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ND mourns Walton's death

Basilica's director of music leaves impact on students, colleagues

By SARAH MERVOSH
Assistant News Editor

Dr. Gail Walton, director of music at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, will be remembered as a dedicated musician, teacher and Catholic who touched the lives of many members of the Notre Dame community.

Walton, an organist and director of two Notre Dame choirs, died last week after a long illness. She was 55.

"This was not a job. This was a passion and her life," Fr. Peter Rocca, rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, said. "Her impact was tremendous. She touched the lives of so many students."

Senior Jordan Schank said when he first auditioned for the Liturgical Choir, he was an intimidated freshman with no choir experience.

"I know Gail could see my

shaking knees. I don't think I have ever felt so intimidated by a woman in high heels before," he said. "She took note of my nervousness and she did her best to calm me down."

With Walton's help and encouragement, Schank said he was able to learn the challenging music and improve his singing dramatically.

"I can with full faith say that Gail taught me everything I know about singing," Schank said. "She took a young, inexperienced freshman with terrible Midwestern vowels and formed me into the confident singer I am today."

Bishop Daniel Jenky of Peoria, Ill., was the homilist at Walton's funeral and spoke to a standing



Walton

room-only congregation at the Basilica Tuesday morning about Walton's impact on the Notre Dame community.

"Year after year, season after season, the walls of this place have echoed with the glory and sensitivity of Gail's music," he said. "At Notre Dame moments of joy and sorrow, Gail made great music that lifted our spirits."

"Today, the Basilica is filled with only a few of an army of her many friends who loved her."

Walton directed the Liturgical Choir and the Basilica Schola, which she also founded. She assisted with music at a number of University liturgical events, such as opening mass, Junior Parents Weekend mass and Commencement mass, Rocca said.

Walton also touched the lives of countless couples as they pre-

see WALTON/page 6

Chilean student shares stories from earthquake



Volunteers help load relief supplies into boxes at the airport in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday.

By SAM STRYKER
News Writer

For Notre Dame junior and Santiago native Rodolfo DisiPavlic, the hours after an 8.8-magnitude earthquake ravaged his home country were a frantic experience.

"I found out at 9 a.m. [5 a.m. in Chile] on Saturday when I tried to check the news sites from Chile and they were all down," said DisiPavlic, who is currently studying abroad in Bologna, Italy. "Right after I found out, I tried to call everyone's cell phones with no luck. Then I called my mom's home phone and she answered."

"Although it didn't take me too long to reach her, I had never felt [so] desperate in my whole life."

DisiPavlic said his family was fortunate not to be near the epicenter of the earthquake when it hit.

"At the moment of the earthquake, my mom was in Santiago, and my dad and siblings were in Pucón," he said. "None of them were close to the epicenter, but a month ago my mom was camping with my brothers in Curanipe, a coastal town that was obliterated by the tsunami."

Since Santiago was not hit as

see CHILE/page 4

Campus strives to end the 'R' word

By CAITLYN KALSCHEUR
News Writer

"End the 'R' Word Day" is returning to campus for its second year to raise public awareness about the social prejudice faced by people with intellectual disabilities, now with celebrity endorsements and a national platform.

"The point of the campaign is to educate the public, not to take away the rights of free

speech," said junior Soeren Palumbo, the campaign's co-founder. "The word 'retarded' has a profound effect on people with intellectual disabilities and should be eliminated by social consensus, not by a legal means."

With Notre Dame's service-oriented mentality, Palumbo said he hopes Notre Dame will be a leader in the campaign.

"Notre Dame has an unprecedented service orientation toward people with disabilities,

and people here want to make the world a better place for people with intellectual disabilities," Palumbo said. "I want Notre Dame to be the jewel in the crown of this year's events."

The official event began last year at the Special Olympics Winter Games when Palumbo and a Yale student came up with the idea to create an event to draw media attention and educate the public on the word

see WORD/page 6

Basketball registration ends Fri.

Bookstore tournament hopes for record-breaking participation



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Hallelulah Holla Back, 2009 Bookstore Basketball champions, compete in a tournament game last spring.

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

Bookstore Basketball, the world's largest outdoor five-on-five basketball tournament, is just around the corner, and the tournament's organizers are hoping to break their own record by garnering even more teams to play than last year's 650.

