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 issue.

“We do not regard the intentional killing of human beings as heath 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 McClarty Courtroom in the Eck Hall of Law as part of a panel discussion titled “What Would a Good Conscience Clause Look Like? A Catholic University’s Perspective.” The panel was hosted by the Task Force on Supporting the Choice for Life and the Notre Dame Law School.

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

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

Carroll residents have in the past several years started a small bus route to South Street Station downtown. The first bus at 9:30 p.m. Friday and will run until 10:00 p.m.

Carroll Hall will begin 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. Carroll Christmas is Christmas, said many disciplines. In her undergraduate students’ history, the University press release.

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

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

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

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

Lende was the 2009 recipient of the Rodney 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’

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 outings of entertainment closer on campus, over 1,000 students made the trip to Carroll Christmas last year.

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

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

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

“At the Hall President’s Council meeting we handed out big flyers for people to post in their dorms [Tuesday and Wednesday] from five to seven we were outside South Dining Hall handing out quarter page flyers and candy canes,” Wilson said. “We got rid of 1,400 flyers and 1,400 candy canes [Wednesday].”

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

“We’re a small dorm so we try to get many people involved.”

The total cost of the event is around $2,400, and The Independent News Writer.

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

Weekend bus to begin route tonight

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

In an effort to raise awareness of the global HIV/AIDS issue, the results of a student-generated campus survey on the disease were released yesterday in LaFortune as a wrap-up of World AIDS Week. The survey, created by the Notre Dame student HIV/AIDS task force, revealed the wide range of opinions of the disease on campus, and it also demonstrated that the disease has personally affected several.

Students anonymously completed 2,207 surveys prior to see AIDS/page 3

Alternative teaching methods increase

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

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

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INSIDE COLUMN
Making memories

Who doesn’t love going home for Thanksgiving? There’s the food, the family, the Maserati—er, I mean — 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 broke into a hula hoop 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 shaded in her boyfriend for a dog. Now she has developed a sort of obsession with the animal, spending lots of money on toys, grooming and classes.

Yes, since you were wondering, the dog even has a graduation photo from obedience training. My older sister values the intelligence of the dog so highly that she believes her dog is trying to talk. 1. 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 hot tyles 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 both into him he could be/come their boyfriend.

One of my other uncles attempted to scare one of my guy friends away from me. I was at the church 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 fixed one of the toilets. One problem: It wasn’t broken. Until they fixed one of the toilets. One problem: It wasn’t broken. Until they fixed one of the toilets. One problem: It wasn’t broken. Until they fixed one of the toilets. One problem: It wasn’t broken. Until they fixed one of the toilets. One problem: It wasn’t broken. Until they fixed one of the toilets. One problem: It wasn’t broken. Until they fixed one of the toilets. One problem: It wasn’t broken. Until they fixed one of the toilets. One problem: It wasn’t broken. Until they fixed one of the toilets. One problem: It wasn’t broken. Until they fixed one of the toilets.

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

CORRECTIONS
The Observer regrets indulging as a professional publication and series 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 631-4545 so we can correct our error.

IN BRIEF
A lecture entitled “Civil Society in Africa” will be given today at noon by Christine Bodenwe 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, $25 for faculty and staff, and $6 for general admission. For more information call 574-631-2800.

The Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform Handel’s Messiah Saturday at 8 p.m., in the Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $33 for students, $55 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 obnews@nd.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.

"The community-based element of my course runs alongside the more traditional elements. We meet as a class on campus in the normal way; after that, 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 our reflection on discovering connections between critical and theoretical approaches to disability and what we learn from experience.

"Students also meet outside of class to complete the service project." Contact Alicia Smith at asmithl1@saintmarys.edu

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Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

SMC show celebrates Christmas

By ALICIA SMITH

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

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

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

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

“They come back every year. It’s turned into a tradition over the years to be at Saint Mary’s,” Roberts said.

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

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

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

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

Along with company dancers, open auditions were held for local community members to participate in the program. Adult dancers include instructors from South Bend’s Debbie Werbrouck’s School of Dance. According to PDC’s Web site, the company is “a regional, non-profit, contemporary company dedicated to enriching audiences through performances and outreach programs. Patchwork performs choreography of both nationally recognized and resident choreographers.”

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

Contact Alicia Smith at asmithl1@saintmarys.edu

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu

College to host Renaissance-themed Madrigal Dinners

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY

Renaissance music, jugglers and a boar’s head — all of these things will be present this weekend 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.

"It is a very intimate experience and there are very few events that encourage the caring 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 — it is maybe a more traditional choir concert.

