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Handicap access examined

Students, faculty, family members reflect on disability accommodations



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior Johanna Kirsch navigates campus on a scooter, used for students who need assistance due to injury.

By JOSEPH McMAHON and SARAH MERVOSH
News Writers

When Mary and Rick Hurd traveled to campus for Junior Parents Weekend (JPW), they were looking forward to getting to know their daughter's friends and their respective families.

But during the weekend's mass, Rick Hurd was separated from his daughter's friends because he uses a wheelchair and needed handicap seating.

"They didn't anticipate that

you might want to sit with a large group of friends and that seemed kind of odd because I thought the whole purpose of JPW was so you could meet your student's friends and their parents," Mary Hurd said.

"[My daughter] cried and said, 'this isn't right,'" Mary Hurd said. "We were at a Mass and the homily and the priest were talking about Jesus would do.

"I looked around and saw these handicapped people in these sections far away from the altar, and it was like you were kept at an arms' length,"

she said. "I'm not sure that is what Jesus would do."

Though Mary Hurd said her family's experience with Notre Dame's handicap accessibility has generally been satisfactory, JPW exposed glitches in the campus' architecture and accommodations.

Mary Hurd said the Basilica's handicap seating could also be improved.

"We have come to the Basilica. I think it was Easter we were there," she said. "We couldn't sit together because there wasn't enough handicap seating."

With many buildings on campus built around 100 years ago, some architecture does not lend itself to handicap accessibility. With newer dorms, however, the accommodations are much easier for those with physical disabilities.

"The bookstore, the dining hall — we've been able to eat with my daughter and her friends," Mary Hurd said. "The football stadium access has been wonderful. The ushers are very accommodating."

Program Coordinator for the Office for Students with Disabilities Scott Howland said the University has worked to include handicap accessibility into plans for renovations and new buildings.

"The University has begun to have a formal plan that will be implanted across the next few years," Howland said. "Since I've been here since 1995, there has always been an attempt made by the University when they are doing renovations or projects to include accessibility issues in that."

see ACCESS/page 4

Notre Dame alumni drawn to Peace Corps

Peace Corps at Notre Dame

Notre Dame Ranking	23rd
Current Alumni Serving	21
Years Alumni Have Participated	49
Graduates Who Have Entered	800

JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

The 21 Notre Dame alumni currently serving in the Peace Corps have earned the University a place among the top middle-sized schools involved with the organization for the 10th consecutive year, according to the "Peace Corps Top Colleges 2010" list posted on the Corps' Web site.

"We have a huge international focus here on campus," said Anita Rees, associate director at the Career Center. "We try to tie that in with making the world a better place."

Rees also mentioned that a résumé that includes the Peace Corps will aid students applying for government positions as well as certain graduate schools.

Many of the students who inquire about the Peace Corps have studied abroad, enjoyed the international perspective and "become

impassioned about a sort of social issue or a vocation to make a difference there," she said.

"I think that the leadership experiences that students can take on here at Notre Dame and the breadth of classes offered on international concepts make them ready to build networks with people who are different than them," Rees said.

A Peace Corps recruiter at the Career Fair in the fall sparked senior Elizabeth Pinto's interest in the program. She said the agency was "an excellent fit" for the volunteer work she was hoping to find after she graduates in the spring.

"One of the most important things I think I have learned while at Notre Dame has been that we, as students, are given the privilege of an outstanding education and tremendous opportunities for growth,

see PEACE/page 4

Senior receives Gates Cambridge Scholarship

By CASEY KENNY
News Writer

Senior Ryan Lash was one of 29 American students recently awarded the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, enabling him to pursue a master's degree next year at the University of Cambridge.

Lash, a medieval studies and anthropology major, is the first Notre Dame student selected for this honor since the program was established by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000.

More than 800 U.S. stu-

dents applied for the highly competitive scholarship in 2009. According to the program's Web site, scholarships are awarded to students "on the basis of a person's intellectual ability, leadership capacity and desire to use their knowledge to contribute to society throughout the world by providing service to their communities and applying their talents and knowledge to improve the lives of others."

These scholars must also have exceptional research

see LASH/page 4

Bookstore opens study space

By SARA FELSENSTEIN
News Writer

Notre Dame students looking for a good place to study who find the Library too quiet, the Coleman-Morse Center too crowded and LaFortune too full of distractions now have a place to turn for a spacious but collaborative atmosphere — the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore.

The Bookstore recently opened a study space on its second floor, complete with tables, comfortable chairs and light background music.

Director of Retail Operations

see STUDY/page 4



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

A student studies on the second floor of the Bookstore, which recently opened and will be available for use until the end of the year.

INSIDE COLUMN

Cleverness or quota?

Whether you are an underclassman just a year or two out of the college application process or an upperclassman entering "round two" for graduate school, we are all very aware that admissions is far more complex than GPAs, ACTs and MCATs.

John Cameron

News wire editor

Being a legacy or an underrepresented minority can provide an advantage; many find such admissions policies unfair, and they tend to spark controversy.

I'm not going to argue for eliminating these standards or "quotas." Quite the contrary, I think Notre Dame and other universities need to add another. If universities are going to give special treatment to certain groups based on race or family history, I think they should also give preference to the socioeconomically disadvantaged.

What basis is there for policies like affirmative action? A lot of it has to do with the conception that, historically, minorities have been oppressed and discriminated against. The result, logically, is a disadvantage in today's schools and workplaces. The idea of giving minorities an advantage in educational and career placement is to counteract this presumed disadvantage — to pull up those whose ancestors have been pushed down in the past.

This policy is not the most effective, I believe. Regardless of how pervasive discrimination may or may not be in today's society, I do not think that it is accurate to suggest that all minorities are truly disadvantaged academically simply for being minorities. What is true, however, is that minorities are more likely to be born into poverty. That is the real problem. So why don't we address it directly?

When it comes to education, poverty certainly becomes relevant. It seems unfair that poor non-minorities be disregarded when determining who is most needing of quality education at a selective university.

If admissions preference were expanded to all those coming from poverty, I believe it would more closely meet the proclaimed goals of such programs. It often appears that the politics and sensitivities that inevitably emerge when discussing such issues may sometimes impede progression and improvement, but I do not believe it should be taboo to discuss ways to more effectively aid the truly disadvantaged in our society.

While some may say that there should be no preferential treatment given in academic settings — and such sentiment may have some merit — it is undeniable that education in America is the key to social and economic class mobility. Regardless of the varying levels of influence historical injustice has had on individuals, it is difficult to argue against giving people with nothing a chance at something. I believe Notre Dame and other selective colleges need to look farther than minorities and legacies, and need to expand preferential treatment in admissions to a wider variety of disadvantaged applicants. I think it is undoubtable that a more socioeconomically diverse class of 2014 or '15 will help contribute to greater social justice in generations to come.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact John Cameron at jcamero2@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

In a March 18 Observer article, Joseph Stanfel was misidentified as the dean of the College of Arts and Letters. Joseph Stanfel is an assistant dean. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHICH DO YOU PREFER, UNICORNS OR ZOMBIES?



Ryan Lion
freshman Sorin

"Anything but darn sparkly vampires."



Jordan Matulis
sophomore Howard

"Unicorns. They're pretty."



Sarah Spieler
sophomore Pasquerilla West

"Neither. I don't believe in mythical creatures."



Anne Robles
freshman Pasquerilla East

"House of the Dead.' Bang! Headshot."

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



TOM LA/The Observer

Sophomore Jee Seun Choi puts up a poster for the 2010 Asian Film Festival and Conference on Thursday. The AFFC will be held Friday and Saturday and will feature films and documentaries related to China, Korea and Taiwan.

IN BRIEF

The 2010 Asian Film Festival and Conference kicks off tonight at 6:30 p.m. with a screening of the film "The Unreliable People" with introduction and post-screening Q&A with director Y. David Chung. The screening will take place in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$6 for general admission and can be purchased by calling 631-2800.

The Third Annual Arabic Culture Night will take place tonight at 7 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium at the Mendoza College of Business. The event is free and open to all.

The Notre Dame Glee Club will be giving their Spring Concert tonight at 8 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$3 for students, \$5 for seniors, and \$8 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased by calling 631-2800.

The Irish dance ensemble Danu will be giving a performance Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$15 for students, \$25 for seniors and \$36 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased on performingarts.nd.edu or by calling 631-2800.

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

OFFBEAT

Sleeping man wakes to find strange man in bed

PITTSBURGH — Police said a man broke into a Pittsburgh home and climbed into bed with its owner, apparently because he was drunk and cold following a rap concert. Homeowner Frank Fontana says he was in bed when the man climbed in about 5:30 Wednesday morning. Fontana says he asked whether it was a woman who has keys to his home — and he grabbed a baseball bat when a deep male voice answered, "No, it's not."

Police said Fontana kept the man at bay until police

arrived but didn't hit him with the bat.

Police say the intruder told them he was looking for shelter after a Tuesday night concert by rapper Jay-Z at the Mellon Arena.

The 33-year-old man faces a preliminary hearing on charges of criminal mischief and criminal trespass.

Pair faces imprisonment in Dubai over kiss

DUBAI — A British pair caught kissing in public in Dubai face up to a month in jail in the Gulf Arab emirate for indecency after an Emirati mother complained her child had seen their

indiscretion.

The pair, a British man living in Dubai and a female friend, were arrested in November on accusations of kissing and touching each other intimately in public and consuming alcohol, their lawyer said. They were ordered jailed for a month.

The case is the third time in under two years in which Britons have hit the headlines by falling foul of decency laws in Dubai, a flashy Muslim emirate popular with sun-seeking Western tourists and expatriates.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 65 LOW 58	HIGH 44 LOW 38	HIGH 43 LOW 29	HIGH 43 LOW 31	HIGH 45 LOW 32	HIGH 55 LOW 42

Atlanta 70 / 44 Boston 63 / 43 Chicago 58 / 37 Denver 33 / 21 Houston 73 / 56 Los Angeles 76 / 53 Minneapolis 37 / 26 New York 71 / 47 Philadelphia 72 / 46 Phoenix 77 / 56 Seattle 63 / 41 St. Louis 67 / 45 Tampa 72 / 51 Washington 72 / 49

Schmidt gives final address

By SCOTT ENGLERT
News Writer

Student body president Grant Schmidt reflected on his term as president and gave advice for the future administration in his final State of the Student Union address, delivered at the Student Senate meeting Thursday.

Schmidt said he worked to make student government more accessible and more in tune to the student body's needs.

"Since the beginning of the year, [we] have focused on making student government the go-to group of students when our fellow students or our administration has a question, an idea or a concern," Schmidt said. "We have pushed to make sure that students are consulted before big decisions are made."

In addition to serving the needs of the student body, Schmidt also emphasized the work that student government has done in cooperation with the administration. The administration is essential in making the University what it is today, Schmidt said.

"This University would not be where it is today without the lead-

ership of ... the numerous administrators who work tirelessly on a day-to-day basis," Schmidt said.

But Schmidt said there is often a right and wrong way to work with the administration. He said he hopes next year's student government will continue to operate in the correct manner.

"Many student governments across the country play the 'us against the man' card. We don't do that here at Notre Dame, and I would advise any other future student government leaders to shy away from this approach as well," Schmidt said. "We have conversations, negotiations, compromises, a sense of understanding."

It has been through this approach that the student body has created "tangible results," Schmidt said. But the process was not easy, he said.

"Trust me when I say I have pushed some buttons ... Transpo did not come easily. Our pressure with the pep rallies did not come easily. The pressure regarding textbook prices did not come easily, along with the support of the gay and lesbian students," Schmidt said.

Despite all of these accomplishments, Schmidt said his adminis-

tration still has work left to do before its tenure ends April 1.

"Currently, we are finishing up our recommendations for the revisions to du Lac. These are extremely important as they will affect students on a day-to-day basis," Schmidt said.

After thanking the members of his administration, Schmidt offered his advice to student body president-elect Catherine Soler and student body vice president-elect Andrew Bell.

"Pursue what you know is right. You're the role models for the University," Schmidt said. "Don't hold back ... Do something starting on April 1, 2010 until March 31, 2011."

In a final reflection, Schmidt spoke to the Student Senate about his time as student body president.

"Like I said before, this job has been easy and a pleasure because of you. Thank you for what you do. Thank you for making this a fun experience," he said. "Thank you for making Notre Dame one heck of a place to be for four years. Go Irish."

Contact Scott Englert at senglert@nd.edu

Activist lectures on low-wage workers

By BRITTANY VANSNEPSON
News Writer

Social justice activist Kim Bobo discussed the injustices commonly faced by low-wage workers in a lecture titled "Making a Difference for Low Wage Workers" Thursday at the Vander Venne Theatre.

Bobo, executive director and founder of Interfaith Worker Justice, focused on addressing the issues of benefits, fair pay, equal treatment and healthy working conditions for low-wage workers.

"These problems are not somewhere else, they're here," Bobo said.

"We've got to stop the bleeding of wages in society ... to dramatically change things."

Bobo said wage theft is an activity where employers illegally underpay workers for the work they have already completed. She said this activity is left largely unreported and unnoticed throughout the nation.

"It's just not enough to

barely make ends meet," Bobo said.

Bobo suggested one small, yet significant, way of changing injustices to low-wage workers is by leaving cash tips.

"Tip stealing is a pretty common way of employers stealing from workers," said Bobo.

However, said the

best change can only come in the form of young adults getting more active in the cause to help low-wage workers.

"It's not the elders and it's not the faculty ... it's the younger leaders," she said.

The younger generations

should involve their friends and family members in the cause, as well as apply for internships within the community that help to address issues of low wage workers.

"We just have to love our neighbor as we do ourselves," Bobo said.

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STUDENT SENATE

Group requests addition of student rep.

Observer Staff Report

In addition to hearing student body president Grant Schmidt's final State of the Student Union address, Student Senate discussed and unanimously passed a resolution during its Thursday night meeting.

The resolution called for the

addition of a student leader in the decision process of the Commencement speaker. University Affairs chair Jeff Lakusta proposed the resolution.

Lakusta said the student would be present on the committee offer the student body's opinion.

"So there can be a form of input, but it's not the hammer or anything," Lakusta said.

Student body vice president Cynthia Weber also said the resolution was important because Commencement is an integral part of the graduation ceremonies.

"Especially for the seniors, it's the center of Commencement," Weber said. "It becomes something that represents the entire University."

Saint Mary's club hosts renowned philosopher

Notre Dame professor Alasdair MacIntyre argues individuals can be 'good' in many ways

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Goodness and happiness are in conflict, Alasdair MacIntyre, the John A. O'Brien senior research professor of philosophy at Notre Dame, said Thursday.

MacIntyre visited Saint Mary's College as a guest lecturer on the invitation of the Philosophy Club.

In a lecture titled "Happiness and Goodness," MacIntyre spoke about the ways in which humans can live a happy life and a good life.

"People constantly offer us

happiness," MacIntyre said. "Sometimes people who are in love with us promise to make us happy. Politicians often promise to make us happy."

MacIntyre defined which terms should be used when speaking about what it means to be happy.

"The concept that I'm going to talk about is the concept that gets expressed when someone tells you that they're happy, meaning that they feel good about themselves," he said. "They feel good about their lives."

After defining which phrases can be used to describe happiness, MacIntyre discussed

whether or not sources that make humans happy exist.

"It may be the case that with which we are pleased, delighted or satisfied is something that exists in the real world," MacIntyre said.

MacIntyre also discussed how to interpret what happiness means.

"When people tell us that they're happy with their lives, it's very much a matter of what they think the range of possible alternatives are for better," MacIntyre said.

MacIntyre explained the language used when judgments are made about the ideas of good and bad.

According to MacIntyre, humans can be good when they understand how to integrate other aspects of goodness into their lives.

"Human beings, that is to say, can be good in a wide variety of ways," he said. "And we do have criteria for how to be a good friend, or being good at tennis, or being a good worker or being a good sibling, the list goes on."

MacIntyre then explained that goodness and happiness can conflict.

"Caring about something or caring about somebody means that when things go wrong for that person, you feel badly about it and you act differently

as a result," he said.

He discussed how humans must be sympathetic, vulnerable, truthful, trustful and have self-knowledge in order to be a good person. With these traits, he said humans will find conflict existing between happiness and goodness.

"It therefore follows that in a characteristic human life ... people will have good reason to be unhappy a great deal of the time," MacIntyre said. "A good life would be one in which both happiness and unhappiness find a place, the right place."

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Peace

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but it is not simply for us," Pinto said.

Pinto said she hopes to apply her degree in Arabic to a location in the Middle East or North Africa.

"We must take that education and all of our experiences over these four years and use them to make the world a better place in some way or form," she said.

Notre Dame's history with the Peace Corps began when the agency was founded in 1961 and trained some of its first volunteers on the University's campus. Since then, over 800 Notre Dame alumni have joined the Corps

as volunteers, surpassing any other Catholic college, a University press release said.

"The ethos of social justice within the Catholic tradition is one thing that sets that up very well," Rees said.

Second-year graduate student Mirjam Wit said that the her two years in Panama as a Peace Corps volunteer were the reason behind her decision to come to Notre Dame for her Masters in Business Administration.

An undergraduate degree from Boston College and a plan to become a lobbyist for United States-Latin American relations brought Wit to the Peace Corps, but her plans changed when the lack of jobs and funding in Panama led her to pursue a graduate degree in business.

"My ultimate goal in all of this was to create opportunities for people in underdeveloped regions," she said.

When undergraduate students approach career counselors about the Peace Corps, Rees said they should question whether or not they are cut out for the unique volunteer experience offered by the agency.

"Students who are now considering going into the Peace Corps have some tremendous examples in alumni who have gone before them," Rees said. "We can find these alumni to speak with our students on a one-to-one level about the experience."

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Lash

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skills and knowledge of how their research can be applied to global challenges.

Lash said he is excited about the opportunity to pursue a master's degree in the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic.

"The interdisciplinary program gives me the opportunity to continue studying what I am interested in without having to pick only one particular aspect of my interests," Lash said. "I will study the language, history and archeology of medieval Britain and Scandinavia."

