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Grads work to expand impact of Haiti documentary

Former students try to raise money after Jan. 12 earthquake, form business operating out of Innovation Park

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

Notre Dame graduate Justin Brandon can trace the inspiration for his work on a 2006 documentary about a rural Haitian town to a summer spent doing service through the Center for Social Concerns. Now, Brandon and two friends have taken their project back to Notre Dame through the use of Innovation Park, a technology park launched by the University that opened this fall.

Brandon, along with 2005 graduates Brian McElroy and Daniel Schnorr, filmed, direct-

ed and produced the documentary, "The Road to Fondwa." It chronicles the Haitian people's quest for development of the small rural town of Fondwa, Haiti.

"The film is not your standard guilt trip, tear jerking movie that tries to make audience feel sorry. Fondwa has a hopeful story," he said.

Brandon said he, McElroy and Schnorr wanted to expand the impact of the documentary — especially in light of the Jan. 12 earthquake — so they formed a business that now operates out of Innovation Park.

"Once earthquake hit, everything changed," Brandon said.

"We needed to have a strategy to scale up the efforts of the film distribution and that's where Innovation Park came in."

As a student, Brandon, a graduate of the class of 2004, spent a summer in Ghana participating in an International Summer Service Learning Project (ISSLP). Through this project, he met McElroy and Schnorr. Schnorr had spent the summer in Ecuador and McElroy, Fondwa, Haiti.

"We all met through our ISSLPs, and we came up with the idea to shoot a documentary in Haiti," Brandon said.

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SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Notre Dame graduate Justin Brandon now operates a business out of Innovation Park, above, to help raise funds for Haiti.

Atheist and Catholic to debate religion



Photo courtesy of www.nd.edu

Catholic apologetic Dinesh D'Souza, left, and atheist Christopher Hitchens will debate religion at Notre Dame on April 7.

By SAM STRYKER
News Writer

Notre Dame will host a public debate on April 7 between famed atheist Christopher Hitchens and Catholic apologetic Dinesh D'Souza.

More than 10 departments on campus, including the College of Arts and Letters and the Student Union Board, will sponsor the event, "Is Religion the Problem?" It will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Students should expect a heated debate, as D'Souza has described atheism as "the opiate of the morally corrupt" and Hitchens has cited Christianity as "a wicked cult."

According to a press release, the conversation will

focus on the arguments for and against organized religion and its impact on past and future generations.

Sophomore Malcolm Phelan, one of the event organizers along with fellow sophomore Daniel O'Duffy, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters Joseph Stanfiel and Professor Micheal Rea from the Center for the Philosophy of Religion, said one of the main reasons for putting the event together was to challenge current students beliefs.

"We are trying to get students to think about things that they take for granted for most of their lives," he said. "These questions lead to thought and conversation within a community, challenging positions and enriching beliefs."

see DEBATE/page 6

Alumni launch online faith program

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

In an effort to involve the entire Notre Dame community in the faith mission of the University, the Alumni Association has launched an online program they hope will reach out to Notre Dame family members that are no longer on campus, Alumni Association members said.

"Tender, Strong and True: Living the Gospel Daily" is a monthly online program that features live roundtable discussions

with two panelists and a moderator. The participants talk about current issues and how faith and spirituality should play a role in how these questions are approached.

"The purpose of the program is to explore real challenges we face in life through a lens of faith," Kathy Sullivan, the Alumni Association's senior director of spirituality and service and founder of the program said. "We approach relevant issues as being infused with the wisdom and presence of Gospel values."

Sullivan said the program is

unique in that most of the questions on the show are submitted by the viewers in real time through social networking venues such as Facebook and Twitter.

"We wanted a technology that would enable people to participate with the questions in the program," Sullivan said. "We wanted to create an online community of learners."

Monsignor Michael Heintz, who served as moderator for two editions of the program, said he thinks the series serves a greater

see ALUMNI/page 4

Schmidt receives local recognition

By AMANDA GRAY
Assistant News Editor

Student body president Grant Schmidt received local recognition at a recent awards ceremony with the South Bend Police Department (SBPD).

"Grant has made it a part of his platform to really work close with the community and make sure that if there's an opportunity to enhance relations between the students and the community that we do so," Vice President of Public Affairs Tim Sexton said of Schmidt's Special Recognition Award. "He's been very successful with doing that."

The eighth annual awards ceremony was held March 14 at the Ivy Tech Cyber Café and honored 75 police officers and civilians, the South Bend Tribune reported.

"He's worked very hard regarding off-campus safety.



Photo courtesy of Tim Sexton

Student body president Grant Schmidt, center, poses with SBPD Chief Darryl Boykins, left, and South Bend Mayor Steve Luecke.

He's worked very hard with Transpo and extending the hours that Transpo runs on Friday and Saturday nights for getting students back and forth from downtown South Bend," Sexton said. "He's just

done an awful lot that the community saw and wanted to thank him for all his hard work."

Denise Baron, Community

see SCHMIDT/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Beginning of madness

I was talking to my friend JP after we got back from break, and in the process of our conversation he revealed that he thought yesterday was the best day of the year — even better than Christmas or the day we beat USC (soon to be a yearly occurrence), and he's right, except for the USC thing. Why, you may ask? It's certainly not because of the post-St. Paddy's Day hangover you're undoubtedly nursing as you read this. St. Patrick's Day just happens to conveniently fall this year as a 24-hour mid-week pregame for today, when the world's greatest sports spectacle tips off at 12:20 p.m.



Allan Joseph

Sports Production Editor

Yep, you got it. I'm talking about the NCAA men's basketball tournament. March Madness simply has everything that a sports fan could want. First, it's a full three weeks of almost constant action. Today alone there are 16 games — and then 16 tomorrow. You can turn on CBS at noon to catch the important bits of the pregame show and watch the same channel and be constantly entertained for 12 straight hours, and then do the same thing tomorrow. For three weeks, there will be one constantly developing storyline after another. They'll all be interesting, too.

Second, no matter who you are, you've got some sort of rooting interest in the tournament. In addition to rooting for Luke Harangody & Co., there's probably at least one of the other 63 teams that is your state university, your mom's alma mater, or one that's got a cool name (Wofford, I'm looking at you). Plus, you can root for the Cinderella team or Kentucky, if only to see Ashley Judd. The point is, you always care.

Third, the bracket is the perfect size — there's an element of mystery as to who will make the field, there are enough games for some classic upsets, and yet one of the best teams almost always comes out on top. Plus, the time-honored tradition of filling out brackets involves even the casual fan in a friendly competition that's inevitably won by someone who has no clue what they're doing. And if you want bragging rights over smug Observer sportswriters like me, head on over to Facebook and enter your bracket against ours.

Look, I know some people think the Super Bowl, the World Cup or the Olympics are more exciting. But let's be honest. The Super Bowl lasts three hours, not three weeks. The World Cup and Olympics are exciting, but you have to wait four years every time. And if you think people care more about their countries more than their college basketball teams, I point to the Cameron Craziest and rest my case.

So go turn on your TV at 12:20 p.m. Have a copy of your bracket in your right hand, and your beverage of choice in your left. Root for the upset, root for the favorite, root for the Irish or root for (ugh) Duke. But most of all, enjoy the next three weeks — because there's simply nothing else like them.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

Due to a production error, Brandy Mader was misidentified as a sophomore in the Question of the Day segment. Brandy Mader is a senior. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW DID YOU CELEBRATE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY?



Elizabeth Flood
sophomore
Lewis

"With sunshine and smiling Irish eyes."



Ella Lozon
sophomore
Howard

"I ate Lucky Charms all day long."



Katie Finley
sophomore
PW

"Playing football on the quad and drinking apple cider."



Tim Ryan
sophomore
Keenan

"Playing Irish music and drinking Irish beverages."

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



Students John Wachowicz, left, Andrew Brinkerhoff, center and Tim Ryan perform traditional Irish music on Fieldhouse Mall Wednesday in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

OFFBEAT

Woman faces charges after sending text to police

ALTUS, Okla. — A Mangum woman has been arrested for allegedly sending a text message about illegal drugs to a drug task force agent. A warrant was issued for the woman for possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of a controlled drug with the intent to distribute. A Jackson County jailer said Wednesday the woman wasn't in custody.

Authorities said District III Drug Task Force agent Chris Counts received a

text message that said, "if you want a hit of this stuff before it is all gone, you better get over here."

Counts sent a message asking for an address and determined that the suspect lived there. Officers said she thought she sent the message to a friend.

Man poses as policeman, pulls over off-duty officer

PHOENIX — An Arizona man accused admonishing motorists of traffic laws while posing as a police officer apparently picked the wrong driver to pull over.

A Maricopa County jury on Tuesday found 62-year-old David Word guilty of impersonating a lawman for pulling over an off-duty police officer. Sentencing is set for May 5.

Avondale police officer Matt Lydic says he was on his way to work in his personal vehicle last May when Word pulled him over while driving a black Ford Crown Victoria equipped with lights and a siren. Lydic says Word told him to slow down, then drove away.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

An exhibition titled "All Art is Propaganda" will be held at 8 a.m. today in room 102 in the Hesburgh Library Special Collections.

"Caroline Chiu: Polaroids as Chinese Ink Painting," will be held at 10 a.m. today. The exhibit will be on display in the Milly and Fritz Kaeser Mestrovic Studio Gallery in the Snite Museum of Art.

An exhibit titled "Yin Yu Tang: A Chinese Home" will be held at 10 a.m. today in the Scholz Family Works on Paper Gallery in the Snite Museum of Art.

The Distinguished Speaker Series on Social Networks will offer a lecture titled "Making Sense of Politics: A Relational Approach to Public Opinion" will be held at 4 p.m. today in 210 to 214 McKenna Hall.

"Torture, Suicide and Detremnato: The Problem with Making Law More Precise" will begin at 4 p.m. today in 1140 Eck Hall of Law.

Alsaidar MacIntyre will give a lecture titled "Happines and Goodness." The lecture will begin at 5 p.m. today in 145 Spes Unica Hall at Saint Mary's College.

"Picturing Rachmainoff: Music, Poetry and Painting in Concert" will be held at 7 p.m. today in Carey Auditorium in the Hesburgh Library.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 60 LOW 38	HIGH 40 LOW 37	HIGH 63 LOW 45	HIGH 55 LOW 45	HIGH 48 LOW 28	HIGH 37 LOW 22

Atlanta 63 / 42 Boston 58 / 41 Chicago 60 / 40 Denver 67 / 35 Houston 69 / 47 Los Angeles 66 / 55 Minneapolis 53 / 39 New York 64 / 49 Philadelphia 65 / 41 Phoenix 83 / 59 Seattle 56 / 38 St. Louis 63 / 42 Tampa 67 / 50 Washington 66 / 42

Robot football game to be held

By CAITLYN KALSCHEUR
News Writer

This year's Blue and Gold football game weekend will have more than just one football game for some students. The Engineering Department will host its second annual Collegiate Mechatronic Football Competition at Stepan Center on April 23.

Jim Schmiedeler, associate professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, said the competition is a one-hour football game between robots built by students.

Schmiedeler said the competition is part of a 13-week effort to design, build, test and demonstrate the skills of the robots.

"The students have done a terrific job. They have progressed with the help of input from last year's competition," Schmiedeler said.

This is the program's second official year of competition.

"Last year's game had an exciting finish," Schmiedeler said. "The Blue team fumbled on a drive to the end zone with no time left that would have won them the game. The fans and students were jumping and cheering. It was an intense game."

While the outcome of the game is important for the trophy, Schmiedeler said the grade students receive is based on a test that takes

place the week before. The robots go through a series of tests to evaluate their abilities from controllability to kicking and throwing accuracy.

The students officially began the design portion of the project in January and started manufacturing and testing their robots after Spring Break, Schmiedeler said.

"The students have been driving prototype robots around the halls of Fitzpatrick for a while now, and they've been outside kicking field goals and throwing passes," Schmiedeler said.

The event was started by a Notre Dame alumnus in honor of his son, Brian Hederman, who was a student in the Engineering Department. Hederman, who passed away before he graduated, came up with the idea of a football-playing robot.

"Alumni from the Department were interested in sponsoring the event," Schmiedeler said. "They want to evaluate the success of the competition here at Notre Dame and investigate the possibilities of intercollegiate competition."

The robots play an adapted

version of football in which each team has eight players, and they play on a smaller field with a souvenir-sized football. A completed pass is the quarterback throwing the ball and hitting the receiver, who doesn't necessarily have to catch the ball to complete the pass.

"The robots have tackle sensors that light up to indicate a tackle," Schmiedeler said. "Essentially it shows how hard one robot slams into another."

Students control the robots from the sidelines, and two students are allowed on the field to control the offense. Also on the field are three referees from RecSports.

Motorola sponsors the event, Schmiedeler said.

"We've invited faculty and students from other universities to promote the idea of a possible league someday," Schmiedeler said. "We would love to have Notre Dame earn a national title in Collegiate Mechatronic Football."

Contact Caitlyn Kalscheur at ckalsche@nd.edu

"The students have done a terrific job. They have progressed with the help of input from the last year's competition."

Jim Schmiedeler
Associate Professor
Aerospace and
Mechanical Engineering

CAT program assists, supports at-risk children

Special to The Observer

When not busy with the usual classes and homework, about 10 percent of the College's student body take time out of their day to participate in the College Academy of Tutoring (CAT) Program. The CAT Program links students to at-risk children in the South Bend community and, according to CAT director Olivia Critchlow, "allows them to be positive, supportive figures in the lives of those who need it most."

Sophomore political science major Anabel Castaneda has been working with the CAT program for two years.

"When I see that a child that I have been working with excel it makes me feel so wonderful because I know how amazing these children are. Sometimes the child might not feel that he or she is smart enough and does not have the confidence to try new things. When I am able to show them that they can do it, they just keep going. The CAT program changes the children's lives,"

she said.

For many children, the CAT Program is the only tutoring program offered in their school. Saint Mary's students travel to Coquillard Primary Center, Warren Primary Center, the St. Joseph County Public Library and Lincoln Primary Center. Participants in the after-school programs range from third- and fourth-graders to children with disabilities and English as a Second Language students.

"For many, it can be relaxing to spend time off campus in a productive environment, where they are helping others."

Olivia Critchlow
Director
CAT

CAT volunteers provide help with mathematics, writing, reading comprehension and assistance with homework.

Students gain a lot of beneficial experience from participating in the CAT Program. Critchlow explains, "For many, it can be relaxing to spend time off campus in a productive environment, where they are helping others. For many other students, volunteering with CAT is a great way to give back to those in need in the community while also feeling that they are making a positive difference in the world."

You are Invited!

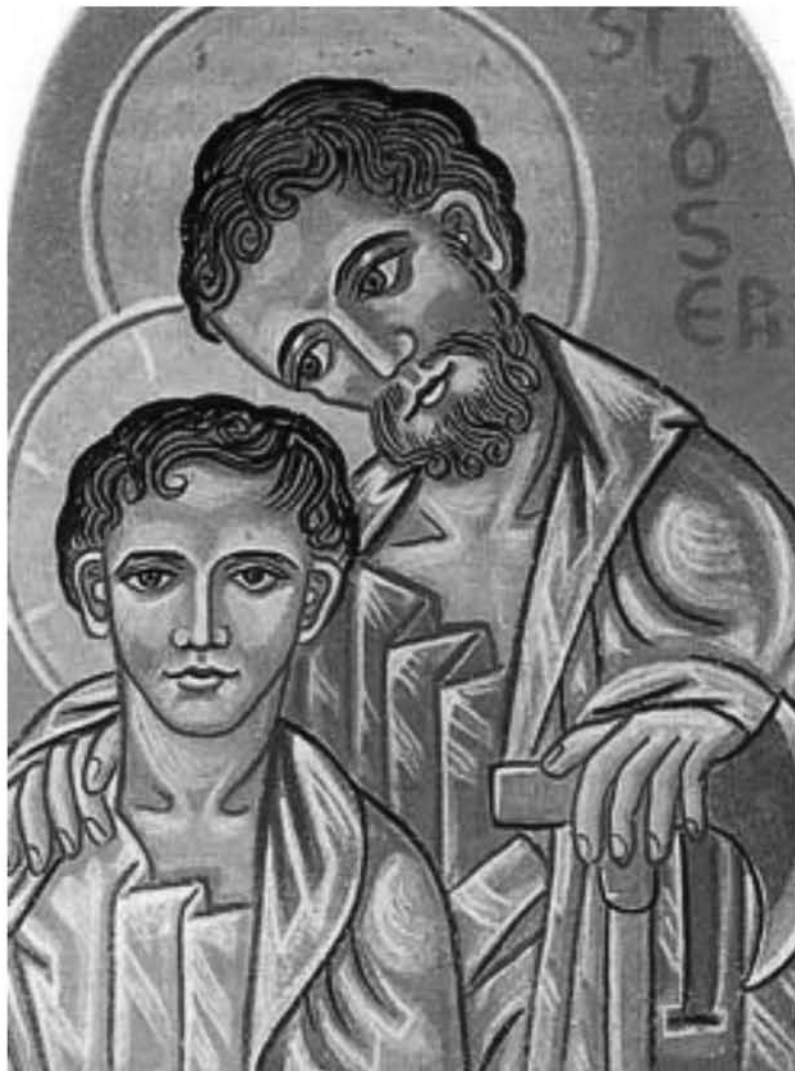
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for a special Mass to celebrate

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Patronal Feast of the Brothers of Holy Cross

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Friday, March 19, 2010 - 5:15 p.m.

Celebrate with us as we prepare for the canonization of Blessed Brother Andre on
October 17, 2010, a special moment for the Congregation and the Brothers.



Park

continued from page 1

"We raised a little money, went down and didn't know what we were doing. None of us took any film classes at Notre Dame."