All shows are sold out, and an estimat- ed 540 people will attend the event.

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.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 that the disease affects the Notre Dame community.

The two open-ended questions at the end of the survey allowed students to express their opinions of prevention of the disease and to share their personal experiences. The responses ranged from ignorance about the issue to personal accounts of living with the disease.

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

Several other students reported the personal struggles of living with the disease, and others discussed the social stigma surrounding the disease. Some students noted the effects of having loved ones who suffer from the disease.

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

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

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

“People in general were pretty interested in the topic [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 and more selected student responses are available on the CSC Facebook page. Students can take part in the effort to increase funding for HIV/AIDS in St. Joseph County by visiting the CSC Facebook page.

Contact Kristin 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 homemade cookies to be judged. Prizes, which include gift cards to Chipotle and Borders, will be awarded to the winners.

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

Sophomore Michael DeRusso agreed.

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

Contact Sara Felenstein at sfelenstein@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@nd.edu

Seeking More? Consider Time with God on a ...
University probes climate data

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

Thousands of pieces of correspondence between some of the world’s leading climate
scientists are in the unit at the University of East Anglia and leaked to the Internet
last month. Scientists of many nations made global warming say the e-mails are proof that scientists have been conspiring to hide their work.

The compensation offer to the Irish Education Department is for $128 million ($193.5 million) to compensate for decades of

Irish nuns pay for child abuse

In a statement, the Irish Catholic nuns, the Sisters of Mercy, offered Thursday to pay child abuse victims, the govern-

Stones Child Care when the SUV slammed

leatherbursty regrets the suffering experi-

just before their afternoon nap time.

They ran scores of

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Democratic amendment — Republican

Senators voted 58-42 to

For women.

Kara Hardister, who runs the church-

The first votes were held

The Mikulski amendment

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the Republican bid Thursday to

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Guinea's president wounded in attack

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Suicide by swallowing sleeping pills. But then

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Suicide by swallowing sleeping pills. But then

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The Mikulski amendment

The votes Thursday came

his ex-wife went on TV and accused him of

A fateful round of votes ended

the vote on a pro-

The Mikulski amendment

The votes Thursday came

in a brief statement issued through the

his ex-wife went on TV and accused him of

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

suicide by swallowing sleeping pills. But then

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a renewed attempt to

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the Senate rejected a

The Mikulski amendment

the Senate rejected a

The Senate considers health care bill

Democrats dominate votes on amendments concerning women’s health, Medicare

U.S. aid for drug war on track

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It would have sent the

Congressional Budget Office said

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Medicare cuts from the

Democrats have 60 votes in the Senate, the Democratic

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Democratic amendment — Republican

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Pub^ prepared by The Observer's Wire Service

The Observer's Wire Service
Panel
continued from page 1

mother.

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

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

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

"There is an objective moral order that humans are expected to respond to do good and avoid evil," Place said.

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

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

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

"Government ought to provide "... the free exercise of religion and the personal conscience of society," Place said.

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

Some people, he said, advocate for a greater separation between religion and government. Yet, Place said, even without religion, abortion is still wrong.

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

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

Snead concluded the panel and reiterated the two founding principles 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 shift-
ed 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.

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

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

Prosecutors said the state invested $250 million in Markstone after Brody showed them with gifts and favors, including trips, pay-
outs to friends and relatives, and a secret investment in an obscure movie called "Chooch," produced by an official's brother.

"This is an old-fashioned payoff of state officials," said New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. "This is effec-
tively bribery of state officials and not just one, but a num-
er of state officials in the comptroller's office."

Brody is 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 Brody.

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

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

However, the Attorney General's office said Brody 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 dur-
ing the period when Brody is alleged to have arranged for travel. The records also show taxpayers picked up some at least some expenses associat-
ed with those trips, including $20,894 in airfare.

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

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

A Brody spokesman, Christopher Clark, said in a written statement that his client "regrets the actions that brought about this course of events, but is pleased to have resolved this matter with the NYAG and will be cooper-
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tion."

In court Thursday, Brody described other gifts to high-
er-ups in Hevesi's administra-
tion, including an official who he said arranged for him to pay $90,000 to cover his girl-
friend's rent and hospital bills, plus another $44,000 in payments to the girlfriend's relative.

Ind. teen strangles, kills younger brother

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Ignoring charges of murder against Conley while along with a supporting affidavit Thursday. Conley is being held without bond and will appear Friday in court, Negangard said.