Registration for the open and women's tournaments ends Friday at 5 p.m., but the main goal of the tournament's executive staff is to

see BOOKSTORE/page 4

Saint Mary's announces Commencement speaker

Observer Staff Report

Marine biologist Sylvia Earle will deliver the 2010 Commencement address and receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree from Saint Mary's. Author Lois Lowry will also be receiving an honorary doctor of humanities degree at the ceremony.

"It will be an honor to welcome Sylvia Earle and Lois Lowry to our campus," College President Carol Ann Mooney said in a press release.

According to the release,

Earle has spent over 6,000 hours underwater. The New York Times labeled her "Her Deepness." She led the first all-female team of aquanauts in 1970 and holds the record for the deepest solo dive.

In September 2009, she published the book "The World Is Blue: How Our Fate and the Oceans Are One," which discusses the need to protect oceans and the work people need to do to keep them clean.

"Dr. Earle is a passionate

see SPEAKER/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Keep on fighting

While almost every student at Notre Dame stepped onto campus as a freshman with a long list of extracurricular activities they excelled in during their high school years, not all of us had the time or the quick tongue necessary to join the Debate Club. Regardless, Notre Dame students love to debate, and this is never more evident than when one reads the Viewpoint section of this paper.



Chris Allen

Many lament Viewpoint wars as a silly way to argue about important issues, but I take a different, more positive view on these week-long (and sometimes month-long) arguments. As my academic advisor Dr. Steve Brady told me when we discussed my involvement at The Observer, "It wouldn't be Notre Dame if people weren't angry about something." Viewpoint wars are extremely important to the Notre Dame community and should be celebrated as such.

Whether we are arguing about ridiculous things like Swedish meatballs or important economic issues like wages of University workers, the Viewpoint gives us an important venue to engage each other in intellectual and structured debate. In the recent debate over wages, undergraduates, graduates, alumni and professors alike have chimed in with their opinions. This type of living, breathing dialogue has broken down the barrier that is so frequently observed in college lecture halls where the students are on the receiving end of the pedagogical process but offer minimal contributions. In the Viewpoint section, the freshman student and the tenured professor are on an equal playing field, where the community will absorb their words all the same.

The Viewpoint section also represents perhaps the most important and most basic agent of change on campus. The Observer is read across campus, but except for the Viewpoint the platform is reserved for writers like myself. By necessity, the Viewpoint is the first step for most students who are looking to initiate change. The University is a big place, with a lot of offices, a lot of departments, and a lot of people. Writing a letter to the newspaper where, with luck, it will be published and read and contemplated by thousands of people is the easiest and most approachable way of initiating change. At the very least it is more attractive than cutting through the bureaucracy of a big university.

So let's relish the opportunity to debate on the pages of Viewpoint. While we're at it, let's acknowledge a few general rules. The people that you are arguing with are fellow Domers, so keep that in the back of your mind. The pages of the Observer are above playground-style name-calling and belittlement of one's ideas, so keep it civil. With that said, long live Viewpoint, and keep on fighting, Irish.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

Sports Wire Editor

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DID YOU GIVE UP FOR LENT? HAVE YOU STUCK WITH IT?



Katie Allare
sophomore
Howard

"I gave up sweets and Facebook. Facebook didn't last."



Andrew Geist
graduate student
off-campus

"Car magazines, and yes, I stuck with it."



Brianna Hohman
sophomore
Walsh

"I gave up chocolate and peanut butter. I'm addicted to peanut butter but I haven't had either."



Jack Goonan
junior
O'Neill

"Sky diving, and I'm sufficiently not sky diving these days."



Pat McIntyre
freshman
Dillon

"I haven't given anything up."



Johnny Kerrigan
junior
O'Neill

"I don't think you can print what I gave up for Lent."

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



EILEEN VEIHMEYER/The Observer

Best Buddies at Notre Dame Club leaders Chris Rhodenbaugh and Courtney Isaak sell t-shirts in the LaFortune Student Center on Tuesday. The t-shirts were sold for "End the 'R' Word Day."

OFFBEAT

Newlywed Mass. couple spends first night in jail

HYANNIS, Mass. – A newlywed Massachusetts couple spent their wedding night in separate jail cells after police said the bride tried to run over an old flame of the groom.