But the Notre Dame graduates succeeded in making the film, and they now travel, holding screenings of the documentary to showcase the development and culture of Fondwa.

The documentary focuses on the development of Fondwa, a rural town of about 8,000. The people work to spur growth by building a road through the town then expanding the University of Fondwa, which was established in 2004.

"[The university] was an important first step for development of the town," Brandon said. "There are about 20 kids in each class, and they've graduated one class so far. In the end of the film, we talk about the university as the crown jewel of community."

But Brandon said the recent earthquake devastated the town, and pushed him, McElroy and Schnorr to extend the reach of the documentary and raise money for relief.

"All the buildings in Fondwa were destroyed, including people's houses. The university was flattened," Brandon said. "But people are working to raise money to rebuild it bigger and better."

After the earthquake,

Brandon said they decided to release the film for free viewing on YouTube to draw attention to the town and the university.

"The whole world was able to see the negativity, the really dismal images being shown on TV. We wanted to show a more hopeful message online," he said.

Brandon said the business they run out of Innovation Park is not for profit.

"We are covering our own costs, gas costs and making the DVDs, but after that, we are using any money that comes in to keep the business going, promoting the film and the Web site," he said. "Anything that's left over, we are donating directly to Fondwa."

Brandon said he and the other filmmakers are looking for groups and students who want to do screenings of the documentary in order to raise awareness and funds for the relief effort.

"We have raised a few thousand," he said. "It isn't all that much, but in the broader scene, we released the film for free and told anyone that if they want a screening of film, they can do that for free except that they had to buy the DVD."

Brandon said Innovation Park is an ideal workspace for promoting the documentary.

"It's important for me to have a place to come and work around other people that think similar way that I'm thinking," he said. "It's an office space but it's more than

that."

Brandon said he uses the Greenhouse facility in the park, and has networking and mentoring opportunities from people also using the Greenhouse that have experience launching a business.

His company was an attractive option for Innovation Park as well, Brandon said.

"Our business is different from the other projects they take on. A lot are along lines of physical sciences," he said. "Ours is quite different and it's a good perspective to bring into the park because it's a finished product that already has a revenue stream."

Many of the other businesses launching out of Innovation Park are still in the early stages of establishment, Brandon said.

"Innovation Park wishes to help Road to Fondwa, LLC, find ways to market this powerful documentary as a tool to help raise additional funds for critical earthquake relief operations," David Brenner, president and CEO of Innovation Park said of the business in a press release.

Brandon said he hopes the business will help with the Haitian relief effort, but also draw attention to the positive side of Haiti.

"It's much more of an uplifting story, but not contrived," he said. "People there have a hopeful spirit and have accomplished a tremendous amount in past few decades."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Debate

continued from page 1

Relations Committee chair of Student Senate, said the community has been appreciative of Schmidt's work for a long time.

"This might be his first formal recognition, but he's definitely been informally recognized," Baron said.

Schmidt said he hopes this will help foster good relations between the University and the greater community.

"This was a recognition by the police department," Schmidt said. "We've met with [members of the South Bend Police Department] and had conversations about safety issues and general good neighbor relations. It was a great recognition to represent the fact that I think we've come a long way in regards to the relation between students and the city of South Bend, and I hope that relation continues."

Schmidt's involvement with the Campus Community Advisory Council shows his dedication to community relations, Sexton said.

"You have representatives

coming to these [community] meetings, including Grant and Denise Baron," Sexton said. "When it comes to safety and crime prevention in the neighborhood, the challenge that we have is a lot of students living in the Northeast Neighborhood for a year or two, then somebody new comes in."

Sexton said he would like to see improved relationships

"It was a great recognition to represent the fact that I think we've come a long way in regards to the relation between students and the city of South Bend, and I hope that relation continues."

Grant Schmidt
student body president

between students and permanent residents in the community.

"For the residents that are permanent, it's an ongoing, consistent attempt to build relationships with students living by them, make them aware of what it means to be a good neighbor," he said. "Grant [Schmidt] and

his team from student government have just done a great job of moving that in a positive fashion."

Schmidt said the recognition is proof that relations have already starting to improve.

"That award is representative of the fact that students in general are having better relations with their neighbors and with the city," Schmidt said.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

Alumni

continued from page 1

purpose for the Notre Dame community.

"This series is a way of utilizing technology to help members of the Notre Dame family stay connected," he said. "We have a spiritual responsibility to the Notre Dame community and this program allows them to stay connected to that spiritual aspect."

Sullivan said the idea for the program came from another online spiritual venture, the pray.nd.edu Web site she helped to create. Sullivan said in looking at prayer requests that were submitted to the site by alumni and others, she noticed a pattern of concerns over trying to figure out how to move forward in faith life during hard times.

"I began to ask what we could do to reach people and bring faith needs to our alumni," she said. "Then the idea for 'Tender, Strong and True' began to form."

The actual planning got underway in September. The Alumni Association set up an advisory group that included Sullivan, Chair of the Theology Department John Cavadini and Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Richard Warner. The pilot episode aired Feb. 7, featuring a discussion on prayer and the Lenten season, attracting 70 viewers to the live viewing and 238 watched

the video after the viewing. The most recent edition, which aired on March 14 and featured the topic of job loss, has had over 700 views on the Alumni Association's Web site.

Heintz said each show has only minimal planning with most of the content being left up to the questions submitted by viewers.

"We have a spiritual responsibility to the Notre Dame community and this program allows them to stay connected to that spiritual aspect."

Michael Heintz
Monsignor

"I began to ask what we could do to reach people and bring faith needs to our alumni."

Kathy Sullivan
chair
Theology Department

"We meet before so we have an idea of where we want to go," he said. "But there's not a script; we just try and engage in conversation."

Sullivan said the response she has had from viewers has been one of gratitude and appreciation. She said she thinks the series touches people on a unique level.

"This isn't intended to be an Oprah show or a psychology show," she said. "It's an effort to explore how we live our faith throughout our whole life and applying a faith perspective as an overlay to the challenges of life."

Sullivan and Heintz both hope the series continues to be a service not only to Notre Dame alumni, but to the Notre Dame community as a whole.

"A life of faith for a member of the Notre Dame family doesn't stop at graduation," Heintz said. "This series will continue to provide a forum for the University to speak to the community beyond campus."

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden3@nd.edu



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Security forces shoot three

KAMPALA, Uganda — Ugandan security forces fatally shot three people in the capital Wednesday during clashes with rioters angry after the tombs of five traditional kings were destroyed overnight by fire, a tribal government official said.

Lubega Segona, minister of information for the Buganda kingdom, said three people were killed and several wounded by members of the presidential guard. He said the guards shot at angry members of the traditional kingdom who had tried to stop Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni from visiting the tombs.

"Those killed were among a crowd which was stopping the guards to enter where the tombs are located," Segona said. "The guards responded by opening fire and killing three people and injuring several."

Thai protestors remain in Bangkok

BANGKOK — Anti-government demonstrators vowed Wednesday to extend their protest in the Thai capital indefinitely, after taking their attention-grabbing tactic of pouring bottles of their own blood to the prime minister's home.

Leaders of the Red Shirt protesters, who want Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to call new elections, said they would scale back the size of the demonstration they began Sunday in order to conserve energy and resources.

The decision to stay encamped in the Thai capital is meant to keep up the pressure on Abhisit, who already has rejected several of the protesters' deadlines to dissolve Parliament.

NATIONAL NEWS

Group protests textbooks on Islam

PHILADELPHIA — A series of children's textbooks on Islam contains misleading and inflammatory rhetoric about the religion, inaccurately portraying its followers as inherently violent and deserving of suspicion, according to a Muslim civil liberties group.

The Pennsylvania chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations began what it calls a public awareness campaign Wednesday against the "World of Islam" books by Mason Crest Publishing.

"This is not about Muslims being offended," Moein Khawaja, the chapter's civil rights director, said at a news conference. "Filled with incorrect information and deception, these books are contrary to the education mission of schools and libraries."

It was not immediately clear where the series is being used, but Khawaja said complaints from council chapters across the country lead him to believe it is on bookshelves in about two dozen states.

Sweat lodge deaths ruled heatstroke

CAMP VERDE, Ariz. — Two people who were overcome in an Arizona sweat lodge ceremony last year were unconscious when emergency crews arrived, and an autopsy concluded they died of heat stroke upon arrival at a hospital.

Autopsy reports released Tuesday show multi-system organ failure was the cause of death for a third person attending the October ceremony led by motivational speaker James Arthur Ray.

Ray has pleaded not guilty to three counts of manslaughter in their deaths and is free on bond.

LOCAL NEWS

Governor Daniels signs ethics bill

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels has signed into law a bill tightening ethics and lobbying rules for lawmakers and the executive branch.

The bill, one of 23 Daniels signed Wednesday, bars lawmakers from becoming lobbyists for one year after they leave the General Assembly and requires lobbyists to report gifts worth \$50 or more. It also bars incumbents or candidates for statewide office from raising campaign funds during budget-writing legislative sessions.

Some provisions take effect July 1. Others do so later.

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban launches new operation

Insurgents conduct a fear and intimidation campaign in southern Afghan base

Associated Press

MARJAH — A month after losing control of their southern base in Marjah, the Taliban have begun to fight back, launching a campaign of assassination and intimidation to frighten people from supporting the U.S. and its Afghan allies.

At least one alleged government sympathizer has been beheaded. There are rumors that others have been killed. Afghans in the town that U.S., Afghan and NATO troops captured in a three-week assault that began Feb. 13 awake to letters posted on their doors warning against helping the troops.

Winning public support in this former Taliban stronghold in Helmand province 360 miles southwest of Kabul is considered essential to preventing insurgents from returning.

The Marjah operation will serve as a model for campaigns elsewhere, including one expected by summer to secure villages around Kandahar, the Taliban's spiritual birthplace and the largest city in the south.

Military commanders believe the Taliban campaign is achieving some success because of questions raised at town meetings: Do the U.S. forces want to shut down the mosques and ban prayer? Will they use lookout posts on their bases to ogle women? Are they going to take farmers' land away?

"Dislocating the insurgents physically was easy. Dislocating them socially — proving that we're here to stay and to help — is a lot harder," said Lt. Col. Jeff Rule, the head of operations for Marines in Helmand.

There are no firm figures on how many Taliban are left in Marjah. Marine and Afghan military officials say they believe most of those still here are from



Andrew Zykan of Florissant, Mo., sits with Afghans Tuesday as marines of the First Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment build a barrier around their base.

the area and the foreign fighters have fled.

Regardless of Taliban numbers, their influence is still felt.

New cell phone towers brought phone service to Marjah a little over a week ago. But the service doesn't work at night because the Taliban threaten or bribe tower operators to shut off the network, presumably to prevent people from alerting troops and police as they plant bombs after dark.

Some of the workers on canal-clearing projects have been threatened or have been beaten up by insurgents.

At least one canal worker who received threats returned and said he will keep working despite the risk, said Maj. David

Fennell, who oversees about 15 civil affairs troops working to win over the population.

"That's when you know that you fought the Taliban and you won," Fennell said. "I tell my team time and time again: 'What did we just do today? We hit the Taliban in the mouth.'"

This is the struggle for Marjah now: winning people over with a job or a vaccination for a child. The victories are small because the Taliban already proved it can make good on its promises by enforcing harsh justice while in power.

"My sense is that the Taliban will reinfiltate in due course as the Afghan government fails to live up to the modest expectations NATO has of it," says

Mervyn Patterson, a former U.N. political affairs expert in Afghanistan. "I do not think that the Taliban have been weakened in Helmand by the loss of Marjah. They have been having ups and downs, and this was a modest down, but not something that is significant, in and of itself. I expect they will gradually return to Marjah."

Many of the estimated 80,000 people here share the same fears, even though there are about 4,000 NATO and Afghan troops in and around Marjah, including two Marine battalions in the town. Some say they're afraid to take money from the military because if the Taliban find them with the cash, they'll be punished.

Detroit schools slated to close in June

Associated Press

DETROIT — Doors are expected to shut on more than a quarter of Detroit's 172 public schools in June as the district fights through steadily declining enrollment and a budget deficit of more than \$219 million, an emergency financial manager said Wednesday.

Three aging, traditional and underpopulated high schools would be among the 44 closures. Another six schools are to be closed in June 2011, followed by seven more a year later, emergency financial manager Robert Bobb said.

Detroit already closed 29 schools

before the start of classes last fall and shuttered 35 buildings about three years ago. Parents like Jena Williams, 41, call it a worrisome trend. Her 5-year-old daughter's school is on the June list.

"I am not happy about it, but the population of the city is shrinking and the people who have the means are moving out," Williams said after picking up her daughter, Payton, from Bunche Elementary on Detroit's east side.

The closures are part of a \$1 billion, five-year plan to downsize a struggling district also is looking to improve education, test scores and student safety in a city whose popula-

tion has declined with each passing decade. The 2010 U.S. Census is expected to show that far fewer than 900,000 people now live in Detroit.

"You've got to give DPS a chance. You've got to give Detroit a chance. I'm trying to," said Williams, an unemployed General Motors Co. contract worker.

District data shows full-time, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade enrollment has decreased from about 164,500 in 2002-03 to 87,700 for the current school year. Enrollment is projected to dip to 56,500 in 2014-15.

More than half the classroom seats in dozens of buildings are empty.

Debate

continued from page 1

Professor Rea said he also feels a strong feature of the event is its present day value.

"[The event is about] serious questions about the rationality of belief in God and about the role religion plays in contributing to the evils in this world," Rea said.

Phelan said what makes the event truly special is the quality of the participants in the conversation and debate.

"Christopher Hitchens and Dinesh D'Souza are amongst the foremost public intellectuals in the world, and are two of the best known spokespersons for their respective positions," he said. "They have both authored numerous books and have debated multiple times on these topics, drawing crowds of over 6,000 to similar events."

Phelan said the group of organizers drew inspiration from similar events, but the prestige of the participants was what helped convince

them to put the debate together.

"Daniel and I had always wanted to see one of these debates, and we thought 'Why not have one here?'" Phelan said. "We've had discussions of this type ourselves, but it was another thing entirely to have two of the world's best debaters battle it out on a public stage."

Stanfiel said Hitchens in particular could prove to be a polarizing figure on the Notre Dame campus.

"People might object to Hitchens, a self-proclaimed anti-theist being given a platform, but these are issues that are being debated in the larger culture," he said. "What better venue for Notre Dame is there for the honest presentation of both sides of this controversy?"

Tickets for the event will be available to students at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center ticket office beginning March 24. The event is free for Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students.

Contact Sam Stryker at stryke1@nd.edu



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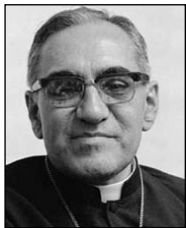
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BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

Archbishop Romero to be commemorated at ND

Special to The Observer

The 2010 Romero Days, a series of events commemorating the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero will be held at the University of Notre Dame March 24 to 26 (Wednesday to Friday).



Romero

Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini of San Marcos, Guatemala, will speak on the state of civil and human rights in his diocese on March 24 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 1130 of the Eck Hall of Law. An internationally recognized human rights activist, Bishop Ramazzini has been an outspoken and frequently threatened advocate for the campesinos, immigrants and landless people of Guatemala. Also on March 24, he will preside and preach at Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 5:15 p.m.

Ana Carrigan, journalist and author of the recent book "The Palace of Justice: A Colombian Tragedy," will speak on her work and on social conditions in Colombia March 25 at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Also on March 25, a new documentary film, "Monseñor: The Last Journey of Oscar Romero," will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The film includes extracts from Archbishop Romero's Sunday homilies and from his personal diary, and personal interviews of a cross section of Salvadorans: campesinos, guerrillas, soldiers, politi-

cians, priests, nuns and catechists. Rev. Robert Pelton, C.S.C., director of Notre Dame's

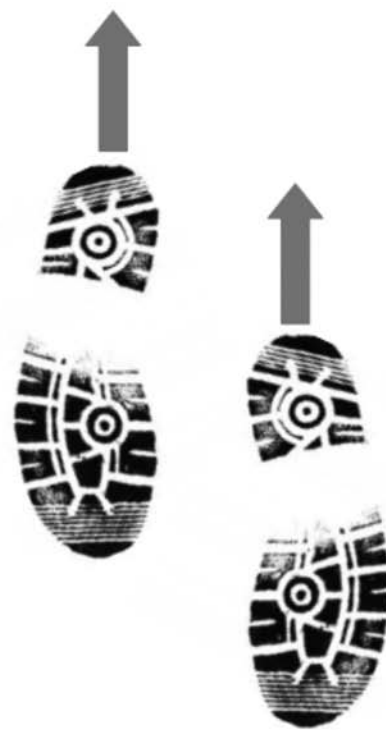
Latin American/North American Church Concerns (LANACC) will travel to El Salvador to introduce the film at its world premiere in the Cathedral of San Salvador on March 19.

Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated by a right-wing death squad while presiding at Mass on March 24, 1980, in a hospital in San Salvador. His outspoken advocacy of human rights, his denunciations of U.S. military aid to El Salvador, his call for Salvadoran military personnel to disobey immoral orders, and his insistence that the Church be inseparable from the poor all made him a figure of some controversy before and after his death.

Archbishop Romero has been officially recommended for canonization by the Catholic Church in El Salvador, and he already is widely venerated as a martyr in his native country, throughout Latin America and in the United States.

Romero Days is organized annually by LANACC, which seeks to interpret Latin American Catholicism to U.S. Catholics and others through films, publications and public events.

The events of the 2010 Romero Days are co-sponsored by LANACC and Notre Dame's Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Latin American Studies Program, the Bishop Shaheen Leadership Fund, the Center for Civil and Human Rights, the Center for Social Concerns, the Department of Theology, the Institute for Church Life, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Campus Ministry, the Institute for Latino Studies and the Department of Film, Television and Theatre.



