behind, as they do, they are overjoyed. Imagine halftime with playerscircled around Lou Holtz Fathead, all anxious-taking a knee. Lou Holtz Fathead smiles. His enthusiasm makes everyone want it just a little more. At practice, Lou Holtz Fathead will never tell anyone it’s okay to be undisciplined, and he’ll never berate a player. He will handle all situations with characteristic aplomb.

Most importantly, Lou Holtz Fathead would embody Notre Dame history and tradition without endangering it. In The Observer, the wider sports media, even in dorm rooms and classrooms, well-meaning fans, students and alumni pontificate without a hint of irony about the sacred tradition that is Notre Dame winning football games. Lou Holtz Fathead speaks directly to this group. By selecting an image of 1988 Lou Holtz for Lou Holtz Fathead we get all that he meant to the school without that thing at South Carolina, or that kind of lisp thing he does. No one will ever be able to claim Lou Holtz Fathead is anything but emblematic of a time when Notre Dame really meant something, as a team and also a school. Lou Holtz Fathead has never done a single thing to advance the legality of abortion. Put that in your pipe, Randall Terry, and smoke it. In fact he’s never challenged the hierarchy of the Catholic Church at all. Lou Holtz Fathead has never lied on a resume, has never been accused of infidelity, of poor sportsmanship, of racism or of aiding or abetting terrorism. He has never, ever, once, suggested that Notre Dame should lower its academic standards in order to improve its football program. I have it on good authority he would keep his views on homosexuality to himself. Mark May would still disagree with him, but come on. That’s part of the fun.

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Grant and Go system unfair

Not only are we limited as to how much food we can take to go, but we have a set variety of food. Sure, the dining hall has a set variety of food as well, but that selection is much more limited than that of Grant and Go. Also, being able to get our food to go from the dining hall would allow us to be able to select hot food, refrigerate it and heat it up later instead of being constricted to what is available in the dining hall.

Skinny people or those of us on diets who want to fit the amount of food as I can into a box and save some for later.

Mitchell Myers
Kegel Hall
Dec. 4

Global warming skeptic

There is a lot of research taking place these days that points to global warming as an imminent threat. The great leader, Barack Obama and his Congressional cronies are moving ahead with legislation and international meetings to begin limiting greenhouse gas emissions on a grand scale. Europe, in its infinite wisdom, is also pushing climate change legislation domestically. Every single person knows that the global economy is hurting so much already, they want to handicap our economic capacity with these kinds of regulations that likely won’t yield any positive results.

Allow me to explain. In most environmental issues there is a direct effect on humans and ecological well-being. When air pollution is too high, air quality becomes intolerable and has a direct human effect. When an oil spill turns the ocean and beaches black, there is a direct ecological impact and humans cannot use the water until it is cleaned up. These are all problems with a direct cause traced back to us that we should resolve. Climate change is a little fuzzier. Right now there is no direct link between global warming and human action. Sure, we are releasing a lot of different gases into the atmosphere while manufacturing goods, but need I remind you that every single time there is a fire emergency, it releases greenhouse gases? A single volcanic eruption can spew out huge amounts of carbon dioxide. How are you going to regulate those kinds of phenomena? With all these other variables added to the mix, plus the very long task of measuring the temperature of the earth given its sheer size (do they average the North Pole temperature with the temperature in Ecuador?), it is impossible to conclusively say that humans are the sole cause of climate change. In fact, going by current scientific findings, the climate of the earth, including the time periods in which humans were even around. North America was once ice free, but the Middle East was once a dense jungle. That was all before we had cars and factories.

At the recent Commonwealth summit, climate change was at the forefront in preparation for the Copenhagen talks. The poor countries requested that at least $10 billion per year be offered up by the richer countries in order for the poor countries to be able to make the transition to clean energy. This request was met with a very large variety of food from the dining hall seems to be a much better way to feed students on the go.

Notley's teams in the early '90s suffered

Peter Zavodnyik
alumnus
class of 1992
Dec. 4

PE must be worth something

As a freshman, there are many things you have to just get used to here at Notre Dame. Paretials are a big one that I imagine will never seem to make sense. The fact that the University can put such harsh regulations on the new freedom college is supposed to bring doesn’t seem right. The amount of work that has to be done each day is also something that you just have to accept and push through during the first year. But one thing that a college freshman should have to accept is that there is a class for a full year and not getting credit for it. There is no good reason physical education should be a zero-credit course.

PE is required for all Notre Dame freshmen, but while it is a graduation requirement, there is no credit given for the class. It meets twice a week and consists of 20 weeks of different physical activities and 10 weeks of Contemporary Topics. Attendance is mandatory at each and every class and multiple tardies result in an absence and require a make-up class or assignment. In Contemporary Topics there is a paper to write and other various assignments to do outside of class. So far this doesn’t sound at all different from some of the Arts and Letters classes offered off campus. Actually, the required attendance and make-up classes make PE seem more difficult in some ways.

Given these reasons, it makes no sense to make PE a two-credit course per semester, then there is absolutely no reason it shouldn’t be worth one credit. I am in Liturgy Choir, and it was my surprise to find out that I could get credit for it. I am receiving one credit hour this semester for it. Now, I attend two rehearsals a week and we sing at Mass on Sunday. While attendance is kept, there are excused absences. There is never work outside of choir, except the occasional requirement to work a couple hours at a concert stand or something. This is less regulated than PE, but I am getting credit for Lit Choir and not PE. Something here is not right at all.

Some people may argue that since everyone has to take PE before they can graduate, then it doesn’t matter. But everyone has to take a lot of similar classes their first year. For example, everyone has to take a University Seminar their freshman year. Should that class be worth any credit? The answer to that question is obvious. So why isn’t the answer to the question about whether PE should count as a credit just as simple?