Police say 22-year-old Hyannis resident Marissa Ann Putignano-Keene tried Monday to run over the other woman and the woman's son in a parking lot. The intended victim later told police that she had previously been in an intimate relationship with the groom.

Police say the couple got

married at Barnstable Town Hall and split a bottle of Champagne afterward.

Man shoots up hotel room, places clock in microwave

ALBION, Mich. – Authorities said an overnight hotel guest who claimed a divine calling has been jailed after shooting up his room and placing an alarm clock in the microwave. Police say the 53-year-old Dearborn Heights man surrendered about 8:30 a.m. Sunday at the Albion Inn, about 85 miles west of Detroit. He was being held in the Calhoun County Jail pending arraignment and mental evaluation.

The Jackson Citizen Patriot said the man shot the bed, window, walls and ceiling of his room, where he left a note that read: "God delivered me from evil and placed me in Albion, Michigan."

No injuries were reported. The man's name was not released.

He faces possible charges including felonious assault, possession of a firearm while committing a felony, destruction of property and reckless discharge of a firearm.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

An exhibition, "All Art is Propaganda," will be held in the Special Collections Room of the Hesburgh Library today from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibition is composed of materials from the Special Collections and will continue until Aug. 20. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Joan Frank, the 2010 Sullivan Prize Winner in Fiction Writing, will read from her book, "In Envy Country," and sign books at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore tonight from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

A colloquium, "Magnetic Dopants Charge Carriers in Colloidal II-VI Semiconductor Nanocrystals," will be held today from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in 118 Nieuwland Science Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

The Notre Dame Fire Department will hold an open house Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. This year marks the 130th anniversary of the oldest university fire department in the nation. Notre Dame faculty and staff are invited.

"Children's Theater: Tomie dePaola's 'Strega Nonna'" will be held Friday at 10 a.m. at the Decio Mainstage Theater in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The public is welcome and tickets can be purchased online at performingarts.nd.edu or at the Ticket Office.

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

CORRECTIONS

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 37 LOW 22	HIGH 26 LOW 22	HIGH 38 LOW 24	HIGH 37 LOW 26	HIGH 44 LOW 35	HIGH 47 LOW 39

Atlanta 47 / 29 Boston 36 / 31 Chicago 37 / 27 Denver 52 / 34 Houston 64 / 41 Los Angeles 63 / 47 Minneapolis 37 / 17 New York 37 / 31 Philadelphia 38 / 33 Phoenix 75 / 54 Seattle 57 / 40 St. Louis 44 / 26 Tampa 55 / 48 Washington 43 / 36

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Council discusses FLEX, du Lac recommendations

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

The Council of Representatives (COR) presented a new initiative for the Freshmen Leadership Experience (FLEX) and discussed ongoing recommendations for revisions to the du Lac student handbook at its meeting Tuesday night.

The FLEX committee presented its draft of a student booklet that will be mailed to incoming University freshmen over the summer before they arrive on campus in the fall.

The committee said the booklet, which it compiled based on research and feedback from the current freshman class, is intended to give the Class of 2014 information about campus they might not be able to find anywhere else.

The booklet would feature specific details about locations on campus, rankings of on-campus and off-campus eateries, and walking times from one campus location to another.

Student body president Grant Schmidt said the current proposal is to make revisions to the existing draft and then send it as a booklet to students over the summer.

“Technically this is information that could be found other places,” Schmidt said. “But there is no central location where this can all be found, and any-

thing you get in the mail as an incoming freshmen is gold — you read it cover to cover.”

Schmidt said it is possible the information will be posted online so students can potentially have links to the various organizations listed in the booklet. Many COR members said they believed it would be more effective to mail the booklet as initially proposed.

Schmidt said everything is in the planning stages, but if the FLEX committee decides on mailing the booklet as opposed to creating a Web site, he hopes to include the booklet in one of the initial mailings the Class of 2014 will receive this summer.

Since the FLEX booklet is still in the initial phases, student body vice president Cynthia Weber recommended that members of COR present the current draft to their individual councils.

“This is a good thing for you guys to show your respective groups because not only is it fun to read, but you can get feedback,” she said.

Schmidt then turned the topic of discussion to the ongoing revisions to the du Lac student handbook. Schmidt said that while student government does not get to vote on any changes, they can make recommendations to the Office of Student Affairs about issues student government has recognized



MAGGIE O'BRIEN/The Observer

Student body vice president Cynthia Weber and president Grant Schmidt speak at the COR meeting Tuesday.