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NASDAQ	2,389.09	+11.08
NYSE	7,474.13	+47.43
S&P 500	1,166.21	+6.75
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	10,821.46	-25.52
FTSE 100 (London)	5,644.63	+24.20

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC. (C)	0.00	0.00	4.05
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FORD MOTOR CO (F)	+4.52	+0.61	14.10

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13-WEEK BILL	-3.23	-0.05	0.150
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IN BRIEF

Wachovia settles laundering case

MIAMI — Banking giant Wachovia Corp. will pay \$160 million to settle a federal investigation into laundering of illegal drug profits through Mexican exchange houses in the largest case of its kind ever brought against a U.S. bank, prosecutors said Wednesday.

"This is historic," acting U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Sloman said. "There is no other case like this one anywhere."

The probe, which began in 2005 when a Drug Enforcement Administration narcotics dog in Florida detected cocaine traces in an airplane, ultimately uncovered at least \$110 million in drug profits laundered from Mexico through Wachovia. The total settlement includes forfeiture in that amount plus a \$50 million fine.

"DEA will follow drug money wherever it leads us," said Mark R. Trouville, chief of the DEA's Miami office.

Nike profits grow as sales rise

BEAVERTON, Ore. — Nike Inc. said Wednesday that stronger sales helped boost the athletic shoe and clothing company's third-quarter profit.

Nike reported after the market closed that it earned \$496 million, or \$1.01 per share, for the quarter.

That's more than double the \$244 million, or 50 cents per share, it reported for the same period a year earlier. But the year-ago results included a \$241 million charge related to the company's Umbro subsidiary, which it had recently acquired.

Excluding those charges, Nike's profit grew a more modest 2 percent.

Nike said its revenue grew 7 percent to \$4.7 billion, helped in part by foreign exchange rates. Revenue grew most in China and other emerging markets, and it fell in some parts of Europe and Japan.

Nike's key markets of Western Europe and the U.S. showed modest single-digit revenue gains.

CEO Mark Parker said the third quarter was great for the company, which is based in Beaverton, Ore., and demonstrated that the company's ability to connect with consumers can drive profitable growth.

The results beat the average forecast of analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters for profit of 89 cents per share on revenue of \$4.6 billion. Analyst expectations typically exclude one-time items.

Jobs bill wins Senate's approval

New measure offers tax breaks for companies that hire unemployed workers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Companies that hire unemployed workers will get a temporary payroll tax holiday under a bill that easily won congressional approval Wednesday in what Democrats hope is just the first of several election-year measures aimed at boosting hiring.

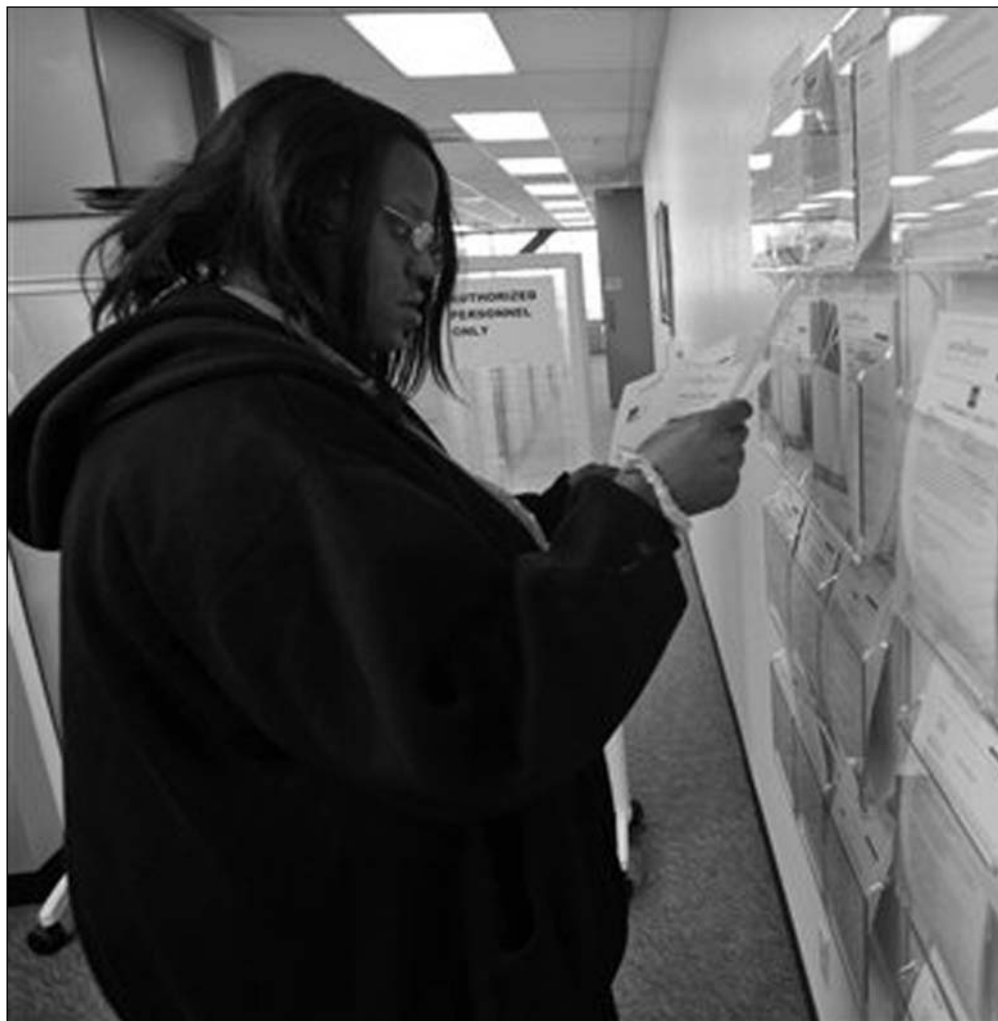
The 68-29 bipartisan vote in the Senate sent the legislation to the White House, where President Barack Obama was expected to sign it into law Thursday. Eleven Republicans voted for the legislation, an impressive tally considering the politically charged atmosphere on Capitol Hill.

It was the first of several jobs bills promised by Democrats, though there's plenty of skepticism that the measure will do much to actually create jobs. Optimistic estimates predict the tax break could generate perhaps 250,000 jobs through the end of the year, but that would be just a tiny fraction of the 8.4 million jobs lost since the start of the recession.

The measure is part of a campaign by Democrats to show that they are addressing the nation's unemployment problem, but that message was overshadowed by Congress' feverish final push to pass health care overhaul legislation by this weekend.

"It is the first of what I hope will be a series of jobs packages that help to continue to put people back to work," Obama said after the vote.

The bill contains about \$18 billion in tax breaks and a \$20 billion infusion of cash into highway and transit programs. Among other things, it exempts businesses that hire people who have been unemployed for at least 60 days from paying the 6.2 percent Social Security payroll tax through December and gives employers an additional \$1,000 credit if new work-



Damashata Washington looks for work at Work 2 Future, a federally funded job training center in San Jose, Calif.

ers stay on the job a full year. Taxpayers will have to reimburse Social Security for the lost revenue.

"This is just the first, certainly not the last, piece of legislation that we will put forward in relation to jobs," said its sponsor, Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "If we don't create jobs, the economy will not move forward."

It also extends highway and mass transit programs through the end of the year and pump in \$20 billion in time for the spring construction season. That money would make up for lower-than-expected gasoline tax revenues.

The measure is modest compared with last year's \$862 billion economic stimulus bill, and the bulk of the hiring tax breaks would

probably go to companies that were likely to hire new workers anyway.

"Until business picks up for small business owners, there's not going to be a huge incentive to add new workers," said Bill Rys of the National Federation of Independent Business, which lobbies for small business.

The bill is financed in part over the coming decade by cracking down on offshore tax havens, though it would add \$13 billion to the debt in the coming three years.

"When are we going to stop spending money around here as if there's no tomorrow?" said Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H. "Because pretty soon there's going to be no tomorrow for our

children as we add this debt to their backs."

In addition to the hiring tax incentives and highway funding, the bill extends a tax break for small businesses buying new equipment and modestly expands an initiative that helps state and local governments finance infrastructure projects.

A far larger measure that would extend health insurance subsidies and jobless checks for the unemployed is in the works but has hit slow going. That measure has passed both House and Senate but is hung up as the rival chambers wrangle over how to partially finance the legislation, which also would extend a variety of tax breaks for individuals and businesses.

Stocks slowly climb to reach new highs

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The stock market has a new formula for success: a slow and steady trek higher.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 48 points Wednesday in its seventh straight advance to close at a new high for 2010. The gain means the Dow has joined the Standard & Poor's 500 index and Nasdaq composite index in reaching the best levels since 2008.

Stocks reached the new highs by climbing almost in stealth mode. The Dow is up 825 points in about five weeks but the gains haven't come in the 100-point pops that were common during much of the market's climb in the past 12 months. There have only been a few of those big days in recent

weeks. Most of the increase has come from gains that don't make headlines, like 45 points, or 10.

The gains could always unravel but it makes for a more sustainable climb when investors mostly nibble at stocks.

"Boring is the new sexy," said Neil Menard, principal at Steben & Co. in Rockville, Md.

The advance is occurring in part because investors' list of worries isn't growing. There are still big problems like unemployment and government deficits but they're not new. And some worries are easing. Greece is taking steps to tackle its debt problems, for example. There had been fear its problems would spoil a global recovery.

The catalyst for this latest increase

was the Fed's decision Tuesday to hold its key lending rate at a record low of essentially zero. A government report that prices at the wholesale level fell by the biggest amount in seven months boosted investors' belief that inflation is being contained.

It's clear from the market's climb that investors are feeling more upbeat. Since Feb. 8, the Dow is up 8.3 percent. That's a big gain that might ordinarily take a year to accomplish. But the Dow had slumped 7.6 percent in the month before that, so a rebound isn't surprising.

What's more important is the way the market is climbing: in almost a stairstep pattern. The Dow hasn't swung by more than 100 points in 12 of the past 14 trading days.

Calif. officer helps stop runaway Prius

Associated Press

EL CAJON, Calif. — A California Highway Patrol report released Wednesday said an officer saw brake lights flashing after arriving to help slow a speeding Toyota Prius on a Southern California freeway.

The lights were on "for a period of time and would turn off, indicating the driver was possibly pumping the brakes," CHP Officer Todd Neibert wrote in his seven-page incident report.

"I was within ¼ mile of the vehicle and could smell the heated brakes which indicated they had been used extensively," it states.

The report offered some new details and dozens of photos about events that occurred after driver Jim Sikes called 911 on March 8 to say his gas pedal got stuck on a San Diego-area freeway.

However, it did nothing to clarify the wildly divergent versions of events from Sikes and Toyota Motor Corp.

Neibert also wrote that a Border Patrol agent in an unmarked vehicle with emergency lights flashing was trying to help guide the Toyota to safety. The report didn't say how long the Border Patrol agent had been tracking the Prius in the Chevrolet Tahoe.

"It was staying ahead of us

and it was later determined that the agent driving the Chevrolet Tahoe was aware of the situation," Neibert wrote.

The account in the report is consistent with details Neibert and Sikes gave reporters shortly after the incident.

It said the CHP officer trailed the Prius at 95 mph on Interstate 8 east of San Diego, and the car slowed to about 50 mph before the officer told Sikes over a loudspeaker to hit the floor brake and emergency brake simultaneously. Sikes gradually came to an unassisted stop and was not injured.

The car stopped in mountainous terrain 20 miles from a steep downgrade and sharp left turn.

"If the Prius made it to that location, the ultimate result would have most likely led to a catastrophic ending," the officer wrote.

Sikes told Neibert he had tried three times to lift the gas pedal with his hand but was unsuccessful, the report states.

Sikes, 61, was initially reluctant to speak with reporters, but the officer urged him to go to the station to "put the media at ease," according to the report.

"I advised him the media would most likely seek him out if he did not speak to them voluntarily," Neibert wrote.

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Search resumes for mom, son

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Authorities in Washington state on Wednesday resumed their search for a woman who appears to have abandoned a van on a remote Puget Sound beach over the weekend and disappeared with her 8-year-old son.

A boat is searching the Boston Harbor area with a bloodhound on board to try to pick up the scent of Shantina "Kat" Smiley and her son Azriel

Carver, said Lt. Chris Mealy of the Thurston County Sheriff's Office. Dogs are also searching the roads and the area surrounding the beach.

The search was back on Wednesday afternoon after someone in the area recovered several items that washed up on the beach overnight.

The items included two mismatched leather shoes, a half-full and corked wine bottle, an inhaler and an orange ball, Mealy said.

He said one of the shoes could

be a child's shoe. He added that the 29-year-old Smiley purchased a bottle of wine during her travels around Olympia on Saturday night.

Investigators planned to ask Smiley's fiance, Robb Simmons, if he can determine whether any of the items belonged to Smiley or her son.

The search and rescue operation was called off Wednesday morning when detectives didn't turn up any solid leads and turned their focus toward other segments of the investigation.

Research monkeys die due to extreme heat



The Charles River Lab in Reno, Nev., is part of an animal research industry where 33 monkeys have died due to neglect.

Associated Press

SPARKS, Nev. — Workers at a Nevada research lab were checking on a primate room when they came across a ghastly sight: Thirty dead monkeys were essentially cooked alive after someone left the heater on. Two others were near death and had to be euthanized.

At a lab run by the same company, a monkey died last year after it was sent through a washer while still in its cage. The temperatures were so scalding the monkey never had a chance.

The two cases have led to calls for greater oversight and enforcement of the animal research industry after an alarmingly high number of deaths in recent years.

Critics say fines for violations at animal research labs are so puny that they do nothing to deter violations. The lab where the monkeys died in Nevada was fined a mere \$14,000 for the two incidents, according to records from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"The penalties have given them virtually no motivation whatsoever to cease violating the law," said Michael Budkie, the executive director of the Ohio-based Stop Animal Exploitation Now. "If they are literally killing animals through negligence, something is wrong with the system."

The group asked Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack last month for an independent investigation into animal deaths at research labs.

Agriculture Department records show there were 97 negligent animal deaths at research facilities nationwide over the last two years, a figure that does not include lab mice and rats.

One of the biggest violators was Charles River Laboratories, where the 33 monkeys died at facilities in Reno in 2008 and Sparks in 2009.

The Massachusetts-based company is one of the world's largest suppliers of clinical and laboratory research services to pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

It also is a leading importer of research animals and breeds some of its own animals for medical research. Its researchers in Nevada are working to find a cure for cancer, new flu vaccines and better ways to treat obesity.

Spokeswoman Amy Cianciaruso said survival rates for major diseases are at an all-time high thanks to the discovery of new drugs made possible in part by the work of scientists at Charles River labs. The company has called the monkey deaths a "terrible and unfortunate tragedy," but said they were isolated cases and corrective actions were taken. Agriculture Department records show one employee was fired and another disciplined.

"Charles River's work is an essential component of the research that has led to these discoveries and has played a vital role in medical advances for humans as well as animals," Cianciaruso said.

The dead monkeys represent a tiny fraction of the tens of thousands of primates used for research around the country.

Charles River is one of 26 registered U.S. importers of non-human primates, a group that includes zoos, universities and private labs, said Christine Pearson, a spokeswoman for the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Together they imported 27,388 animals in fiscal year 2008 and have averaged approximately 25,000 primates per year over the past four or five years, she said. Charles River alone reported it housed nearly 10,000 primates nationwide in 2008.

Congress first passed the Animal Welfare Act in 1966 and amended it in the 1980s to set new minimum standards for dogs used in research and the psychological well-being of primates. It was amended again in 2008, raising fines from \$2,500 to the current \$10,000 per violation for negligent acts.

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Upcoming Shows

<p>Saturday, April 10 South Bend Symphony Orchestra Concert "Brahms Requiem" Sarah Hibbard, Soprano Philip Kraus, Baritone</p>	<p>Friday, April 16 Girls Night: The Musical "Desperate Housewives" Meets "Mamma Mia!"</p>
<p>Sunday, April 11 Cheech and Chong "Get It Legal" Comedy</p>	<p>Monday, April 19 Author David Sedaris</p>
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Saint Patrick's: A quiet day at home

As I sit here in my study, I write that it is Saint Patrick's Day, a day which warms the cockles of my heart as an Irishman. All too often the great intellectual contributions of the Irish to the world languish unrecognized, despite their astounding literary, theatrical, scientific and artistic contributions. It is salutary and important, therefore, to have a day in which we pay tribute to the great Irish minds of the past.

Brooks Smith

Intellectual

It has not escaped my attention, however, that many people feel this day is nothing more than an excuse to indulge the baser aspects of their human nature. I look out my window over the quad and see, not the orderly procession of fellow students to their classes, but all sorts of quite unaccountable frivolity. It appears that many students have forgotten how to walk, as they stagger and stumble from place to place. Some of my schoolmates who have found comfort in the opposite sex are quite openly expressing their affection for each other by kissing, not gently but rather deeply, after the French fashion.

All this, I think, is due to the regrettable stereotype of the Irishman as a hard-drinking, potato-consuming, ugly, brawling lout, swinging a shillelagh with one hand and guzzling a Guinness with the other. I even overheard a conversation yesterday in which some students were excitedly discussing their plans to create and consume a drink they referred to as

"Irish car-bombs" — a most insensitive name which makes unacceptably light of a truly dark period in recent Irish history, the sooner forgotten the better.

Indeed, I have lately noticed a great decline in public civility and morals. Why, as I was walking back from a gathering of fellow mathematicians late one night, a lady on the street walked up to me and quite boldly inquired if I wanted "sex business!" "Certainly not!" I replied, offended. "I have no intention of exposing my genitals to passersby on the street. We have hardly made each other's acquaintance and you wish to exchange bodily fluids and lice with me? Get out of my sight!" The nerve of that saucy wench!