Given these facts, I can see no reason that PE is a zero-credit course. Attendance is mandatory and work is assigned for Contemporary Topics outside of class. Also, other things, such as Liturgy Choir, can be taken as one-credit courses and even though PE is a graduation requirement, that doesn’t mean it shouldn’t count as some sort of credit for students. This is a great example of the University adding things to freshman year without giving students any recognition for completion and is just nonsensical. PE should be worth credit for Notre Dame freshmen.

End of story.

Lindsey Marugg
freshman
Pasquerilla West Hall
Dec. 5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Monday, December 7, 2009

Grass and Go is flawed because we are overcharged for what we can get and it limits our choice on what food and the quantity of that food.

It takes a quick look at the Notre Dame food Web site and a few calculations to find that for each meal swipe we are charged $10.52. With each point costing $1.50, the food as I can into a box and save some for later.

Grab and Go is flawed because we are overcharged for what we can get and it limits our choice on what food and the quantity of that food.

Barack Obama and his Congressional cronies are moving ahead with legislation and international meetings to begin limiting greenhouse gas emissions on a grand scale. Europe, in its infinite wisdom, is also pushing climate change legislation domestically. Every single person knows that the global economy is hurting so much already, they want to handicap our economic capacity with these kinds of regulations that likely won’t yield any positive results.

Allow me to explain. In most environmental issues there is a direct effect on humans and ecological well-being. When air pollution is too high, air quality becomes intolerable and has a direct human effect. When an oil spill turns the ocean and beaches black, there is a direct ecological impact and humans cannot use the water until it is cleaned up. These are all problems with a direct cause traced back to us that we should resolve. Climate change is a little fuzzier. Right now there is no direct link between global warming and human action. Sure, we are releasing a lot of different gases into the atmosphere while manufacturing goods, but need I remind you that every single time there is a fire emergency, it releases greenhouse gases? A single volcanic eruption can spew out huge amounts of carbon dioxide. How are you going to regulate those kinds of phenomena? With all these other variables added to the mix, plus the very long task of measuring the temperature of the earth given its sheer size (do they average the North Pole temperature with the temperature in Ecuador?), it is impossible to conclusively say that humans are the sole cause of climate change. In fact, going by current scientific findings, the climate of the earth, including the time periods in which humans were even around. North America was once ice free, but the Middle East was once a dense jungle. That was all before we had cars and factories.

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Not only are we limited as to how much food we can take to go, but we have a set variety of food. Sure, the dining hall has a set variety of food as well, but that selection is much more limited than that of Grant and Go. Also, being able to get our food to go from the dining hall would allow us to be able to select hot food, refrigerate it and heat it up later instead of being constricted to what is available in the dining hall.

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By COLIN RICH
Scene Writer

Woodie of the Year – Kings of Leon

After living in the shadows of alternative rock since the early 2000s, Kings of Leon emerged as one of this year’s hottest acts following the release of their fourth album “Only By The Night” in 2008. Comprised of three brothers and their cousin, this quartet tore up American airwaves with Grammy-nominated singles “Sex on Fire” and “Use Somebody.” While the band garnered an impressive following in the U.K. in the past several years, “Only By The Night” launched a wave of commercial success in the U.S., reaching No. 5 on the Billboard Charts and receiving critical acclaim from pop culture paragons Rolling Stone and Spin. Basking in their American ascent, Kings of Leon headlined the Lollapalooza and Austin City Limits music festivals and recently released a live DVD of their performance at London’s O2 Arena.

Best Video Woodie – Matt and Kim’s “Lessons Learned”

With one of the most impressively jazzy and imaginatively simple music videos ever made, Matt and Kim streaked off with the Best Video Woodie of 2009. The video featured Matt and Kim cosily exiting a van in a chilly Times Square before (uncomfortably stripping and running naked from the NYPD. This constituted their second MTV win for “Lessons Learned” which garnered Breakthrough Video honors at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards. Matt and Kim’s genuine affability, gratitude and spunk permeated the Woodies as the sprightly duo’s open performance paid a likewise skin-dart homage to their audacious video.

Breaking Woodie – Never Shout Never


Left Field Woodie – Tech N9ne

Well known for his collaborations with a broad range of other artists, a good spirited Tech N9ne took home the Left Field Woodie for his 2009 releases “K.O.D.,” “Sickology 101” and “The Box Set.” In Sept. 2008, Tech N9ne officially hit a milestone in his career, accumulating over a million album sales since the release of his double album “Killer.” Tech N9ne also co-owns the independent label Strange Fruit and his music career demonstrates a repeated embrace of a bizarre and brutal hardcore rap.

Performing Woodie – Green Day

Following the release of their eighth studio album and subsequent tour circuit, punk rock vets Green Day earned top performing honors for everything from their sold-out shows to their intense�“wake & bake” turntable diminish. Green Day has been increasing their fanbase and albums sales to new levels, and the band is set to perform at a large arena next year.

Good Woodie – Jamie Tworkowski

Becoming the first ever musician to take home a Woodie, Jamie Tworkowski founded To Write Love on Her Arms (TWLOHA), a non-profit movement dedicated to the spread of awareness and help for those who struggle with depression, addiction, self-injury and suicide. TWLOHA seeks to encourage, inform, inspire and invest directly into treatment and recovery. Today the organization produces the first ever pop-up “TWLOHA: A Live Event” in Brooklyn. Check out the TWLOHA Website to browse merchandise and learn details on how to get involved.

Best Music on Campus Woodie – Hotel of the Laughing Tree

This year’s best campus musicians reside in Long Island at Suffolk County Community College, where Hotel of the Laughing Tree’s astute lyricism and instrumental range amounts to more than just another indie also-ran. Hotel of the Laughing Tree is a quintet from Bay Shore. The band is made up of lead singer Tommy and his band mates. They have been a favorite of college students and dorm rooms every-where. Brooklyn-based electro pop duo Major Lazer are the most prominent participants of the Woodie Awards.

By ALEXANDRA KILPATRICK
Assistant Scene Editor

The annual mtvU Woodie Awards aired on Friday, April 24, 2009 and were presented by musical artists that would appeal to the wide-ranging music tastes of the college student audience.