“Right now it’s hard for students to understand what policies they are accountable for adhering when they are off campus.”

Grant Schmidt
student body president

as being concerns of University students.

“We came up with nine concrete recommendations and so far, four of the recommendations were passed in [Campus Life Council] at their meeting this week,” Schmidt said.

CLC officials recommended that du Lac clarify the use of the word “shall” in its rulings and more specifically define policies for off-campus activities. CLC also recommended the continued use of service hours as a sanction.

Schmidt said clarification in wording was needed when addressing the accountability of the student in off-campus situations.

“Right now it’s hard for students to understand what policies they are accountable for adhering when they are off campus,” he said. “The

Indiana law doesn’t apply when students are out of the state of Indiana or abroad. We recommended that the new wording say that students are responsible for complying with the laws of the state or the country in which they are residing.”

Schmidt said CLC recommended the wording of du Lac be changed from “shall” to “may” when talking about punishments.

“The term ‘shall’ didn’t allow for a lot of flexibility for the Office of Residence Life [and Housing,]” he said.

The remaining five recommendations, which include recommending a medical amnesty policy, will be debated when CLC resumes after Spring Break.

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden3@nd.edu

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ARYKNOLL™

Harvard Law dean set to lecture

By MEGAN HEMLER
News Writer

Martha Minow, this year’s speaker for the annual Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh Lecture in Ethics and Public Policy, is not someone who ascribes to the “ivory tower” mentality that can isolate academics, said Joan Fallon, director of communications for the Kroc Institute.

Instead, Minow is a highly accessible and relatable thinker who has a passion for education, Fallon said.

Minow, a human rights advocate for minorities, women and children, is the Jeremiah Smith, Jr. Professor and dean of Harvard Law School.

Her lecture, Education as a Tool in Preventing Conflict: Suggestions for the International Criminal Court, will be given on March 16 at 4:15 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium.

“It’s exciting to showcase a high platform person because

those aren’t always so visible,” Fallon said. “These speakers meet students, faculty, they talk with them ... I think students across the University, from law to history to journalism, not just peace studies students, would be really interested in her.”

The Hesburgh Lecture is the largest and most prestigious event the Kroc Institute hosts each year, Fallon said. Past speakers have included the Rev. Bryan Hehir, Congressman Lee Hamilton and Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi.

“We don’t tell [the speakers] what to talk about,” Fallon said. “We choose them based on the merit of their work and each brings a fresh perspective.”

The lecture series began as a way to honor University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh in his public role as an international leader in ethics, said Hal Culbertson, executive director for the Kroc Institute.

“We set up the lecture to bring in people contributing to

society in the areas of ethics and public policy,” Culbertson said. “Fr. Hesburgh founded the institute, with the help of Mrs. Kroc. He had a vision for

an institute where we would educate peace builders and also shape public policy.”

The lectures are always a popular event, Fallon said, with last year’s expected audience so large they moved the lecture into the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

“We usually have equal parts students and faculty,” Fallon said. “There’s also a reception afterwards for people to meet her and talk for a few minutes.”

“The Hesburgh Lecture represents people who are doing the essence of what Notre Dame tries to do, and that is to be engaged at the highest level of thinking ... We try to encourage Notre Dame students to think about themselves as influential global citizens.”

Contact Megan Hemler at mhemler1@nd.edu

“It’s exciting to showcase a high platform person because those aren’t always so visible.”

Joan Fallon
director of communications
Kroc Institute



Minow

Bookstore

continued from page 1

raise money and awareness for Jumpball, a basketball camp that provides free instruction and lunch to children in and around Kingston, Jamaica.

"The more teams that participate, the more funding we get for the camp," tournament organizer Jack Goonan, a junior, said. "We want to give kids the chance to play because they have limited funds and opportunities to do so."

Tournament organizer Kelly Flynn, a junior, said Bookstore Basketball funds the entire camp by itself. Last year's tournament raised \$12,000 for the Kingston camp and its satellite locations, making the camp completely free for its participants and providing equipment and personnel for the camp, she said.

One of the camp's coaches is from the Notre Dame community and two of the tournament's commissioners travel to the camp every summer.