Lash was encouraged to apply for the highly selective scholarship by several faculty members because of his impressive research skills and academic success.

"Ryan has blended his broad interests in the medieval world with specific interests in literature and material culture in sophisti-

cated ways that belie his age and experience," said Thomas Noble, professor and chair of the History Department and former director of Notre Dame's Medieval Institute, in a press release. "He combines intelligence, a taste for hard work and a disinterested love of learning and grace."

According to the press release, Lash has fully utilized Notre Dame's resources that support undergraduate research, field and international study. His projects include archaeological fieldwork at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, travel in Great Britain and Ireland for a research paper on medieval castle architecture in elite identity formation, study of medieval history, literature and archeology in Notre Dame's Oxford program, as well as an upcoming research project at Bective Abbey in Ireland. As a result of these projects, he has also co-presented research papers at academic conferences in several countries.

Lash is quick to credit University advisors for their assistance in the application process.

"My faculty advisors were very helpful in encouraging me to think about what I really wanted to do," he said. "They supported me and dissuaded me from thinking the scholarship was out of reach."

Lash is looking forward to utilizing the many resources of the renowned University of Cambridge and hopes his work will contribute to a better appreciation of the relevance and influence of representations of history.

"I admit that medieval studies can't help humanity in the same way that medical or scientific research might," he said. "But my work has relevancy and will, I hope, contribute by allowing us to better appreciate the challenges, complexities and consequences of public representations of the past."

Contact Casey Kenny at ckenny@nd.edu

Study

continued from page 1

Keith Kirkpatrick said he hopes more students will begin taking advantage of this new study space.

"So far we're seeing that it's being used — not as much as we want it to be used, but that will probably increase," he said. "This area on the second floor has a great view — a two story window where you can see the Dome."

The study space opened just before spring break, but Kirkpatrick said the decision to implement the space was made at the end of September.

A senior class business project was to conduct a focus group dealing with the integration of the café and the Bookstore, as well as ways to increase student traffic.

"Feedback from the focus group was basically that they wanted [part of] the second floor cleaned up with desks and made it into a study area," Kirkpatrick said.

Kirkpatrick said the Bookstore is able to be more creative with

the store layout in the spring semester, when the rush of football season has ended. In the fall, the textbook department is collapsed and used for a line queue, but in the spring, that space can be consolidated for other displays.

"[Study space] is something we didn't think about before because for us not having space allocated to sell stuff hurts the [business]," Kirkpatrick said. "But we got creative and made the space so we're not really losing anything."

School supplies, which were previously situated toward the back of the second floor, have been moved adjacent to the study space so that all of the materials students might need are conveniently located.

"One of the other initiatives we have is to reach out to campus to create a gathering space," Kirkpatrick said. "We have a number of departments on campus that actually hold class here — it's almost on a weekly basis that they come downstairs ... I hope they will use the upstairs also."

Kirkpatrick said the Bookstore decided to make the space slightly bigger when they began talk-

ing to the Registrar's Office, who needed additional space for graduation projects. The study space will be used as a sort of graduation headquarters this May. Cap and gown distribution, guest ticket pickups and senior surveys distribution will take place there on May 12 and 13.

Kirkpatrick said he hopes student traffic will continue to increase as word about the additional study space moves through campus.

"We get a good number of students [studying in the Bookstore] right now, especially in the café area downstairs. The chairs are comfortable, it's fairly relaxed, fairly quiet, and it's open — our hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. which is a pretty good stretch of time," he said.

The study space will only last until the end of June, when the bookstore will begin to prepare for the 2010 football season.

"We're going to have it up through finals, but it will probably come down by mid-summer because we're going to need to reset the floor get ready for fall," Kirkpatrick said.

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Access

continued from page 1

Howland said his office does not focus on accessibility issues, but will sometimes receive calls and redirect them to the appropriate departments.

Specifically, Howland deals with students who have learning disabilities and provides them with services to assist them in learning.

"My responsibility and my job in the office is to work with students directly for primarily academic accommodations. I think we do a pretty good job of meeting those needs," he said. "[With] a need for a residence hall accommodations or adaptations, I work with housing to do that so I think that's something that's addressed and needs are met."

Howland said he works with around 225 students with learning disabilities, who seem to be satisfied with their services, according to surveys his office has conducted.

Sophomore Katelyn Kelliher, a student with dyslexia, said she has been pleased with the services the University offers to accommodate her disability.

"When I came here they offered me more services than I could ever imagine. I'd get extra times on my exams, which is great. I get my books on tape which helps a lot," she said.

Someone also takes notes for Kelliher in all of her classes, which allows her to focus on the information being presented, she said.

"I am really good with auditory learning," she said. "I sit in class and I absorb info. I can almost repeat back to you the entire class."

Kelliher said Howland helped arrange her class schedule to accommodate her disability.

"I'm not really good at languages. You learn through reading and writing [in foreign language classes] and that's my weakness area," she said. "He worked with me to get into a sign language class to substitute for my language classes."

"There are so many opportunities that Notre Dame offers so I try to take advantage of all of them."

Kelliher said she knows other students with both learning and physical disabilities, and has noticed a few accessibility issues on campus.

"Sometimes the handicap access doors don't work on certain buildings or the access doors are not the most convenient doors or the doors most used," she said.

"I'm in Breen Phillips Hall and I broke my ankle last year. I was only on crutches for a while [but] there are steps everywhere," Kelliher said. "I don't think that's the fault of Notre Dame. They are old buildings. The newer buildings can accommodate people."

Mary Hurd said she was satisfied with accessibility in her daughter's dorm.

"I can't say we've had any access issues when [my daughter] was in Pangborn. Pangborn has an elevator," she said.

Overall, Kelliher said she feels people are pleased with the University's accommodations for physical and learning disabilities.

"In the general sense when it comes up, most people seem satisfied," she said.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Export ban on bluefin tuna rejected

DOHA, Qatar — Fishing nations won a victory over environmentalists Thursday when a U.S.-backed proposal to ban export of the Atlantic bluefin tuna was overwhelmingly rejected at a U.N. wildlife meeting.

Japan won over scores of poorer nations with a campaign that played on fears that a ban would devastate their economies. Tokyo also raised doubts that such a radical move was scientifically sound.

In another blow to conservationists, a proposal at the meeting to ban the international sale of polar bear skins failed to pass.

Kidnapped Brit returns from Pakistan

LONDON — A 5-year-old British boy who was kidnapped and held in Pakistan for two weeks arrived safely back in Britain on Thursday.

Sahil Saeed, who is of Pakistani origin, was snatched March 4 from his grandparents' house in central Pakistan, where he was vacationing. He was released unharmed Tuesday, and on Thursday he flew back to Manchester, northern England, where he lives with his parents.

"Sahil is doing well, is in good spirits," the boy's father, Raja Naqqash Saeeda, said earlier in Islamabad after he was reunited with his son.

The case has drawn in investigators from four countries — Britain, France, Spain and Pakistan. The first calls for ransom were made from Spain, authorities say, and the boy's family was instructed to travel to Paris to deliver the payment.

NATIONAL NEWS

South Carolina gov. agrees to fines

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford has agreed to pay \$74,000 in fines to resolve dozens of charges that he violated state ethics laws with his campaign spending and travel, including a taxpayer-funded rendezvous with his Argentine mistress, the State Ethics Commission said Thursday.

The commission brought the 37 civil charges against the Republican last year. Sanford, who is term-limited and will leave office in January, still could face criminal charges.

Sanford said in a statement he thinks he would have been vindicated if the commission had heard the case, but didn't want to continue what he called "an endless media circus."

Medical marijuana attracts criminals

SAN FRANCISCO — Patients, growers and clinics in some of the 14 states that allow medical marijuana are increasingly falling victim to robberies, home invasions, shootings and even murders at the hands of pot thieves.

There have been dozens of cases in recent months alone. The issue received more attention this week after a prominent medical marijuana activist in Seattle nearly killed a robber in a shootout — the eighth time thieves had targeted his pot-growing operation.

Critics say the heists and holdups prove that marijuana and crime are inseparable, though marijuana advocates contend that further legalization is the answer. News of crimes related to medical marijuana comes at an awkward time for California and Washington advocates who are pushing to pass ballot measures to allow all adults, not just the seriously ill, to possess the drug.

LOCAL NEWS

Women accused of setting fire to dogs

FRANKLIN, Ind. — A central Indiana woman faces two felony counts of animal cruelty after she allegedly doused her two pet dogs with gasoline and set them on fire.

Court documents state that 36-year-old Kathrine Brotherton of Franklin told police she was trying to kill her dogs March 9 because they had bit her.

She was being held Thursday in the Johnson County Jail.

Brotherton allegedly put her 5-year-old dog and 6-month-old puppy in a plastic drum, poured gas on them and then used lighter to set them on fire outside her rural Johnson County home.

THE NETHERLANDS

Writer remembers Anne Frank

Holocaust survivor stands by her memory of Anne Frank despite skepticism of facts

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — A Holocaust survivor who says she met Anne Frank in a Nazi concentration camp is standing by her story in the face of skepticism from historians, filmmakers and a childhood friend of the diarist.

Berthe Meijer, 71, claims in a memoir to be published in Dutch this month that while she was in Bergen Belsen as a 6-year-old, she remembers the severely ill Frank trying to cheer up some of the children at the camp by telling them fairy tales.

"On its face, it seems too good to be true," said David Barnouw of the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation, who has studied Frank for three decades and edited the definitive scholarly publication of her diary.

He said his primary objections to Meijer's story are that Anne would probably have been too weak from hunger and illness to tell stories shortly before her death in March 1945, and it would be an amazing coincidence that Meijer would have a memory about someone who only became well known many years later.

"But you never know," he said. "I don't dare to judge."

Anne Frank became one of the most prominent victims of the Holocaust when the diary she kept for two years while in hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam was found after the war and published. Frank died in a 1945 typhus epidemic at Bergen Belsen, but the exact date is unknown.

Meijer on Thursday rejected criticism from Hannah Pick-Goslar, a friend of Anne Frank's who saw her at Bergen Belsen and said she was in no condition to tell stories; and from Willy Lindwer, a filmmaker who said he did not include Meijer in his Emmy award winning 1988 documentary about Anne Frank



AP
Berthe Meijer gives an interview at her home in Amsterdam Friday. Meijer, an inmate of Bergen Belsen at six years old, offers a rare glimpse of Frank's final days.

because her testimony was too vague.

"How do they think they can look into my memory?" Meijer said in a telephone interview.

Meijer's memoir, "Life After Anne Frank," focuses on how the early trauma of the camp affected Meijer's later life, and "what war does to a human life." It describes the alleged meeting with Frank in an early chapter.

"I make it clear in my book, some things are vague, some things are crystal clear," she said. "For me, the memories are paired with the emotions that went with them."

She said Frank was very ill, but still mustered the strength to tell short fairy tales while lying in the

camp barracks. Meijer said she remembers it because the stories gave her a feeling of escape from the horror that surrounded her.

A spokeswoman for publisher De Bezige Bij said the house stands behind Meijer "100 percent."

Suzanne Holtzer said the Bezige Bij is discussing selling publishing rights with publishers in multiple countries, including the United States.

The Anne Frank House Museum says its historians have previously interviewed Meijer and have no reason to doubt her truthfulness — but that her story is unverifiable.

Records from Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust memorial authority, show that Meijer was an

inmate of Bergen Belsen for 13 months until it was liberated in April 1945.

They also show the Meijer family lived on Amsterdam's Niersstraat, the same street where Anne attended a Montessori elementary school from 1934 to 1941. Meijer says the two families were friendly acquaintances.

Psychologists say it's conceivable that if Meijer knew Frank before the war, and if she met her again in Bergen Belsen, she could form a lasting memory about it, even at a young age.

Around 140,000 Jews lived in the Netherlands before the 1940-45 Nazi occupation. Of those, 107,000 were deported to Germany and only 5,200 survived.

Obama effigy hung in Rhode Island school

Associated Press

CENTRAL FALLS, R.I. — A teacher at a failing school where he and all his colleagues are being fired hung an effigy of President Barack Obama in his classroom, apparently in reaction to Obama's support of extreme measures to ensure accountability in schools.

The teachers union on Thursday condemned the effigy, discovered Monday in the teacher's third-floor classroom at Central Falls High School, saying it was wrong and cannot be condoned under any circumstances.

The effigy was found in the

teacher's classroom by Superintendent Frances Gallo, Rhode Island Department of Education spokeswoman Nicole Shaffer told The Associated Press. Shaffer said the department would not have any further comment.

Gallo told the AP on Thursday evening that the foot-tall Obama doll that she saw Monday was hung from its feet from a white board and was holding a sign that said, "Fire Central Falls teachers."

"I was deeply saddened," Gallo said. "It's a horrific — a startling — kind of picture when you walk in and see that."

She said that the teacher had been

issued a "strong letter of reprimand" and that she considered it an internal matter.

Obama had called the firings in Central Falls an example of holding failing schools accountable. The White House did not have any immediate comment Thursday. U.S. Secret Service spokesman Malcolm Wiley said the agency was aware of the doll but declined to comment further.

The president of the Central Falls Teachers Union, Jane Sessums, said in a written statement that the teacher, whose name wasn't disclosed, hung the doll "as part of what he described as a lesson plan."

Private drama plagues Oscar-winner Bullock



Actress Sandra Bullock and husband Jesse James pose for a picture during the Academy Awards Ceremony March 7.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sandra Bullock is on a career high. America's Sweetheart and "Miss Congeniality" was repeatedly anointed as Hollywood royalty this year, sweeping awards season and capping it off with an Oscar for her role as a devoted mom in "The Blind Side."

But as this Tinseltown fairytale played out on camera, real-life drama may have been brewing behind the scenes.

With worldwide attention on the brand-new Oscar winner — who first captured hearts as a brave bus passenger in 1994's "Speed" and went on to amass more than two dozen movie credits — Bullock is being dogged by tabloid reports of problems with her husband of nearly five years.

Internet rumors surfaced Wednesday that the 45-year-old actress' husband, celebrity motorcycle builder and reality-TV star Jesse James, had been unfaithful while she was making her Oscar-winning film. Bullock subsequently canceled a planned appearance next week at the London premiere of "The Blind Side," citing "unforeseen personal reasons."

On Thursday, James apologized to his wife and three children from previous relationships through a statement issued to People magazine and later obtained by The Associated Press.

"It's because of my poor judgment that I deserve everything bad that is coming my way," he said. "This has caused my wife and kids pain and embarrassment beyond comprehension and I am extremely saddened to have brought this on them."

He added that "the vast majority of the allegations reported are untrue and unfounded," but offered no other details, saying, "Beyond that, I will not dignify these private matters with any further public comment."

Representatives for Bullock did not respond to calls and e-mails seeking comment Thursday. A receptionist at James' motorcycle shop, West Coast Choppers in Long Beach, Calif., said James was not expected at the shop on Thursday. Later in the day, James returned home to the couple's oceanfront home in nearby Huntington Beach without speaking to assembled journalists.

Throughout Hollywood's

lengthy award season, there was no indication of domestic strife as the couple appeared happily arm-in-arm while Bullock racked up the accolades.

She called her husband "sexy" as she accepted her Screen Actor's Guild award. Backstage, he held her purse as she spoke to reporters.

At the Golden Globes, Bullock told James from the stage, her voice cracking with emotion: "There's no surprise that my work got better when I met you. Because I never knew what it felt like for someone to have my back."

Things were different at the Academy Awards.

Bullock did not thank her husband, who appeared teary-eyed on camera as she accepted her award. Instead she thanked mothers and parents everywhere — including a poignant tribute to her own mother — along with her fellow nominees and "everyone who's shown me kindness when it wasn't fashionable."

Still, Bullock and James, 40, walked hand-in-hand down Oscar's red carpet, celebrated together at the parties afterward and were photographed outside a Long Beach burger joint the next day.

The actress and the "Monster Garage" star met in 2003 and married in 2005. Initially deemed an odd match by some — she's the girl next door, he's a tattooed bad-boy — the couple stayed blissfully out of the public eye while continuing their individual successes.

Bullock had dated actors, including Matthew McConaughey and Ryan Gosling, and was engaged to Tate Donovan, but her marriage to James is her first. James had been married twice before and is in an ongoing dispute with his most recent ex-wife over custody of their 5-year-old daughter, Sunny.

Bullock has said she loves James' children as though they were her own and that the eldest, Chandler, selected her regal Oscar gown.

While winning an Academy Award can be a boon to actors' careers, it's not always great for their personal lives. Sean Penn won the best-actor Oscar last year for "Milk" and split with his wife, Robin Wright Penn, a few months later. (He didn't thank her in his speech, either.) Last year's best-actress winner, Kate Winslet, separated from her husband, director Sam Mendes, earlier this week.

Body of child found on beach

Associated Press

SEATTLE — A child's body found Thursday on an island beach in Puget Sound is that of an 8-year-old boy who vanished last weekend with his mother, a Pierce County sheriff's spokesman said.

Positive identification was based on Azriel Carver's clothing, mohawk haircut and "looking at pictures of him," spokesman Ed Troyer said.

The Pierce County medical examiner's office plans an autopsy Friday to determine cause of death.

The body was found on Fox Island, southwest of Tacoma.

No sign was found Thursday of the boy's mother, Shantina "Kat" Smiley, 29, of Silverdale, who disappeared with him on Saturday night. Troyer said the beach was searched about 500 yards in each direction from the boy's body. Divers on a boat searched as well and a Coast Guard helicopter and sheriff's office plane flew overhead.

That search may resume Friday, depending on weather, he said.

Smiley's abandoned minivan, partially submerged with its doors open, was found Sunday on a remote Olympia-area

beach about 12 miles south of Fox Island.

A wallet containing her driver's license, some cash and credit cards was found in the van, but neither she nor her son was anywhere in sight.

Jay Carver, Azriel's father who flew here from Buffalo, N.Y., this week, went to the beach where the boy was found. Troyer said the father was not involved in identifying the body.

"You really don't know what you have in your life until they're gone," Carver told KING-TV. "It's a sad turn of events."