Yes, not for me the idle frittering away of time on pursuits of debased pleasures. I shall celebrate this distinctly Irish holiday by immersing myself in its intellectual life, perhaps underlining passages of interest in "Finnegan's Wake" or chuckling at certain scatological episodes in Swift which I must confess I find highly amusing. Perhaps I shall take up the study of verb declensions in Gaelic as used in the "Tain Bo Cuailnge," the great Irish mythological epic, equaled only by the Iliad in historical importance and literary merit. Or I might comb my sideburns so as to gain a greater resemblance to James Clerk Maxwell, the great unifier of the forces of electricity and magnetism and Ireland's answer to Einstein.

What's that? I hear a knocking at the door of my apartment. No doubt mathematical friends, come to discuss the pursuits of the mind. Come in, gentlemen! As it is Saint Patrick's Day, the preeminent

Irish holiday, I thought we might discuss Sir William Rowan Hamilton's contributions to the science of the quaternions and the vector calculus.

Why sirs, your faces and cheeks are all quite red! Is it truly that cold out? I had thought it quite temperate. Please, my friends, lower your voices! There are other people in this apartment complex. Does my nose detect the distinctive odor of cheap whiskey? Well I never — you're all quite soused! What are you doing with that strange contraption, that funnel affixed to a plastic tube? Is that a canister of inexpensive beer? Don't put that dirty tube in my mouth! Mmph! Glug-glug-glug-glug-glug!

Good heavens. I feel quite strange. My whole body is positively thrumming with energy. I have a truly odd urge to sing popular music of the most low and shameful persuasion, "power ballads" and "bohemian rhapsodies" and whatnot, at the top of my lungs. What's that you say, my good fellows? You know of an establishment nearby which sells drinks and allows its patrons to sing — a "karaoke bar?" Lead me there, gentlemen, I am at your disposal. Might I trouble you to pour me another alcoholic beverage through your wonder tube? Glug-glug-glug-glug-glug! "Is this the real life, is this just fantasy ..."

Brooks Smith is a junior math and English major at Notre Dame. He can be contacted at bsmith26@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

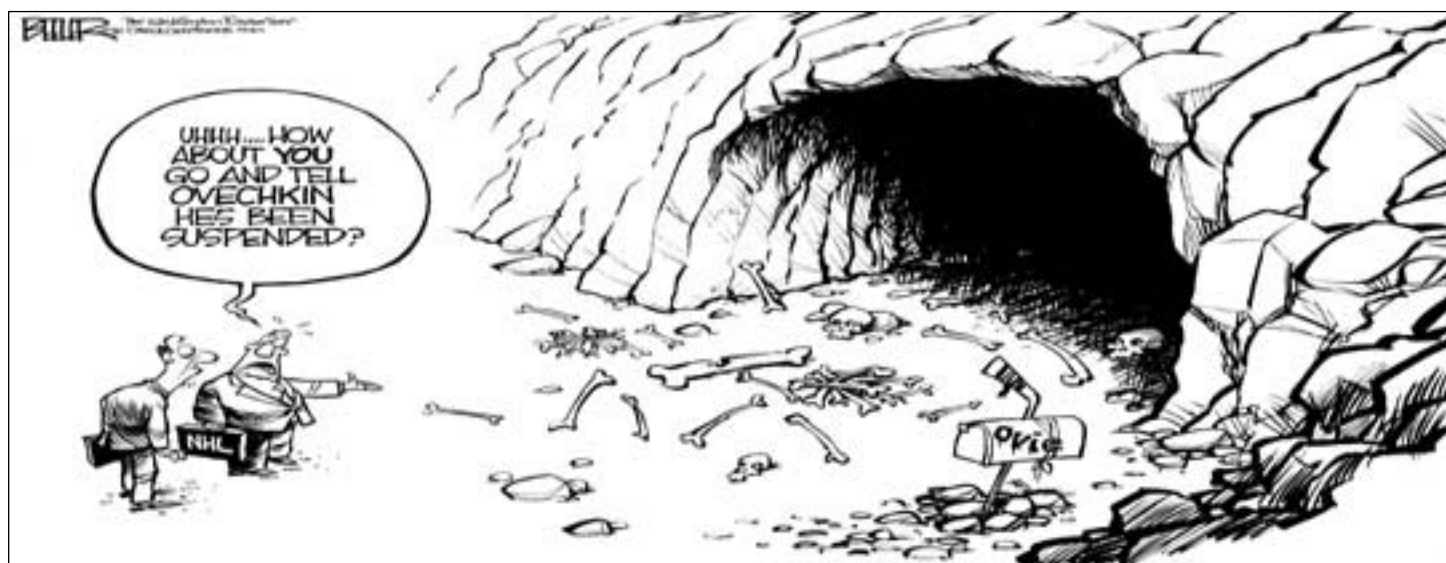
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Believing in the Irish

Irish eyes are smiling on the Fightin' Irish 2010 Men's Basketball team. We have huge momentum going into the tourney and it is time to pull out all the stops. I see an Irish victory over Kansas in the final. If every Irish fan could visualize this result, it would occur.

Sue Lang
alumna
Class of 1979
March 18

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."

Albert Einstein
Swiss-American physicist

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at

www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We are all atheists about most of the gods humanity has ever believed in. Some of us just go one god further."

Richard Dawkins
British ethologist

Why Christians are chicken

When was the first time you ever saw God? I don't mean "I saw God in the bumble bee on a rose petal this morning." I'm talking face-to-face. Was there ever a time when you actually looked into the face of your Creator?

This is not a trick question. The Psalms seem to suggest that each of us, before we were born, gazed upon the face of God, and God upon us. This seems worth pondering. Psalm 139 tells us,

"From the beginning, Lord, you created my inmost being.

You knit me in my mother's womb. My body was not hidden from you, When I was made in your secret place. When I was woven together, Your eyes gazed upon my body."

This is an intimate psalm about our creation. There is a notion here that, sometime even before we were conceived in our mother's womb, we gazed into the eyes of the Pure Love who created us from the very beginning.

(Since I was a Program of Liberal Studies major, I have a license — granted upon graduation — to cite scientific phenomena and processes, with no precise under-

standing of them, to make purely literary, philosophical and theological points, which I will now do.)

You may recall from high school biology class a most unusual phenomenon called imprinting. Imprinting, as I understand it, was first discovered to occur in chickens. It describes the almost humorous phenomenon that the first living thing a baby chick sees when it hatches out of its egg, it believes for the rest of its life to be its mother.

So, for example, if a baby chick is hatched in an incubator by a lab technician, and the first living thing it sees after it hatches is the lab technician, guess what? The lab technician is "Mommy." And if the chick is let out of its pen, even if there are other hens around, including its real mom, it will follow around the lab technician. In fact, if memory serves me right, it has been shown that the lab technician can disappear for months, even years, at a time, but if she comes back one day, the chicken will immediately start to follow her. That's how powerful the imprint is!

Now this is where the Scriptures — from Psalm 139 to the Gospels — get interesting. John's Gospel, for example, records the story of a man "blind from birth." This man, in other words, has never seen

another person in his life. And then Jesus comes and opens his eyes. So, the very first person the blind man sees in his life is Jesus.

In order to cure him, John tells us that Jesus made clay and smeared it into his eyes. Now John is a masterful story-teller, and this detail is hardly unimportant. In fact, clay is the very material out of which God made the first humans in Genesis. So, just as Adam and Eve gazed on God, and God on them, with no obstacles, so this man will gaze on God and God on him, face-to-face, through Christ.

And sure enough, the man opens his eyes, and gazes upon Jesus, and from that moment on, he has a longing deep within him, to know something about this man who re-created him. The whole remainder of the Gospel is this man coming to a deeper and deeper knowledge of who Jesus is. First, "He's the man who gave me sight." Then, "He's a prophet." Until finally, Jesus asks him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answers, "Who is he, sir, that I might believe?" "The one speaking to you is He."

The longing we have to come to know the first person we ever see is a longing that is meant to keep us always trying to encounter God more intimately. Now, the funny thing about all this is, this instinct is

so powerful in that little chicken, its longing to have a mommy is so incredibly powerful, that it makes the chicken start following the first thing that moves!

And we'd laugh at that, except that we know, that every one of us does the same thing — just in much more complex ways! This longing at the center of our being is so powerful that we very often fill it with the first thing that we see moving! In fact, all our other longings — our longing to eat and be full, to see beauty, to befriend someone and feel loved — are all instances of this one central longing at the core of our being — to see our Creator again.

During Lent, we give up things we desire, little things for which we often long. One way to think about this practice is that it is our way of reminding ourselves: All our desires in the end are just little instances of our desire for God. And only God, who we looked upon first, before we were born, will ultimately fill our deepest longing.

This week's FaithPoint was written by Fr. Lou DelFra, CSC, director of Bible Studies and ACE Chaplain. He can be reached at delfra.2@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

A plea for Freedom of Speech to Fr. Jenkins

Dear Father Jenkins:

We are graduates of the University of Notre Dame who went on to graduate from law schools around the country. We write to express our profound concern and disappointment regarding the University's recent treatment of a group of students who engaged in free speech to inform their classmates and the public about Catholic Social Teaching and its relation to the University's investments.

We understand that on Saturday, Feb. 20, Notre Dame students peacefully gathered in a parking lot outside of the Joyce Athletic Center to inform the public about the University's investment in HEI Hotels and Resorts, a company that has been accused by the Office of General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board of egregiously violating workers' rights. Notre Dame Security agents forced the students to halt their leafleting and confiscated the leaflets. The University subsequently summoned three of the students to appear at a Disciplinary Conference presumably for their attempt to inform the public about Catholic Social Teaching.

As you know, the confiscated leaflets reference a complaint issued by the General Counsel of the federal National Labor Relations Board against the HEI-owned Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, alleging that HEI interrogated, threatened, suspended and fired mainly immigrant hotel workers who are organizing collectively to improve their working conditions. Some of HEI's hotel workers,

Guest Column

like Hermen Romero who works at the Sheraton Crystal City, earn as little as \$9.59 per hour. In addition, HEI has raised the cost to employees for family health insurance to over \$300 per month, making it harder for workers to pay for health benefits for their children.

The leaflet called on Notre Dame to adhere to Catholic Social Teaching, as articulated by the United States Catholic Bishops, which declares: "All people have the right to economic initiative, to productive work, to just wages and benefits, to decent working conditions, as well as to organize and join unions or other associations." The leaflet also cited Pope John Paul II, who stated in *Laborem Exercens* that the union's "task is to defend the existential interests of workers in all sectors where their rights are concerned. ... [Unions] are indeed a mouthpiece for the struggle for social justice, for the just rights of working people in accordance with their individual professions."

The students tried to leaflet outside of an event — a Catholic Mass — held at the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center (JACC) that was open to the general public and was in no way a closed, private University gathering. The leafleters confined their peaceful speech activity to the JACC parking lot, and did not disrupt the Mass itself. Public forums and public parking lots are a traditionally respected site of free speech activity. Public places where communities gather have historically enjoyed the highest level of Constitutional protection under the First Amendment. The

University should afford the same level of respect to non-disruptive free speech activity carried out in a church parking lot open to the public.

Notre Dame's policy, which apparently requires student groups to obtain permission from the University prior to engaging in peaceful expressive activity, is a troubling a priori restriction on free speech. Such overbroad permitting requirements grant the University unlimited discretion to decide what categories of student speech should be forbidden on campus. It is precisely for this reason that federal courts have repeatedly overturned analogous governmental permitting schemes as unlawful limitations on First Amendment rights.

Even worse, the circumstances suggest that the University has applied its policy in an arbitrary manner, calling police officers to shut down a peaceful, non-offensive student gathering and threatening to sanction participants, simply because it disliked the content of the students' message. According to the students, they have regularly leafleted at other student events without similar retaliation.

Further, as a recipient of federal educational funds, the University is no doubt aware that Title 20, U.S. Code § 1011a, "Protection of student speech and association rights," provides that no student should "be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination or official sanction" by an educational institution receiving federal financial assistance for participating in constitutionally protected speech.

Apart from these legal concerns about Notre Dame's actions, the University's mission is to adhere to Catholic Social Teaching. As such, we are stunned that it would deploy resources to suppress the dissemination of those basic tenets. The Church consistently and vigorously defends the right of all workers to organize a Union, and the right of all people to freedom of assembly, as pillars of this teaching.

The University's prohibition of its students from leafleting on Feb. 20 and its decision to take the students to a Disciplinary Conference are deeply troubling from both a legal and an ethical standpoint. We strongly urge the University to refrain from future disruption of peaceful expressive activity by its students, and to terminate its unjustified disciplinary proceedings against any students who were involved. We believe that such courageous, principled students, who devote their time and energy to speaking out on behalf of others, act in the best traditions of the University of Notre Dame. They deserve to be recognized for their witness, not disciplined for it.

This column was written in collaboration by 1987 Notre Dame alumni and current lawyers Kevin Clegg, John Lavelle, Jeanne Bowman-Szromba, Kurt Peterson, Tom Szromba and Frank Losurdo. Kurt Peterson can be reached with regard to this column at kpetersen1@sbcglobal.net

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Workout recruitment

It's when I'm sitting at my desk watching "Lost" and Facebook chatting with friends (a Word document ambitiously open to give the illusion of productivity) that I feel the fiery judgment piercing from behind. I covertly glance over my shoulder and see them staring at me. I know that I'll feel better if I put them on; slip my feet into those faithful Nikes knit with sweaty

memories and whispered promises of endorphin highs and self-satisfied pride. But usually I just turn back to my conversation, guiltily ignoring their gaze. When I do concede, I'm tying the laces with reluctance motivated by remorse, not excitement.

What happened to me? I used to be fit, healthy (I still am — that never entirely goes away) but I'm "softer"

than I was when I ran for the track team only six months ago.

I want to emphasize that this is about getting healthy, not weight loss. Being active makes me happy, increases my self-confidence and generates a sense of pride in my physical appearance. This is why I'd like to put together a group to keep each other accountable and make working out a

social activity.

Send me an e-mail at bburgeso@nd.edu if you are interested.

Britt Burgeson
sophomore
Pasquerilla West Hall
March 18

SCENE'S TOP PICKS Broadcast Yourself™

Memorable Moments:
82nd Annual Academy Awards

"No One Wants To Do It Alone"



Harris' teasing song directed toward the movie industry

Sandra Bullock's Speech



Bullock's heartfelt acceptance speech for Best Actress

The Kanye Moment



Mid-speech, Roger Ross Williams' fellow producer Elinor Burkett steals the mike

Ben Stiller's Avatar



Stiller dressed as an Avatar, complete with tail and braid

The Best, Worst, and Brightest of Oscar Fashions

By ADRIANA PRATT
Assistant Scene Editor

The daring, the beautiful and unfortunately the ugly all brought their best to the 82nd Academy Awards two weeks ago, highlighting upcoming fashion trends and sending out blaring warning signals of "Don't try this at home" with the swish of some over-the-top gowns.



Sandra Bullock:

As everyone knows, this star was a winner on every level possible on March 7. The Oscar she won was a mere accessory to the gorgeous, elegant and classy but sexy Marchesa gown she chose to clothe her fabulous figure. The sheer metallic and lacy details were perfectly balanced with simple side-swept hair and a smack of pink lipstick to add a punch of color to Bullock's otherwise statue-like presence. She aced yet another award's show red carpet and even has the Oscar to prove it.



Mariah Carey:

Mariah, Mariah, Mariah. It doesn't always have to be about the chest. Carey disappointed once again with an obvious presence of her décolletage that left little to the imagination and an overabundance of decadent jewelry. It doesn't always have to be "Go big or go home," Mariah. Large earrings, stacks of diamond bracelets on both wrists and an overwhelming brooch made for an uninspiring and blatantly flashy red carpet appearance. No one, not even Eminem, is going to be "obsessed" with this look.



Sarah Jessica Parker:

You've got to give the woman props for trying to stay in character, even on the red carpet. Parker's pale gold column Chanel gown with a silver embroidered crown at the bosom and gold drapery across the neckline screamed Carrie Bradshaw. Parker brought something new and daring to the red carpet and though it admittedly looked better on the runway, it was innovative and inspiring and helped up the couture quota for the night.



Cameron Diaz:

Finally, Cameron, you maximized on the beauty you were given. Past red carpet appearances left critics confused as to why this gorgeous woman with a fit figure and dazzling presence constantly failed to pick a gown that matched, but this year she aced it to the approval of all. Her strapless, shimmering embroidered Oscar de la Renta gown, sideswept hair and punch of red lips made her look like an old school Hollywood muse, overflowing with elegance and glamour. Though her look resembled Bullock's, it was refreshingly new, demure and much appreciated on Diaz.



Vera Farmiga:

Mixed feelings hid in every ruffle of Farmiga's billowing fuchsia Marchesa gown. At first I loved it, then I wasn't quite sure, then I was distracted by the beautiful Sandra Bullock and finally I reached this conclusion: Farmiga's gown was Oscar appropriate and I appreciated that she graced the red carpet with it. It added some flavor and though it wasn't the most flattering fit because it hid every contour of her amazing 36-year-old body, it did bring a punch of color and a fresh spring feel to the awards show.



Meryl Streep:

You're always classy, adorable and a pleasure to listen to. It almost doesn't matter what you wear since your smile is one of the most dazzling and endearing images we've seen. Your white cowl neck long-sleeved gown by Project Runway's Chris March was simple yet flattering and proved that it's possible for a woman to age with grace.