"It's a good charity and a good time, and you get to see where all the money goes to," Goonan said.

Goonan encouraged freshmen to sign up for the tournament since their participation is traditionally low.

"Freshmen should sign up

because it's a long running Notre Dame tradition," Goonan said. "If they sign up now, they can have four years of funny moments on the courts."

Although attracting more participation from the freshman class is a perennial concern, a more serious, time-consuming issue is the submission of inappropriate team names each year.

"Every year, we have to sit and go through every single team name and approve them,"

"We want to give kids the chance to play because they have limited funds and opportunities to do so."

Kelly Flynn
tournament organizer
junior

Flynn said. "Then, the Student Activities Office reviews and approves that list."

Flynn noted that many teams try to be as funny as possible in creating team names, but what is funny for college students is not always appropriate for such a highly publicized, University-sponsored event.

The championship title is up for grabs because last year's open winners, Hallelujah Holla Back, will not be competing this year, sophomore team member Dayne Crist said.

"I can't play this year because I'm recovering from ACL repair surgery, and [teammate] Joe Fauria transferred to UCLA," said Crist, a quarterback on the Irish football team. "[Team member] Jonas Gray can't play because of a new rule restricting football players from playing basketball."

Women's tournament champions Four Girls and a Guy will

be back to defend their title, under a new name with an additional teammate, said senior Molly McCarthy, a member of last year's team who also helped organize the tournament.

She said the team's victory last year was especially meaningful because her father and teammate Jane Fleming's father made a surprise appearance at the final game.

"The victory with our dads watching is definitely one of my favorite college memories, but I expect nothing less than a great tournament this year," McCarthy said. "It'll be hard work to get back to the championship, but we look forward to every game."

The executive staff said they are enthusiastic about the tournament beginning.

"We've been working on this since December, so it's been a long process," Flynn said. "We're excited to see how many teams will come out."

This year's open tournament will start on March 27 and end April 25. Any student, staff or faculty member from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross is invited to participate.

The large number of teams requires the open tournament to be spread out over the course of a month. Because the women's tournament only attracts around 70 teams, it begins later than the open tournament.

The semifinals and finals will take place the same weekend as the annual Blue-Gold Game, which is set for April 24.

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

Chile

continued from page 1

hard as other areas, the damage to DisiPavlic's home has been relatively manageable.

"My mom showed me on Skype her apartment. Everything was on the floor and some non-structural walls had cracks," DisiPavlic said. "My dad's house lost some tiles and some stuff fell inside, and the pool lost its water."

"It was eerie seeing and hearing all of this and thinking that you're not safe in your own home."

Though earthquakes of this magnitude are not common, DisiPavlic said tremors and seismic movement frequently occur in Chile.

"Chile is a seismic country. Noticeable earthquakes happen every couple of months. They are part of daily life in my country," he said. "We even make a difference

between the noticeable [tremors] and the destructive [earthquakes]."

DisiPavlic said his family is trying to proceed through daily life as usual.

"I wanted to go back home as soon as possible, but my dad told me that it would be good if we all behaved as normally as possible," he said. "I'm going to be done with school here in Italy in June, but I'll try to finish earlier to go home before that."

DisiPavlic said he knows the charitable nature of Notre Dame and its students firsthand, and he hopes the relief effort in Chile proves to be no exception.

"I know Holy Cross and the Notre Dame community have deep and long lasting connections with Chile, so I ask everyone to pray for those who have been affected," he said. "I would deeply appreciate if the University organized relief efforts too."

Contact Sam Stryker at sstrykel@nd.edu

Speaker

continued from page 1

advocate for the survival of our planet," Mooney said. "Her work to save our oceans is legendary and I know our graduates will be inspired by her dedication to this important cause."

Lowry, a young-adult fiction writer, won Newberry Medals for her books

"Number the Stars" and "The Giver." She is also author of the Anastasia Krupnik series.


"The majority of our graduates probably counted Lois Lowry's books among their favorites when they were growing up," Mooney said. "We are delighted to be able to recognize her body of work."


Commencement will be held May 15 at noon on Le Mans Green.


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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Guatemalan drug czar arrested

GUATEMALA CITY — Authorities arrested Guatemala's anti-drug czar and national police chief Tuesday in a case involving stolen cocaine and slain police, acting just two days before U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton arrives to discuss the drug war.