Two mismatched shoes, a partially full and corked wine bottle, an inhaler and an orange ball have washed ashore since the van was found.

Thurston County sheriff's Lt. Chris Mealy said the items apparently belonged to the boy or his mother.

Smiley was heading from her home in Silverdale to her stepfather's house in southwest Washington when she and her son disappeared Saturday night. Silverdale is about 16 miles west of Seattle, across Puget Sound.

Besides searching the area, investigators looked at phone

records and talked to people who know Smiley and her son or may have met her Saturday night as she drove through the back roads of Washington state. Her fiancé, Robb Simmons, told authorities she was a recovering alcoholic who had relapsed last week.

"We are grieving the loss of Azriel, and praying for Shantina. We are all severely hurting. We are getting the family together so we can grieve together, and so we can have some sort of peace right now," Simmons told the television station late Thursday.

He told The Associated Press he had no comment.

Mealy said there was no indication that a crime took place inside Smiley's 2005 Dodge Caravan.

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Introduction and post-screening Q&A by
Director Y. David Chung

9:00pm— Cape No. 7

Saturday
March 20th

3:00pm— Children in Heaven

and
Malakacaway (The Rice Wine Filler)

4:45pm— Asia in Films: Exploring Cultural Identities

Academic Panel— Debartolo Performing Arts Center, Room B042

8:00pm— Chicken Poets

For more details:

kellogg.nd.edu/asianfilm

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AMEX	1,907.54	+0.43	
NASDAQ	2,391.28	+2.19	
NYSE	7,443.57	-30.56	
S&P 500	1,165.82	-0.39	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	10,795.99	+52.60	
FTSE 100 (London)	5,642.62	-2.01	
Companys			
COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC. (C)	-0.74	-0.03	4.02
FORD MOTOR CO (F)	-2.62	-0.37	13.73
STANDARD & POOR'S (SPY)	-0.05	-0.06	117.04
BANK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-1.10	-0.19	17.08
Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.82	+0.30	3.67
13-WEEK BILL	-3.33	-0.05	0.145
30-YEAR BOND	+0.37	+0.17	4.59
5-YEAR NOTE	+2.03	+0.48	2.41
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.73		82.20
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+3.40		1,127.4
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	0.00		91.00
Exchange Rates			
YEN			90.3950
EURO			1.3616
CANADIAN DOLLAR			1.0132
BRITISH POUND			1.5246

IN BRIEF

Domain 'Sex.com' too hot to sell

NEW YORK — The suitors for Sex.com have been put off for now.

An auction for the much-sought-after domain name was canceled Wednesday after three creditors filed a petition forcing the owner into bankruptcy.

Mike Mann, an investor with all three creditors, said the petition was filed to stop the auction. According to the petition, the creditors have a combined \$10.1 million claim.

Selling the domain name at an auction was not going to enhance its value, Mann said.

"It's gone way up in value," he said. "It's the most valuable domain in the world. They were throwing away the world's most valuable domain asset."

Escom LLC paid a reported \$12 million to \$14 million for the domain name in 2006, but the company was unable to repay the debt. The lender ordered the foreclosure sale.

The opening bid: \$1 million.

Richard Maltz, vice president of David R. Maltz & Co. Inc., which was handling the auction, said there was "considerable interest" in the domain name sale.

Gas prices rise to highest since 2008

Motorists are paying the highest prices for gas since October 2008. Retail gasoline prices rose on Thursday on an expected increase in demand and as more expensive spring and summer blends of gasoline make their way to the pumps.

The nationwide average hit \$2.799 per gallon, a penny higher than Wednesday, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service.

Prices have now jumped 18.9 cents in the past month and are 87.9 cents higher than year-ago levels. Back on Oct. 23, 2008 prices averaged \$2.8215 per gallon.

The Energy Department and many industry experts expect prices to top \$3 this spring.

Gasoline prices tend to move higher in the spring as more drivers hit the road and refiners shut down units for maintenance, as they prepare to make more expensive summer blends of gasoline with fewer smog-causing emissions.

Wholesale gasoline prices also are at their highest point since October 2008.

Democrats sweeten health care bill

Supporters add new incentives to their health care plans; showdown set for Sunday

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Historic health care change in the balance, Democrats plowed fresh billions into insurance subsidies for consumers on Thursday and added a \$250 rebate for seniors facing high prescription drugs, last-minute sweeteners to sweeping \$940 billion legislation headed for a climactic weekend vote.

President Barack Obama scuttled an Asian trip in favor of last-minute lobbying at the White House on his signature issue, playing host to a procession of wavering Democrats seeking favors.

"It will make history and we will make progress by passing this legislation," predicted House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as Democrats unveiled final alterations to a bill — 16 tumultuous months in the making — meant to expand health care to 32 million uninsured, bar the insurance industry from denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions, and trim federal deficits by an estimated \$138 billion over the next decade.

The health care portions of the bill would affect early every American and remake one-sixth of the national economy.

Beginning in 2014, most Americans would be required for the first time to purchase insurance, and face penalties if they refused. Millions of families with incomes up to \$88,000 a year would receive government help to defray their costs. Large businesses would face fines if they did not offer good-quality coverage to their workers.

As Democrats trumpeted their bill, particularly its potential impact on the deficit, Republicans attacked it relentlessly as a government takeover of the health care industry financed by ever higher Medicare cuts and tax increases, including a new Medicare payroll tax on



Democrat Rep. Luis Gutierrez, left, talks with Democrat Rep. Jose Serrano before the Congressional Hispanic Caucus announced its support for the health care reform bill Thursday on Capitol Hill.

upper income wage earners.

"The American people are saying, 'Stop' and they're screaming at the top of their lungs," said House GOP Leader John Boehner of Ohio. Citing reports that Obama had told members of the Hispanic caucus that his presidency depends on the bill's passage, he added, "I'm sorry, Mr. President, this isn't about you."

It was, though, at least in part, and has been ever since last summer, when Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., predicted the bill's defeat would mark Obama's Waterloo.

Democrats set a Sunday showdown in the House, and while Pelosi and others expressed confidence about the outcome, Obama's deci-

sion to put off a scheduled Asian trip until later in the year was a confession that the votes were not yet secured.

Support for the legislation appeared to be growing.

Rep. Bart Gordon of Tennessee, a moderate Democrat who is retiring at the end of the year, announced he would vote in favor of the bill after opposing an earlier version. He did so as Democratic leaders included in their revisions a provision worth an estimated \$99 million over two years in higher Medicaid payments to Tennessee hospitals that treat large numbers of uninsured.

Rep. Betsy Markey, a first-term from Colorado,

quickly followed, citing improved deficit cuts.

That made three conversions in recent days, following liberal Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio, with the White House and congressional leaders in search of more.

In Washington's time-honored tradition, the conversations with the president ranged widely. Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois said he agreed to vote for the health care overhaul on the understanding that Obama and congressional Democrats would begin attempts quickly to pass comprehensive immigration legislation. Within hours, Senate Democrats unveiled a bill, and the president praised it in a written statement.

UNITED NATIONS

Agents uncover U.N. corruption case

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The deal looked simple enough: U.S. military equipment suppliers bribed an African defense minister's salesman to secure part of a \$15 million gig to outfit a presidential guard.

But the salesman were actually FBI agents. And the operation resulted in what U.S. authorities in January called their biggest foreign bribery sting to date, netting 16 indictments and 22 arrests of small arms and military equipment makers.

At the center of the U.S. case is Richard Bistrong, a former Florida

executive who first surfaced in a series of cases of bribes and bid-rigging for multimillion-dollar U.N. peacekeeping contracts. The trail to Bistrong is laid out in U.N. documents, e-mails and legal filings reviewed by The Associated Press.

The story of Bistrong and the military equipment suppliers shows how vulnerable the United Nations is to corruption in how the billions of dollars a year that it oversees are spent. It also raises questions about how well that spending will be monitored in the future: The anti-corruption unit that first uncovered the bribery and bid-rigging was disbanded in 2008, after

more than 300 investigations in three years.

"It is greatly disturbing that an organization plagued by corruption and mismanagement would disband its anti-corruption task force," said U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, the ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who has proposed requiring the U.N. to do more to fight corruption or risk losing U.S. financial support. "What will the (Obama) administration do to address U.S. taxpayer dollars being misappropriated, squandered, and stolen at the U.N.? We need to demand concrete reform now."

Pennsylvania terror suspect pleads not guilty

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A woman accused of trolling the Internet as Jihad Jane and agreeing to marry a suspected terrorist and kill a Swedish artist targeted by radical Muslims cooperated with authorities, a congressman said.

Colleen LaRose pleaded not guilty Thursday to the four-count indictment at a brief arraignment in federal court in Philadelphia. The hearing marked her first public appearance after six months of detention following her unannounced arrest in October. She wore a green prison jumpsuit and corn rows in her blond hair and smiled warmly at her public defenders when she entered the courtroom. The judge set a May 3 trial date on charges in the indictment, unsealed last week.

LaRose, 46, was accused of conspiring with fighters overseas and pledging to commit murder in the name of a Muslim holy war, or jihad. She was arrested Oct. 15 returning to Philadelphia from Europe and was swiftly jailed.

Rep. Charles Dent, R-Pa., said he learned through meetings with the FBI and other briefings that LaRose had been cooperating with authorities pursuing the international probe, who arrested seven people in Ireland last week. LaRose lived in his district.

"I have a sense they learned as much as they could from her, and when that happens, you move forward with the criminal complaint," Dent, who serves on intelligence and homeland security committees, told The Associated Press. "Will she be more cooperative in the future? I hope so."

The FBI, the U.S. attorney's office and LaRose's public defender, Mark Wilson, declined to comment.

The indictment was filed March 4 and made public five days later, after Irish authorities detained an American woman, her Algerian husband and five others. Those suspects are linked to LaRose, according to a U.S. official not authorized to discuss the case, who spoke to the AP previously on condition of anonymity.

Thursday's arraignment lasted only minutes. LaRose uttered just two words — "not guilty" — when asked her plea to the charges: conspiring to aid terrorists, conspiring to kill someone overseas, lying to the FBI and stealing her ex-boyfriend's passport.

Authorities were on LaRose's trail as early as July 2009, when the FBI interviewed her about more than a year's worth of online posts and messages, including a 2008 YouTube video in which she said she was "desperate to do something" to ease the suffering of Muslims.

She denied to agents that she had used the screen name Jihad Jane or had sent any of the messages recovered, which included fundraising appeals for the jihadist cause, according to

the indictment.

LaRose's live-in boyfriend of five years, Kurt Gorman, of Pennsburg, did not attend Thursday's hearing, and there was no sign of other friends or relatives. Gorman has said that he knew nothing of her interest in Islam and that she disappeared without saying a word. While he worked, he said, she spent most of her time in their apartment, caring for his elderly father and using the computer.

Dent said he's always known that "homegrown radicalism is a real threat."

"I just never knew it'd occur in my backyard," said Dent, who described Pennsburg as a Norman Rockwell-type town. "In this woman's case, from what I can tell, she didn't seem to have much of a tie to Islam other than what she learned over the Internet."

From June 2008 through October 2009, LaRose, who also called herself Fatima Rose, went online to recruit male fighters for the cause, recruit women with Western passports to marry them and raise money for the holy war, the indictment charged.

The suspects detained in Ireland include Jamie Paulin-Ramirez, a 31-year-old Colorado woman whose mother said she began talking about jihad with her Muslim stepfather and soon spent most of her time online, according to the U.S. official.

Paulin-Ramirez left Leadville, Colo., on Sept. 11, 2009, with her 6-year-old son and told her family she had married a fourth time, to the Algerian, whom she had met online, her mother said. Irish officials later said they had released the American woman.

LaRose had left the United States on Aug. 23 for Europe, though her specific destination hasn't been revealed.

Both women left troubled lives behind, LaRose having survived a suicide attempt and Paulin-Ramirez, according to her mother, an abusive first marriage and a childhood marked by bullying.

LaRose spent most of her life in Texas, where she dropped out of high school, married at 16 and again at 24 and racked up a few minor arrests, records show.

After a second divorce, she followed Gorman to Pennsylvania in about 2004 and began caring for his father while he worked long hours, sometimes on the road. In 2005, she swallowed a handful of pills, later telling Pennsburg police she was upset over the death of her father but did not want to die, according to the police report.

As she moved through her 40s without a job or any outside hobbies, Gorman said, she started spending more time online.

Though he did not consider her religious, and she apparently never joined a mosque, LaRose had by 2008 declared herself "desperate" to help Muslims in the YouTube video.

LaRose and Gorman shared an apartment with

his father in Pennsburg, a quaint if isolated town an hour northwest of Philadelphia. Just days after the father died in August, she stole Gorman's passport and fled, according to the indictment.

The South Asian man she had agreed to marry told her in a March 2009 e-mail to go to Sweden to find the artist, Lars Vilks, who had depicted the Prophet Muhammad with the body of a dog, the indictment said.

"I will make this my goal till i achieve it or die trying," she wrote back, adding that her blond, blue-eyed, all-American looks would help her blend in.



Mark Wilson, Colleen LaRose's attorney, answers questions Thursday outside of a Philadelphia courthouse.

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Slave ship replica sails to U.S. and Cuba

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It will be the rarest of sights: a black-hulled, two-masted replica of a slave-carrying schooner slipping into Havana's harbor flying two flags — those of the United States and Cuba.

That's how it is for the Amistad, a symbol of both a dark 19th century past and modern public diplomacy.

The Amistad is the 10-year-old official tall ship of the state of Connecticut and a replica of the Cuban coastal trader that sailed from Havana in 1839 with a cargo of African captives, only to become an emblem of the abolitionist movement.

As a U.S.-flagged ship, the Amistad's 10-day, two-city tour of Cuba provides a counterpoint to new and lingering tensions between Washington and Havana and stands out as a high-profile exception to the 48-year-old U.S. embargo of the Caribbean island.

For the Amistad, Cuba also represents a final link as it retraces the old Atlantic slave trade triangle, making port calls that are not only reminders of the stain of slavery but also celebrations of the shared cultural legacies of an otherwise sorry past.

When it drops anchor in Havana's harbor on March 25, the Amistad will not only observe its 10th anniversary, it will commemorate the day in 1807 when the British Parliament first outlawed the slave trade.

The powerful image of a vessel displaying home and host flags docking in Cuba is not lost on Gregory Belanger, the CEO and president of Amistad America Inc., the nonprofit organization that owns and operates the ship.

"We're completely aware of all of the issues currently surrounding the U.S. and Cuba," he said. "But we approach this from the point of view that we have this unique history that both societies are connected by. It gives us an opportunity to transcend contemporary issues."

It's not lost on Rep. William Delahunt, either. The Massachusetts Democrat has long worked to ease U.S.-Cuba relations and he reached out to the State Department to make officials aware of the Amistad's proposal.

U.S.-flagged ships have docked in Havana before, but none as prominently as the Amistad. The Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control has periodically approved Cuba stops for semester-at-sea educational programs for American students, and the Commerce Department has authorized U.S. shiploads of exports under agriculture and medical exemptions provided in the Trade Sanctions Reform Act of 2000.

"Obviously we have serious differences, disagreements," Delahunt said. "But in this particular case the two gov-

ernments, while not working together, clearly were aware of the profound significance of this particular commemoration."

The Amistad's visit comes as international tension over Cuba's human rights has heightened since the Feb. 23 death of Orlando Zapata Tamayo after a long hunger strike in jail. Another dissident, Guillermo Farinas, has refused to eat or drink since shortly after Zapata Tamayo's death. He is not imprisoned, though, and is allowing himself to be fed intravenously. Both men are of African descent.

"I would hope — it isn't going to happen — that the ship would go into Havana harbor with a flag at half staff representing what happened on the history of that ship and what is currently happening in Cuba in terms of the violations of human rights," said Andy Gomez, a senior fellow at the University of Miami's Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies.

The original Amistad's story, the subject of a 1997 Steven Spielberg movie, began after it set sail from Havana in 1839. Its African captives rebelled, taking over the ship and sending it on a zigzag course up the U.S. coast until it was finally seized off the coast of Long Island. The captured Africans became an international cause for abolitionists; their fate was finally decided in 1841 when John Quincy Adams argued their case before the Supreme Court, which granted them their freedom.

Miguel Barnet, a leading Cuban ethnographer and writer who has studied the African diaspora, said it is only appropriate that the new Amistad would call on the place of the original ship's birth. Indeed, he said in an interview from Cuba on Wednesday, it is the horror of the slave trade that left behind a rich common bond — not just between the United States and Cuba, but with the rest of the Caribbean — that is rooted in Africa.

"That's why this is an homage to these men and women who left something precious for our culture," he said.

The new Amistad has crossed the Atlantic and wended its way through the Caribbean since 2007. It has worked with the United Nations and UNESCO's Slave Route Project. Using high technology hidden in its wooden frame and rigging, the ship's crew of sailors and students has simulcasted to schools and even to the U.N. General Assembly.

It will do so again — with Cuban students — from Havana.

"It's about enlivening the history," said Steve Schwadron, Delahunt's former chief of staff and a consultant on the Amistad project, "and not just as a stale book."

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Disability access on campus needs improvement

The University's historic campus buildings are a point of pride for many in the Notre Dame community. What the older dorms, such as Badin Hall and Lyons Hall, lack in air conditioning and elevator access, they make up for in character. But these older buildings lack accessibility for people with physical disabilities.

In some older buildings, ramps and elevators are missing, or not easily accessed — something that is problematic for the members of the Notre Dame community with a physical disability.

Many students have disabled or elderly family members who take pleasure in visiting campus. Walking up four flights of stairs in a residence hall may be daunting to your 80-something-year old grandmother.

Due to some inaccessible buildings, such family members are missing out on a key part of the Notre Dame community. They cannot tour the Rock or see dorm rooms higher than on the first floor. It makes weekend trips to Notre Dame stressful instead of enjoyable and limits their experience.

But inaccessibility affects students too. Those who use wheelchairs are forced to live in newer dorms that have more accommodations.

Even if a student with a permanent disability is accommodated in a newer dorm, students can be faced with a broken leg and months on crutches. A student who lives on the third floor of Badin Hall would be hard pressed to

get to her room every day without an elevator to assist her.