The Breking Woodie, which awards the band that has the most impressive breakout of the year, was awarded to New York City-based Grizzly Bear. The band included frontman Dan Mangan and drummer Jonathan Meese. The band’s debut album “Yellow Shakespeare” was released in 2006 and has steadily gained popularity.

The Performing Woodie commemorates the musical artist who always gives a memorable live performance. Alternative rock group Animal Collective and punk rapper P.O.S. were all nominated for the award. The College Radio Woodie rewards the college station breaking out the latest and greatest in music as pioneers of the music industry, and nominees this year included KUPS 90.1 at the University of Puget Sound, WGRD 91.3 at Grand Valley State University, Coyote Radio at California State University, San Bernardino, KQOU 88.1 at University of Missouri and WFRS 92.1 at the University of Pittsburgh. The College Radio Woodie on Campus Woodie on Campus goes to the top college band, nominated rapper G-Eazy from Loyola University New Orleans, pop-rock band Oh, the Cutie’s “Grapevine Fires” is a touching animated video with a pretty much literal interpretation of the song’s lyrics. Another nominee is Brooklyn-based electro pop duo Major Lazer, previously known as Management, and their 2007 album, “Oracular Spectacular,” received plenty of airplay and was a hit for the band. Their single “Pump It Up” was a hit song similar to that of 90s style Smashingly Pumping.

Overall, the 2009 mtvU Woodie Awards celebrated the biggest lineup of nominees. From Asher Roth to MGMT to Matt & Kim, there was something for every college student.
Behind closed doors, there are whispers that MTV has finally been found guilty of at least one of many, many crimes against humanity (The Woodie Awards). After a long but secret trial, MTV was sentenced to the most disreputable place on earth: the loser's podium. The court heard testimony that the Woodies, a thinly veiled commercialization into the system of community service and thinking about what they've done. While this may not be true, it is the leading theory. Bitchy back-up singers, Teleprompters and unrefined hipness. The presenter was shocked but highly amused, saying, “This ain't your father's MTV. While this may not be true, it is the leading theory explaining the existence of the MTVU Awards, the leading college music award show.

MTV provided necessary stage, performers, music and rock with little respect for the legal drinking age declaring boldly, loudly and in its own edgy manner. “This isn’t your father’s award show.” The night quickly transformed into a manic display of college antics, over-hyped musicians, malfunctioning Teleprompters and unrefined hipness.

As the drinks flowed, audiences began to realize the incredible backdrop of well-dressed, party-goers and some inspired the crowd. An inspired performance, backed by nearby naked singers started the show on a high note, capped off by Kim’s stage dive off her bass drum. Never a network to miss an opportunity to

I can’t say that I’m a red carpet pro. Admittedly my first interview was in the Woodie Red Carpet disaster. Apparently the fact that I wasn’t interview- ing acts of U2 scale fame, instead these bands are minor fringe group favorites, didn’t occur to me. Nervous, panicky and so green to this type of experience, I clashed with the red carpet.

With a bit of practice, chatting with talent like Janette Monae, Janelle Monae and Pac Div, the Woodies Red Carpet was the scene to miss. Never a network to miss an opportunity to Never a network to miss an opportunity to commercialize into the system of community service and thinking about what they've done. While this may not be true, it is the leading theory explaining the existence of the MTVU Awards, the leading college music award show. The 2009 MTV Woodie Awards Red Carpet brought out publications ranging from Rolling Stone to daily college newspapers, like yours truly, The Observer. While I may not have had the best experiences from fake interviews while playing Never Have I Ever, I did manage to get an awkward smile from the stage pro. Admittedly my first interview on the Woodie Red Carpet was disaster. Apparently the fact that I wasn’t interview- ing acts of U2 scale fame, instead these bands are minor fringe group favorites, didn’t occur to me. Nervous, panicky and so green to this type of experience, I clashed with the red carpet.

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Vick victorious over former team in return to Atlanta

Drew Brees takes advantage of a late Redskins’ missed field goal to rally the Saints and remain undefeated

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Michael Vick took the snap, sprinted to his right, made a quick cut to the left, broke a tackle and dove into the end zone.

He didn’t do it alone.

Turns out, No. 7 still rules Atlanta.

Making quite a return to the Georgia Dome, Vick accounted for a pair of touchdowns — one running, the other passing — and backfired off his former home as the Philadelphia Eagles thoroughly dominated the short-handed Atlanta Falcons 34-7 on Sunday.

The Eagles (8-4) pulled two games ahead of the reeling Falcons (6-6) in the NFC wild-card standings, bringing a little more clarity to the playoff race. But most of the attention was on Vick’s first game in Atlanta since he went off on a prison dogfight.

Vick, a three-time Pro Bowler with the Falcons and one of the NFL’s most dynamic players before his stunning downfall, ran for a 5-yard touchdown in the third quarter, his first score since that final season in 2006. With the game out of hand, he slipped a 5-yard scoring pass to Brent Celek early in the fourth, his first score since Oct. 15, 2006.

“After that, all he did was watch — until the Eagles faced third-and-1 at the Atlanta 5 on the opening drive of the third quarter and lead- ing 13-0 in a game they had domi- nated. Trottling on the field to those familiar hoos, Vick lined up in a shotgun and pulled off the sort of play that was so familiar when he played for the home team.

Spotting the hole and taking the hole, Vick darted into the end zone for a touchdown that looked as though it lifted a huge weight off his shoul- ders. With the boost now doused out by thunderous cheers, Vick hopped off the turf, pulled away from his teammates and headed toward the stands.

He tried to flop the ball into the crowd, but was thwarted by the net raised for the extra point.

The ball deflected back into the hands of fullback Leonard Weaver, who turned toward Vick, apparently to ask if he wanted to keep it.

Already heading toward the Eagles bench, Vick just pointed toward the stands. Weaver man- aged to get it to a fan on the second try.