The detentions were the latest embarrassment for Guatemala's embattled anti-narcotics effort and came amid U.S. complaints that corruption is impeding the battle to stop the flow of drugs north through Central America.

Attorney General Amilcar Velasquez told The Associated Press that Police Chief Baltazar Gonzalez, anti-drug czar Nelly Bonilla and a third, unidentified official were detained for "being linked to the robbery of drugs in Amatitlan in March 2009."

Clinton promises aid to Chile

SANTIAGO — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton made a small dent in Chile's growing needs following a massive earthquake, handing over 25 satellite phones Tuesday while promising more in the country's capital.

"We stand ready to help in any way that the government of Chile asks us to. We want to help Chile who has done so much to help others," Clinton said during a brief visit that took her nowhere near areas with heavy damage. She spent most of her time at an undamaged area of the airport.

Clinton toured an area of the airport where tea, flour and other supplies were being loaded into boxes for shipment to parts of the country where supplies are short.

NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court considers gun bans

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court suggested Tuesday it will strike down U.S. cities' outright bans on handguns, a ruling that could establish a nationwide ownership right fervently sought by gun advocates. But the justices indicated less severe limits could survive, continuing disputes over the "right to keep and bear arms."

Chicago area residents who want handguns for protection in their homes are asking the court to extend its 2008 decision in support of gun rights in Washington, D.C., to state and local laws.

Such a ruling would firmly establish a right that has been the subject of politically charged and often fierce debate for decades in the U.S. But it also would ensure years of legal challenges to sort out exactly which restrictions may stand and which must fall.

3 convicted in toddler cult killing

BALTIMORE — The leader of a household described as a religious cult was convicted of second-degree murder Tuesday along with two of her followers for starving a 1-year-old boy to death because he did not say "Amen" during a mealtime prayer.

Jurors also convicted Queen Antoinette, her daughter Trevia Williams and Marcus A. Cobbs of child abuse resulting in death. Cobbs was also found guilty of accessory after the fact for helping to cover up the death of Javon Thompson.

The defendants each face up to 60 years in prison when they are sentenced May 18.

They showed no emotion as the verdict was read, a contrast to their laughter and astonishment during prosecutors' closing arguments. The trial lasted six days, and jurors deliberated for about three hours.

LOCAL NEWS

State revenue short of forecast

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana lawmakers who hope to adjourn Thursday got more bad financial news Tuesday as they continued to wrangle over school budget cuts, an increase in the unemployment insurance tax and proposals designed to create jobs.

Figures released Tuesday showed February tax collections fell \$86 million short of a December forecast. Revenue is now \$895 million less than predicted by a May forecast lawmakers relied on when they passed the current two-year budget in June.

Health plan to include GOP ideas

President Obama plans to incorporate Republican input in new legislation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama embraced a handful of Republican health care ideas Tuesday to lure Democratic votes as he prepared to spell out his final package for a sharply divided House and Senate, where its fate is unsure.

In a bit of political sleight of hand, Obama said he might include four GOP-sponsored ideas in his plan, even though virtually no one in Congress or the White House thinks it will procure a single Republican vote.

The move is aimed instead at wavering Democrats, especially in the House. Some of them might find it easier to vote for the health care package if they can tell constituents it had bipartisan elements that Republicans should have supported. Yet there is no guarantee that Democratic leaders will incorporate Obama's suggestions in revised legislation.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell warned that Democrats will enact their health care plan at their own political peril, vowing to make it an issue in every congressional race this fall.

In remarks at the White House on Wednesday, the president will describe the final elements of his proposal and then ask Congress to enact it, aides said. He is expected to leave no doubt that, barring an unexpected change in Republican tactics, he wants Congress to pass the legislation using budget reconciliation rules, which prohibit Senate filibusters. Obama is unlikely to use those exact words, as Democratic leaders are emphasizing they want to pass a bill with simple majority votes in the House and Senate.

It takes 60 votes to halt a filibuster, and Democrats control only 59 in the 100-member Senate.

In a letter to congression-



President Barack Obama speaks about health care reform at Savannah Technical College in Savannah, Ga., Tuesday.

al leaders Tuesday, Obama said he would consider four ideas floated by Republican lawmakers: sending investigators disguised as patients to uncover fraud and waste in Medicare and Medicaid; expanding pilot programs to bring more predictability to medical malpractice lawsuits; increasing payments to Medicaid providers; and expanding the use of health savings accounts.