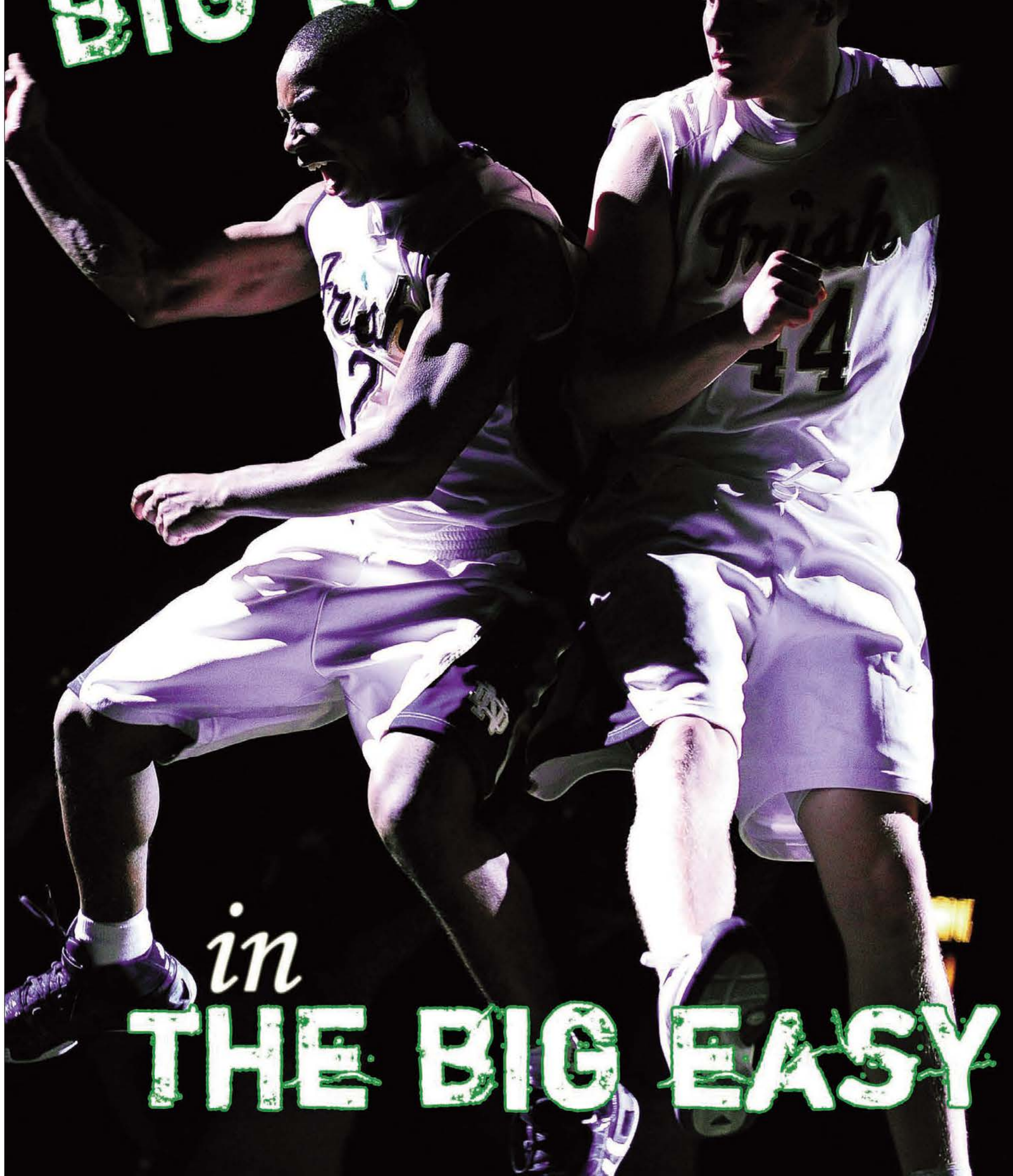
Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, March 18, 2010

THE
OBSERVER

BIG DANCE



in
THE BIG EASY

'Floor general' Jackson heart of Irish team

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Taking the game-winning shot as time expires can be the most exciting play in all of sports. Make it, and you're featured on SportsCenter's Top 10 plays and vaulted into legendary status in school history. Miss, and your entire career may be defined by what could have been.

So when senior guard Tory

Jackson missed the game-winning 3 in a 69-68 loss to St. John's, it could have marked the end of a brilliant four-year career.

"It looked good when I let it go, it felt good, but it didn't end up going down," Jackson said. "I think about it all the time, even when I hit the buzzer beater against Pittsburgh at halftime."

Trailing No. 7 West Virginia by two points in the final seconds of the Big East tournament semifinals, Jackson had another good

look at a game-winning 3, but was unrewarded as the Irish fell to the Mountaineers. Jackson said if the situation ever arises again, he won't hesitate to let it fly.

"When Kobe and Jordan and all those guys take those shots, they miss a lot of game-winning shots," Jackson said. "And when I look at it, I've missed some important shots, but I'm not going to lose confidence and not take that shot. I'm going to keep having confidence and taking that shot, and

that's what makes me me."

Coupled with a passion for the game and the willingness to sacrifice individual success for the sake of the team, it was an easy decision for Irish coach Mike Brey to name Jackson one of the team's captains.

"Unselfishness," Jackson said. "Growing up, I always loved to get my team involved. I do whatever it takes to win. At the same time, especially when a guy's hot, why not? If that's going to help us win, I'd rather take the win than score 50 points and lose. That's not good."

A prolific scorer in high school, Jackson ranks third all time on the Michigan scoring list as the state's two-time player of the year. Upon coming to Notre Dame, Jackson said he knew he would have to rely on his ball handling skills and court vision to break into a Big East starting lineup.

Leading the conference with 5.6 assists per game to go along with a top-10 assist-to-turnover ratio, it's safe to say the senior guard has made the transition successfully.

"To do that and take care of the ball at the same time, it's a great thing if it can get us more possessions," Jackson said. "Being ranked up there in the assist-to-turnover ratio, that's real good for me, that's real good for any point guard."

Playing in every contest since his first day at Notre Dame, Jackson had an immediate impact as a freshman. Named to the All-Big East rookie team, Jackson relied on his strengths as a defender before expanding his overall game.

"Just figuring out ways to stay on the floor," Jackson said. "I wasn't a big time, 30-point scorer, but I played well defensively when I was younger, especially sopho-

more year. As the years went on, I had to become a little bit of a scorer, getting more assists, and also defending the best player on the other team."

Guarding the likes of Villanova point guard Scottie Reynolds can be a daunting task for any defender, let alone one who is 5-11. But what he lacks in size, Jackson said he makes up for in toughness.

"I hate when anybody scores," Jackson said. "It's a passion. I take pride in my defense."

When an injury to senior forward Luke Harangody was followed by losses to Seton Hall, St. John's and Louisville, many considered the season over. But a string of six consecutive victories, including blowouts against No. 16 Pittsburgh and No. 22 Georgetown, has propelled Notre Dame to a No. 6 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Jackson, who calls himself the floor general, says he embraces the task of stepping up and leading the team with a limited Harangody in the lineup.

"I love the challenge," Jackson said. "We've got to pick up the slack for what Gody had."

Jackson has answered the call, scoring 22 points against Connecticut in a victory many believed secured a tournament bid for the Irish. The senior guard was recently named to the Big East All-Tournament team, averaging 10.7 points, five assists and playing all 120 minutes in Madison Square Garden.

"It's basketball," Jackson said. "I've been playing this for awhile, so you kind of get that feeling, get into that zone where, especially when you get a mismatch, you got to have confidence, you got to have swag."

Contact Chris Masoud at
cmasoud@nd.edu



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish point guard Tory Jackson drives for a lay-up in the second half of Notre Dame's 65-62 win over South Florida on Feb. 7. Jackson leads the Big East in assists this season with 5.6 per game.

Peoples a constant contributor in historic senior class

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Senior Sports Writer

While he may not have the accolades or numbers of classmates Luke Harangody and Tory Jackson, senior guard Jonathan Peoples has been a constant contributor to the winningest class in Notre Dame history in Big East play.

Peoples has played in every conference game for the Irish during his four years with the team and is very aware of the achievement.

"It means a lot to say that we did something like that," Peoples said. "We're always going to be remembered as the winningest senior class."

The senior captain is averaging a career-high 18.3 minutes per game this season but has played a key role for Irish coach Mike Brey and Notre Dame from his freshman year.

A Bellwood, Ill., native from St. Joseph High School, Peoples was recruited by Brey after averaging 15.2 points per game his senior year. After the Irish extended a scholarship offer, Peoples quickly accepted.

The transition to Notre Dame was both exciting and challenging for Peoples.

"It was everything I expected, everything I heard about. Beautiful campus, the people here are great," Peoples said. "I didn't know about parietales, I was kind of heated about that. It was a great experience my

freshman year though."

In the basketball program, Peoples had to make adjustments to 6 a.m. practices.

"The workouts in the morning had me, I just couldn't get through it for the first two months, and I was getting a little home sick," Peoples said. "Being around the older guys like Colin Falls, Rob Kurz, Russell Carter, they helped me adjust quickly."

While Peoples was learning from the experienced upperclassmen around him, he was still seeing time on the court as a reserve, appearing in all 16 Big East contests. Peoples played six minutes of time in Notre Dame's appearance in the NCAA Tournament, where the Irish were upset by Winthrop.

Peoples minutes and impact continued to grow through his sophomore and junior seasons when he became one of the first players off Brey's bench. The guard played in all 33 contests sophomore year and earned his first career starts his junior season against Marquette and Pittsburgh.

"I finally got the opportunity to start my first college game, and I was happy," Peoples said. "I was kind of nervous, but happy at the same time."

Evolving into a veteran leader by his senior year, Peoples was named a captain by Brey along with classmates Jackson and Harangody.

"He's smooth, he can score,



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Irish guard Jonathan Peoples handles the ball during an 87-77 win over DePaul at Purcell Pavilion on Jan. 23. Peoples has played in every Big East game during his career at Notre Dame.

he can shoot the ball lights out," Jackson said. "He's a great guy and he knows how to play basketball."

Peoples was slotted as a guard in the starting lineup at the beginning of his senior campaign but has entered into a sixth-man role since the emergence of junior forward Tim Abromaitis. Still, Peoples has played a career-high number of minutes for his career and is hitting 3-pointers at a 40.8-percent clip.

"My jump shot has gotten a

lot better. I'm more of a defender now," Peoples said.

Peoples had the best performance of his career off the bench this season, scoring 23 points and grabbing six rebounds in a win over Providence.

While it looked like Peoples and Notre Dame had little shot of reaching the NCAA Tournament after a losing skid and the loss of Harangody to injury, the team put together a remarkable six-game winning streak to close out the year and

return to the Big Dance for the third time in four years.

"It's been a battle. I think we stayed together as a team but we lost games by not doing a couple little things," Peoples said. "We still have to prove something."

Peoples and the Irish will look to prove they can advance to their first Sweet 16 of their careers starting against Old Dominion at 12:25 p.m. today.

Contact Michael Bryan at
mbryan@nd.edu

Leaving a legacy

Luke Harangody returned to lead Notre Dame his senior season and will leave an all-time great

By **BILL BRINK**
Senior Staff Writer

On March 3, Luke Harangody became the first-ever Irish player to be inducted into the Purcell Pavilion's Ring of Honor. His No. 44 jersey climbed to the rafters, celebrating four years of awards, accolades and success.

"Seeing some of the players involved in this University, for me to be the first one, it was a tremendous honor," the senior forward said. "That was a very proud night for myself."

One of many.

Harangody will graduate as Notre Dame's second-leading scorer and rebounder. His class made the NCAA Tournament three out of four years and has won more games than any other class in school history. He was named the 2008 Big East Player of the Year, was a second-team All-American in 2008 and 2009 and became the first Notre Dame player to be named to the Big East first-team three times.

As a freshman, Harangody said he didn't anticipate it.

"No, there's no way I ever saw that," he said.

Harangody received four varsity letters at Andrean High School in Schererville, Ind., where he won two conference and three sectional championships. When he got to Notre Dame, he and then-freshman guard Tory Jackson played early in the season.

"We threw them in there, both of them were key guys as freshman," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "We went to the NCAA Tournament because they were ready as freshman to be men in this league. They have an unbelievable mental

and physical toughness, both of them, that I think has permeated through our group. It's helped some other guys who aren't at their level of mental and physical toughness-wise pick it up at times."

Harangody said he and Jackson entered their rookie seasons with a "business-like" attitude, which helped Notre Dame earn a No. 6 seed in the 2007 NCAA Tournament. The Irish lost to No. 11 seed Winthrop in the first round.

Harangody averaged 11.2 points per game that season in more than 20 minutes per game and became the first freshman since Troy Murphy to score in double figures in his first five games.

"[The NCAA Tournament freshman year] was a pretty memorable season because it was my first go-around with things," he said. "It was something I'll always remember."

Harangody, like any athlete, said he believes in off-season improvement, so he used the summer to hone his game as well as his fitness. The next season, he averaged 20.4 points and 10.6 rebounds per game.

"It all has to do with work ethic," he said. "Every summer, whether it's been working on my body or working on another part of my game, just get better every year."

It was that season that earned him conference Player of the Year honors.

The Irish earned a No. 5 seed in the Dance that year

and beat George Mason easily in the first round. Despite Harangody's 22 rebounds, No. 4 seed Washington State took down the Irish in the second round.

During Harangody's junior season, Notre Dame started 12-3 but lost seven straight games and dropped out of contention for the Tournament. It wasn't for a lack of production from Harangody: He led the team in scoring for 14 consecutive games and averaged a career-best 23.3 points and 11.8 boards per game. Harangody scored 30 points against Kentucky in the NIT quarterfinals and had a double-double in the semifinal loss to Penn State.

Then came decision time. In April 2009, Harangody, then a junior, declared his eligibility for the NBA Draft. He didn't hire an agent, however, which allowed him the opportunity to change his mind and return to school.

"I think when you are a kid shooting around at the park, every kid dreams of playing in the NBA and obviously I did and this has always been a dream of mine," he said on April 16, 2009. "So I mean for me, it's neat to be standing up here and announcing this decision today."

"This is a new territory for me. But, you know, one of the best things is that with the team I have, the teammates I have, I told them this week what I was going to do and they have been

so supportive, not only the team's leader but the guys that are going to be on the team next year and, you know, I wasn't very surprised at that because I know we have some of the best guys in the world here, in the country."

Those supportive teammates played a role in Harangody's decision to forgo the draft and return to school to finish his senior year.

"It was obvious to see that the NBA is a business," he said on July 15, 2009. "It's not like being at Notre Dame around the group of guys that we have. I realize it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be with a group like this."

Harangody said he wasn't ready to give up one last go-around with his teammates.

"It was one more year to be around the guys and get a senior year," Harangody said recently. "It's something I truly hold special. Now I get a chance to watch these guys succeed in the postseason and also get my degree."

Harangody said his parents and Brey helped him with the decision.

"[Brey] was very helpful throughout the whole process. He wasn't like, 'Come back to school,'" Harangody said. "He gave me options to go out there. He was always open to me, which I really appreciated. In the end, my parents and I and coach Brey sat down and talked about the whole situation and I just felt more com-



Notre Dame senior Luke Harangody dunks over a UCLA defender during the Irish's 84-73 victory over the Bruins on Dec. 19.

fortable coming back to school here."

That senior season didn't pan out quite like he planned. At first the Irish played well, but once they got into conference play they had two rough stretches, losing three out of five and four out of seven at various points. Worse still, Harangody suffered a bone bruise in his knee on Feb. 11 against Seton Hall and missed five games because of the injury. At one point the Irish were 6-8 in the conference and the season's funeral march was beginning.

Even with a serious injury, Harangody wouldn't be slowed. He missed the next game, against St. John's, but convinced everyone he would play against Louisville on Feb. 17. "He kind of talked us into he was going to try and play," Brey said. "He had everybody, the doctors the trainers, me. 'I'm going.' He didn't bring any street clothes. 'I'm playing.'" It took Brey to stop him. "He wasn't feeling good [after the shoot-around]," Brey said. "I told him after shoot-around, 'Well I'm not playing you so how's that? Does that make the decision easier? You're not ready.'" But then a funny thing happened: Notre Dame slowed down its offense and had success. The Irish lost in double overtime to Louisville, but won their next three games, including two over top-15 opponents, to finish the season. All without Harangody.

"What I've been really happy with, since he's been down, how he's been helping [freshman forward Jack] Cooley and [junior forward Carleton] Scott," Brey said. "His voice with those guys during the game, halftime, I could hear his voice in the locker room.

He's a leader and kind of a coach for us."

"I think you just try to keep their confidence up," Harangody said of his approach with Scott and Cooley. "At first, the first game against St. John's after I left, a couple guys didn't really know how to approach it. But it as it went on and they got more practice time it was like night and day."

Harangody recovered enough to play in Notre Dame's last regular-season game, an overtime win on the road against Marquette. He came off the bench for 11 minutes and scored five points. He also played in all three of Notre Dame's Big East tournament games, averaging 14 points and 24 minutes per game.

Harangody said after Notre Dame's 50-45 win over Pittsburgh in the quarterfinals that his knee was getting better but not yet 100 percent and that he was proud of what the team had done in his absence.

"I was curious to see how two games in a row would go with my conditioning," he said. "I'm still not there yet. But I think every day it's getting a little better."

"This run we made at the end of the season, it was pretty special. These guys have played great without me." He's back now, ready to add NCAA Tournament success to his extraordinary career.

"When he got here he made us believe again," Brey said. "He was an impact guy. Look at what he's done throughout his career."

"He's been one of the greatest to ever wear a uniform here. Flat out."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

"I realize it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be with a group like this."

Luke Harangody
Irish forward

"This run we made at the end of the season, it was pretty special. These guys have played great without me."