Vick did keep the ball after his TD pass. And when it was done, he lin- gered on the field for a few moments before being whisked away.

Three Redman, filling in for Ryan, had a miserable game after leading the Falcons to a last-second win the week before. Redman was picked off twice, one of them returned 83 yards for a touchdown by Sheldon Brown.

Saints 33, Redskins 30

LANDOVER, Md. — Oh, what a charmed life the unbeaten New Orleans Saints are leading these days.

There’s surely no other way to explain the shanked punt that turned into a 29-yard gain, the Drew Brees interception that some- how morphed into another touch- down for Robert Meachem, or the fact that the Washington Redskins missed a 23-yard field goal that would have sealed a victory with less than 2 minutes to play.

It seemed inevitable that Brees, operating with no time- outs, would lead an 80-yard, game- tying drive that took just 33 seconds and tied the game with 1:19 remaining. And, of course, in over- time, the Saints benefited from a replay reversal and won Sunday’s and several future games.

The ball deflected off his left hand to his right, broke a tackle and dove safely across the goal line.

The first big New Orleans break of the season.

The Saints quarterback Drew Brees celebrates after throwing a touchdown pass in New Orleans’ 33-30 win over Washington.

Saints quarterback Drew Brees celebrates after throwing a touchdown pass in New Orleans’ 33-30 win over Washington.

Perfect performance. The defense gave up 455 yards to the Redskins, and the offense had to make up a 10-point deficit in the fourth quar- ter. Washington (3-9) blew a late fourth-quarter lead to lose for the third straight week.

Brees finished 35 for 49 for 419 yards with two touchdowns and one interception for the Saints, who won a sub-40 degree game for the first time since 1997. Meachem caught eight passes for 142 yards and scored the late game-tying touchdown, and quarterback Mark Brunell completed 25 passes over the middle that made the score 30-30.

Meachem also scored a fluke first-half touchdown by forcing a fumble after an interception.

After Meachem’s late touchdown, the Saints had a chance to win in regulation after Jonathan Vilma’s interception, but Hartley — playing his first game of the season in place of returning veteran John Carney — was short left.

The Redskins won the toss and had the ball to start overtime, but Mike Sellers fumbled when he was upended by Chris McAlister after making a catch — a turnover that was only verified after a meticulous replay review — and Cortland Finnegan returned the ball at the Washington 37.

Brees needed only seven plays to march New Orleans to the 1 before Hartley made the game-winning kick.

Jason Campbell completed 30 of 42 passes for 367 yards and three touchdowns with one interception for the Redskins. Campbell fre- quently picked up the slack for struggling pick Malcolm Jenkins, and much- maligned 2008 second-rounders Devin Thomas and Fred Davis had big games once again. Thomas had seven catches for a career-high 100 yards and touchdowns, and Davis had five receptions for 53 yards and a score.

The Redskins’ season-high yardage output came against Saints defensive coordinator Greg Williams, who ran Washington’s defense from 2004-07 and was passed over for the head coaching job when Joe Gibbs retired. Players on both teams expected for Williams to try to punish his old team relentlessly, but his players regretted the old tackles and couldn’t shut the Redskins down when they were trying to mount a comeback in the fourth quarter.

Snickers’ missed field goal bailed the Saints out, but it wasn’t the first big New Orleans break of the game. Meachem’s first-half touchdown was an especially unforgettable play.

Facing third-and-26 at the Redskins 44, Brees backiked off pressure and threw a desper- ation pass deep over the middle toward Washington’s Devin Hester for a 44-yard touchdown.

The ball deflected off Hester’s back to make an interception, rolled over, got up and ran 14 yards before Brees simply flush the ball away from an upright Moore and started running down the sideline — high-stepping for 44 yards and a touchdown.

The moment of the winning touchdown of the season, tying the game at 17 with 22 seconds left in the first half.

Just as strange as that touch- down was a play that set it up. A few plays earlier when the Saints punted from their own 30, Thomas linemen Steve Hutchinson and Andrew Whitworth blocked the punt, that it hit Washington’s Kevin Barnes flush on the back near the sideline. New Orleans recovered for the Redskins 41.

Eagles quarterback Michael Vick points to the crowd after Philadelphia’s 34-7 win over Atlanta on Sunday. Vick scored his first touchdown since October 2006 in his return to the Georgia Dome.
**Around the Nation**

**NCAA Football AP Top 25**

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**NCAA Football Coaches’ Top 25**

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Texas kicker Hunter Lawrence is hoisted into the air by teammates after kicking the winning field goal with one second remaining on Saturday, securing the Big 12 championship and sending Texas to play for the national title.

**IN BRIEF**

NFL cuts revenue-sharing program, NFIPA to protest move

NEW YORK — The NFL has told the players’ union it will cut a $100 million annual supplemental revenue-sharing program that subsidizes lower-revenue teams. That plan, which is a small portion of the 56.2 billion shared in full by all 32 teams, will be cut because the 2010 season will not have a salary cap.

The league is trying to cut expenses in order to maintain a competitive balance in the league. The NFL Players Association will challenge the league’s move on March 6. The NFL has told the players’ union it will cut $100 million from the annual supplemental revenue-sharing program that subsidizes lower-revenue teams.

Tiger’s caddy Williams offers support for his boss

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Tiger Woods’ caddie said Saturday he supports his boss while the world’s No. 1 golfer copes with allegations of extramarital affairs.

Steve Williams has been Woods’ caddie for 19 years. He refused to discuss Woods’ private life, although he said the golfer had confided in him.

Williams also told the newspaper he expected to caddie for Woods’ son in San Diego the last week in January. He said Woods called to tell him he was “not going to withdraw from the Chevron World Challenge in California because of injuries from a Nov. 27 car crash.”

Williams was to have driven in a dirt track car race at Te Marua, north of Wellington, on Saturday night but withdrew because of engine trouble.