"I said throughout this process that I'd continue to draw on the best ideas from both parties, and I'm open to these proposals in that spirit," Obama wrote.

In a nod to his 2008 presidential rival, he said he had eliminated a special deal for Medicare Advantage beneficiaries in Florida and other states that drew criticism

from Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

But Obama again rejected Republican appeals to restart the health care debate or dramatically scale back his proposals.

"Piecemeal reform is not the best way to effectively reduce premiums, end the exclusion of people with pre-existing conditions or offer Americans the security of knowing that they will never lose coverage," his letter said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the letter "brings us just another step closer to passing the bill." She said she hopes to incorporate some of the GOP ideas.

Republicans, meanwhile, made it clear the president's overtures will not win their hearts or votes.

Sen. Tom Coburn, an Oklahoma Republican who proposed some of the notions Obama is weighing, said that "merely incorporating these ideas into the deeply flawed House and Senate bills will not bring us any closer to real reform."

In a letter to Obama, Coburn noted that opinion polls show extensive opposition to the Democratic plan. "An all-or-nothing reconciliation strategy will give the American people nothing," Coburn wrote.

White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, after meeting with top Democrats in the Capitol, told reporters: "Reconciliation is a vehicle that's been used many times. This is a normal procedure."

Dems press Bunning to end budget block

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats ramped up the political pressure Tuesday on a Republican stubbornly blocking a stopgap measure to extend help for the jobless and keep federal highway dollars flowing.

But an impasse involving Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky that has caused federal furloughs and threatens the unemployment benefits of hundreds of thousands of people continues, even as GOP leaders pressed for a graceful exit from the unexpected political tempest — which has subjected Republicans to withering media coverage and cost the party politically.

Democrats used to being on the defensive over health care and the

deficit were not in a compromising mood, signaling that they largely want the irascible Bunning to surrender rather than agree to a set of votes on ways to defray the \$10 billion cost of the measure. It seemed increasingly likely that Bunning would relent.

Republican Leader Mitch McConnell — who has a strained relationship with his homestate colleague — said that he is working with Democrats to set up a vote to pass the legislation, which has been single-handedly held up by Bunning despite virtually unanimous support from the other 99 senators.

"We're going to be able to work out the short-term extension in the very near future and we're in the process of working on that now," McConnell

said.

A law that provided stopgap road funding and longer and more generous unemployment benefits and health insurance subsidies for the jobless expired Monday. Without the extension, about 200,000 jobless people could lose federal benefits this week alone, according to the liberal-leaning National Employment Law Project.

Earlier on Tuesday, Bunning objected to a request by Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a fellow Republican, to pass a 30-day extension of jobless benefits and other expired measures.

When asked Tuesday if Bunning was hurting the Republican Party, Collins said, "He's hurting the American people."

Walton

continued from page 1

pared for marriage and worked with families planning funerals for loved ones, Rocca said.

"The Notre Dame community will miss her dedication, her zeal, her knowledge of the liturgy and music, her expertise," Rocca said. "And ultimately her gracious presence and her wonderful smile."

Although Walton dedicated her life to music, it wasn't for her own benefit, but meant to help others, Vice President of the Liturgical Choir Christie Marden said.

"More than anything, Gail valued sacred music and what it can bring to the liturgy. Even though she spent decades making beautiful music, her ministry was never about herself," Marden said. "She was always reminding the choir ... that our job is to help the congregation to pray."

Schank also said Walton's focus was on helping others strengthen their faith.

"Gail always stressed that our work in the Basilica was always a ministry and never a performance," he said. "The choir climbs the stairs to the loft each Sunday

morning to help others pray, to enter more deeply into the magnificent mystery of the Eucharist."

Jenky said in his homily Walton's impact on her students extended beyond her knowledge of music.

"She taught those choir members not only music, but how to live and how to love," he said.

Both Schank and Marden said Walton made an impact on their lives beyond music.

"The Notre Dame community has lost a fine woman, mentor, friend and musician. Her warm smile and kind heart will be sorely missed," Schank said.

Marden added: "I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to get to know such a beautiful woman. She will be missed."