Luke Harangody
Irish forward

"He's been one of the best greatest to ever wear a uniform here. Flat out."

Mike Brey
Irish coach



Irish senior Luke Harangody is introduced before scoring 37 points in an 83-65 win over Cincinnati on Feb. 4.

Walk-on Andree makes impact leading underclassmen

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

Luke Harangody and Tory Jackson will undoubtedly leave major legacies as four-year starters and the leaders of Notre Dame's winningest senior class.

While walk-on senior forward Tim Andree won't leave the same mark on the face of the Irish program, his impact on the Notre Dame program could have long-term effects because of his work this season with freshmen Mike Broghammer, Jack Cooley and Tom Knight.

"I've done a lot of stuff in this offseason with the freshmen," Andree said. "Just a lot of getting extra workouts with them and helping them get in shape. We haven't really had a true group of freshmen in a while like this, and it's been fun having these guys in. They're all really good players and fun to be around."

As a walk-on, Andree knew his biggest role wouldn't necessarily be on the court during games. His primary role as a practice player has taught him "to let the little things go," he said.

"I know going into every year what the deal is," Andree said. "Basketball's a fun game, we're all playing the game of basketball because we enjoy it and have fun with it."

Andree's father, Tim, played at Notre Dame under legendary coach Digger Phelps from 1979-83. While Andree's career obviously didn't follow that of his father, he said he has enjoyed his Notre Dame experiences, especially those with the Irish team.

"My dad came in here in a totally different situation than I did. He was a McDonald's high school All-American, I clearly wasn't," Andree said. "I've just tried to come out and play hard and be my own person. It's sometimes tough living in the shadow of it, but it hasn't been too hard."

Andree's mother also attended Notre Dame, and so accepting a role with the Irish program was almost a no-brainer, Andree said.

"I grew up always wanting to come to Notre Dame, so when [Irish coach Mike Brey] told me I had the opportunity to play here, it was tough to turn down," he said.

Andree said the bonds he has formed with his teammates has reaffirmed that decision and made his Notre Dame experience. Andree lives off campus with Harangody and senior guard Ben Hansbrough.

"When we're not here [on the court], we're just friends," Andree said. "We're not really thinking about basketball, but living a normal life."

A management consulting

"I've just tried to come out and play hard and be my own person."

Tim Andree
Irish forward



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish forward Tim Andree handles the ball against North Florida in the second half of an 86-65 Notre Dame victory. Andree, a walk-on, has been a standout in practice working with freshmen this season.

major and theology minor, Andree said he is waiting to hear from law schools. While his future almost certainly won't be in basketball, he said he will miss his experiences with the Irish basketball team, and especially with Brey.

"Coach Brey treats us all like men. There's a lot of mutual respect between us," Andree said. "He's very funny, he's got a great personality, and he's a lot of fun to be around. He's given me a lot more confidence."

"My high school coaches, they relied more on a negative style of coaching. Here, it's all about the positives, and he makes you believe in yourself."

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'THE NEW ORLEANS OPEN'

THURSDAY

ND No. 6 Notre Dame (23-11)

DU No. 11 Old Dominion (26-8)

BU No. 3 Baylor (25-7)

SH No. 14 Sam Houston St. (25-7)

SATURDAY

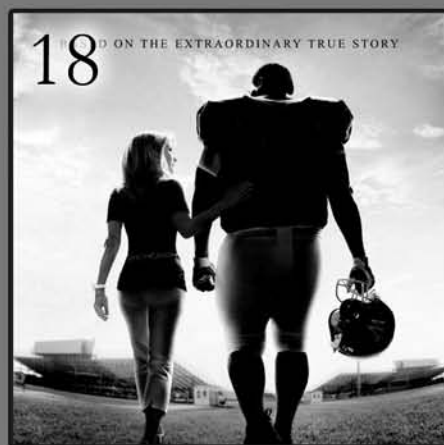
SWEET 16

Irish coach Mike Brey said his team would refuse to look past the opening weekend of the NCAA Tournament. In the South Region, Notre Dame will first face Old Dominion, the Colonial Athletic Association champs, Thursday at 12:25 p.m. If the Irish advance, they'll face the winner of Thursday's game between Baylor and Sam Houston State.

SOFIA ITURBE | Observer Graphic

Weekend Events Calendar

thursday



friday



saturday



sunday



Thursday: "The Blind Side," DeBartolo 101 @ 10 p.m.

"The Blind Side" depicts the true story of Michael Oher, a homeless young African American boy who is taken in by a white family, the Tuohys. Through their loving support, Oher excels both in football and athletics, eventually becoming a first round draft pick for the NFL. In developing their relationship, the Tuohys and Oher make important discoveries about themselves and each other. The all-star cast includes Tim McGraw and Sandra Bullock, who won an Oscar for her role as Leigh Anne Tuohy. "The Blind Side" is also showing Friday and Saturday nights at 8 and 10:30 p.m.

Friday: Ras Souljah, Legends @ 10 p.m.

Ras Souljah comes to Legends this Friday, bringing their reggae beats and uplifting attitudes to Notre Dame. The band, started by band members Timothy and La Donna Flynn, began in the early 90s but only became Ras Souljah with its current name and line-up in 2002. They specialize in reggae style, playing their own originals as well as popular covers. Based on an ideology of "positive and uplifting consciousness," the band is certain to bring a high energy, dynamic show to Legends. And don't forget to stick around afterwards for Hip Hop night, one of the most popular nights at Legends.

Saturday: Sister Hazel, Legends @ 10 p.m.

Sister Hazel will perform Saturday night at Legends. An alternative band out of Gainesville, Fla., Sister Hazel has been together and making music since 1994. Their music is featured on many popular films including "The Wedding Planner," "American Wedding" and "10 Things I Hate About You." Most recently, they released an album in 2009 entitled "Release," which was the number one album on iTunes the day of its release. If spring weather and looming graduation isn't enough to make you nostalgic, this band will surely do the trick, as they will likely play many of their hits from the past 15 years, and some new stuff too.

Sunday: "Taxi Driver," DeBartolo Performing Arts Center @ 3 p.m.

As part of the PAC Classic 100 Film series at DPAC, "Taxi Driver" will be shown Sunday at 3 p.m. Starring Martin Scorsese, Jodie Foster and Cybill Shepherd, this film follows the intense troubling story of a taxi driver, Travis Bickle (Scorsese), who is so disgusted by the low-life New York clientele he serves that he goes on a murderous rampage. As hard as Bickle tries to connect with people around him, he is so engrossed in his own alienation that he turns to violence. Scorsese plays Bickle with a brilliantly haunting quality which makes the film all the more real.

Contact Genna McCabe at gmcabec@nd.edu

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By STEPHANIE DePREZ
Scene Writer

Once every year, there comes a day when all the cobwebs of this simple life wash away and we as a human race come face to face with real dreams coming true. It is a collective experience, shared by those across the country and across the world. Warriors lay down their weapons and feuds subside, even if only on the outside. But for three hours (or so) in March, the entertainment world stands still, takes a deep breath and congratulates itself for continuing to exist. This, ladies and gentlemen, is Oscar Sunday.

It has been my favorite day of the year for some time. I think it was the moment I realized Bjork could wear a swan as a dress and get the privilege of standing on stage to sing "It Is Oh So Quiet" that I realized, the Academy Awards offer a most unique opportunity for anyone to pull out pretty much whatever they want and get away with it, because everyone is so worried about being nice to each other (or at least appearing like they are).

A few weeks ago my own dreams came true when I got to interview Tom Sherak, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Adam Shankman and Bill Mechanic, the producers of this year's Oscars and Mark Shaiman, the musical conductor. For two

hours, I participated in a conference call with other students from across the country, beeping in whenever I had something pressing to inquire about (which was pretty much every 30 seconds). During the call, my last name magically transformed into "Deprue," so unfortunately these guys won't be recognizing me anytime soon.

Sherak seemed most pleased to be talking. This fresh-into-office president made the point that the Oscars should be fun, and when he hired Shankman and Mechanic, that's what he told them to do. When I first succeeded in getting a question through, and was announced as "Stephanie Deprue from University of Notre Dame" I have to admit, I panicked. "Hey, Tom. I hope you're warmer than I am right now!" Thus opened the barrage of comments about Notre Dame that spanned not only Sherak,

but Shankman and Mechanic, too. "I love it. Midwest. I love it. I love the South too ... but Notre Dame!" Pretty auspicious start, don't you think? He said that his favorite part of the Oscars is sitting back and watching the audience's faces. In an extreme highlight moment, he told me specifically after a



Chatting it up



with the Oscars' Producers



question I posed that he would not be speaking at the Oscars, because he wanted to help keep the show within the time frame (which, you may have noticed, didn't work — it still ran over, causing Tom Hanks to

rush onto the stage to present Best Picture without so much as a reference to the 10 nominees). He informed me that I was the first person (besides his wife) to receive this information. Flabbergasted with joy, I did the only thing I could — tweeted the information to the Ausiello Files at Entertainment Weekly.

Talking to Shankman and Mechanic was probably the highlight of the interview, especially since it became frighteningly clear that both were USC fans. As soon as my name (Deprue, again) and university were announced, the hits started coming.

"You guys gonna win one of these years against SC?"

"Oh please. Oh please. Let's not." In retrospect, it was not the idyllic "your momma's so fat" response I would have expected to come out of

my mouth in the face of such a comment. All I could think of to do after that was say, "Now you get a tough question," and proceed to present a fairly involved, probing, insightful inquiry about balancing the Oscars as a commercial event and as an honor ceremony.

"I love that question." Good retort, USC.

After their answers, which were highly satisfactory, I said, "I forgive the USC comment." (But I didn't, really. Not in my heart.)

The last interviewee was Shaiman, who wrote the musical "Hairspray." He opted not to conduct the orchestra for the event, not only because he didn't feel comfortable as a conductor but also because he doesn't have the guts to cut off people's speeches. He did, however, take great care to pair pieces of music with the different presenters that were a bit unexpected.

The chance to participate in the conference call was quite a rush, even if I did have to deal with Trojan chatter. I think the Oscars lived up to the hype, if only because the image of Kathryn Bigelow holding two Oscars and looking utterly dazed saved the show from its somewhat mediocre level of scripted comedy. Then again, it's always the unexpected moments that make the telecast so interesting to watch.

Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

MLB

Jones has four RBIs in Sox win over Dodgers

Despite comeback attempt, Royals fall to Padres; Rockies defeat Indians but lose pitcher Flores to an arm injury

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Andrew Jones hit his first spring home run and added four RBI against his former team, and the Chicago White Sox beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 on Wednesday.

White Sox starter Jake Peavy pitched five innings, giving up a run on three hits.

Jones crushed a three-run home run to left field in the fifth inning off Ramon Troncoso. He also had an RBI double in the third off Russ Ortiz.

James Loney delivered the only run off Peavy, a solo home run in the second inning, his first of the spring. It was Loney's first game since returning from a goodwill series in Taiwan.

Manny Ramirez, who went 0 for 2 with a walk, was also playing in his first game since returning from Taiwan.

Loney's home run is the only run Peavy has given up in eight innings this spring.

"Today was a lot better intensity-wise," Peavy said. "That's a big-league lineup ... a great lineup. It was a good balance of lefties and righties in there and I was able to throw all my pitches. It was good work and the guys behind me did well."

Ortiz, in the battle for the No. 5 slot in the Dodgers' rotation, gave up two runs on six hits in four innings. The veteran right-hander opened the spring with seven

scoreless innings before the White Sox scored twice in the third.

"I want to keep building on the way I have been pitching so far," Ortiz said. "Timing was off today just a little bit and little by little I was trying to get it back while at the same time trying to get out big league hitters."

Ortiz was trying to keep pace with namesake Ramon Ortiz, who already has pitched nine scoreless innings for the Dodgers this spring.

The Dodgers' Carlos Monasterios, a Rule 5 pickup from the Phillies, pitched three scoreless innings in relief to also remain in the fifth-starter battle.

"He has a nice presence out there and has a good offspeed pitch," manager Joe Torre said of Monasterios. "He's aggressive. I like what I see."

White Sox relievers Matt Thornton, Tony Pena, Scott Linebrink and Carlos Torres held the Dodgers scoreless over the final four innings, giving up a combined three hits.

White Sox catcher Ramon Castro received a glancing blow off the top of his helmet by an Ortiz pitch in the fourth inning and left the game. He was sent to a local hospital for a CT scan that came back negative.

"He was kind of dizzy when he got (to the hospital)," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "I don't think we have a doctor to check that big ol' head good

enough. It takes seven MRIs to check it out good. I expect him to be fine."

Padres 16, Royals 14

San Diego left-hander Clayton Richard spent more time in the dugout watching the Padres score than on the mound.

The Padres put together three five-run innings as they out-slugged the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday. Tony Gwynn and Lance Blanks each drove in three runs for the Padres.

The game included 31 hits, 10 doubles, three triples, 11 walks, a wild pitch, five errors, a passed ball and 12 unearned runs — and lasted three hours and 27 minutes. The Padres led 16-4 entering the seventh, but the Royals scored 10 unanswered runs to make it interesting.

"I don't like the result," Royals manager Trey Hillman said. "I was proud the way we came back."

Richard watched San Diego score five runs in the second and five in the fourth. In both innings, the Padres sent 10 men to the plate.

"You wish there was a way for your team to score a lot of runs and do it quick," Richard said. "I've been thinking of that for a long time on how to make that happen. You love to see the offense do well, but it's tough to sit for so long and go back out there. But you'd definitely rather have that than your team not scoring runs."

While Richard was credited with the victory, he permitted four runs, three earned, on four hits and a walk in 3 2-3 innings.

"Even when I was missing with my pitches, I was missing where I wanted," Richard said. "I think it was definitely a positive outing. I know the stats don't really relay that message. I was definitely around the strike zone more. I felt my command was a little bit better. There were just a few balls hit hard. That's the way baseball is."

Luke Hochevar gave up five unearned runs in the second inning, which included an Alberto Callaspo error. Hochevar also walked four, including Everth Cabrera with the bases loaded. Gwynn cleared them with a three-run double and scored on a Jerry Hairston Jr. double.

"Walks always come back to bite you," Hochevar said. "The only pitch I was disappointed in was the first pitch to Tony Gwynn, the double. With that pitch, I'm trying to be finer in that situation and make a very quality pitch, especially with the bases loaded. I didn't make that pitch. That was the at-bat I was most upset with."

Callaspo went 3 for 3 to raise his



Cleveland third baseman Andy Marte hits a double during the Indians' loss to the Padres Wednesday.

average to .448, while Billy Butler drove in three runs for Kansas City.

Rockies 6, Indians 3

All morning, Rockies reliever Randy Flores took part in a drill designed to improve the dexterity and reflexes of the pitchers.

Still, the exercise couldn't prepare him for the liner off the bat of Cleveland's Chris Gimenez. Before Flores even had time to flinch, the ball caught him squarely on the left forearm, leaving behind quite a bruise.

Following the Rockies' win over the Indians on Wednesday, Flores walked out with his pitching arm wrapped in white gauze.

Just another member of Colorado's battered and bruised bullpen.

The knot on Flores' arm comes on the heels of the news concerning Huston Street, who could miss the season opener after experiencing tightness in his right shoulder during a recent throwing session. Street will find out the results of an MRI in the next day or so.

Should Flores' arm remain tender in the morning, he could be next in line for an MRI.

"When I came in, they did the test that would indicate if they thought it was broke — if I shrieked or something," Flores said. "I passed. So, it basically feels like a monkey bump times 100. ... Looks like just a bruise."

Street and Flores aren't the only ones banged up in the bullpen. Set-up man Rafael Betancourt has an inflamed pitching shoulder — although he had an encouraging pitching session Wednesday — and Jimmy Gobble recently strained his groin.

The health of the bullpen remains a question mark with opening day in Milwaukee looming on April 5.

Colorado received solid outings from relievers Matt Belisle and Justin Speier against Cleveland as each pitched scoreless innings. Belisle earned the win while Speier picked up the save.

Neither one is thinking about the state of the bullpen, just trying to do their jobs.

"I've played this game long enough to know that you go out there and pitch with the same intensity regardless if it's a spring training game or a regular season game," Speier said. "Whether you're pitching in the sixth or the eighth, whether you're pitching with the game on the line or not. You still have to have that competitive edge regardless."

Belisle has the same approach. "My mind-set is to be ready to rock, be aggressive when they tell me to go," he said.

Jorge De La Rosa turned in his longest outing of the spring Wednesday, throwing five innings and striking out six. He only got stronger as the game went along, striking out the side in the fifth.



Chicago pitcher Jake Peavy throws a pitch during the White Sox win over the Dodgers Wednesday.

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The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

AROUND THE NATION

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

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Men's Division I Baseball Baseball America Rankings

team	previous
1 Virginia	1
2 LSU	2
3 Texas	3
4 Georgia Tech	4
5 Florida State	6
6 Florida	5
7 TCU	7
8 Coastal Carolina	8
9 Rice	9
10 Louisville	10
11 Arizona State	12
12 Clemson	13
13 East Carolina	14
14 Arkansas	17
15 UCLA	19
16 UC Irvine	11
17 North Carolina	20
18 Mississippi	21
19 South Carolina	15
20 Miami (Fla.)	16
21 Oregon State	22
22 Kentucky	23
23 Stanford	24
24 Vanderbilt	NR
25 Oklahoma	NR

Women's Division I Tennis ITA Rankings

team	previous
1 Northwestern	1
2 UCLA	4
3 NOTRE DAME	3
4 North Carolina	2
5 Florida	6
6 Michigan	7
7 Duke	8
8 California	5
9 Baylor	9
10 Clemson	10
11 Stanford	14
12 Tennessee	11
13 Southern California	12
14 Georgia	17
15 Florida State	13
16 Washington	18
17 Arkansas	15
18 Miami (Fla.)	16
19 VCU	NR
20 South Carolina	NR
21 South Florida	20
22 Mississippi	NR
23 DePaul	24
24 Yale	NR
25 Vanderbilt	19

Men's Lacrosse Nike/Inside Media Poll

team	previous
1 Virginia	2
2 Syracuse	1
3 North Carolina	3
4 NOTRE DAME	4
5 Princeton	6
6 Maryland	7
7 Johns Hopkins	5
8 Cornell	8
9 Duke	9
10 Hofstra	12

NBA



Former NBA great and Hall of Famer Michael Jordan's bid of \$275 million to purchase Bobcats was approved by the NBA's Board of Governors. The Bobcats are currently sixth in the Eastern Conference.