Flyer Carcillo suspended by NHL for role in brawl

PHILADELPHIA — The NHL suspended Flyers forward Dan Carcillo four games for his role in a fight that earned him a whopping 19 penalty minutes and a game misconduct.

Carcillo landed a big punch on Washington’s Matt Bradley as he dropped his gloves Saturday night. Following Carcillo’s punch, Bradley fell to the ice and left the game. Despite being in the process of drop- ping his gloves, Bradley wasn’t penalized.

Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said on Sunday that he did not agree with the decision.

Carcillo was tagged with 2 minutes for cross-checking, 2 minutes for instigation, 5 minutes for fighting, a 10-minute misconduct and a game misconduct in Philadelphia’s 8–2 loss.

He will start the suspension beginning Monday at Montreal.

**Division III Women’s Basketball Coaches’ Poll**

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**Around the Dial**

NHL Devils at Sabres 7 p.m., Versus

NHL Ravens at Packers 8:30 p.m., ESPN
**FENCING**

Irish cap off successful weekend in Pittsburgh

By CHRIS MASoud

The Irish have become accustomed to winning at the highest levels, capturing multiple medals at junior world cup events this season. This weekend, they went strong at the USFA North American Cup in Pittsburgh only confirmed those expectations.

In general our fencers place very well, having strong bouts, and it was a good tournament for us," head coach Janusz Bednarski said. "It was a very tough competition with a lot of very good fencers from Canada, Mexico, even from Switzerland. In some cases, the bouts were more on epee, it was more than 220 fencers, so it's a big tournament that requires good preparation."

The Irish took home the gold medal in women's epee as senior Kelley Hurley bested an elite field of international fencers, including her sister sophomore Courtney Hurley. Due to the forward move guideline, the two siblings were seeded together in the single-elimination bracket.

"Whenever wins up, and it was hard luck that they were forced to face each other," Bednarski said. "It's kind of the mentality of fencers, they compete based on pairs, and they are the most extremely good fencers. Only one can go up, and Kelley, a former junior world cup champion and NCAAs champion, won." Hurley dispatched Canadian Erin Selzer in the championship bout to capture her gold medal run.

"She beat Selzer after a very heavy bout, and it was tied until the last minute, but she demolished the Canadian in the last five touches," Bednarski said.

Bednarski headed the invitational. Bednarski and the coaching staff also fully realized the elite level of competition an open tournament brings. Nevertheless, they expected strong performances out of the entire squad, and were not happy with some young fencers.

"There was a lot of very strong fencers, but I'm very happy with some young fencers." Bednarski said. "For me, the most impressive thing was to look at the young fencers, who attended the game. There were 64 fencers and 13,232 tickets on sale, a lot of tickets. Tony Dorsett (11-29) is seventh all-time. We have 38 fencers, and they have lost seven straight amid mounting injuries."

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

**NCAA Men's Basketball**

Kansas defeats UCLA in 07 preview classic match

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Markief Morris scored a career-high 19 points and 14 rebounds as Kansas rallied away in the second half to beat UCLA 73-61 on Sunday, sending the Bruins to their fourth consecutive loss.

Xavier Henry added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Jayhawks (7-0), who led the entire second half after getting just four points to get within four early in the second.

Michael Roll scored 16 points and Nikola Dragovic added 14 for the Bruins (2-5), who haven't lost four in a row since 2003-04, coach Ben Howland's first season in Los Angeles.

The defeat capped a rocky week for the struggling Bruins, who were blown out by Arizona State, then got blown off the court when they quit the team. The sophomore averaged 11.2 points and 3.5 rebounds.

The last time the schools met was in the 2007 NCAA tournament's West Region, when UCLA won by 13 points and went on to the national championship. Kansas' Final Four appearances.

But that run of success has taken a toll on the season for the Bruins, who lost several key players early to the NBA draft leaving them with a slew of inexperienced underclassmen. Tyler Honeycutt made his college debut after missing UCLA's first six games with a stress reaction in his right tibia. He finished with three points.

Kansas led by 13 points in the first half, when the Bruins committed 11 turnovers and shot 33 percent, missing several open opportunities.

Collins' jumper gave Kansas its first lead when he dropped in a 3-pointer and put the Jayhawks up 10-7. UCLA's center on the opening possession of game since Nov. 11, 2007 — a span of 35 games.
MEN’S SWIMMING

Irish finish fourth in Columbus

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

The Irish finished off the season’s competitions with a fourth-place finish at this weekend’s Ohio State Invitational. Notre Dame coach Tim Welsh hoped the results of the weekend would help the team figure out its strengths and weaknesses as the team takes a break before 2010. “I think that the experience of this weekend helped us take a major step towards being ready for what we have next semester,” Welsh said. “We put a lot of focus on preparing for this meet, and this is kind of like the final exam for the fall semester.” Of the 12 teams that competed in Columbus, the Irish earned their fourth-place spot thanks to six-first-place finishes. Three ninth place finishes helped the Irish against the Big Ten foes, which annually helps the Irish against the Big Ten foes, which annually helped the Irish against the Big Ten foes, which annually helped the Irish. Three ninth place finishes earned their fourth-place spot in the Big Ten tournament. “We had to earn those places in the finals,” Welsh said. “We were faster in our events tonight then we were when we left on Thursday.”

Senior MacKenzie LeBlanc placed ninth in the 200-meter butterfly event in 1:48.03, which qualifies him to the NCAA B-cut standard. Ninth-place finishes also went to two other Irish swimmers during the weekend-long competition. Senior John Lytle (45.27) received a ninth-place finish in the 100-meter freestyle sprinting, event, as well as sophomore Petar Petrovic (1:49.65) in the 200-meter backstroke competition. Notre Dame totaled 442 points on the weekend, with help from the 400-meter freestyle relay team consisting of seniors Lytle and Andrew Hoffman, as well as two freshmen John McGinley and Kevin Overholt, who came in sixth place against the field in 3:02.67. “We had to earn those places in the finals,” Welsh said. “We were faster in our events tonight then we were when we left on Thursday.”