The University has expanded campus and constructed many new buildings in the past 20 years. To its credit, it has worked to make newer buildings more accommodating.

McGlenn Hall, for example, keeps one room open every year in case a student gets hurt and needs to live in a dorm with elevator access, Sr. Mary Lynch, rector of McGlenn Hall, said.

But ideally, all dorms would have elevators and would be able to leave a room open in the case a disabled student needs to be accommodated.

Although there is not a quick and easy solution to this problem, the University should begin to make accessibility a priority.

The University allocates funds for construction each year, which has resulted in some beautiful new buildings. As these projects are completed, the University should examine the architecture of older buildings to see where improvements can be made to increase accessibility.

Every building should have a ramp for people with physical disabilities to enter the building and, ideally, every building should have an elevator.

While this involves a lot of time and money to make every building more accessible, recognizing the need is the first step toward change.

THE
OBSERVER
Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Has anyone seen my old friend John?

Can you tell me where he's gone? There's about to be a very big vote on health care reform, and wouldn't you know that such reform includes funding for violence to the littlest among us. And despite the president's claim to the contrary, you know he's going to sign that bill if and when it's presented to him by the House and Senate. Can there be any real any doubt?

But let's get back to John. He's been as quiet as a church mouse ever since Commencement 2009, hasn't he? Sure, there are now going to be Masses on the mall. Sure, there are going to be blue ribbon panels and seminars and forums, and sure, we'll use "fair-minded words" and look for common ground and tell each other how we need to reduce the number of instances of prenatal violence to the waiting-to-be-born.

But what I'm not sure about is whether or not we're going to hear a public pronouncement by University President Fr. John Jenkins condemning the inclusion of funding for abortion in the health care reform bill. It's not that this bill necessarily reaffirms the legal right of a woman to have an abortion; it's that we are now going to be paying her to have one if the bill passes. I don't think it would take a brain surgeon or a rocket scientist or a PhD philosophy graduate to understand what the impact on public debate such an action of public condemnation could accomplish. Certainly, its effect would be felt a whole lot more than a hand-written, "heartfelt, Dear Barack letter" or a "What up, dude, ringy-dingy." I would think. We are all well aware of how the very-well-publicized Commencement 2009 shaped public opinion about Catholics in general and Notre Dame in particular.

Health Care Reform as presently proposed is a very bad bill, and the best thing that could seemingly happen would be for the process to start over so as to allow for it to get done right all the way through — but it doesn't look like that is going to happen now. Having said that, it's rare when any of us have the opportunity to make a real difference in life (or death) — certainly not on such a grand scale — so I'm urging you to seize the moment, Fr. John.

You know you have the platform at Notre Dame to demonstrate a true, courageous concern for the unborn if you were to go public with your thoughts, and that would be a message that would carry far and wide. But I know you're probably

thinking that you don't want to bother the president right now during his "busiest ... week" ever. I know, Fr. John, that you were hoping for "deepened dialogue over time" on this matter, but what better place for such a message to emanate from than Our Lady's University and what better time than now?

But I know there are arguments against rocking the boat. You know what; it is important to get 30 million more Americans on health care, even if it is a very bad bill that can't sustain itself or the quality of care over time. And you know what else — those women who find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy would probably get an abortion anyway — whether we pay for it or not. And they might even get it done in some back alley by some meth-addled, would-be Dr. Nick (if it weren't for the meth) using a coat hanger as a "surgical instrument" rather than by a board-certified, health care practitioner in a pristine, sanitized, hospital-type setting using the latest, most-up-to-date, scientific, piercing, crushing, dismembering and suction equipment — but I digress.

And if imploring the president to do the right thing might prove to be a little too much for your tastes, is it unreasonable to expect a public vote of support — "We're with you, Bart" — for the courageous Michigan congressman who appears to be out there all alone in his fight for the most innocent among us?

But you never know, Fr. John, do you? Who's to say that a little help at this seemingly, most-opportune time would really save an innocent life or two — or maybe spare a would-be-mother a lifetime of grief. But this we do know. Despite words to the contrary, dead babies can never take care of themselves; they can not even take things off the shelves. Little voices many do not want to hear need a really big voice to speak for them — not tomorrow, not next week, not next month, not next year, but right now.

So, seize the moment, Fr. John — there will never be another one like this one. I guess it's all a matter of "what would you fight for?" I wonder what, and perhaps more importantly, who, Notre Dame, our Mother, would fight for.

Michael Sydlík
alumnus
Class of 1973, 1975
March 18

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"As long as we respond predictably to what feels good and what feels bad, it is easy for others to exploit our preferences for their own ends."

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi
Hungarian psychologist

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Man is the artificer of his own happiness."

Henry David Thoreau
U.S. author

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My love-hate relationship with Coach Brey

Four years ago a couple friends and I were sitting in a condo in Tucson on our first spring break of college, drinking the Amstel Light that my friend's dad happened to have in the fridge that day when the NIT bracket was announced.

Our Fighting Irish that season had solidified their spot in the NIT field with their 6-10 record in Big East play (which was a frustratingly impressive feat considering they outscored their league opponents by 37 points) and we were eager to find a way to support the team.



Bob Kessler

The 19th Grade

Once the field was set we did what we could by researching our first opponent on ESPN.com. After figuring out which players on the opposing team would create the most trouble for our guys, we sent an e-mail to Coach Brey letting him know that he should watch out for these players and wishing him and the team luck in the game. Most major college coaches probably wouldn't respond to such an e-mail (in fact most major college coaches probably wouldn't have

their e-mail address so readily available to students), but Mike Brey isn't most coaches.

Before I continue, however, I must mention one of the perils of print journalism. Because certain deadlines must be met, events oftentimes transpire between writing and publication that completely change the context through which pieces are read. This column was due to my editor before I knew the outcome of yesterday's game; an outcome which will undoubtedly have Notre Dame basketball fans (the approximately 73 or us that exist) loving or loathing Coach Brey right about now.

These two outcomes, however, aren't much different than how my feelings for Coach Brey have progressed over the course of the past five years. Sometimes I love him, and am convinced that he is the perfect coach to meet the expectations that Notre Dame students and alumni have for our program, while other times I am completely flabbergasted by decisions he makes and things he says. In short: I have a love-hate relationship with Coach Brey.

I love Coach Brey for reasons that are exemplified by his response to our e-mail four years ago. Most coaches wouldn't bother to respond to such an email, but Brey understands how much the fans

care about the team and he makes sure they know that he appreciates it. He sends out personal e-mails to the Leprechaun Legion before home games to remind the students and to get them excited. These personal touches make Coach Brey endearing to me, and are reasons why I love him as our coach.

However, there are also many things that happen surrounding our basketball team that make me incredibly frustrated with his work as our coach. Before the aforementioned e-mail, I was convinced that Brey deserved to be fired for all the close losses the team endured during my freshmen year; and since then a variety of critics have called for him to be fired for all sorts of perceived coaching errors such as a lack of focus on defense (at least for the first 9.7 seasons of his career) and a depthless bench.

Personally, I always get frustrated with his refusal to play underclassmen for any significant amount of time. I don't understand why players like Tim Abromitis and Carleton Scott couldn't contribute to a team last year that failed to make the NCAA Tournament. Looking back over the past four years, I think we're now lucky that Kyle McAlarney was suspended for most of a season as that was seemingly the only way Tory Jackson was able to gain valuable experience early in

his career (the first time we can ever thank South Bend Police for anything).

The biggest problem that recurs for me with Coach Brey is how he is constantly making excuses for his teams underperforming, sometimes even before the teams underperform. He will go to events with students and say things like, "you can't expect to win on the road in the Big East" and "our only goal is to get to New York" (back when teams had to qualify for the Big East Tournament). The excuses just don't cut it for me.

Over the past month, however, all of the reasons that I loathe Coach Brey have dissipated. The team is playing defense, at least one underclassman has played a couple minutes in a game, and the close games have been turning in our favor. This has left us with a team that I believe in (probably too much if you saw my bracket) and a coach that I am once again loving for reasons both on and off the court.

That is, until something happens to make me hate him again.

Bob Kessler is a 2009 graduate living in China and can be contacted at bob020787@gmail.com

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shut up or get out!

As I listen to your conversation while I sit in the basement of the Library, I wonder why you think this is a good place to have a conversation about your trip to Panama City. Perhaps you have never been to a library before and do not know that they are not places for frivolity and conversation. Since we are all highly accomplished students, however, I doubt that this is the case.

Perhaps it is because you want to draw attention to yourself. Maybe you want to impress your study buddy. Maybe you're trying (unsuccessfully) to hit on your study buddy. Maybe you just want everyone to look at you, your pile of books, and your four empty bottles of Five Hour Energy with pity.

As a reader, you may be thinking to yourself, "why don't you lay down the law and tell people to shut up instead of wasting valuable study time to write into The Observer." Well, just so you know, I'm that girl. If you've ever been to the basement of the library and struck up a conversation, then you know me. I'm the girl who marched up to your table and not-so-nicely pointed out to you that there are plenty of places to talk either on the first floor or in LaFortune. I'm the person who gets dirty looks from some (talkers) and high fives from others (fellow annoyed studiers). I'm the person who says, I don't care why you're talking, shut up or get out.

I am encouraging my fellow studiers and hard workers to join my "Shut Up or Get Out" movement. Join me in my march up to that noisy table, join me in my scolding of those scallywags. Eventually (hopefully), they'll either shut up or get out!

After we successfully complete our mission of removing the chatter boxes, we're going after the coughers and gum chewers.

Katie McKeough
junior
Lyons Hall
March 15

This is space you could have filled.

But didn't.

Response from Notre Dame Right to Life

As president of Notre Dame Right to Life, I would like to respond to Anthony Michael Durkin's column (March 16) regarding NDRTL's involvement, or alleged lack thereof, with the death penalty

John Gerardi

Guest Column

First of all, I want to clarify the Church's teaching on the death penalty, which I think Mr. Durkin misrepresents. I applaud Andrew Lynch's clarification of Catholic teaching in his response to Durkin's article on March 17, in which he quoted Cardinal Ratzinger as saying that the death penalty is not an intrinsic evil, that its moral status depends on the circumstances of its use, and that Catholics can legitimately disagree on when it should be applied.

Not only because of its intrinsically evil nature, but also because of its much larger scope, abortion has been a greater focus of our club than the death penalty. There have been 40,000,000 abortions in America since 1973, approximately 4,000 per day; meanwhile, there have been around 1,100 executions total since 1973. I am not thereby saying that capital punishment is an acceptable practice; any unjust taking of life is wrong. However, when faced with the numbers, it's hard to deny that abortion is a much more serious societal ill.

This moral distinction notwithstanding, we at NDRTL have frequently co-sponsored and advertised for events of such groups as Notre Dame Against State Killings (ND-ASK), events that were specifically aimed against the modern application of the death penalty in the United States. It seems that Mr. Durkin has not followed our club's activity very closely over the past four years, over which time we have frequently engaged in co-

sponsorship of anti-death penalty events; we do so whenever we are asked. We agree with Ven. John Paul II's assessment that in modern, First World countries, the application of the death penalty is largely unnecessary. In at least one of the two cases where the death penalty was used in Michigan City, we encouraged our members to pray that the sentence be commuted.

There are other reasons why NDRTL is not as involved in the death penalty as Mr. Durkin would like. Durkin was correct to highlight the importance of defending life at all stages and the relevance of anti-death penalty work to NDRTL's mission. Though these points are valid, NDRTL does not include anti-death penalty work as a part of our regular club activities for reasons of limited time and resources. We have a large number of pre-existing initiatives and events that keep our leadership extremely busy, and we would prefer to focus on those events rather than spread ourselves too thin with new commitments. Secondly, other existing organizations were already doing work regarding the death penalty issue, such as ND-ASK and the Center for Social Concerns. In light of this, NDRTL sees it as important to remain centrally committed to the specific life issue of abortion, and to dedicate our efforts to doing this work well.

There are other accusations in Durkin's piece that are false. First, NDRTL does not believe that "once you are conceived, you are a human being and, thus, cannot be killed under any circumstances," as Durkin suggests we do. Catholic teaching only forbids the direct killing of innocent human beings (such as the unborn) in any circumstance; someone who is trying to murder you, for example, can

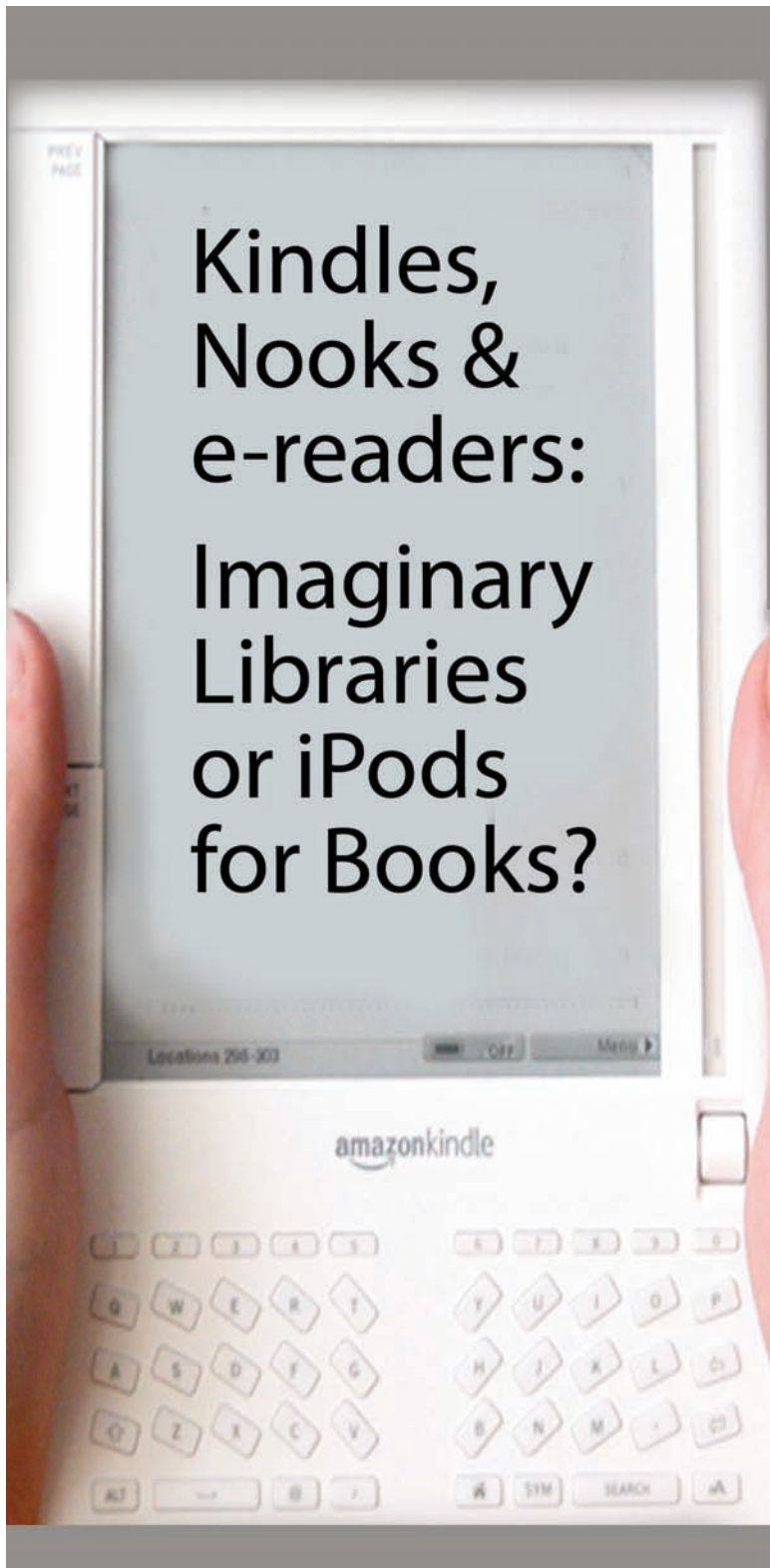
legitimately be killed. Right to Life believes what the Church does; Mr. Durkin should get his facts right before accusing us of being "inconsistent."

Durkin also accuses us of engaging in a mainly political enterprise during the March for Life. Any of the 400 students, faculty and administrators who went on the March can tell you the event was not political. Certainly we want to overturn Roe v. Wade; it is an unjust decision that deprives legal protection to a whole class of human beings. However, NDRTL has never campaigned, as Durkin alleges, for any Members of Congress. The March was much more about prayer than politics.

Ultimately, it seems that Durkin does not understand the role of our club within the Notre Dame community. Especially since University President Fr. John Jenkins' formation of the President's Task Force to Support the Choice for Life, NDRTL sees its role on campus to be not only one of promoting respect for life at its most vulnerable stages, but also that of supporting and encouraging the University in its own commitment to the defense of innocent unborn life, a position that has sometimes been overshadowed by other issues the University has promoted (health care reform, environmental issues, Third World development, etc.). I hope you readers of The Observer appreciate the mission of our organization, and I hope you would join with us in our mission.

John Gerardi is a senior and is president of Notre Dame Right to Life. He can be contacted at jgerardi@nd.edu

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



Kindles, Nooks & e-readers: Imaginary Libraries or iPods for Books?

Ostensibly, e-readers like the Amazon Kindle and Sony Nook are like iPods for books. You load them up with digital goodies that you can use but aren't supposed to share. It is an enormous, real-but-not-real library of content that can go pretty much anywhere at any time. The imminent release of the Apple iPad, with its purported e-book capabilities, makes the comparison even more apt. So far, though, I've only used the Kindle.

Jordan Gamble

Scene Editor

The Kindle seemed to combine many good things — no more paper, lots of books and immediate access to them. But e-readers have definite drawbacks. First of all, the Kindle, even before you start buying books, is pretty expensive: The first version, which I have, was \$360. With the Kindle box in my lap, all I could think was, "Dear God, that is a lot of money."