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

The teen told investigators he had had fantasies about

Association Press

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

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PRICE: $220,900.00
GM, Chrysler rethink closings

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

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — General Motors and Chrysler will reconsider closing more than 3,000 dealerships as part of a compromise to avoid stave off federal legislation that would require the companies to keep showrooms open.

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

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

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

The dealer group said it would "continue to work with Congress on the pending 'dealers' rights' legislation in the event a new administrative solution cannot be achieved on this important issue which affects hundreds of thousands of people's jobs and lives in their communities." Rep. Christopher Van Hollen, D-Md., who has criticized the automakers' latest plans, said the GM and Chrysler plans "still fail to show what is needed to help reestablish profitable car dealers and put their employees back to work.

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

As part of its deep restructuring this year, GM has said it will cut 2,400 dealers from its 6,000-dealer network by next fall. Chrysler announced similar plans, slashing 789 dealers as part of its bankruptcy proceedings this summer. Both automakers say the cuts are needed to better align their dealer network with much lower demand for cars and trucks.

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

The House passed legislation in July that would force the companies to reverse their closure plans, though the Senate has not taken it up. The Obama administration opposes the measure. If dealers refuse to accept the GM and Chrysler proposals, some lawmakers could insist that the House-approved legislation be included in any deal aimed at considering the bill by the House and Senate later this month, setting up a potential confrontation with the White House.

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

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

Kentucky farming suffers with recession

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky’s slumping horse industry appears on pace to be overtaken by poultry farms as the king of the state’s agricultural sector, economists say.

In a state where horses are a mainstay of the cultural and economic lifeblood, it’s tough to keep up with the demand for chickens in the pecking order of Kentucky agriculture once seemed unlikely.

But the equine sector has been battered by deep recession, and the poultry industry has enjoyed years of steady growth. As a result, the University of Kentucky agricultural economist Lee Meyer predicted that receipts from the poultry sector this year would outpace those from the horse industry by about $180 million.

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

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

"You can go anywhere around the world and tell people you’re from Kentucky, and the first thing they want to talk about is the Kentucky Derby and the thoroughbred industry," he said. "We risk losing that if everybody refuses to pay attention.

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

Thoroughbred sales and breeding stud fees are the two main income sources for the industry, but have taken a big hit from the global recession, UK economists said at a news conference Thursday that coincided with the Kentucky Farm Bureau’s annual convention in Louisville.
We all knew for a while that Charlie Weis would not be retained as Notre Dame’s head football coach. What we didn’t know was when and how the process would play out, because the last time the Notre Dame administration fired a coach, they botched it.

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

But then, like Meyer to Florida, things headed south in a hurry. This time, so far, they’ve got it right.

As firings go, Weis’ has gone incredibly smoothly. Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick said the decision was tougher than most would imagine, which is understandable given how much everyone wanted Weis to work out as a coach. He was an alumnus 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 previewed 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.

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

Weis’ departure handled respectfully

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

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

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

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

Swarbrick’s previous involvement with athletics and the contacts he has made over the years should help him evaluate all the possibilities, not just those the media has pigeon-holed as candidates with mostly baseless speculation. It’s not about a big name, it’s not about an offensive or defensive background and it’s not about getting him — whoever that may be — here in time for a bowl game. It’s about preparing the team to succeed next year and the program to excel over the next 10 years by melding and motivating talented athletes into a cohesive, productive unit.

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

In this column, “The Notre Dame They Knew,” I will interview individuals who have been influenced by the University of Notre Dame. I seek to discover the unique role that Notre Dame has played in their life and vocational journey.

It is hoped that this column will inoculate a deeper, more honest and more profound love for Our Lady and Her University.

Darkness falls on a chilly evening as Trampe Roz 7 halts just east of the Hesburgh Library. Exiting campus, it turns South, passing through South Bend to stop at the South Street Station.

200 yards further, past empty lots and abandoned buildings, the South Bend Center for the Homeless sits in an old Department Store.

Inside, past the receptionist’s desk, a waiting area and a chapel, Steve Camilleri reclines at a table in the corner of the bustling cafeteria.

Sipping dark pants and a polo shirt, the Long Islander from Levittown — think Billy Joel’s better looking younger brother — begins his story over the muted squeals of babies and congenial sidewalk chatter.

“I was born just outside of New York City. My father was a bartender and my mother worked at a mental health hospital. I went to Notre Dame and graduated in 1994. I did the ACE Program, earned a Masters in Non-Profit Administration, took a job in that field, developed my skills, and got a grant to start NDIVision. I volunteered at the South Bend Center while student and after, and was invited to be its Director in August of 2004.