Senior Blake Buttinger, senior Jaime Minor and Jasmine Williams finished in the top three spots. “Our coaches were really interested in the specifics and on focusing on preparing them for the rest of the season,” Welsh said. “We’ll start focusing on specifics and on preparing them for the rest of the season ahead of time, when we return.” The team’s next competition will be a dual meet against the Northwestern Wildcats on Jan. 9 at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

Study abroad next summer in:

Cape Town, South Africa
China (Business & Culture)
Granada, Spain
London, England
Paris, France
Rome, Italy
Taipei, Taiwan
Toledo, Spain
Vienna, Austria

INFORMATION SESSION

Monday, December 7, 2009
3:00 p.m.
118 DeBartolo Hall

Deadline for applications: February 19, 2010
Offered through the Office of International Studies
For more info, visit: nd.edu/~ois

Please recycle The Observer.
New England loses second straight to Miami

Associated Press

MIAMI — When Tom Brady missed repeated chances to put the game away in the fourth quarter, Chad Henne and the Miami Dolphins took advantage.

Henne threw for a career-high 335 yards Sunday, and the Dolphins directed a 51-yard drive for the winning field goal with 1:02 left, and Miami rallied past New England 22-21 on Sunday.

The Dolphins (6-6) overcame an early 14-point deficit to keep their slim playoff prospects alive, while AFC East leader New England (7-5) remained winless in five games in opponents’ stadiums this season.

For the third time on the road, the Patriots lost after leading in the fourth quarter. The defeat was sealed when Channing Crowder made his first career interception, picking off Brady at the Patriots 40 with 35.5 seconds left.

But New England twice failed to score inside the Miami 10. Each time Brady and the Patriots were at the 5, Henne went 29 for 52 with one interception. He drove the Dolphins 83 yards and fell just short of a seventh touchdown.

The final quarter was full of mistakes by both teams, epitomizing the mild, mild West.

Four consecutive completions by Hasselbeck, three to T.J. Houshmandzadeh got Seattle to a 1-yard TD pass to Kenny Britt, but left Manning 20 seconds and two timeouts — too much time.

Seattle 20, San Francisco 17

The San Francisco 49ers blew a 14-point lead to the Seattle Seahawks with 2:29 left in the game Sunday. They made their final touchdown on a 25-yard field goal by Olindo Mare, who had missed three field goals on the day.

Hasselbeck, however, hit Ruvell Oakley with a 5-yard completion to set up the game-winning field goal.

Two plays later, rookie Deon Butler ran past cornerback Keith Smith and Hasselbeck’s loser pass hit him in stride for a 33-yard gain. One run later, Seattle called timeout, and Marmal제 could not get into the end zone. The Seahawks lost a touchdown.

Instead of another patented comeback or impressive air show, Manning opened December by playing keepaway from Tennessee and leading the Colts to a victory for their record-tying 21st consecutive regular-season win.

You try to tell these guys that when you win a couple in a row, or three or four in a row, this is not normal,” the three-time MVP said. “It’s not normal to win 10 or 11 or 12 games every year. But the guys here have been here five years would tell me it is normal for us. That’s all they’ve done.”

For Indy (12-0), the milestones all came in comparison. Sunday’s list included:

– Catching New England’s record, set from 2006-08, with a chance to break it next week at home against Denver. Broncos coach Josh McDaniels was on Bill Belichick’s staff during the Patriots’ record run.

– Extending their own NFL record of consecutive 12-win seasons to seven.

– Remaining unbeaten, the first time in league history two teams — New Orleans is 12-0 — have been unbeaten this late in the season.

– And tying the 1990s San Francisco 49ers for most wins in a decade (113), a mark they could also break against Denver.

“The record is one of those things we talk about. We kind of identify the milestones on our sundays,” said a smiling Peyton Manning after he led his team to a 1-yard TD pass to Kenny Britt, but left Manning 20 seconds and two timeouts — too much time.

Patriots’ quarterback Tom Brady looks at the scoreboard during New England’s 22-21 loss to Miami Sunday. Brady threw for 352 yards and two touchdowns in the defeat.

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at Notre Dame lead to 70-55 with just nine bit, the Irish stretched the Knights settled down a tough shots on us,” Irish the first half, making some and the first half was back-throw after being fouled to making an early 3-pointer quick start behind big for us.” Harangody said. “I don’t know what it is but we just come son, and every time we’ve nate the second half. and helped Notre Dame domi- shooting the ball early, and brought down seven American scored 29 points another typical performance, [against IUPUI],” Brey said. “I didn’t even see the guy occurrence with 13:28 remain- mbryan@nd.edu

Unccontinued from page 20
Noguiera scored two goals to beat Notre Dame in last year’s Final, and in Friday’s semifinal, the Hermann Award candidate netted the only goal of the game. Was it realistic to think the Irish defense could keep Noguiera and the high-powered Tar Heel offense quiet for 90 minutes? Friday night, as was obvious to anyone who watched the game, North Carolina was the superior team, and the Irish were outplayed. “They were the better team,” Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. “There is no question about it.” Maybe this weekend was it unrealistic. But certainly in the future, beating North Carolina in the College Cup will be more realistic as the gap between the perennial powerhouse Tar Heels and the rest of college soccer — especially the Fighting Irish — has closed to a nearly negligible margin.