The Kindle's "revolutionary" purpose is to make entire libraries of books easily accessible, the same way the iPod did for music. The iPod can condense days of songs into a device the size of a credit card. Before the iPod, you simply couldn't carry around all your music anywhere. You needed a Sony Walkman (cassette tape or CD), car stereo, boom box or maybe a little radio — but those didn't always make the music private, and people still had to bring several different records, tapes or CDs if they wanted to have a variety of music. The iPod and other digital music players make entire collections portable and easy to organize.

The problem with the Kindle is that most books are already portable in the first place. Gone are the leather-bound tomes of

past centuries, those unwieldy vinyl records of the book world. And because books — most of them, anyway — take more than four minutes to finish, it's not as if the average person will really want or need 1,500 of them (the Kindle's average capacity) stored up "just in case." The typical recreational reader will probably be carrying a trade paperback, which is not burdensome, heavy or susceptible to extreme heat or a little bit of water. Even if they are carrying a mammoth "Harry Potter," it is still one book, and the reader will probably be reading it continuously until the end, not switching back and forth between "Sorcerer's Stone" and "Deathly Hallows" on a "Best of HP" chapter playlist.

Another problem with the current crop of e-readers is their embrace of access over ownership. You can read the books, you can make them travel with ease, but you can't line them up on a shelf to display with pride (or smugness) and you especially can't share them, because they only exist in your access to their content, not as physical possessions. Buying books for the Kindle is a farce of shopping — you pay money for it, you use it but you don't really have it.

This separation between content and physicality is annoying for someone who likes to flip through a book with ease, to write down notes in the margins with a pencil or to keep a mental picture of a particular passage in order to find it later just by moving to "about here" in the book's pages.

Maybe later versions of the Kindle or other e-book readers will find a way to mimic the hands-on experience of book reading. But right now they are woefully inept in the ease-of-use department. Pleasure reading may not need lots of pencil marks, but serious, close read-

ing for class often needs lots of annotation. Textbooks end up looking like a treasure map in code, with weird acronyms and zig-zagging lines and the occasional highlighted phrase (if you don't plan to sell the book back to the bookstore, another thing you can't do with digital "property").

The Kindle does offer ways to interact with the digital text, though. There's a way to bookmark pages, and when connected to the wireless network, you can even highlight words and connect instantly to an online dictionary. But when it comes to making that treasure map of clever phrases, obscure allusions or main ideas, the going gets tough. You can make notes, but it involves scrolling through the page, highlighting a line, choosing "add comment" from the menu and then typing out the note on the tiny QWERTY keyboard. The notes are nice and neat, but they don't come with arrows or brackets or circles or underlines.

Even though the content is all there — the words, the author's name and the copyright date — the experience is somehow diminished. No rustle of pages, no eye-catching cover art, no worn binding or old-book smell. The iPod doesn't take away from the experience of recorded music. If anything, I think having that much music so easily available has made me appreciate the songs more, not less. But the e-book reader takes all the physicality out of the reading experience. The world on the page already forms in my imagination — but I think it's one step too far to make the medium of the page intangible, too.

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of *The Observer*.



PROOF POSITIVE

By JESS SHAFFER
Scene Writer

This Friday and Saturday Notre Dame students will be staging David Auburn's play, "Proof." The production is directed, produced and acted by Notre Dame students.

The play follows Catherine, a 25 year-old struggling with the recent death of her beloved father. Catherine's late father is renowned as a brilliant mathematician, who had a profound effect on academia. On a personal level, Catherine shares her father's love of math, which was the source of their tight bond. Inspired by her father's brilliant mind, she remained close with him, acting as his

caretaker, even in his final year. But before his death, Catherine witnessed the sad loss of her father's intellect and his descent into madness. Struggling to deal with the loss, Catherine's own sanity is thrown into question. Her sister is convinced that Catherine has indeed lost her mind.

These stressed family dynamics are exacerbated when an eager graduate student discovers a lost, but genius, mathematical proof. The play tries to answer the question of the proof's authorship. Did Catherine's late father have a moment of lucidity in his final years of madness? Is the genius proof in fact his? Or is Catherine herself responsible for the mathematical piece as

she claims?

Dealing with themes of intellectual property, academic inspiration, madness, loss and family relationships, "Proof" elegantly approaches sensitive issues in Catherine's life. Still, the same themes appeal to the audience's own experiences as well. Perhaps this is why Auburn's play has won many awards, including a Tony award and Pulitzer Prize. The play first was staged on Broadway, starring Mary-Louise Parker and Larry Bryggmann. After its Broadway success, it was adapted into a film in 2005, featuring Gwyneth Paltrow, Anthony Hopkins and Jake Gyllenhaal.

Notre Dame's production will star Julie Halloran, Chris Stare,

Bobby Reichle and Courtney Cox. It is directed by Carolyn Demanelis and produced by Tom Blanford, Robert Jenista and Brenna Williams.

The cast and crew bring the story to life on a smaller scale for the Notre Dame audience, as the play will be enacted in the intimate setting of Washington Hall's Lab Theatre.

This close setting is ideal for a play that handles the sensitive issues that both its character's and its audience struggle with. Questions of honesty, family dynamics and intellectual inspiration will certainly hit home for many student audience members.

The zeal of the cast coupled with the intimacy of the production will certainly make the

piece even more relatable here at Notre Dame.

As Courtney Cox, a cast member and Scene writer, said: "I personally find the play so great because it is very real. There's something about each character that is easy to relate to. I think the audience will see the same thing as well. It's a very emotionally touching piece and I'm sure the audience will appreciate the depth of each character's struggle."

The student production will be showing in Washington Hall's Lab Theatre. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. General seating is available at the door.

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IRISH INSIDER

Friday, March 19, 2010

THE
OBSERVER



LAST CHANCE TO DANCE

COMMENTARY

South Bend takes on vital role of sixth man

A few weeks ago, a cookie cake at the Mishawaka Meijer caught my eye. It was situated on a shelf with the other generic decorated cakes that said "Happy Birthday," or just contained a few flowers. This one, right in the middle of the display, was decorated with an orange-frosting basketball. In blue letters, it read:



Laura Myers

Sports Writer

"Go Irish women!"

It was a little surprising to see that the bakery had thought of that particular message to sell a gigantic cookie. But it probably went quickly in this town.

A few days ago, two stories in the South Bend Tribune caught my eye. Both were short staff reports containing news about the women's team. The stories were labeled as "Notre Dame basketball."

A little searching found a recent story about the men's team; it was labeled "Notre Dame men's basketball."

That one might have just been an oversight, but certainly one indicative of the city-wide relationship with the women's basketball team.

The Irish are South Bend's hometown heroes; a team the city has supported all year long, through good times and, well, Connecticut.

It's only fitting that Notre Dame begins its tournament road at home, as a reward to fans who packed the Purcell Pavilion for every game and sold it out six times.

Prior to this season, the women's basketball team had six sellouts in its entire history. Now it has 12 and looks to add a 13th Sunday for its first-round game against Cleveland State.

"They're our sixth man, they're the fuel to our car to get us going," said freshman guard Skylar Diggins, a South Bend native responsible in no small part for the city's love of the team. Many fans have followed her career for years.

Senior guard Melissa Lechlitner, another area native, said the community support has always been strong but was even better this season.

"They are just excited and

enthusiastic about everything," she said.

It's fair to say that the Irish football team belongs to alumni, as well as to "subway alumni" and fans all across the country, who are as dedicated as they come.

It's also fair to say that the men's basketball team belongs to the students, who proudly wear their Leprechaun Legion t-shirts and pack the arena, chanting cheers specific to each opposing team.

But the women's basketball team truly belongs to South Bend and the surrounding area. It belongs to grown men and women in neon-green t-shirts who dye their hair, wear funny hats and paint their faces green for game day. They stand up and dance when the band plays the fight song. And after the game, they take their children to Heritage Hall, where they get autographs on anything flat enough for the players to sign.

"Even the last game we played against UConn here [on March 1], we were down what, 15, 20 and they were screaming and cheering like it was a one-point game," Lechlitner said.

In fact, there was just one moment at that Connecticut game when the crowd was silent: when the announcers were declaring the winner of the "Most Spirited Section" award for the section that had cheered hardest all season long.

The crowd was also quiet for a moment during the Feb. 14 Pink Zone game when the announcer declared that Notre Dame had raised more than \$70,000 for breast cancer research and awareness. The community didn't stop there, though; the Irish have now topped \$100,000.

With the exception of those two times, fans have made sure to keep the Purcell Pavilion loud and provided a great atmosphere, creating a home-court advantage that led to a 14-1 home record.

And if the Irish add two more wins to that total this week, South Bend will certainly celebrate — perhaps with some giant cookies — knowing that it helped its favorite team on the march toward the championships.

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

Contact Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu

Irish focused on Vikings

By JARED JEDICK
Senior Staff Writer

The postseason is about to begin for the No. 7 Irish, who earned a No. 2 seed in the NCAA Tournament and are set to take on No. 15 seed Cleveland State on their home turf in the Purcell Pavilion.

"We had a great season," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "But the second season starts now, and we want to have a great second season."

The invitation marks the 17th time in school history that Notre Dame (27-5, 12-4 Big East) has been included in the NCAA tournament and is the team's 15th consecutive appearance.

The Irish were upset by Minnesota in the first round last year, putting an early end to their tournament hopes.

"I think after last year, we're going to really concentrate on Cleveland State," McGraw said. "I don't think there's any question that this team knows what can happen."

"Hopefully we'll play a little better than we did last year if we make it to that second round, because Cleveland State's a pretty good team too. You know, everyone's good. And at this time of year, you've got nothing to lose, you just go out and play."

The Irish have the advantage of playing in their home gym for the first two games of the tournament, an advantage not lost on freshman guard Skylar Diggins.

"It is always good to have the crowd on your side, and this crowd is so electric," Diggins said. "They know that the crowd is not going to be on their side, so they are going to come in and we expect them to come out with a chip on their shoulders."

The Vikings (19-13, 11-7 Horizon) finished the regular



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Freshman guard Skylar Diggins sends a behind-the-back pass to junior forward Devereaux Peters March 1 against Connecticut.

season fourth in the Horizon League, but managed to put together a run in the conference tournament, defeating favored Butler 66-57 to earn the automatic bid. McGraw said that the Cleveland State might come in with a lot of momentum.

"They are coming off of a win," McGraw said. "They are coming in with a lot of confidence."

Cleveland State is led by senior guard Kailey Klein, who paces the team in scoring with 18.6 points and 7.3 rebounds per game.

"Klein is their best player; she is a really good player," McGraw said. "I think she shot about 168 3s on the season."

Pairing with Klein is junior guard Shawnita Garland, who posts impressive numbers across the board with 13 points, five rebounds, 3.3 assists and three steals per game.

"They are a much faster-paced team, with those kinds of

screens and cuts that are going to be really hard to guard," McGraw said.

McGraw said that the team has really been focusing on defense this week, finding ways to cover the Vikings' fast-paced motion offense.

Beyond working on defense, Notre Dame plans to mix things up in the tournament, developing both its offense and defense to give teams something they have never seen before.

"We're putting a lot of new wrinkles in, a lot of nuances to the offense, a couple of different looks on defense," McGraw said. "You can't do the same thing."

If the Irish advance, they will play the winner of the match between No. 7-seed Wisconsin (21-10, 10-8 Big East) and No. 10-seed Vermont (26-6, 13-3 America East). That matchup would be Tuesday at the Purcell Pavilion.

Wisconsin and Vermont will tip off at noon Sunday at the Purcell Pavilion, with Notre Dame and Cleveland State slated to follow a half an hour after the conclusion of that game.

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"You know, everyone's good. And at this time of year, you've got nothing to lose, you just go out and play."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Three players named All-Region

By JARED JEDICK
Senior Staff Writer

Freshman guard Skylar Diggins and senior guards Ashley Barlow and Lindsay Schrader each garnered all-region honors, which were announced Tuesday by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. Forty players will be chosen from the 52 all-region nominees to become members of the 2010 State Farm Coaches' All-America Team.

This is the first time in team history that three Notre Dame players have received this honor in the same season. The Irish have only fielded multiple selections three times in their history, and only ten different players have earned the honor.

Diggins is one of just three freshman this year to earn the honor, along with Delaware forward Elena

Donne and Baylor center Brittney Griner.

"[Diggins] is doing it all every single night, she has been incredibly consistent for a freshman," McGraw said. "She has really had a fantastic year and wants to get better."

Barlow said she is pleased that all the time she has put into the team working hard has finally paid off.

"I feel like people are noticing what I am doing. It is a big accomplishment for me," Barlow said. "I have been working really hard, so I feel like I got rewarded this year. It is a really big honor."

Schrader has been McGraw's go-to player all year when she has needed a big shot, but Schrader is

focused on just doing the little things every game that give her team a better shot at winning the game.

"I was pretty shocked [about earning all-region honors]," Schrader said. "I always consider myself a

"I feel like people are noticing what I am doing. It is a big accomplishment for me."

Ashley Barlow
senior guard

really blue-collar kind of player. I am not going to score twenty points for you, but I will do all the little things for you: rebound, set a good screen, and all the little things for you."

Notre Dame is among just three teams in the country with three all-region selections. The other two are top-seeded squads Connecticut and Tennessee.

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Follow The
Observer's coverage
of the Irish women at
ndsmcobserver.com

A 'sense of urgency'

Leading Notre Dame's attack, five seniors get their final crack at the NCAA Tournament

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Despite the buzz traditionally associated with March Madness, Notre Dame's NCAA Tournament run last year could not have been more anticlimactic. There was no confetti pouring from the ceiling, no unruly fans rushing the home court — just a first-round defeat at the hands of No. 10-seed Minnesota in front of a stunned home crowd.

While that scene never made the Irish postseason highlight film, the defeat has become ingrained in the memory of those on the court.

"I don't think it's ever been fully behind us," senior guard Lindsay Schrader said. "It's always been in the back of our minds because that's where our motivation came from, that's why we worked so hard this summer because of that and how we felt. We never want to feel like that again."

Yet with no seniors on the 2009 team, no tears of disappointment were shed. Watching the Sweet 16 bid be decided on their home court could have been a demoralizing experience, but the desire to make a return was fueled that day.

"If I was a senior last year I would have been very, very disappointed with the way we went out," Schrader said. "And good thing we didn't have any seniors because I would have felt bad for them. This year, I just want to end my career on a win."

To do that the Irish will have to make it to San Antonio, the site of this year's

Final Four, as the No. 2 seed in the Kansas City Region. But unlike the team from a year ago, this year's squad features five seniors not willing to finish their collegiate careers just yet.

"Last year we lacked that sense of urgency in terms of 'This is our last game,' because we had no one graduating," senior forward Erica Williamson said. "With five people who are saying 'This is my last chance to wear a Notre Dame uniform,' we're going to go out and play to the best of our ability."

They are a unit of five seniors. Or maybe three guards, a forward, and a hybrid that can play any position on the floor. Or maybe two fierce competitors, two unselfish distributors, and a motivator that brings out the team's best. Whatever classifications are thrown on

this year's graduating class, one unifying thread can be used to describe them all.

"First and foremost, I think all of us bring leadership," senior guard Ashley Barlow said. "We've been here four years, some of us even

five. We just get along with each other, we know how to work well with each other."

Barlow's leadership was put to the test in one of the toughest stretches of the season, a two-game road trip beginning with a matchup against Syracuse in the hostile Carrier Dome. Down by two

with less than a minute to play, Barlow hit the game-winning 3 after missing her previous four attempts.

"She's got such a great personality, and obviously everyone sees what she does on the court," senior guard Melissa Lechlitner said. "She brings so much to us offensively, grabbing that huge rebound or making that clutch shot. Just the epitome of what a senior should do."

Each brings a unique set of skills to the floor that gives Irish coach Muffet McGraw an arsenal of plays and styles to keep the opposition on its heels. Perhaps just as important, practicing and playing in the Big East together for four years has given them the opportunity to feed off each other's talent.

But their greatest asset to the team may be the seniors' ability to develop the freshmen and sophomores into legitimate competitors on both ends of the court.

Guard Skylar Diggins has turned one of the best freshman campaigns in program history, and it's not over. McGraw credits Diggins' rapid development into an All-Big East Second Team honoree to the experience and maturity of her veterans.

"I think that's so important because she's learning shots from the upperclassmen," McGraw said. "They're helping her, they let her be creative and play her game, and still they communicate well with her. She just fits in so well with everything and everyone."

Lechlitner believes the ability of the seniors to maintain their composure and poise in the midst of a difficult situation has been especially helpful to their teammates, who look to follow in their example.

"We're just a steady force," Lechlitner said. "When adversity's thrown or a game might be getting tight or we're down a little bit, I think the steady hand that we offer for them allows them to play within themselves and excel from that point."

Every season has its ups and down and every team must deal with the possibility of injury. When Schrader sprained her ankle in the first half of a victory over DePaul, that possibility became a reality.

Notre Dame became a noticeably different team on both ends of the floor without the fifth-year senior at the helm. The Irish dropped consecutive road games to No. 18 St. John's and No. 13 Georgetown, averaging 10 points fewer on offense while giving up 14 more points than

"We just get along with each other, we know how to work well with each other."

Ashley Barlow
senior guard



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Irish senior Lindsay Schrader lines up her shot during Notre Dame's 97-53 victory over Indianapolis in a preseason game.

the season average.

"I felt so helpless," Schrader said. "I'm not the sitting on the sidelines kind of person, I have to be doing something. When I saw my teammates out there needing help and I couldn't do anything, I felt so bad, sick to my stomach because I felt so helpless."

Although tempted to blame herself for the only loss of the season, Schrader said she had to remind herself to take a positive approach to the setback, the same approach she took when she tore her ACL her sophomore season. Grateful for the opportunity to play in the tournament, Schrader now looks forward to a second chance at defending the home floor.

"It wasn't my fault that I got hurt," Schrader said. "I just had to keep telling myself

that any given night anybody can go down. You just have to put the best of your abilities to the time that you have it and take nothing for granted."

But Schrader is just one link in McGraw's four-guard offense. A natural point guard and the unanimous leader on offense, Lechlitner's ball-handling skills are a complement to her drive and outstanding work ethic.