Jordan's purchase of Bobcats approved

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Michael Jordan became a basketball star at North Carolina. Now he'll try to turn around the state's money-losing NBA team by becoming the first ex-player to be a majority owner in the league.

The NBA's Board of Governors on Wednesday unanimously approved Jordan's \$275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats from Bob Johnson. Jordan will take over the team immediately after serving as a minority investor with the final say on basketball decisions since 2006.

"Purchasing the Bobcats is the culmination of my post-

playing career goal of becoming the majority owner of an NBA franchise," Jordan said in a statement. "I am especially pleased to have the opportunity to build a winning team in my home state of North Carolina."

"I plan to make this franchise an organization that Charlotte can be proud of, and I am committed to doing all that I can to achieve this goal."

The six-time NBA champion and five-time league MVP will be charged with turning around the fortunes of the 6-year-old Bobcats, who are on pace to lose about \$30 million this season because of sluggish ticket and sponsorship sales.

The 47-year-old Jordan,

who will assume about \$150 million in debt in the deal, becomes the second black majority owner of a major pro sports team. He replaces the first in Johnson, who paid \$300 million for the expansion franchise, but lost tens of millions annually and saw the value of the team decline as Charlotte fans struggled to warm to the NBA again after the Hornets left for New Orleans in 2002.

"The best decision I made since acquiring the Bobcats was to convince my friend Michael to become an investor in the Bobcats and to appoint him as managing member of basketball operations," Johnson said in a statement. "As the new majority owner of the

Bobcats, his dedication will be stronger now more than ever."

Commissioner David Stern predicted last week the deal would be approved easily by the league's owners. Stern said last week that background and financial checks on Jordan produced nothing that would stop the deal, and expressed optimism Jordan's iconic status in this area will boost the franchise.

Jordan grew up in Wilmington, N.C., and led North Carolina to an NCAA title with a last-second shot before starring with the Chicago Bulls. Jordan briefly ran the Wizards basketball operations and returned as a player with Washington before being fired.

IN BRIEF

Nats release potential starting outfielder Dukes

VIERA, Fla. — Outfielder Elijah Dukes was released by the Washington Nationals on Wednesday, a sudden move with 2 1/2 weeks left in spring training.

"I don't know what to say. It felt a little funny," Dukes said told The Associated Press as he packed his car at the team hotel Wednesday afternoon. "I guess I wasn't expecting it. That's part of baseball. No big deal, no hard feelings. Just part of the game."

The Nationals' release of Eljah Dukes could give the outfielder a fresh start elsewhere. It could also give another player a chance to make an impact, writes Eric Karabell. Blog Insider

The 25-year-old Dukes was expected to be Washington's starting right fielder this season, but the Nationals announced the decision before their exhibition game at the Houston Astros.

Kent ousted as head coach at Oregon after 13 seasons

EUGENE, Ore. — Ernie Kent, the winningest coach in Oregon history, was dismissed Tuesday after 13 seasons with his alma mater.

"You may find a better basketball coach, but I don't think you'll find anybody that has the passion and love that I have for this university," said Kent, who had to pause for several moments to fight back his emotions.

Oregon went 16-16 overall and 7-11 in the Pac-10 this past season, finishing with a 90-74 quarterfinal loss to California in the conference tournament.

Kent, 55, leaves Oregon with a 235-173 overall record. But the Ducks have slipped in the past two seasons, going 24-39 and finishing 10th and ninth, respectively, in conference play.

Attendance has also dipped from an average of 7,922 in 2008-09 to 7,122 this past season.

NHL hoping to adopt new rule against blindside hits

TORONTO — The NHL wants to adopt a new rule against blindside hits to the head before the end of this season, according to two reports Wednesday.

The league is hoping to fast-track the proposed rule and is preparing a DVD package after a number of players suffered concussions this season. The highlight package will illustrate what would, and wouldn't, be allowed under a proposed rule change adopted by general managers at meetings in Florida last week.

The NHL plans to circulate the highlight package to all 30 teams within the next week or so, according to the reports.

"It's a process that has never been done before in the season," NHL senior vice president of hockey operations Colin Campbell told the Globe and Mail in a story published online early Wednesday.

around the dial

NCAA Men's Basketball

11 Old Dominion vs. 6 Notre Dame
12:25 p.m., CBS

9 Wake Forest vs. 8 Texas
9:35 p.m., CBS

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MLS

Donovan makes plans to avoid possible strike

Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Landon Donovan will attend the resumption of Major League Soccer bargaining and says he might return to Everton if players go on strike next week.

Donovan had two goals and three assists in 13 games during an impressive 10-week loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy to Everton that ended Saturday, helping the Toffees beat Manchester United and Chelsea, the top two teams in the Premier League. He rejoined the Galaxy on Tuesday ahead of their March 27 opener against New England.

“There’s nothing concrete set up,” Donovan said at a news conference Wednesday. “I think we’ve all been very clear about the possibility that I could go back if something happens. It’s crossing that bridge when we get to it, right now.”

Negotiators for MLS and the MLS Players Union met Tuesday and talks are set to resume Thursday in Washington, D.C. More 20 players were expected after the union accepted an invitation from the league to have a large group of its members attend the session.

Players want greater free agency and a higher percentage of guaranteed contracts. MLS owns all player contracts and restricts movement within the league when deals expire.

“Nobody wants to go on strike if it can be avoided,” Donovan said. “We’ve made it very clear from the beginning that we’re not trying to bankrupt the league and ask for tons of monetary increases. But we need basic rights if we’re going to continue playing. We want rights afforded other players in other countries that we don’t have. We’re very unified on the way we think.”

The union said last week that it will strike if an agreement is not reached by March 25, when the expansion Philadelphia Union plays the league opener at Seattle.

The league notified the union that medical, dental and vision insurance would expire March 31 in the event of a strike, and players would have to continue coverage under the federal COBRA program. Life insurance would end on the start date of a strike, and players could covert to individual coverage.

If and when the Galaxy start the season, Donovan said his role would not substantially change because of David Beckham’s Achilles’ tendon injury. The English midfielder was hurt Sunday while on loan to AC Milan and will be sidelined about six months, causing him to miss the World Cup. Beckham, starting the fourth season of a five-year contract with the Galaxy, was not due back until July.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Urban Meyer makes comeback at practice

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — With a whistle around his neck and a smile on his face, Florida Gators coach Urban Meyer returned to practice Wednesday following a leave of absence that turned out to be shorter than everyone expected.

His stay could be longer than anticipated, too.

Although Meyer declined to divulge any details about his health, he said his return was permanent.

“I feel fine and I feel good,” Meyer said following a rain-soaked practice that lasted nearly three hours.

His brief break came as a result of chest pains, a hospital stay and brief resignation. He had planned to step away after Florida’s bowl game in early January, but he stuck around to hire four assistant coaches and lock up the nation’s No. 1 recruiting class.

He was supposed to return for spring practice, which began Wednesday, but his first day back actually came two weeks ago.

Nonetheless, he eased into things Wednesday and was considerably less involved in several aspects of team drills.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” he said. “Usually I’m more involved in kicking game and a little more involved in the offense. I will get back involved. I think spring time I’m usually

like this. I like to let the guys coach and let everybody do their job and see what we’ve got. We’ve got four new coaches, and I want to see them go.”

Meyer also has a new starting quarterback (John Brantley) and several other new starters.

Nonetheless, he believes he has enough talent to avoid a drop-off after the Gators finished 13-1 and lost the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner (Time Tebow), their top three receivers (Riley Cooper, Aaron Hernandez, and David Nelson), and their best three defenders (Carlos Dunlap, Joe Haden and Brandon Spikes).

“It is a kind of rebuilding I guess or reloading or something like that,” Meyer said. “But there’s a lot of good players still here, a lot. A lot of good ones coming in, too.”

Citing health concerns, Meyer announced his resignation in late December. He changed his mind the following day, deciding instead to take an indefinite leave. He scaled back in January — he didn’t go on the road recruiting — but still worked steadily through national signing day.

He finally got away after that and took a trip to Hawaii with his wife, Shelley, but even that was merely a college coaching junket.

It wasn’t very relaxing, either. A tsunami warning forced them to evacuate their hotel and get to higher ground.

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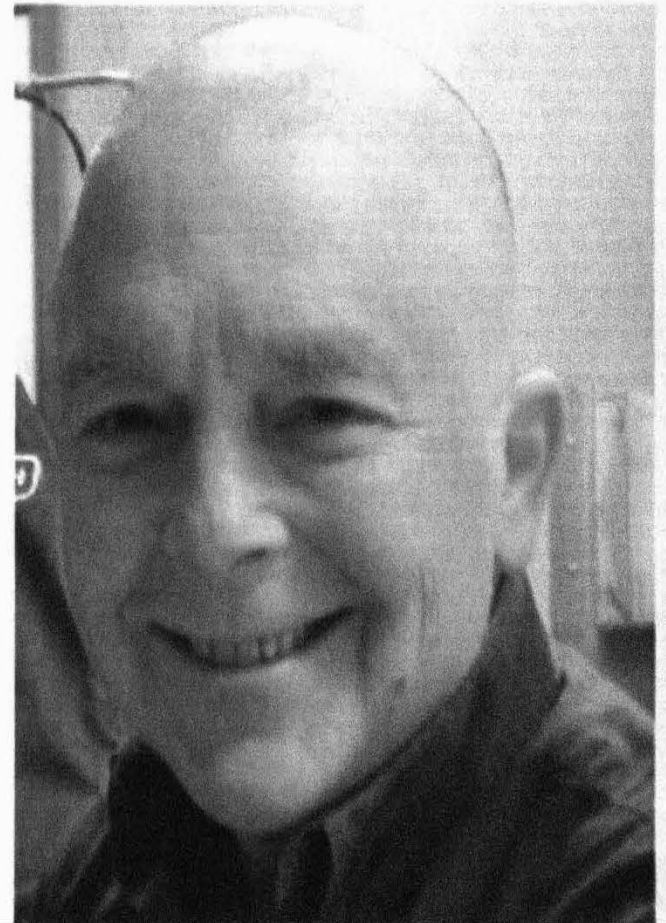
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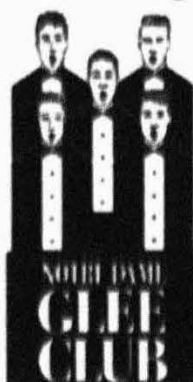
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MLB

Rangers manager apologizes

Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington admitted he made a “huge mistake” when he used cocaine and failed a Major League Baseball drug test last season.

In his first public acknowledgment, Washington apologized Wednesday for his behavior, eight months after he told Rangers president Nolan Ryan, who turned down the manager’s offer to resign.

“I made a huge mistake and it almost caused me to lose everything I have worked for all of my life,” Washington said at a news conference Wednesday. “I am not here to make excuses. There are none.”

Washington said he used cocaine only once and called it “stupid” and “shameful.”

The failed test first was reported by SI.com.

Washington said he told the commissioner’s office and Rangers officials about using cocaine before he had a routine drug test.

“He came forward and said he would resign,” Ryan said. “He understood the consequences. We had a lot of discussions and a lot of soul-searching on it.”

“He stood up to it. We felt like he was sincere and forthright,” he said. “We are very disappointed by this. We are upset we were put in this position.”

Washington met with his players earlier in the day and told them about testing positive in July.

“He was very emotional, you could tell that he’s a broken man from this one bad choice he made,” Texas star Josh Hamilton said.

Hamilton has a long history of drug abuse and was suspended for the 2004 season when he was in the minors for Tampa Bay. The All-Star outfielder is the most prominent player in the last decade to be disciplined for a so-called recreational drug.

Hamilton has been outspoken about his crack cocaine habit. He said there were no parallels between his problems and Washington’s admission of one-time use.

“I was addicted to drugs. All I cared about was getting more and using more drugs. I didn’t care who I hurt,” Hamilton said. “This was something of a weak moment, a decision of choice ... Our stories are nothing alike. The fact is he made a mistake. He learned from it very quickly. I made a mistake a few too many times and didn’t learn from it.”

Hamilton said he could understand how a 57-year-old man could use the drug only once.

“You either like it or you don’t like it. Either you do it once or you do it more than once,” Hamilton said. “That’s the way it is. I know people from my past that have done it once with me and have not liked, have not cared for it.”

Six-time All-Star Michael Young said his Texas teammates were behind their manager.

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NBA

Jackson comes alive in second half for Bobcats

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Stephen Jackson scored 18 of his 20 points in the second half and Charlotte rallied to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 100-92 on Wednesday night to give Michael Jordan a victory in his first game as Bobcats majority owner.

Hours after the NBA's Board of Governors approved Jordan's \$275 million purchase, he watched his team stage a dramatic recovery from a horrible start. The comeback from a 19-point, second-quarter deficit matched the largest in franchise history.

Stephen Graham matched a career high with 19 points filling in for the injured Gerald Wallace, and the Bobcats won for the seventh time in eight games.

Kevin Durant had 26 points and 10 rebounds, but was 9 of 26 from the field for the Thunder, whose five-game winning streak was snapped.

Jeff Green had 17 points, and Russell Westbrook added 15 points and 10 assists, but the Thunder became undone after

dominating much of the first two quarters to lose for only the fourth time in 21 games.

While the loss prevented the Thunder from clinching a winning record and putting heat on Utah for the fourth seed in the West, the victory helped the Bobcats maintain sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Jackson's 3-pointer with 4:48 left put Charlotte ahead 89-85 and the Thunder never threatened again as the Bobcats got contributions from many.

Raymond Felton had 17 points and seven assists, Boris Diaw added 13 points, and rookie Derrick Brown scored 11 points to make a smiling Jordan 1-0 since becoming the first former player to be a majority owner.

The new ownership regime meant few immediate changes, although Bobcats coach Larry Brown joked before the game that at least he was "still working" after Tuesday's loss to struggling Indiana. He added that Jordan "picked a tough night to be his first night as owner" with the Bobcats facing the surging Thunder.

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Valdivia

continued from page 24

fields, paces the Broncos with a .421 batting average to go along with three home runs and two triples.

Notre Dame's recent success has not gone unnoticed. Valdivia was named Big East Pitcher of the Week while junior outfielder Sadie Pitzenberger earned Player of the Week honors, giving the Irish the sweep of the weekly awards, the first-ever sweep by a pair of teammates.

"Pitching has been really good," Ganeff said. "Jody Valdivia has been doing a great job leading the team in the circle. She has really taken to being the one to get it done for us. Our freshmen

have really been getting better with each outing. They are learning how to compete at this level and are doing a great job."

Pitzenberger hit .476 while safely making it to base in all six games she played in over break. She has proved herself to be a strong leadoff hitter for the Irish and has a team-best hitting streak of 16 games. Her performance as a leadoff hitter has included three triples, a double, a hit-by-pitch and one groundout.

However, Pitzenberger has not been Notre Dame's only powerful presence at the plate.

"Offensively we have continued to be consistent at the plate," Ganeff said. "We are getting runners on base and coming up with the key hits that are scoring runs."

The Notre Dame defense has been holding up their end of the deal, as shown by their overall record and defeat of some of the top national teams, including Ohio State. Overall, the Irish have maintained a high level of play.

"Defensively we have been playing really well and creating minimal errors on defense," Ganeff said. "This is an area we will continue to enhance every single day. We need to continue to be aggressive and smooth on defense so we can ensure that we don't just give the opponent an opportunity to score."

Notre Dame looks to continue its winning streak when it faces Western Michigan at 5 p.m. in Kalamazoo.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

NFL

Tebow impresses at Pro Day

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Tim Tebow took a significant step Wednesday in the slow, methodical process of convincing teams that he's worth drafting with a relatively high pick in April's NFL draft.

Joe Haden did the same thing in 4.39 seconds.

Tebow and Haden, the star quarterback and cornerback of the University of Florida, both put on impressive displays at the school's annual pro day for NFL scouts and coaches. Both made alterations in areas that have been questioned in recent days and reassured those teams interested in drafting them that

they're good bets.

For Tebow, the key to improving his draft status has been working hard to improve his previously elongated throwing motion, which had been greatly criticized.

"People said to me, 'Why not wait until you get drafted to make these changes?'" said Tebow, the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner and two-time national champion. "I'm not a person who wants to wait around to fix something. I want to show that I'm going to listen to people and make changes and work on things. That I'm coachable and not be the type of person who says that my way is the only way."

Tebow had three primary

problems in college. First, he often held the ball too low. Second, he looped his arm back and low as he went through his motion. Third, his stride was too long as he threw.

That trifecta made for a brutally long delivery for Tebow, who still has issues just reading complicated defenses.

On Wednesday, Tebow unveiled his improved delivery, which came from working with former NFL assistant coach and quarterback guru Zeke Bratkowski. The motion was decidedly faster with Tebow keeping the ball high from the start and eliminating the loop.

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish head to Alabama to play nation's best

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

The Irish will face tough competition this weekend as they travel to Montgomery, Ala. for the Blue Gray National Classic. The invitational features a number of perennial powerhouses, including Arizona, No. 15 Texas Tech and No. 20 Oklahoma.