Don’t get me wrong — the leveling of the playing field is still a work in progress. North Carolina has won three College Cups in the past four years, but the combined score in those three title games was 5-2, with Notre Dame falling by a 2-1 deficit twice in that span. Compared to the fact that the Tar Heels won their first 12 National Championships in a span of 11 years by a combined score of 45-3, the last four years show a true change in the times. “(North Carolina) certainly is the standard (all women’s college soccer programs are measured by), and has been for 25 or 30 years,” Waldrum said. “They are the standard everybody is trying to reach.” Waldrum continued to distin- guish between two Tar Heel eras — two eras in the sport as a whole. “I think you’ve got to look at Carolina in the first 25 years and what they had done, and look at Carolina in the last five or six years,” he said. “You have a lot of teams that can boast a lot of suc- cess against them in the last few years.” And that is a true statement. Notre Dame may be able to boast of the most success against them in the latter half of this decade. In 2007, Notre Dame traveled to Chapel Hill in the third round of the NCAA Tournament, and jumped out to a 2-0 first-half lead en route to a 3-2 victory. That makes four NCAA Tournament matchups between the two teams in the last four years, all decided by one goal. In any sport, a one-score margin is nothing to be very sure of, and this is especially true in soccer. If Irish junior Rose Augustine’s arcing shot which glanced off the cross- bar had been a few inches short, it would have slipped in. In all of reality, if only one Irish forward had run under the shot, the other forward could have knocked in the slow bouncing rebound.

A few minutes later in the sec- ond half Irish senior Michele Weisner had a chance at a goal, but her shot carved wide right.

If either one of those chances hits net, this column could be celebra- ting a Notre Dame title. The fact that the game was that close is still something to be noted. North Carolina no longer owns women’s soccer. Are the Tar Heels still the favorite? Twenty College Cup titles earn them that respect. They are always going to be good,” Waldrum said. “They will always compete for national championships, but I think there a lot of really good programs in the country now.”

And with players like Lauren Fowlkes, Rose Augustin, Jessica Schaveiller and Melissa Henderson, Notre Dame is one of them, possibly poised for its own title in the next season or two.

The views expressed in this col- umn are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Doughlas Farmer at afarmer@nd.edu

Irish fans cheer on their team during the College Cup this weekend. Notre Dame lost to North Carolina 2-0 Friday night. The Tar Heels went on to win the NCAA Championship Sunday.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

Bowl continued from page 20 think it’s a tough situation, especially with younger guys and those who aren’t in the mix for playing. It extends the season even further with finals coming around and we don’t know where it will be or who our opponent is going to be with our 6-6 record. It’s tough to think that Stanford might be the last football game I ever play in my life.

Even though the Irish will not be playing post- season football, wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator Rob Lippy will be with the team to oversee football opera- tions until a new coach is named.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

SPORTS

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another typical performance, as the pre-season All- American scored 29 points and brought down seven rebounds. After a slow start it was just as significant. In addition to Sciacca, with the junior making an early 3-pointer and then converting the free throw after being fouled to put the Irish up 11-4. The Knights then responded with a 9-0 run to take the lead, and the first half was back-and-forth the rest of the way. “They were hard to guard in the first half, making some tough shots on us,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “I thought our poise to start the second half was really good.” After the score was even at 41-41 at halftime, Notre Dame went on an 8-0 run to start the second period. After the Knights settled down a bit, the Irish stretched the lead to 70-55 with just nine minutes remaining. The scarcest part of the sec- ond half for Notre Dame occurred with 13:28 remain- ing, when senior point guard Tory Jackson went down with an ankle injury after going up for a shot. “I didn’t even see the guy under me when I went up for the shot, and I just came down on his foot,” Jackson said.

While Jackson left the game and did not return, the early evaluation of the injury was that it was just a light sprain. “I think I’ll be fine,” Jackson said. “I was scared when it happened though. Especially senior year, you don’t want that to happen to anybody. I’m very, very thank- ful that it’s not a big deal.” Brey was relieved to hear his floor general would not be missing significant amounts of time.

“We’d have to say he’s question- able for Wednesday [against IUPUI],” Brey said. “If we are betting men on Tory Jackson, that guy is going to take a couple Motrin and be out there.”

Junior guard Ben Hansbrough also scored in double digits for the Irish, tally- ing 10 points and four assists. Inside, he had nine assists and four points before leaving following the ankle injury.

Central Florida was led by American scored 29 points and 17 digs to lead all players. Players. Herman’s success against Notre Dame dates back to the last meeting between the two schools, a 2007 matchup in which Herman logged 26 kills. While Saturday’s loss is a bitter pill to swallow for a senior class that was one of the most highly touted recruiting classes in pro- gram history, it has made a remarkable run over the last four seasons. Although the seniors’ greatest legacy to Irish fans will be an out- right Big East regular-season title and a 15-game winning streak, Brown believes their chemistry was just as significant.

“...to say that any of them that don’t play in the matches as much as the others aren’t as important is entirely false,” Brown said prior to the match. “They all bring special things to the team. I think the attitude of some of them is great, and they all lead in different ways. They’re a very close class, and they have great comradery. It’s just a tremendous group, a tremendous group.” In addition to Sciacca and Beall, starting sophomore more libero Frenchy Silva and sophomore Megan Barnicle will be called upon to fill up the gaps left behind the seniors.

Although the hopes of an NCAA title were dashed with a loss to Ohio, the Irish are poised to make a return to the tournament next year and beyond.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

Herman continued from page 20
match was the exceptional play of Bobcat outside hitter Ellen Herman, who tall- lied three aces, 19 kills and 17 digs to lead all players. Herman’s success against Notre Dame dates back to the last meeting between the two schools, a 2007 matchup in which Herman logged 26 kills. While Saturday’s loss is a bitter pill to swallow for a senior class that was one of the most highly touted recruiting classes in pro- gram history, it has made a remarkable run over the last four seasons. Although the seniors’ greatest legacy to Irish fans will be an out- right Big East regular-season title and a 15-game winning streak, Brown believes their chemistry was just as significant.

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Irish fans cheer on their team during the College Cup this weekend. Notre Dame lost to North Carolina 2-0 Friday night. The Tar Heels went on to win the NCAA Championship Sunday.
Waldrum continued from page 20

said. “But it doesn’t take away how proud I am of our girls and their effort.”

Tar Heel midfielder Lucy Bronze made a strong run down the right side, slipping past the Irish defense, and put a low cross into the six-yard box that Nogueira touched in for the game-winner.