"She's the leader of this team," Williamson said. "She's the heart and soul. When she's on the court you can tell that everything else has calmed down. When she's playing you can tell that we play so much better because

she's there."

A starter for the majority of her career, Williamson has seen a steady reduction in playing time this season due to the emergence of junior forwards Becca Bruszewski and Devereaux Peters into playmakers in the post. Despite the obvious temptation to throw in the towel, Williamson has taken the high road.

"She's really stepped up and is always doing everything she can for the team," Lechlitner said. "She's probably one of the most unselfish players on this team and will put her body on the line and do absolutely everything she needs to do to help us be successful."

Walk-ons seldom get playing time at the collegiate level. Senior guard Alena Christiansen is no exception, yet she has managed to positively impact her team in a rarely appreciated position.

"She's found a great role for herself," McGraw said. "She's the first one off the bench cheering, giving everyone a pat on the back and encouragement if they're not playing well."

The seniors will leave quite a legacy on the women's basketball program, one that includes four tournament appearances and a trip to the Sweet 16 in 2008. However, they still have some unfinished business.

"I just want to make it to San Antonio, that's my bread and butter right now," Schrader said. "If I can do that, I would say I had a very successful year hands down. Actually that's all the girls. Everybody wants to go to San Antonio."

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SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Senior guard Ashley Barlow dribbles the ball during Notre Dame's 90-66 victory over DePaul on Feb. 14.

The Road To San Antonio

Nebraska	1
Northern Iowa	18
UCLA	8
Rutgers	9
Michigan State	6
Bowling Green	12
Kentucky	4
Liberty	13
Georgia Tech	-
Arkansas-Little Rock	11
Oklahoma	3
South Dakota	14
Wisconsin	7
Vermont	10
★ Notre Dame	2
Cleveland State	15

The top-seeded Cornhuskers, who lost just one game this season and have tackled seven ranked teams, look to be the biggest challenge to the Irish; if both teams win throughout, they will meet in Kansas City to determine who moves on to the Final Four.

The Irish may be pleased with this draw — if the two face each other in the Elite Eight, it will not be their first time. Notre Dame defeated Oklahoma 81-71 on a neutral floor on Nov. 28. However, the Sooners have had a strong season and could still present a challenge.



Irish coach Muffet McGraw said her team was just one of the 63 who were undoubtedly hoping not to be put into the same bracket as No. 1 Connecticut. Notre Dame, at least, got its wish and will not have to face the Huskies unless both squads make it to the title game in San Antonio. Freshman guard Skylar Diggins said the two will meet, "if everything goes as planned."

JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

Predicting the NCAA run



Laura Myers

Prediction: Notre Dame loses to Stanford in semifinals



Chris Masoud

Prediction: Notre Dame loses to Stanford in semifinals



Jared Jedick

Prediction: Notre Dame loses to Connecticut in championship game

When asked if she could have drawn a better bracket for her team, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said: "I would've put us in a bracket with all 15- and 16-seeds."

That means no.

While the team will not look past its opening-round opponents, the two home games should be a breeze.

This year's Irish have two things they didn't have when they were shocked in the 2009 first round: an increased focus drawn from that early exit, and Skylar Diggins.

Combine those with a bracket whose other top teams are No.3-seed Oklahoma, which the Irish have beat, and No. 1-seed Nebraska, the best possible draw for the Irish, and the road to San Antonio looks pretty clear.

Notre Dame's fast-paced offense and aggressive style on defense will be too much to handle for its early-round opponents. Beginning with the statement win over Cleveland State, the Irish break in Purcell Pavilion's post-season debut in style. Freshman phenom Skylar Diggins will give the home fans what they want to see, as she should have no trouble tearing up opposing defenses. Don't be surprised if she averages over 20 points a game.

The highlight of the NCAA tournament comes in the Sweet 16, when the Irish beat Nebraska in a matchup of the top two seeds in the region. Nothing the Cornhuskers have seen in the Big 12 will prepare them for McGraw's four-guard offense.

The Irish run ends in the Final Four. Notre Dame lacks depth in the post. An almost certain meeting with Stanford should exploit that weakness.

Notre Dame's depth will help them easily roll past their early opponents, Cleveland State and likely Wisconsin, but once they meet a team that can match their bench, things will get a lot more difficult. It all comes down to how well freshman Skylar Diggins can play in her first ever NCAA tournament. If she turns it on and consistently produces 20 points a game the Irish could challenge to reach the championship game, where juggernaut Connecticut will await for a fourth time. If she cannot, it will be an early exit for Notre Dame.

I see a Skylar Diggins ready to take that next step and begin to build her legend. Expect Notre Dame to gain early momentum at home and carry that all the way to the championship game, topping Big 12 sweetheart Nebraska and powerful Stanford along the way. The championship game is another story.

'Our Family Wedding' Not Worth Attending

By CAITLIN FERRARO
Assistant Scene Editor

Director Rick Famuyiwa's "Our Family Wedding" advertises itself as an ensemble romance dramedy with a promising premise and strong cast. Unfortunately, the film does not find success due to an overabundance of main characters, clichés and contrived situations.

Newly engaged Lucia (America Ferrara) and Marcus (Lance Gross) must meet each other's parents for the first time and tell them that they plan to get married, but this normally joyous occasion is complicated by the fact that Lucia is Mexican and Marcus is Black. Lucia's grandmother is especially dismayed. Furthermore, Lucia's father Miguel (Carlos Mencia) and Marcus's father Brad (Forest Whitaker) already hate each other due to a prior run-in.

The families take control of the wedding, making it all about them instead of their children's love. The motto they make the kids reiterate is, "Our Marriage, Their Wedding." And these characters do make everything about themselves. Lucia's mother (Diana Maria Riva) wants to make it her dream wedding, while the egotistical men argue simply to argue.

The racial tensions are a bit over the top and continue throughout the film, quickly becoming annoying. Cross-cultural marriages can be diffi-

cult, but Carlos and Brad's issues stem mostly from an encounter over a towed car. While this culture clash could have been interesting, it simply isn't and you find yourself wishing they would realize that it is 2010 and move on. After all, the characters are inherently good people, they just come from different backgrounds.

Another fault of the film is that Lucia, Marcus, Miguel and Brad all have significant storylines that the film attempts to follow. Lucia dropped out of law school and is hiding that information from her father, causing tensions with Marcus, who wants her to tell the truth. Meanwhile, Miguel is having marital woes because he pays more attention to his rebuilt cars than to his wife. Divorcé Brad is a ladies' man with a best friend (Regina King) who is quietly in love with him.

Each storyline could be worthy on its own but due to the length of the film, they cannot all be explored properly, leaving the audience with underdeveloped characters and a lack of empathy for the woes in their lives.

What little time the film had left was spent on silly gimmicks. An electronically controlled overflowing bathroom in one scene — not funny — plagues Miguel. The old men get drunk and are arrested for fighting — not funny. A wild goat (already ridiculous) wreaks havoc after consuming Viagra — definitely not funny.

These scenes make the film stale, old and oddly familiar. "Our Family Wedding" seems to have cut scenes from other films of a similar vein and pieced them together. There is nothing fresh or original about this film, making it highly predictable.

The actors did their best with an average script. Ferrara is cute as a young woman trying to escape her role as daddy's little girl. Plus, it is always nice to see her without her "Ugly Betty" braces. Gross, a relative newcomer, is charming and handsome as Marcus. As the young couple, Ferrara and Gross are the best part of the film. They are sweet and endearing, leaving you to root for them to make it and survive their families' wacky antics and incessant bickering.

Mencia, a great stand-up comedian, does a good job balancing a loving but pesky father. However, Forest Whitaker, an Oscar winner, is just awkward as a womanizer. Whitaker is an accomplished actor but he fails to be a convincing lothario. Also, his serious moments while discussing love and marriage with his son fail mostly due to poor writing.

"Our Family Wedding" is watchable but not enjoyable. By the end of the film, you just wish Lucia and Marcus had eloped. Save yourself and don't R.S.V.P. to this wedding.

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"Our Family Wedding"

Directed By: Rick Famuyiwa

Writer: Wayne Conley, Malcom Spellman, Rick Famuyiwa

Release Date: March 12, 2010

Starring: Carlos Mencia, Forest Whitaker, America Ferrera, Lance Gross, Regina King



AROUND THE NATION

Friday, March 19, 2010

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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Men's Division I Track and Field USTFCCA

team	previous
1 Florida	1
2 Oregon	3
3 Texas A&M	9
4 Arizona St.	4
5 LSU	5
6 Texas Tech	7
7 Minnesota	6
8 Arkansas	2
9 Florida St.	8
10 Virginia Tech	15
11 Nebraska	10
12 Indiana	13
13 New Mexico	NR
14 Penn St.	17
15 Oklahoma	19
16 California	11
17 Auburn	14
18 Georgia	NR
19 Northern Arizona	11
20 Stanford	16
21 Arizona	18
22 Baylor	NR
23 Kentucky	NR
24 Texas	NR
25 Mississippi	NR

Men's Division I Baseball USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll

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

Men's Hockey CCHA Standings

team	points
1 Miami (OH)	70
2 Michigan State	50
3 Ferris State	49
4 Northern Michigan	48
5 Alaska	45
6 Nebraska-Omaha	44
7 Michigan	43
8 Ohio State	40
9 NOTRE DAME	36
10 Lake Superior	35

MLB



Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington admitted Thursday to using marijuana and amphetamines as a player. A day earlier, Washington was found to have failed a drug test for cocaine just last year.

Washington admits to drug use as player

Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — A day after acknowledging he failed a drug test for cocaine last year, Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington admits he used marijuana and amphetamines while he was a player.

"When you're young you make mistakes," Washington said Thursday. "I wish I could take back some of the mistakes I may have made, but I can't."

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said Washington would keep his job. He said the team was aware Washington used drugs.

"There's a distinction between what people do in their youth vs. later in life,"

he told a group of reporters, according to the Web site of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

"I'm sure there are things in our past we're not proud of. Ron could have avoided the question or lied and chose not to. I'm not going to punish him for being honest. That doesn't excuse the behavior but that's reality," Daniels said.

Washington made his latest admission before Texas played against Milwaukee on a practice field.

On Wednesday, Washington said he tested positive for cocaine in a Major League Baseball test last July. He told Rangers management and MLB about the cocaine — he said he

used it only once — before the test result and offered to resign. Texas president Nolan Ryan and team management allowed him to keep his job.

Washington did not detail how often he used marijuana and amphetamines, or describe what kind of amphetamines he took. The 57-year-old Washington played 10 seasons in the majors, mostly as an infielder for Minnesota in the 1980s — a decade when cocaine and amphetamine use in the majors was not uncommon.

Washington said his mistakes from years ago have nothing to do with the issue he's facing now.

"I made mistakes in my

younger days," he said. "I want to get past it, move forward and get back on the field and start winning."

All-Star third baseman Michael Young said what Washington did as a player was a non-issue in his eyes. He said discussion about amphetamine use among players in the 1970s was a "slippery slope."

"We're hopeful this will bring us together, and we can rally around each other a little more," Young said. "Asking about adistracted, it's a fair question. But it's not relevant in this clubhouse. We have a solid group of guys in here and they're not going to judge somebody on a mistake and not on their worst moment."

IN BRIEF

Ducks' Wisniewski suspended for 8 games

TORONTO — Anaheim Ducks defenseman James Wisniewski has been suspended for eight games without pay on Thursday for delivering a hit to the head area of Chicago Blackhawks defenseman Brent Seabrook.

The incident occurred at 2:22 of the second period during Wednesday night's 4-2 win by Anaheim. Wisniewski was assessed a minor penalty for charging. Seabrook suffered an injury on the play.

Wisniewski, who was suspended two games on Oct. 31, 2009, is considered a repeat offender under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. He will forfeit \$268,292 in salary.

"Mr. Wisniewski delivered a retaliatory hit to the head of an opponent who never had possession of the puck," said Colin Campbell, NHL Senior Executive Vice President of Hockey Operations.

Running Back Bryce Brown to leave Tennessee

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee coach Derek Dooley says running back Bryce Brown has left the Volunteers' program.

Dooley says Brown told him Thursday, the first day of the Vols' spring practice, that he was dealing with personal and family problems. Brown was not present for practice.

The Wichita, Kan., native averaged 38.3 yards in 12 games as a freshman in 2009.

Brown was one of the top recruits in the nation in 2009, and the NCAA investigated whether money was improperly raised for Brown to visit colleges while in high school. Neither Brown nor Tennessee, who was not recruiting him at the time, were punished.

Dooley says Brown will remain enrolled at Tennessee for the rest of the spring semester. He did not indicate if he would then transfer.

Report: 49ers cutting ties with GM McCloughan

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers are cutting ties with general manager Scot McCloughan because of personal issues, according to several reports.

AOL FanHouse reported Thursday that the move is based on a personal matter and is not related to team issues.

ESPN, citing anonymous sources, reported later Thursday that the 49ers are giving McCloughan an extended leave of absence and also referred to him dealing with personal issues.

McCloughan told FanHouse via text message, "I'm fine and moving forward." The Fanhouse report said he would not elaborate.

If McCloughan departs, the timing is highly unusual for the 49ers' top personnel executive since 2005. San Francisco has two picks in the first round of the draft, which is just five weeks away.

around the dial

NCAA Men's Basketball

11 Minnesota vs. 6 Xavier
12:25 p.m., CBS

12 New Mexico St. vs. 5 Michigan St.
7:00 p.m., CBS

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Baylor holds on for first Dance win since 1950

Bears get past pesky Sam Houston State; Butler uses explosive second half to play spoiler to UTEP's upset bid

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Baylor coach Scott Drew's postgame locker room chat with his team dragged on longer than usual before he emerged — behind schedule — to discuss as big a victory as many Bears fans can remember.

"Sorry I'm late. We haven't won a tournament game in a long time," Drew said. "I know there are happy players in there."

It had been six decades since Baylor last won an NCAA tournament game, but Ekpe Udoh did everything the Bears needed to stave off upset-minded Sam Houston State and end the drought.

Udoh had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Baylor dominated the last three minutes of a 68-59 victory Thursday in the first round of the South Regional.

"Oh, man, just joy in my heart, man," Udoh said. "But, whew, that was close. Sam Houston, that's a great team. ... It's tourney time. You've just got to be ready."

Udoh also had five assists, two blocks and two steals for the third-seeded Bears (26-7), who were tied with less than 4 minutes remaining before pulling away for their first NCAA tournament win since beating BYU in 1950.

Baylor moves on to play Saturday against 11th-seeded Old Dominion, a 51-50 winner over No. 6 seed Notre Dame earlier

Thursday.

"Really, the game was pretty simple: Get the ball to Ekpe," Drew said. "He's got 20 and 13, 9 for 16 (shooting), let him either create for somebody or let him score. When we did more and more of that, things got easier and easier."

LaceDarius Dunn scored 13 points for Baylor, 10 in the second half. His short, spinning fade and one-handed jam fueled a late 8-0 run that clinched it.

Gilberto Clavell had 23 points and Preston Brown added 13 for 14th seed Sam Houston State (25-8), which tied it at 55 on a short floater by Ashton Mitchell with 3:48 to go.

The game remained tied until Quincy Acy dunked with 2:30 left to spark Baylor's decisive surge and put the Bears ahead for good.

"We knew once Quincy got a dunk or did something crazy on the floor, it would get all of us going," Dunn said.

Acy and Anthony Jones both finished with 10 points for Baylor.

Sam Houston State kept the game close with a triangle-and-two zone defense that BearKats coach Bob Marlin installed with idea of keeping the ball away from Baylor's explosive backcourt of Dunn and Tweety Carter. It worked for most of the game.

"We had the game right where we wanted it with 4 minutes to go and had the basketball, had an

opportunity to get a lead, and it didn't happen," Marlin said. "Our defensive game plan was good the entire ballgame. Our guys fought hard."

Baylor players said they were unfamiliar with the triangle-and-two — effectively man-to-man coverage on the guards and a zone inside — and had trouble adjusting.

"We were just shocked. We never faced nothing like that," Dunn said. "When we got out there and faced them we were like, 'Wow, what are we going to do?' So it just took us time to calm down."

Butler 77, UTEP 59

Shelvin Mack's second-half surge helped Butler to keep the nation's longest winning streak intact.

Mack hit a career-high seven 3-pointers and scored 18 of his 25 points after halftime Thursday, leading fifth-seeded Butler to a 77-59 victory over UTEP in the first round of the NCAA tournament's West Regional.

"It's a great opportunity to do it on this stage," Mack said. "You've got to knock it down like it's open gym."

Gordon Hayward added 13 points and Matt Howard had 11 as the Bulldogs (29-4) won their 21st straight game to extend the sport's longest active winning streak — but only after a dynamic rally

from a six-point halftime deficit.

The Miners (26-7) were a popular NCAA upset pick after the Conference USA power received a surprisingly low seed in the tournament. Instead, the Bulldogs made a 22-4 run after halftime led by Mack, who hit five 3-pointers in the first 11 minutes.

Butler advanced to face 13th-seeded Murray State, which surprised Vanderbilt 66-65 on a buzzer-beater by Danero Thomas.

Derrick Caracter had 20 points and nine rebounds for UTEP, which won 16 straight games and a league title before a tournament loss to Houston last Saturday. Randy Culpepper added 16 points, but the Miners' defense couldn't stop the patient outside shooting of the Bulldogs, who advanced in the NCAA tournament for the third time in four years.

Butler, which hit 10 of its 13 3-pointers after halftime, has the longest winning streak in Division I this season. The Bulldogs made a perfect run through the Horizon League, winning every conference game before also winning the tournament to capture a No. 5 seed in the NCAAs, matching the highest in school history.

UTEP was nearly as impressive during its run through Conference USA, with Caracter and league player of the year Randy Culpepper largely dominating. But the Miners lost the tournament title game last Saturday, and

coach Tony Barbee acknowledged being mystified by their low seed.

While the Miners talked about respect, Butler went out and claimed it — just as these Bulldogs have been doing for decades.