“The Center in South Bend, ‘homeless,’ “Steve says, “houses 200 residents, 55 of them children, and has provided 45,000 people with food, shelter, skills training, and community living since it opened in 1998.”

As Director of the Center, Steve is responsible for heading its administrative functions, but for relating directly with residents.

“Part of my mission, and the Center’s mission as a whole,” Steve observes, “is to recognize the God-given dignity and worth of each person and our guests to see themselves as promise, 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, one family at a time, that’s a gift to the world.”

On the spiritual mission of the Center, Steve observes, “When you have visited the sick, fed the hungry, helped the homeless? In a sense, this is the Gospel in action.”

“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 the things there.’

“That’s what college is about. Being ruined and coming out different than you went in. Becoming a better person who is 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. Forget about wearing the masks. We don’t have time for that … You have permission here to let yourself be vulnerable. I’m confident, I’ve been on the other side of this pen here. And I shouldn’t be amazed or surprised because they keep happening. But it continues to blow my mind.”

To illustrate, Steve shares a story about one of his friends, a resident named John. “John stayed here last all winter on Valentine’s Day, 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 would tell me, ‘Steve, I want to get out.’ I got a day of sobriety, Steve.”

“You’ve got to be a part of the community living since it opened in 1998. If we can get mission as a whole,” Steve observes, “is to make our clients into something he hasn’t had in 40 years. 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 this place.”

Chad, a resident sitting at the next table, jukes up at this late evening snack to echo Steve’s sentiments. “You guys are more of a family to me than my family was over the course of their careers. My comments. ‘I actually feel like I’m going to do something with my life, starting from here.’

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

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

Steve, Director of the South Bend Center for the Homeless, can be reached at stcamilleri@email.nd.edu or you can e-mail him if you are interested in volunteering at the Center. He, and everyone else there, would love to help.

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 documentary/horror filmmaking seems to be in order. Contrary to popular belief, the original “Blair Witch Project” had its own inspiration. And that film, a hardly known 1998 VHS castaway, “The Last Broadcast,” is the subject of this movie rewind.

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

Steven Avalos and Lance Weiler’s horror/documentary veiled as a documentary of the gruesome murders of two television hosts out in the Pine Barrens in New Jersey, is ruined by its own attempt to amateurishly go about being clever and build up to an all-or-nothing big twist. All it takes is a somewhat keen ear and maybe one partially opened eye to react to the big twist the same way you’d react to seeing 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,” “Toughk�新or 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
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page 11

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 candles 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 ceremony on Friday night, it will be able to be seen across the lake and even from the top floor of the Hesburgh Library.
Residents also judge a cookie-baking contest, picking out their favorites from entries 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, tights and all.
Wilson said that the event is also hosting a toy drive for the charity Hannah & Friends. Visitors can bring along unwrapped toys and place them in the marked boxes before heading inside to get their fill of cookies and karaoke.
Besides providing yet another place to wear that snazzy sweater from Goodwill, "A Carroll Christmas" gives students an opportunities to stretch their boundaries, so to speak.
"We're really proud of the event, and we really hard to get as many people as we can to come. A lot of people have never been out to Carroll before," Wilson said.

1.Christmas Lights
Dust off those musty boughs of holly and round up the jingle bells because Christmas time is here. Finals are a bore, but Christmas is fun. So take all that unnecessary study time and use it to get your Whoville on because South Bend needs a good dose of cheer. As the two wise men of "Wedding Crashers" said, "Rule Number 76. Dust off those musty boughs of holly and round up the jingle bells because Christmas time is here."

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

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

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

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

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu

THE O bserver SCENE

A Carroll Christmas

By ADRIANA PRATT
Assistant Scene Editor

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Contact Adriana Pratt at spratt@nd.edu

JACLYN ESPINOZA / Observer Graphics
**MLB**

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

Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA —** Placido Polanco is putting aside his Gold Glove and American League Silver Slugger Awards to have a chance at winning a championship.

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

The 34-year-old free agent will seek to provide the Phillies with consistent production at first base and serve as a mentor to the team's younger players.

Polanco's role will likely vary, but he will be expected to play regularly at first base and contribute offensively.

"I want to be the guy who can play second base and give us a chance to win," Polanco said.

**NBA**

**Artest plans youth program**

Associated Press

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

Those bad examples stayed in his mind while he went through college and his years in the NBA, where Artest says he sometimes drank cognac during games or after practices. But Artest says he never drank in-game because he knew it would be noted by officials, such as referee Joey Crawford, and spoke about the struggles that he's had with alcohol.