The Irish were forced to play much of the game in their own defensive end, managing just eight shots against North Carolina’s 26. The Tar Heels also held a 10-2 advantage in corner kicks.

“They were a good team and they pressed us a lot,” Augustin said. “We tried to settle it down and we almost got through on a few.

Just before the end of the half, North Carolina had two opportunities to capitalize on loose balls inside the Irish penalty area, but those shot attempts were cleared off the end line by sophomore Molly Campbell.

Early in the second half, the two teams traded a number of offensive opportunities, with the Notre Dame defense standing strong to keep the game scoreless.

Just as the Irish were gaining the momentum, senior defender Haley Ford, who has struggled with injuries for much of the season, went down with a leg injury minutes into the half that forced her to sit out the rest of the game.

But as they have done all season, the Irish continued to fight through adversity.

In the 67th minute, Notre Dame (8-7-5, 3-5-4-2 CCHA) had not been swept since Oct. 24-25, 2008, when the RedHawks (11-2-5, 8-1-3-1) blanked the Irish consecutive losses at the Joyce Center. Miami has now beaten Notre Dame six straight times dating back to 2007.

The lone goal of Friday night’s contest came at 18:42 in the first half, when forward Ethan Skovland scored the first of two goals for the Irish.

No. 15 Notre Dame failed to light the lamp in a pair of shutout losses to top-ranked Miami as the Irish suffered their first weekend sweep in more than a year, falling 1-0 Friday and 4-0 Saturday.

Friday we had scoring chances and we just didn’t put the ball in the net,” junior left wing Cale Riderwall said. “Saturday we had a couple chances that probably should have gone in, but the bottom line is that you’ve got to bury the back of the net and we’re not doing that right now.”

Notre Dame (7-7-4, 4-4-4-2 CCHA) had not been swept since Oct. 24-25, 2008, when the RedHawks (11-2-5, 8-1-3-1) handed the Irish consecutive losses at the Joyce Center. Miami has now beaten Notre Dame six straight times dating back to 2007.

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Senior defender Molly Campbell throws the ball into play during Notre Dame’s 1-0 loss to North Carolina Friday night.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

HOCKEY
Irish fall in pair of shutout losses

By MATT GAMBER Sports Editor

No. 15 Notre Dame failed to light the lamp in a pair of shutout losses to top-ranked Miami as the Irish suffered their first weekend sweep in more than a year, falling 1-0 Friday and 4-0 Saturday.

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The lone goal of Friday night’s contest came at 18:42 in the first when freshman defender Joe Hartman beat Irish freshman goal-tender Mike Johnson, who was otherwise perfect in making 25 saves.

“Johnson was good in both games,” Riderwall said. “You obviously can’t win a game not scoring any goals though. And Saturday we didn’t help him enough [defensively].”

Saturday’s game was closer than the score indicated, as the Irish only trailed 1-0 for most of the game after Tommy Wingels’ goal midway through the opening period. But third-period goals by Pat Cannone, Carter Camper and Justin Vaive put the game out of reach.

“I think we can learn a lot from Miami,” Riderwall said. “Their special teams were fantastic all weekend. Just a very fast team, and we’ve been wanting to play quicker. Definitely the speed of their game and their offensive ability.

The Irish will try to right the ship this weekend, but they’ll have another tough series when they play a home-and-home with conference rival Michigan.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

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FOOTBALL

Swarbrick says team will not participate in bowl game

By SAM WERNER
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame will not be participating in a bowl game this year, director of athletics Jack Swarbrick said in a statement Friday.

Notre Dame institutionally already has been a strong advocate of the bowl system, and we sincerely appreciate the bowls and individuals representing them who reached out to us," Swarbrick said. "However, the unique circumstances surrounding our program at the current time prevent us from making the commitment required to compete in a bowl game. If the landscape had been different, we would have been thrilled to take part — and we certainly look forward to being part of the bowl system in the years to come."

After a 6-2 start, the Irish lost their last four games to finish 6-6 for the second consecutive season. On Nov. 30, two days after Notre Dame's season-ending loss to Stanford, Swarbrick announced that Charlie Weis would not be retained as the head coach for next season.

"Obviously I want to get this taste out of my mouth and end on a high note," senior center Eric Olsen said. "It would be a real shame to see that happen after all our hard work this year."

Despite loss, Irish are closing the gap on North Carolina

In some ways, it now seems as if it was always inevitable. North Carolina has nine more College Cup titles than Notre Dame has appearance. Was it really realistic to think the Irish could go on the biggest stage in women's college soccer?" North Carolina senior Casey Nogueira.

"They were the better team tonight, no question about it," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "Unfortunately, we were not good enough tonight, especially on defense. We have a lot of work to do."

VOLLEYBALL

Notre Dame falls in first round of NCAAs

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Highlighted by a 15-game winning streak, Notre Dame's 2009 season culminated in the longest losing skid of the year on Friday. Notre Dame fell to Ohio University in the opening round of the NCAA championship, the third straight loss and the final match in the careers of a senior class defined by winning.

"Although the outcome was not what we had hoped for, I'm extremely proud of our team and their effort tonight, and Ohio deserves plenty of credit for earning the win," Irish head coach Debbie Brown said to und.com. "We've battled through injuries lately and persevered many times throughout the season. This team will miss our very special six-person senior class."

The Irish (21-7) hatted the Bobcats (27-6) to five sets (23-25, 25-16, 20-25, 25-15, 15-7), but in the end could not stop an overpowering offense defined by execution of the fundamentals. Lifted by 10 aces, Ohio finished with a .236 attacking percentage compared to Notre Dame's .125.

Nevertheless, the stat line featured the impressive numbers Irish fans have come to expect from their main contributors. Junior middle blocker Kellie Scarce led the Irish offensive with 16 kills, and sophomore outside hitter Kristen Deary recorded her ninth double-double of the season with 10 kills and 16 digs. Senior outside hitter Christina Kaelin added 10 kills to round out the attack.

"But the real story of the