Butler immediately took control after halftime, with Mack hitting two 3-pointers in the first 90 seconds. The Bulldogs took the lead on a 3-pointer by Veasley, and after UTEP briefly went back ahead 37-36, Veasley's free throw started Butler on its decisive 13-0 run.

Culpepper also went down hard twice in the second half on collisions under the basket, getting up gingerly both times.

The Shark Tank was still hopping with energy from the Racers' upset of Vandy when Butler and UTEP took the court. Butler didn't repeat the mistakes of last year's trip to the tournament, in which the Bulldogs fell behind 9-0 in a first-round loss to LSU, but UTEP still went ahead 17-10 midway through the first half.

Butler, which has all five starters back from last season's tournament team, reclaimed the lead with nine consecutive points, but the Miners went back ahead with strong inside play from Caracter.

The 275-pound Louisville transfer with a bushy mohawk scored 12 points — including a layup that dropped in just before the halftime buzzer, while leading UTEP to a 33-27 lead.

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hot-shooting Bobcats take down Georgetown

No. 14-seed Ohio pulls off upset for the ages by blowing out perennial power and No. 3-seed Hoyas in stunning result

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — How about a standing O for Ohio!

The MAC champion Bobcats, who had a losing record in conference play, have found their way in March and now boast an NCAA tournament win for the first time in 27 years.

Georgetown might want to skip the tourney next time it's in

Providence.

Armon Bassett scored 32 points to lead the 14th-seeded Bobcats to a convincing 97-83 win over the Hoyas in the Midwest Regional.

In early March, no one expected Ohio (22-14) to be in this position. The team had just finished a 7-9 season in Mid-American Conference play and entered the conference tournament as the

ninth seed.

Four wins later, Ohio was in the 65-team field.

Forty minutes later, the Bobcats are in the second round.

Coach John Groce wouldn't call it the biggest win in team history.

"I certainly think it's one of them," he said. "What it does more than anything is it gives belief in our guys in what we're doing."

Ohio seized the lead early on its 3-point shooting and never had a serious letdown the rest of the way. The Hoyas (23-11) made a small run in the second half that cut a 19-point lead down to seven.

No worries. D.J. Cooper, who scored 23 points, nailed a 3 to the delight of all those green-clad fans who made the trip and cheered them on the whole way. The Bobcats cruised from there

and now have won six straight games.

Ohio joined Murray State, which knocked off Vanderbilt 66-65 at the buzzer, as the two big upset winners Thursday.

"There were some times when the only people that believed in what we were doing and where we were going were the guys in the locker room and the administration," Groce said.

Chris Wright led the third-seeded Hoyas (23-11) with 28 points. Georgetown coach John Thompson III said a day earlier his team was playing their best basketball of the season. It certainly didn't extend into the tournament opener.

The Hoyas looked sensational in winning the first three games of the Big East tournament, before losing to West Virginia in the championship, and appeared to have positioned themselves as a legitimate Final Four threat.

It wasn't to be.

"We really thought we could make some noise in this tournament," Georgetown guard Austin Freeman said. "We really didn't imagine we would be one-and-done."

The Hoyas had a rough time in Providence back in 1989, too, when they narrowly beat No. 16 seed Princeton 50-49. At least they won in '89.

This time the Hoyas were flustered and frustrated throughout. When Greg Monroe was on his back after being whistled for an offense foul, he pounded the court in disbelief and anger.

Monroe had 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Hollis Thompson scored 16 points.

Bassett, the MAC tournament MVP, made it look easy. After a 3-pointer made it 39-26, he just turned toward the crowd with a shrug and smiled.

Ohio led by 12 at halftime and kept on rolling against the Big East power. Cooper picked Georgetown's Jason Clark clean, sprinted toward the basket and tossed the ball backward high over his head where a streaking DeV Vaughn Washington slammed home the alley-oop in the play of the game.

The Bobcats have something to show for a turbulent season. They opened conference play with four straight losses, lost one player for the season with a broken hand and Washington was suspended five games for team violations. Groce even kicked a player off the team.

"I'm excited for our guys with everything they've been through," Groce said.

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SMC SOFTBALL

Saint Mary's ready for doubleheader

By KEVIN BALDWIN
Sports Writer

After splitting a doubleheader with Goshen Tuesday, the Belles are ready for another doubleheader Saturday at Manchester College.

Saint Mary's started the day with a decisive 4-2 victory, but could not repeat their success in the second game, which the Maple Leafs won 5-3.

In the first game, the Belles came back from a 2-1 deficit. Saint Mary's bats came to life in the fifth inning when they scored two runs to take the lead after a series of clutch base hits. With the support of the defense, including a solid performance on the mound by sophomore Monica Palicki, the Belles were able to hold off Goshen for the win.

Palicki pitched the entire game, closing with seven strike outs, one walk and not giving up any earned runs in her fourth win of the season. Seniors Maureen Healy and Sara Montelongo and sophomore Kristen Nelson each went 2-3 in the game. Healy had a pair of RBIs while Montelongo had a RBI and a run.

Despite a good defensive effort from the Belle's in the second game, the team was unable to produce at the plate and many times left runners stranded at the end of an inning.

The second game saw the Belles unable to keep up with the Goshen scoring drive after scoring three runs in the bottom of the fifth. But Belles coach Erin Sullivan was

happy with her team's overall performance.

"Our pitchers both had good days," she said. "I was very happy with Kristen Nelson. She has been really hot at the plate lately and continued to help make things happen for our team on offense. Maureen Healy and Sara Montelongo came up with some key hits for us as well."

Healy was responsible for batting in the two winning runs in the fifth inning of the first game while Nelson batted in Montelongo in the seventh inning to seal the win.

"The hitters were thinking too much at the plate. Goshen's pitcher wasn't throwing exceptionally well, but she kept our hitters guessing. We also let the umpire's liberal strike zone affect us in a negative way. It took too long for the team to start hitting in the second game," Sullivan said.

This week, the team has sharpened their game in preparation for Manchester. Sullivan said she sees it as a prime opportunity for the Belles to continue the improvement they have shown throughout the season.

"I think we have more confidence, but we're still trying to find ourselves," Sullivan said. "What's great about that though is we haven't peaked yet, so I'm hoping we will peak near the end of the season when we need it most."

The Belles will travel to North Manchester, Ind. to take on the Spartans in a doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Contact Kevin Baldwin at
kbaldwi2@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Belles team eager to take revenge Saturday

By JOHN HELMS
Sports Writer

After a successful 4-1 trip over Spring Break, the Belles will take to the court again Saturday, traveling across the state to take on Indiana Wesleyan.

Saint Mary's (6-2) is looking to avenge last year's loss to the Wildcats. "It can be slightly intimidating playing a team that has beat us previously, but I think everyone feels very confident that we have improved immensely since last year," top singles player Jillian Hurley said. "I think if everyone can go into their matches with a positive attitude and a strong drive to win then who beat whom last year won't matter."

Belles coach Dave Campbell said his team will come out with a chip on its shoulder, using the loss from last year as motivation.

"We need to use that as motivation and expect to play our best against them," he said.

The team will also look to build off the momentum from Spring Break. The team traveled to Orlando, Fla., and performed at a high level throughout the trip. The Belles defeated Wartburg, 8-1, St. Francis, 9-0, Ursinus, 9-0 and Carthage 5-4. Even their one loss was close, falling 5-4 to a different Wesleyan.

"I think overall the team is feeling good about our wins over Spring Break. Winning the majority of our matches definitely boosted our confidence going into our regular season," Hurley said. "The momentum is definitely going to carry over as we head towards our match this Saturday."

Now the team will look to take their progress a step further.

"I think we go into every match expecting to succeed, and this match is no different. However, because we did so well over Spring Break, our expectations to do well in this match are even higher," she said.

The Belles play on the court has been helped by their bonding off the court. Thanks in large part to the Orlando trip, the girls are gelling as a team at the right time. Their play and team chemistry on the court is noticeably improving as a result.

"I think as a team we are not only improving on the court, but also off of the court. Our team really bonded over Spring Break, which has affected our overall team spirit and drive to succeed," Hurley said.

Saint Mary's will face Indiana Wesleyan in Marion, Ind., Saturday in an 11 a.m. match.

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jhelms2@nd.edu



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Recycle The Observer.

ND SOFTBALL

Irish have multi-hit effort

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

The Irish hit their way to an easy 13-4 win over Western Michigan Thursday as sophomore Kristina Wright led with four of the team's 17 hits, including a home run.

Five Notre Dame players recorded multi-hit efforts for the day, including senior infielder Christine Lux's grand slam. Lux also had a game-high five RBIs for the day while Wright added two runs and three RBIs.

"She had the bases loaded and hit a grand slam for our first four runs of the game," Irish assistant coach Kris Ganeff said. "From there, we thought we had the game under control."

And they did. Notre Dame (17-5) dominated from both the plate and the mound. Besides Wright and Lux's performances, junior Sadie

Pitzenberger, senior Heather Johnson and sophomore Alexa Maldonado each had at least two hits against the Broncos. Junior Katie Fleury

had two RBIs and was one of four Irish players to score twice.

"Each of the hitters did what we needed them to do," Ganeff said. "Kristina Wright was on fire tonight."

Seven of Notre Dame's runs came in the fourth inning of the six-inning contest. The Broncos (8-5) trailed the Irish 11-0 going into the bottom of

the fourth but got one run in that inning, adding three more in the fifth. Western Michigan's Gracie Barstad and Kayla Houston each had two RBI.

Junior Jody Valdivia (13-2) kept the strikeouts coming from the mound with 11 and giving up only one earned run on three hits in 5.2 innings. She had a much

better day than the three Western Michigan pitchers, none of whom gave up fewer than two earned runs. The Broncos Meredith Whitney (2-

4) gave up seven earned runs and seven hits in three innings.

Ganeff felt that the Irish went into the contest with a positive mindset that definitely helped in gaining their fourth straight win.

"I think we came out there with a great mentality," Ganeff said. "On defensive we played solidly. Jody

did a great job with 10 strikeouts. Our hitters did a good job against all three pitchers."

Notre Dame saw this game as giving it a strong leap into the second half of their season as they draw closer and closer to the Big East tournament.

"This game started the second phase of the season," Ganeff said. "It set the tone for what we expect to happen in the rest of the season up through the Big East Tournament."

The Irish will open their home season Tuesday against Eastern Michigan with a doubleheader beginning at 4 p.m.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saint,arys.edu

"I think we came out there with a great mentality."

Kris Ganeff
Irish coach

"Each of the hitters did what we needed them to do."

Kris Ganeff
Irish coach

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame looking to rebound outdoors

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

The No.4 Irish look to rebound as they start their stateside outdoor schedule at No.17 Vanderbilt after losing to then-No.7 Duke on outdoor courts in Puerto Rico over Spring Break.

Vanderbilt (7-4) is coming off of a loss to Georgia at home March 14. Irish coach Jay Louderback said he believes Vanderbilt will challenge his squad as they adjust to the outdoor schedule.

"They lost to Georgia, but they also beat a ranked team in Tennessee," Louderback said. "With them, you're talking about a team that's coming off a bunch of close matches that they lost. They're always a top-20 team that plays well and more importantly plays well outside."

The Irish (12-2) split two games in Puerto Rico over the break, defeating William and Mary 5-2 and losing to Duke by the same score. After playing their entire schedule to this point on indoor courts, the Irish are still adjusting to the outdoor slate and the match against Vanderbilt will be a big test as they look to improve.

"It's big playing against a good team outdoors," Louderback said. "Starting off we are 1-1 outdoors, and we didn't really play that well against Duke. We need to show that we can be a good outdoor team."

Sophomore Kristy Frilling, who has led the Irish with a 12-2 mark at No. 1 singles and holds a No. 14 national ranking, will face off against a tough opponent in fellow sophomore No. 24 Jasmine Wu. However, it is likely the doubles that will set the tone for the match.

While the team of Frilling and senior Kali Krisik has been flawless all season, the Nos. 2 and 3 doubles teams will need to elevate their play and secure the doubles point.

"On the road it's important to get up in the doubles," Louderback said. "Our first team has been playing real well, but we've got to get our second and third teams a little more consistent."

The Irish will square off against the Commodores at the Brownlee O. Curry Tennis Center in Nashville today at 2:30 p.m.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

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 Dooley Room, LaFortune
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 Coleman-Morse Lounge, 7:00 pm

TUESDAY
Cultural Displays by Resident Halls
 Great Hall, O'Shaughnessy
 12:00 - 1:00 pm

American Cooking Classes for International Students, \$5 per class
 North Dining Hall, 6:00 - 9:00 pm
 RSVP required at issa@nd.edu by March 18

Strangers at Home: What it means to be a global nomad, by TCK Alliance
 McNeill Room, LaFortune, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Speed Language Event: Come learn a new language!
 Coleman-Morse Lounge, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Networking Workshop with Employers for International Students: IBM, Motorola, Whirlpool, and others
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 RSVP to issa@nd.edu by March 20

WEDNESDAY
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 RSVP required at issa@nd.edu by March 18

2nd Annual Red Hot Chili Pepper Eating Contest
 Fischer-O'Hara-Grace Community Center, 9:30 pm

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FRIDAY
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 7:30 - 10:00 pm
 Badminton, cricket, rugby soccer, table tennis

SATURDAY
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 Color Play, Fieldhouse Mall
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Questions? Contact Maureen Clark, mclark9@nd.edu

Spartans

continued from page 24

and moving the defense around.”

This game is the last tune-up for the Irish before opening the first season of Big East lacrosse. The seven-team conference includes four top-25 teams in Notre Dame, defending champion Syracuse, Georgetown and Villanova.

Before the three-game Spring Break trip, Corrigan said the Irish needed to begin improving against top-tier competition before the Big East season started.

“We’re not going to wait [to get better] until Big East play

starts,” he said. “We are trying to improve before the next game.”

In order for Notre Dame to continue to improve for each game, it must prepare for a versatile Ohio State attack.

“[Ohio State has] a lot of different guys who can hurt you,” Corrigan said. “Their attack has always scored a lot for them. Even though there are starting two freshman on it this year, that continues ... We’ve got to keep them out of the transition goals, the easy goals.”

Notre Dame hosts Ohio State at 1 p.m. Saturday as they look for their second win at the new Arlotta Stadium.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

“We are trying to improve before the next game.”

Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach

Terriers

continued from page 24

focused on.”

In their wins, the Terriers have averaged nearly 12 goals per game, but in their two losses they have scored only slightly more than five. If the Irish maintain strong defensive performances the way they have so far this season, the goals will come on offense and a victory should follow.

The Irish have continually

gotten contributions from sophomore attack Maggie Tamasitis, junior midfield Shaylyn Blaney and senior attack Gina Scioscia, but Coyne will need more diversity than those three in the scoring department.

In what should be a high scoring affair, the Irish will face off against Boston University Saturday at 12 p.m. at Nickerson Stadium in Boston.

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

BASEBALL

Irish ready for home opener

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

The Irish are set to host their season home opener this weekend when they meet Michigan State for three games over two days in Eck Stadium. Saturday features an early afternoon double-header followed by the rubber match on Sunday.

“They are a very well-coached team, that is first and foremost,” Irish coach Dave Schrage said. “I think that they are probably the most improved team in the Big Ten this year, and they really have a chance to challenge Ohio State for the Big Ten title.”

Schrage said that his team is enjoying the warm weather and getting some good practices in, and the matchup against the Spartans (9-4, 0-0 Big Ten) gives the Irish an advantage that he appreciates.

“Yeah, it is always good to play at home,” Schrage said. “I think we have always had a nice record there at home. It just feels more normal to you, and the surroundings are familiar. You always play more relaxed and a little bit better. So we are excited to get our home season underway.”

The Irish (7-8) will need that home-field advantage, as they had a rough 2-4 weekend and have gotten off to a slow start

this year.

“I think that our team is still a little bit of a work in progress, and we just need to get out and keep playing,” Schrage said. “I think the fact that we were able to play so many days in a row was very beneficial to us, and now with good weather we have been able to get out and have some good practices.”

Notre Dame will send sophomore left-hander Steve Sabatino and junior right-hander Brian Dupra to the mound on Saturday, and senior right-hander Eric Maust will get the starting nod on Sunday.

Sabatino is pitching well for the Irish in his second season with the team, posting a team-low 3.32 era and 16 strikeouts in his 19 innings pitched this year. Maust has yet to earn a decision this year, but he is tossing a respectable 5.19 era in 17 and 1/3 innings pitched.

The real standout lately in Schrage’s mind is Dupra who holds a 4.91 ERA and has recorded 17 strikeouts. Schrage said Dupra is throwing the ball better now than he has ever seen him do.

“I feel like he has had his two best pitching performances since he has been here,” Schrage said. “I have been very, very pleased. He found his new pitch this year, a split-finger fastball that coach Dangler has worked with him on, and I think that has been a

big reason for his success. He is throwing the ball hard, he always has, but now he is getting his off-speed over and that has been what’s getting all the swings and misses.”

Leading the offense so far this year for the Irish has been senior first baseman Casey Martin. Martin is leading the team in all the major offensive categories with a .434 batting average, 11 runs, 23 hits, three home runs and 16 RBIs.

“[Casey] is leading us in just about every offensive category, and he is off to a great start,” Schrage said. “He has driven in some big runs, he supplied a lot of power, he has a great batting average and he has been playing good defense at first base. He has definitely been our leader all the way around from an offensive standpoint.”

Schrage said he is worried about the Spartan’s two-pronged pitching attack in AJ Achter and Kurt Wunderlich.

“I think they have two of the better starting pitchers as far as one-two combination,” he said.

The first game of the doubleheader is scheduled for 12:05 p.m. Saturday, with the second game to follow. Sunday’s game is set to start at 1:05 p.m.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu

North Dining Hall will be closed all day on Saturday, March 20th for Scholarship/Fellowship events. We apologize for any inconvenience.



NORTH
FOOD COURT

nodfs
NOTRE DAME FOOD SERVICES

Offense

continued from page 24

No. 6 seed Notre Dame struggled through scoring droughts of 6:07 and 7:03 in its 51-50 loss to No. 11 seed Old Dominion Thursday. Notre Dame led at the half but shot 31 percent from the field in the second half and made only two 3-pointers.