"It's a question asked by Nature and answered by death. You are an organism," said Ron Artest, who played in Los Angeles this season. "You are a planned organism, the offspring of knowledge and imagination. The unplanned organism is impossible, and so is civility. Systems you have built to realize your will are necessary, but they are not something I'm running from, but to have people what I've been through, Artest plans an "A-plus" as a team leader during his first few months with the Lakers, who signed him as a free agent as the only new addition to last season's championship-winning roster. Artest had referred to himself as the "captain of the Lakers' defense," and point guard Kobe Bryant has referred to himself as the "captain of the Lakers' defense,

"It's pretty obvious the team is committed to winning. And I want to be a part of that," Artest said. "One of the reasons I want- ed to come back is because it's a team in transition, and I feel I can help them win."
OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oakland Athletics acquired third baseman Jake Fox, second baseman Aaron Miles and cash considerations from the Chicago Cubs on Thursday for 13 players, including second baseman Bobby Crosby and shortstop Adam Kennedy.

"Aaron Miles coming off a disappointing year, we thought this might give him a better opportunity to play more on a regular basis in the American League," Cubs general manager Jim Hendry said.

"Jake Fox really did a quality job for us and has been with us quite a while," Hendry said. "I think we're giving him a real good opportunity to be part of the Blue Jays' future."
Seahawks GM resigns, opens door for Holmgren

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ruskell understood that.

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

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

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

No conceivable candidate knows the Seahawks better than Holmgren, who became their longest-tenured and winningest coach from 1999-2008.

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.

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

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

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

But the Seahawks have regressed since then.

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

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

"The Observer" January 14, 2009
Johnson eyes rushing record

Associated Press

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

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

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

That earned him the AFC offensive player for the month Thursday, making him the first sive player for the month in 1970. 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.

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

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The Observer  ●  SPORTS

Friday, December 4, 2009

Miami

continued from page 20

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To counter Miami’s depth, Notre Dame will hope to continue its recent offensive surge. In two of the last three games the Irish have scored four goals, 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

Tate

continued from page 20

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

“I’m still not happy about the season and the situation right now, but it’s an honor to be mentioned with some of those names and win those awards,” Tate said.

“Personally, I still always think I could have done more to put the team in a better position to win, but at the same time, I think some of the things I did helped us win a couple of those games.”

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

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Miami continued from page 20

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Tate continued from page 20

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MARCH FOR LIFE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND 2010

Notre Dame Right to Life invites students, faculty and staff to travel to Washington, D.C., for the 2010 March for Life! We are happy this year to be joined by University President Rev. John Jenkins, C.S.C., and other faculty and staff.

Register now for reduced prices!

FOR MORE TRIP INFORMATION, VISIT HTTP://ND.EDU/-PROLIFE
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 Plano 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,” Plano said. “And we’re really interested in the sprinters and field events whereas the cross country kids have no opportunities to compete, really interested in the sprinters and field events in,” Piane said. “And we’re really interested in the kind of shape kids are in,” Piane said. “And we’re really interested in the kind of shape kids are in,” Piane said.
MEN’S SWIMMING
Notre Dame travels to Ohio State Invite meet

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

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

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

The Irish are 4-1 heading into the Ohio State Invite and are coming off of their first conference victory over Pittsburgh. The early portion of the season has been "a string of 15 consecutive matches, 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.”

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

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NCAA continued from page 20

All six teams 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.”

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu

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

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

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

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

Notre Dame will face Ohio University today at 5:30 p.m. in Ann Arbor, Mich. “We know there is nothing to save anything for,” Brown said. “We’re going after it and are putting our best foot forward.”

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FOOTBALL

Tate caps record-breaking season with All-American honors

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

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

"It's not one of the things you sign up for when you sign up to play for Notre Dame," Tate told The Observer Thursday. "I came in with the mentality that I wanted to play hard and put the team in the best position to win. With myself succeeding ... the two kind of go hand in hand."

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

"I've never really worried about [statistics], just played the game the best I could and try to keep everyone up every week," Tate said. "Just 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."

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

Tate was joined on the likely All-American list by senior defensive end Brian Bryant, who was chosen in 2008.

ND VOLLEYBALL

Irish return to NCAA tournament vs. Ohio

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

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

"It's our aim to come here and to advance and to win," Irish coach Bechtle 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.

The Irish (19-10, 9-7 BIG EAST) finished third in the BIG EAST and lost to Seton Hall in the BIG EAST Tournament semifinals. The Irish will take on Ohio tonight in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.