"We obviously want to do as well as we can," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "We want to win the tournament. We feel we can be competitive with any of the teams in the draw."

The Irish will take on Middle Tennessee State in the opening round and then face the winner of No. 22 Fresno State and Boise State. If the Irish fail to advance, there will be a consolation draw for the matches, allowing each team to play a minimum of three rounds in the tournament.

Sophomore Casey Watt has come on especially strong for the Irish this season at the No. 1 singles position. Watt is currently ranked No. 19 in the country.

"Casey has a top-20 ranking because he beat several of the country's better players in the Midwest Regionals, and he deserves it," Bayliss said. "Now he will become a target rather than a hunter and we will see how he handles it, as plenty of players have trouble with expectations. It

is good that we have four players in college tennis's top 100, and I hope that we will have that kind of balance this year."

The Irish will also turn to their doubles teams to help get on the board early.

"We made a switch at doubles," Bayliss said. "[Junior Stephen] Havens and Watt are now together as well as [junior Tyler] Davis, and [sophomore Niall] Fitzgerald. We are coming off our best match of the year from last Sunday when we beat Florida State. We are adjusting to being outdoors. We have made a smooth transition but are still working to maintain our patience."

Junior David Anderson and sophomore Sam Keeton played big roles for the Irish last weekend and will likely do the same in Alabama. Anderson put the Irish in great position by winning a critical third set to bring the score to 3-3 against the Seminoles. Bayliss said Keeton responded with poise.

"[Keeton] handled the pressure very well, breaking serve three consecutive times to clinch," Bayliss said. "He played aggressively the entire match and was able to finish at the net often."

The Irish will need complete performances from both the singles and doubles teams as they compete against the nation's best.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgraba02@saintmarys.edu



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Monarchs

continued from page 24

past six seasons.

The CAA has a history of teams creating upsets in the tournament, notably Virginia Commonwealth defeating Duke in 2007 and George Mason making a historic run to the Final Four in 2006.

One of the few weaknesses of this Old Dominion squad is their shooting from the free-throw line, where the team has converted just 64 percent of its opportunities.

After a season missing the tournament, senior forward Luke

Harangody said he was thrilled to return to March Madness.

"Especially as a senior, it's a great feeling to see your name pop up on the board on Selection Sunday. It's an amazing feeling. I couldn't be happier," Harangody said. "For the seniors on this team, for us to go out with three out of four NCAA Tournaments, that's tremendous."

Senior guard Ben

Hansbrough said the team's patient offensive strategy of waiting for the shot clock to run down before creating shots has been effective for the team throughout the win streak.

"We've been controlling the ball, making great decisions. It's almost like we're comparing our decision making to theirs in a way, with us leading the country in assists to turnover, I think that gives us the advantage," Hansbrough said. "With the decision makers we have on the team and the people that have the ability to make shots like we do."

If the Irish are able to

make it past the Monarchs, they will advance to play the winner of Baylor and Sam Houston State on Saturday. The No. 3 seeded Bears could prove a tough test should both teams meet for the chance to move on to the Sweet 16.

Tip-off in New Orleans will be at 12:25 p.m., with television coverage on CBS.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

"Especially as a senior, it's a great feeling to see your name pop up on the board on Selection Sunday."

Luke Harangody
senior forward

Martin

continued from page 24

"He's a senior and I think he plays with a lot of confidence," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "It's kind of funny, out of all our hitters hitting in the cage live, he was probably struggling the most. He'll tell you, his first hit was a swinging bunt, but it's a base hit, and as a hitter, that gives you confidence."

Hovering at the .500 mark with a 7-8 record, Notre Dame has struggled to find the consistency it had hoped for leading into conference play next week. The Irish have yet to pull off a winning streak since they opened the season with a road sweep.

Yet in his first full season as a starter, Martin's contributions have had an immediate impact. Needing a win to advance to the title game of the Irish Baseball Classic, Martin jacked a three-run homerun in the first inning to give the Irish a lead they would not relinquish.

"It's what we try to do," Martin said. "We've struggled a bit this year with guys not knowing what their roles

are or where they're going. It's huge when you can give your starter some support early in the game."

Although not completely unexpected, the extent of Martin's offensive explosion has taken many by surprise, including opposing pitchers. Martin has spent the last two seasons in and out of the starting lineup and was competing for the starting job up until opening day.

"I've been platooning the last two years, so I wasn't playing everyday. In that format I think it was hard to get comfortable for long. Now that I can get out there and get into a rhythm, it just helps."

Although Martin's future is still uncertain, his immediate success will continue to have a tremendous impact on the Irish this season. The senior is taking his success in stride and hopes to finish the year on his own terms.

"Just knowing this is my last year of college baseball, I'm just trying to go out there and have fun," Martin said. "I don't know if I'll get drafted or not, but I can still go out and make the most of my last year."

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

"Just knowing this is my last year of college baseball, I'm just trying to go out there and have fun."

Casey Martin
senior first baseman

Safe

continued from page 24

their double-overtime loss at Louisville on Feb. 17 dropped the Irish to 6-8 in the Big East, it looked unlikely Notre Dame could reach the 9-9 record that Irish coach Mike Brey traditionally sets as the bar for NCAA considerations. Considering the opponents — Pittsburgh, Georgetown, Connecticut and Marquette — it would have taken an incredibly improbable run for a team that hadn't won three straight Big East games all season.

Sure enough, the Irish won six in a row — four against tournament teams — and jumped all the way to a No. 6 seed.

"I'll admit I declared this team dead right after the Louisville loss, and I didn't even watch the upset over Pittsburgh a week later — give me a break, it was midterms week."

But after the Irish went on the road and pulled another upset at Georgetown the next Friday, I couldn't help but feel like something special was going to happen. I had never seen a Notre Dame team play with the discipline and patience it did in that game, and hearing Brey talk about his team's new approach, it sounded like the Irish were going to stick with it — with or without Harangody.

Connecticut turned out to be the worst team (by final record) during the six-game stretch, but Notre Dame's March 3 victory over the Huskies was the most impressive.

With the student section rejuvenated and NCAA Tournament hopes revived, the Irish didn't disappoint despite falling behind by double digits in the first half.

Everything seemed to go right for Notre Dame in the earlier



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Junior forward Carleton Scott takes a breather during Notre Dame's 68-56 victory over Seton Hall at the Big East championships.

victories over Pittsburgh and Georgetown, but it was clear from the get-go the Connecticut game wouldn't be pretty. In the past, the Irish might have folded, but they kept grinding away, held the Huskies to 35 percent shooting and pulled out a huge victory.

These are the kind of games teams need to win to post a sustained NCAA run, and we saw the same kind of game from the Irish in their Big East semifinal loss to West Virginia. Notre Dame had no business being in that game at the end — it couldn't defend the Mountaineers' De'Sean Butler, and Ben Hansbrough was the only Notre Dame player who could get anything going offensively. I kept waiting for the

Irish to disappear down the stretch, but they kept plugging away, to the point that Tory Jackson had a decent look at a game-winning shot.

From watching the NCAA Tournament, you know teams that make deep runs don't often have a smooth ride the whole way. But judging from their play in recent weeks, the Irish have what it takes to handle the adversity they'll have to conquer if they want to advance out of New Orleans this weekend.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Unplanned Pregnancy?

Don't go it alone.

If you or someone you love needs help or information, please call. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you.

Confidential support and assistance available at Notre Dame:

- Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, Student Affairs, 631-7819
- Ann Firth, Student Affairs, 631-2685
- Sylvia Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7163
- John Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7163
- Dr. Susan Steibe-Pasalich, Counseling Ctr., 631-4365
- Ann E. Kleva, Health Services, 631-8286

South Bend Community Resources:

- Women's Care Center: 234-0363
- Catholic Charities: 234-3111

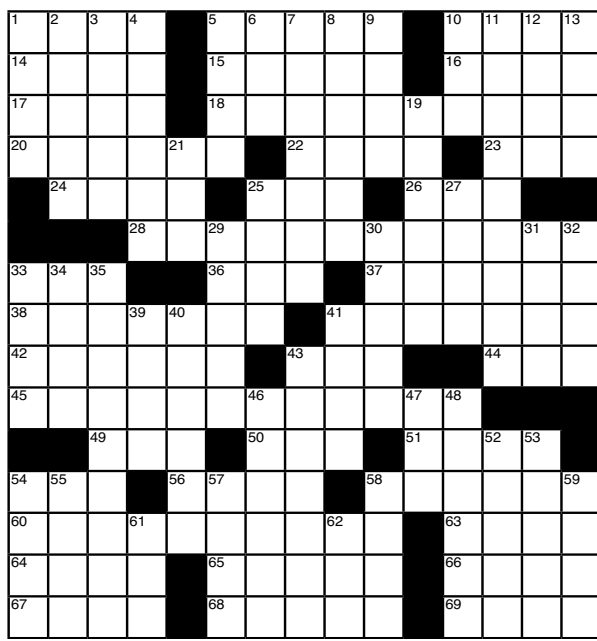
Visit our website at:
<http://pregnancysupport.nd.edu>

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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Spherical beginning?
 - 5 1960s trip taker
 - 10 Third-place presidential candidate of 1920 who ran his campaign from jail
 - 14 Handle user
 - 15 Character in all six "Star Wars" films, informally
 - 16 Shade at the beach?
 - 17 2009 Golden Globe winner for "Recount"
 - 18 See 62-Down
 - 20 Tropical trees
 - 22 Hoot
 - 23 Pub pour
 - 24 What unicorns live in
 - 25 ___ Hunter, leader of rock's Mott the Hoople
 - 26 Kind of project
 - 28 See 62-Down
- Down**
- 33 DH's often have many
 - 36 First responder, for short
 - 37 Moon of Jupiter
 - 38 Beat in a race
 - 41 Galore
 - 42 Lock
 - 43 Classic Mercedes roadsters
 - 44 Song from "Mamma Mia!"
 - 45 See 62-Down
 - 49 Article in the German constitution
 - 50 He wrote lyrics, by George!
 - 51 Ambassador of old autodom
 - 54 Pac-10 sch.
 - 56 H. Ross Perot's alma mater: Abbr.
 - 58 Yens
 - 60 See 62-Down
 - 63 Course component
 - 64 Small rugs
 - 65 One-celler



Puzzle by Peter A. Collins

- 34 Essen's region
- 35 Challenged
- 39 Mezza ___
- 40 Masseur's offering
- 41 Utah ski resort
- 43 Crusader's foe
- 46 Nadirs
- 47 Mich. neighbor
- 48 Bowl game
- 52 Japanese chess
- 53 Cry at a canyon
- 54 Venus de Milo knock-offs?
- 55 Caulk
- 57 Salad alternative
- 58 Much precedent?
- 59 Eyed
- 61 Milk
- 62 Nickname of the man (born 2/12/1809) who gave the address at 18A, issued the 28A/45A, was the first elected president of the 60A Party, and whose name can be found in this puzzle's main diagonal

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/mobilexword for more information. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/wordplay. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mia Hamm, 38; Rob Lowe, 46; Gary Sinise, 55; Kurt Russell, 59

Happy Birthday: Emotional issues will be brought to the surface. You can't take advantage of the opportunities that are present this year if you labor over trivial matters. Open a door that will lead you in a new direction, allowing you to use your creativity and original ideas. A partnership that will help inspire you is apparent and can bring favorable results. Your numbers are 8, 12, 22, 27, 34, 39, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't put up with anyone trying to hold you back. Be bold and honest about your intentions and plans. A personal problem may seem impossible but, once you begin to deal with it, you will discover a way to turn things around. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get to the bottom of things quickly to avoid unnecessary criticism and opposition. Positive changes will bring about better relationships. Share your ideas with an organization looking for solutions and reform. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do everything you can to help others. Your response to a cry for help will bring you in contact with people who have plenty to say but little to offer. Don't fall for empty promises. Get everything in writing. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you are too involved in what others think of you, it may end up costing you. Put your work first in order to avoid any uncertainty regarding your future. Finish what you start before you take care of personal matters. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Focus on love, romance and the person you favor. Taking a serious look at your current lifestyle or beliefs will help you make decisions about the future. An unorthodox offer may be tempting but read the fine print. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be tempted to jump into a deal that may not be in your best interest. Don't take a risk. Moderation will be required no matter what you are involved in, so slow down. Excess is the enemy and hard work your ally. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do whatever it takes to please any partner you are involved with personally or professionally. Lay out a fair plan that offers as much to everyone involved as it does to you. Don't limit your chance to get ahead by being lazy or introspective; speak up. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get busy turning your talents into cash. Your ability to adapt to the times and the climate of a situation will help you achieve the success you've been pursuing. Good fortune can be yours if you make the right moves. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be pulled in different directions when it comes to emotional matters. The changes at home may not be welcome at first but, once you give things a chance to settle down, you will realize there are better times ahead. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You don't have to make a choice just because someone is putting pressure on you. Sometimes it takes an insensitive remark from someone to get you back on track. Don't take offense; learn from the experience. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Life may be a little confusing if you buy into what someone is telling you. Don't be enticed by an offer full of false pretenses. Focus on what you can have and do. Your kindness and generosity will attract positive attention. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be caught in an emotional whirlwind. Don't let temptation lead you down the wrong path. Let your feelings be known and react respectfully. Find out where you stand and what is required of you. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are unique and quick to act. You are an opportunist, an organizer and a competitor. You communicate expressively.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugeniast.com for confidential consultations, mspace.com/eugeniast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SCHAD & FREUDE

WILL GUAPPONE & BRI KRAFCIK



T.I.N.D.

DAN POHLMAN



JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PURUS
 POPYL
 DEWROP
 HELBED



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: " O O O O O O O O " IN IT

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GOING LIGHT DURESS PAROLE
 Answer: One way to solve a knotty problem — PULL STRINGS

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Time to Dance

Win streak propels Irish to New Orleans

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Senior Sports Writer

A No. 6 seed in the NCAA Tournament seemed impossible just a month ago. But today the streaking Irish will open as a favorite in their opening round matchup against No. 11 seed Old Dominion.

A six-game win streak to conclude their regular season and to begin the Big East Tournament made Notre Dame a lock to make their third NCAA Tournament in four seasons. And while Notre Dame was surely happy to play its way into a higher seeding than anyone would have expected, it will face a tough test against the Monarchs, the regular season and tournament champions in the Colonial Athletic Association.

"I think it's a heck of an honor. We've been caught up in the midst of the run to finish the season," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "Obviously, we feel it's a very good run. It's better than we thought inside the locker room to be rewarded with a six seed, very powerful."

Placed in the South Region and playing their first game in New Orleans, the Irish will be tested by an experienced



Junior forward Tim Abromaitis dunks it home during Notre Dame's 58-50 victory over Connecticut on Mar. 3. Abromaitis and the Irish play Old Dominion today at 12:25.

and defensive-minded Old Dominion team. While the Monarchs have struggled shooting from the perimeter, hitting 3-pointers at only a 31-percent rate, they've held 18 of their opponents to under 60 points on the year.

Old Dominion is led by forward Gerald Lee, who aver-

ages 14.6 points and 4.9 rebounds per game. At 6-foot-10 and 250 pounds, Lee will also test the Irish on the defensive end, where the Monarchs have excelled all year.

Brey and the Irish will not be underestimating Old Dominion, a team that has

already upset one Big East power this season, beating Georgetown on the road in December. The Monarchs and coach Blaine Taylor also have tournament experience, and will be playing in their third NCAA Tournament in the

see MONARCHS/page 22

New-look Irish a safe bet in opening round

It's always tough to handicap the NCAA Tournament chances of "your" team, and I've especially never been good at separating what I hope will happen from what I think will happen.

So, naturally, I'm heading to New Orleans this weekend with the mindset that the Irish will advance to the Sweet 16. With the way Notre Dame has played over the last few weeks, though, it doesn't feel like I'm making the homer pick.

Watching this Irish team, you can't help but see a gutsy group that clawed its way back into the NCAA Tournament by playing its best basketball without its best player — and then showed its versatility by reintegrating that player back into the lineup when he was ready.

A month ago, it looked like Notre Dame had a better shot at a No. 6 seed in the NIT than in the NCAA Tournament. After



Matt Gamber

Editor-in-Chief

see SAFE/page 22

BASEBALL

Senior Martin leads offense

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

The art of hitting can take years, even decades to perfect. Plate discipline, a consistent approach and balance can even elude professionals from time to time. But if the season ended today, Casey Martin could make a pretty good case for having mastered his craft.

Leading the team in nearly every offensive category, Martin has emerged as the Notre Dame's most dangerous threat at the plate. Martin has put together an impressive midseason résumé that features a .434 batting average, three home runs and 16 RBIs.

see MARTIN/page 22



Senior first baseman Casey Martin drives the ball during a game against UIC on April 28, 2009.

ND SOFTBALL

Streaking Irish travel to Western Michigan

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Coming off an 8-1 Spring Break trip to California, the Irish are back on the road today to face the Broncos of Western Michigan.

Notre Dame (16-5) ended its road trip Sunday with a 3-0 defeat over Purdue in a non-conference match at the Long Beach Invite to cap a successful trip. They face a Broncos team struggling to find the win column.

"It was a great stretch for us over the past 10 days on our Spring Break road trip to Southern California," Irish assistant coach Kris Ganeff

said. "The team stepped it up in all areas including offense, defense and in the circle for us. We had some nice wins over good programs and really created a sense of confidence for this team."

Junior pitcher Jody Valdivia (12-2) picked up her 11th straight win as she pitched a one-hitter, complete with nine strikeouts. Seven of those came in the first three innings.

Valdivia will lead the effort from the circle against Western Michigan (5-7). Utility fielder Lexi Jager, a solid hitter with power to all

see VALDIVIA/page 20

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