The strategy worked in the first half, when Notre Dame cut and moved the ball rapidly. In the second half, the ball stayed on the perimeter of the zone and finding a good shot became harder. When Notre Dame had a good look, it didn't fall.

Part of the problem stemmed from the Monarchs' stifling of senior forward Luke Harangody, who scored four points, all in the final 13 seconds of the game. He finished 2-of-9, as the Monarchs used a zone that kept the Irish big man from getting going.

Notre Dame has the shooters to shoot over the zone on a good day. Senior guard Ben Hansbrough hit three 3-pointers and junior forward Carleton Scott made two. But junior forward Tim Abromaitis, who shot 44 percent from 3-point range but had struggled in the Big East tournament, was 0-for-5 from 3-point range.

"Tonight wasn't our shooting night," Hansbrough said. "And they made a couple of really nice plays. Hit a couple of outside shots and we couldn't hold on to the lead for long enough."

It can't be that the team doesn't know how to play against an effective 2-3 zone, because it plays Syracuse every year. Single-elimination games, however, can take a sound blueprint and turn it on itself. Notre Dame's slow offense, played out over a long period of time, will net the Irish more wins than losses. But in a single-iteration setting, it can subject the Irish to dangerous scoring gaps and runs by the opponent.

The 2006-07 Irish went 24-8 and finished fourth in the Big East, no small feat in such a tough conference. That was not a bad team. It had a 3-point shooter in Colin Falls, post players in Harangody and Rob Kurz and an athletic guard in Russell Carter. It just happened to lose a crucial game, in the first round to No. 11 seed Winthrop, not a tragedy in college basketball — unless you're in the Tournament. Single elimination — even good teams fall victim to it. Ask the four No. 2 seeds who lost to No. 15 seeds in the Tournament history, or No. 4 seed Wake Forest last year.

Irish coach Mike Brey has built the Irish into a team with a shot at the Tournament every

year, and he's taken them there six times in his 10 years as head coach. He reached the Sweet 16 with Chris Thomas in 2003 before falling to No. 1 seed Arizona, so he has the acumen to lead the team deeper into the field. Slowing the offense down, which began in February against Louisville, no doubt created the opportunity for the Irish, who were 6-8 in conference play at one point, to reach the Tournament in the first place.

It doesn't need to go, it just needs an addition. In a one-and-done setting, the slow, burn-the-shot-clock offense needs a second gear. Another dimension would also allow the Irish to draw more fouls by penetrating and forcing contact — they shot three free throws against Old Dominion.

Notre Dame showed it was comfortable taking its time and winning games close — the 50-45 win over Pittsburgh in the Big East tournament quarterfinal is a perfect example. It also showed it can score, when it dropped 78 on Georgetown on the road. The second dimension to the offense lay dormant Thursday.

"We turned it over and a couple of easy transition opportunities," Brey said. "When we take those, I was hoping we could be better."

Brey said that next season, he might balance the offensive style more to allow for quicker possessions.

"That's probably because we have slowed down," he said. "We haven't done them as much. We're not as good at them. I thought about this a lot thinking about next season, I think there is a balance point there with tempo."

Whether it comes in the form of quick cuts to the basket, more penetration or shooting on the first look, another dimension to the burn offense that Notre Dame could execute well would benefit the team, especially in Big East dogfights — or elimination games. But game planning will only get the team so far. The shots, whether with 28 seconds on the shot clock or four, need to fall.

"You can talk about getting into the gap. You can talk about hitting the short corner. You can talk about hitting the foul line," Brey said. "Eventually, to beat a team that's going to sit in that [zone], you've got to make some shots, two or three in a row, to kind of change the climate. We could never do that."

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

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

"Hit a couple of outside shots and we couldn't hold on to the lead for long enough."

Luke Harangody
Irish forward

"We haven't done [quicker possessions] as much. We're not as good at them."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

Monarchs

continued from page 24

gave the Monarchs their final lead, 48-46, with 1:27 remaining. Harangody missed a jump shot on Notre Dame's ensuing possession, and Lee made 1-of-2 from the line on Old Dominion's next possession to extend the lead to three with 56 seconds to play.

Harangody's first basket, a put-back off an offensive rebound, cut the Irish deficit to one with 12 seconds remaining. Monarchs forward Keyon Carter made a pair of free throws with nine seconds to play and, after a Notre Dame timeout, Scott barely missed a 3 from the baseline that would have tied the game. Earlier, with 1:49 remaining, Scott answered a Darius James 3-pointer to tie the game, 46-46, and break a six-minute scoring drought for the Irish.

"Those guys made a lot of clutch 3s," Carter said. "So I thought it was going to be another scenario. I was kind of thinking overtime, but gratefully it rimmed out. Little help from above, I guess. Divine intervention a little bit."

After Scott's jumper from the free-throw line put Notre Dame up 30-22 nine seconds into the second half, the Irish were held scoreless for more than six minutes, as the Monarchs rattled off a 9-0 run to take their first lead, 31-30, since early in the first half. A layup by Scott put the Irish back up one with 13:46 to play, and neither team led by more than four points the rest of the way.

"I think it reflects the magic of March, the way the two teams battled," Monarchs coach Blaine Taylor said. "One of the officials turns to me at the two-minute mark and said, 'It's been a heck of a game,' and I really think it was."

Senior guard Ben Hansbrough, who will return for a fifth year, led all scorers with 17 points on 7-of-13 shooting. Scott posted 14 points and 10 rebounds and was Notre



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Senior guard Ben Hansbrough chases after the ball in Thursday's loss to Old Dominion in the NCAA Tournament.

Dame's lone scoring threat near the basket, as Harangody was held to four points — all in the final 12 seconds.

"He got the two fouls and I thought he could never really get into a flow," Brey said of Harangody. "Also, when you're playing against zone for long periods of time, it's probably a little harder to establish him, you know, offensively."

The Monarchs led 6-5 five minutes into the game, but the Irish used a 10-0 run over the next five minutes to open a 15-6 lead. Old Dominion quickly responded with a 7-0 run of its own to cut the deficit to 15-13, but a 3 by Scott, a three-point play from junior forward Tim Abromaitis and a transition layup by Hansbrough sparked another 8-2 spurt for the Irish, who then led 23-15. Keyon Carter made Old Dominion's first 3 of the game with 18 seconds to play in the half to cut the Notre Dame

lead to 26-22, and an Abromaitis jumper closed the half with the Irish up 28-22.

Notre Dame outshot and out-rebounded the Monarchs in the first half. Old Dominion was 10-for-29 (34.5 percent) from the field and 1-for-8 (12.5 percent) from 3-point range in the first half. The Irish held a 21-14 rebounding edge at intermission while shooting 11-for-27 (40.7 percent) from the field and 4-of-14 (28.6 percent) from 3-point range in the opening half.

But in the second half, the Monarchs heated up while the Irish cooled down. Old Dominion made 52.6 percent of its field goals in the second half and knocked down 4-of-10 3-point attempts. Notre Dame shot 31.3 percent from the field and made only 2-of-12 3-pointers in the second half.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu



2010 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

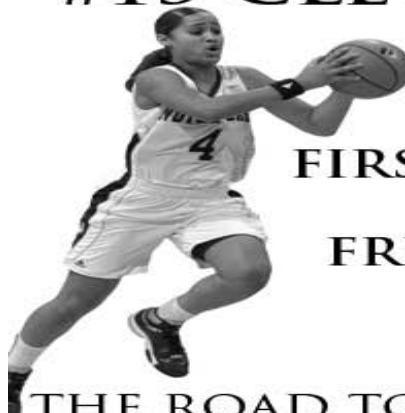
DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
FIRST/SECOND ROUNDS
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, HOST



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
DIVISION 1 NCAA
ROUND 1: SUNDAY @ 2:30

#2 NOTRE DAME
VS.

#15 CLEVELAND ST.



FIRST 100 STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION!

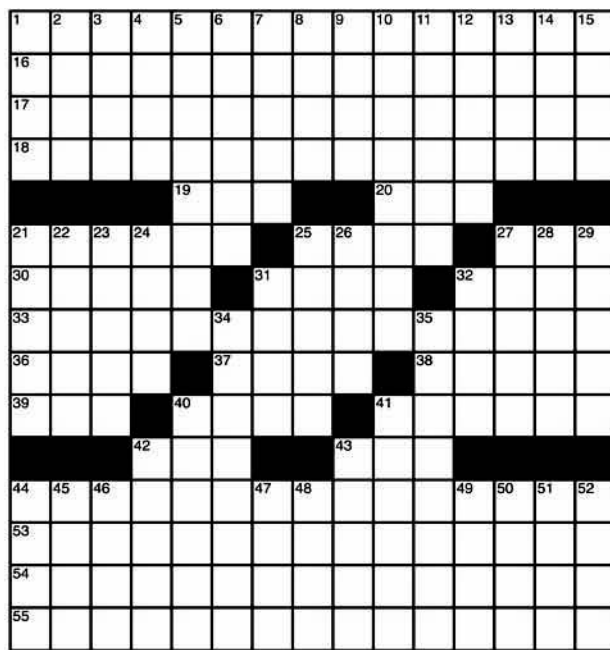
THE ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR BEGINS AT NOTRE DAME!

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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across
1 9 + 3 + 1 + 1/3 + 1/9 + ...
16 Dating service questionnaire heading
17 Seminal naturalistic work
18 They're dishwasher-safe
19 Main character?
20 Tree-line tree
21 Some 21-Downs
25 Tir à ___ (bow-and-arrow sport: Fr.)
27 Punch lines?
30 Thunderstorm product
31 Fit by careful shifting
32 Help in hunting
33 Routine statement?
36 ___ francese
37 Puttering
38 Fish garnish
39 Novelist who was a lifelong friend of Capote
40 Ducky
41 What the ugly duckling really was
42 Tipping point?
43 Where one might keep time?
44 Heart and brain
53 Doesn't hedge
54 A lot may be on one's mind
55 13-time Grey Cup winners
Down
1 Hoods may conceal them
2 German "genuine"
3 "Cup ___" (1970s Don Williams song)
4 Trend in 1970s fashion



Puzzle by Kevin G. Der

- 34 Creator of some illusions
35 Time of awakening
40 Dan ___, 1994 Olympics speed-skating gold medalist
41 "Alistair ___ America" (1973 book)
42 Need for some shots
43 Top-___ (sports brand)
44 To be in a faraway land
45 Basis of development
46 Compliment's opposite
47 Hand ___
48 Lightman who wrote "Einstein's Dreams"
49 1958 Best Song Oscar winner
50 "Lemme ___!"
51 Chile child
52 Fleet fleet, once

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



SCHAD & FREUDE

WILL GUAPPONE & BRI KRAFCIK



T.I.N.D.

DAN POHLMAN

The Observer apologizes for the absence of T.I.N.D. The comic will return Monday.

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adam Levine, 31; Dane Cook, 38; Queen Latifah, 40; Vanessa Williams, 47

Happy Birthday: Don't let anyone stand in your way or limit what you can do or say. Do what's best for yourself, without hesitation. A partnership must be evened out or left behind. Speak from the heart but don't hold back how you feel. It's time for you to put yourself first. Your numbers are 4, 15, 19, 23, 26, 37, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be sensitive and will react quickly to the way people treat you. The changes or reforms you want to make will be met with opposition. The way you go about things will set the stage for what's to come. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Explain your situation without giving away too much information. You may be asked to make a few changes but, if you are willing to compromise, you will reach an agreement that benefits everyone involved. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put your Gemini charm to work and you can influence the outcome of a situation you face. Don't let someone's disgruntled response stop you from moving forward. A relationship with the potential to grow will sprout if you offer your services to a community group. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your thoughts to yourself, especially if they could cause friction with someone at work or at home. Your reputation may be at risk if you meddle or spread rumors. An older friend or relative may need help. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be where the action is and can entice people to support your ideas and plans. Travel, intrigue and romance are all in the stars. Don't be afraid to make demands and lay down some ground rules that position you well for the future. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Hold off making a decision if you feel someone is trying to railroad you into something that may not be good for you. Financial loss and additional burdens resulting from a mistake made long ago will actually lead to solutions. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on what you can gain in the shortest period of time. If someone tries to influence you or push you to do something you don't want to do, stick up for your rights and get back to your own projects and plans. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A move or investment will give you a much-needed boost. Now is not the time to beat around the bush -- say what's on your mind, clear the air and make your move. Procrastination will be your enemy. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't allow relatives and neighbors to bring you down or cause you grief. If you remain neutral, refusing to take part in an ugly discussion, you will come out unscathed. Problems while traveling can be expected. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do not give in, back down or ignore issues that must be dealt with. It may not be the nicest situation to be in but, if you use past experiences as an example, you will convince people you are dealing with to give you a chance. Your skills will leave a good impression. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It may be time to question your current direction. Don't let depression set in when all that's required is a couple of changes on your part. You have added discipline and you should be putting it to good use. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Impulsive acts and overspending will create a difficult situation. Before you do something you'll regret, turn your attention to something productive and industrious. The choice is yours, so settle down and get to work. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are a thinker, a planner and a responsible person. You are sensitive and caring but you lack patience.

JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

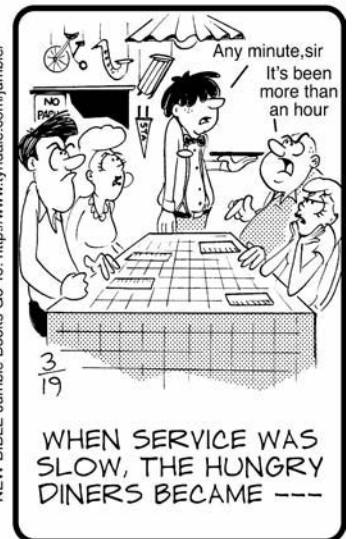
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FYLOT

PIDEB

WORDSY

RENARB



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

Print answer here: " O O O O O O O O "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's | Jumbles: USURP APPLY POWDER BEHELD

Answer: What the clerk got when she decorated the gift package -- "WRAPPED" UP IN IT

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

One and done

Irish fall one point short in first round

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — A pair of six-minute scoreless droughts in the second half doomed No. 6 Notre Dame as the Irish fell to No. 11 Old Dominion, 51-50, in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Thursday.

The Irish (23-12) made just 6-of-26 3-point attempts, including 2-of-12 in the second half. Junior forward Carleton Scott's game-tying 3-point attempt rimmed out in the final seconds, and senior forward Luke Harangody's put-back at the buzzer left the Irish a point short of the Monarchs (27-8), who will advance to the second round Saturday against No. 3 Baylor.

"It just sounds so simple, but we had some really clean looks. You've got to make some shots," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "We'd been a good shooting team. It's not like I'm saying something the percentages say we can't do or haven't done."

A jumper by center Gerald Lee

see MONARCHS/page 22



Senior guard Tory Jackson walks off the court upset after Notre Dame's 51-50 loss to Old Dominion in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Thursday.

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Brey's offense not able to burn fast enough

NEW ORLEANS — Notre Dame's slow-burn offense burned just a touch too slow.

The strategy works, especially with the personnel Notre Dame has: good ball-handlers who can all pass and three legitimate 3-point threats. It spreads out opposing defenses, opens drive lanes and with the ball in the hands of Notre Dame's guards, who can find the open shooter, it creates good shots.

The strategy works — but when it doesn't, it can't be the only option.



Bill Brink

Senior Staff
Writer

see OFFENSE/page 22

MEN'S LACROSSE

Team looks for another win

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Editor

The Irish opened Arlotta Stadium in style Tuesday with a 14-7 win over Denver and they now look to continue this success in their new home Saturday against Ohio State.

No. 9 Notre Dame (4-2) visited the Buckeyes last year at The Horseshoe on the day of Ohio State's spring football game. In front of the largest attendance in NCAA lacrosse history, the Irish captured a 14-8 win behind junior midfielder Zach Brenneman's four goals.

After Brenneman scored three in Tuesday's victory, Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said the team needs to keep playing as it has been.

"We're looking to continue to improve, and play smart against a team that is always very athletic and very crafty with the ball," Corrigan said.

In the victory over Denver, senior midfielder Grant Krebs and sophomore attack Sean Rogers also tallied hat tricks.



Irish players celebrate Tuesday's 14-7 win over Denver to open the home season at Arlotta Stadium.

MAGGIE O'BRIEN/The Observer

Corrigan said the offensive outburst was a team accomplishment.

"The fact that you had three guys do it means it was more about the team than it was about the individual. When your team is playing

good offense and creating opportunities, than a lot of people have opportunities to contribute," he said. "That means you're moving the ball, moving people around

see SPARTANS/page 21

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish head to Boston for first trip since 2006

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

The season is young, but the No. 9 Irish have already experienced their fair share of adversity. After a disappointing loss to No. 16 Dartmouth and a come-from-behind 14-12 victory over California, the Irish (4-1) will look to build a winning streak against No. 11 Boston University Saturday.

This will be the first trip to Boston for the Irish since they made the Final Four in 2006, when they lost to Dartmouth.

The unfamiliar Terriers (4-2) should prove to be a formidable opponent for the Irish. They already have wins over Massachusetts, Brown, William & Mary and Harvard.

"[Boston] is a solid team all around," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "I expect and tough and physical game."

Although the matchup is a

nonconference, non-regional game, showdowns with nationally-ranked opponents such as the Terriers are crucial not only for seeding teams come NCAA Tournament time but also for building steam leading into conference play.

"This game is an opportunity to prove to ourselves what we can accomplish this season," Coyne said. "It's going to be an exciting matchup."

The Irish will need to improve upon areas that have caused them trouble the last two games in order to beat the Terriers. Coyne said she was slightly disappointed with the play of the attack during the games against Dartmouth and California. But those possible weaknesses have been the focus this week in preparation for Saturday's game.

"Things came to light in the game against California,

see TERRIERS/page 21

For Podcasts, photos and a running blog live from NEW ORLEANS, and PURCELL PAVILION, check out The Observer Sports Page at ndsmcobserver.com/sports