Jenky encouraged those at the funeral to model Walton's dedication to her faith and music during this period of grief.

"When all our human explanations seem inadequate to describe all that we experience, we worship to the Lord," he said. "Where our words fail, we sing to the Lord ... In terrible grief and sorrow, it is music that clearly expresses what we cannot say."

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Protesters respond to racist incidents



Students rally at the UCLA campus in Los Angeles Tuesday to protest after racially tinged incidents exposed what they say is an intolerant atmosphere at University of California campuses. AP

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A firestorm over racially and ethnically charged incidents at several University of California campuses spread Tuesday as UC San Diego announced a KKK-style hood was found on campus and students in Los Angeles and Irvine demonstrated against intolerance.

"What kind of campus promotes an environment that allows people to think it's acceptable to target people for their ethnicity, gender or sexuality?" said Corey Matthews, one of about 200 mostly minority UCLA students who held a lunchtime rally. "It's something about the

tone of the environment that allows this."

At UC Irvine, about 250 people gathered for a "student solidarity speakout" to condemn the recent spate of racist incidents at UC San Diego that targeted black students and another incident last month at UC Davis, which targeted a Jewish student with a swastika carved on her door, said Marya Bangee, an event organizer.

The protests came on the same day UC San Diego announced the discovery of a white pillowcase fashioned into a KKK-style hood — the third racist incident around the campus in as many weeks — and a day after UC Santa Cruz officials found an

image of a noose scribbled on the inside of a bathroom door.

Officials found the hood, which bore a hand-drawn circle and cross, on a statue of children's book author Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, outside the main campus library late Monday. A rose had been inserted between the statue's fingers.

Detectives were analyzing the pillowcase for fingerprints and DNA evidence, a university statement said.

UC San Diego Chancellor Marye Anne Fox vowed to punish the culprits to the fullest extent of the law. "We will not tolerate these despicable actions," she said in the statement.

Word

continued from page 1

"retarded" and its isolating effects on those with intellectual disabilities, Palumbo said.

"We expected to get about a dozen schools involved in last year's campaign and ended up [getting] 45 universities and even schools in other countries to participate," Palumbo said.

He said he anticipates even more involvement this year as service organizations such as Best Buddies International Inc. and Push America have joined the effort.

The campaign has also garnered celebrity involvement with "Scrubs" actor John C. McGinley as the main spokesperson. Other celebrities involved with the campaign include Joe Jonas, Carl Lewis, Evander Holyfield and Alonzo Mourning. These celebrities have shown their support by creating public service announcements in which they recite the pledge and post the videos on YouTube or other media outlets.

This year, Palumbo said he hopes the campaign will gain national media engagements or a possible op-ed in a major publication like The New York Times to raise attention for the campaign to "Spread the Word to End the Word."

The goal is for people to sign pledges similar to Notre Dame's pledge: "As a member of the Notre Dame community, I pledge to end my pejorative use of the word 'retarded.'"

At Notre Dame, students can participate by signing one of the banners that will be located in both dining halls during lunch and dinner, as well as in LaFortune Student Center from late morning to mid-afternoon.

There will also be T-shirts available for \$5.

"We want to bring the event to students and to make it simple for them so it's not something they have to work to do," Palumbo said. "It's something they carry with them."

"Society gets a brighter, more enriched future to see what people with intellectual disabilities can bring to the table. It's a powerful, humbling, spiritual affirmation to be a part of that."

Contact Caitlyn Kalscheur at ckalsche@nd.edu

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5:30

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones **10,405.98** +2.19
Up: 2,725 Same: 135 Down: 1,091 Composite Volume: 530,050,949

AMEX	1,884.91	+15.98
NASDAQ	2,280.79	+7.22
NYSE	7,135.97	+35.22
S&P 500	1,118.31	+2.60
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	10,203.35	-17.49
FTSE 100 (London)	5,484.06	+78.12

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
Ford Motor Company (F)	-1.53	-0.19	12.22
BANK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-1.50	-0.25	16.46
CITIGROUP INC. (C)	+0.29	+0.01	3.40
STANDARD & POOR'S (SPY)	+0.28	+0.31	112.20

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+0.22	+0.08	3.61
13-WEEK BILL	+4.17	+0.05	0.1250
30-YEAR BOND	+0.26	+0.12	4.57
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.44	-0.10	2.27

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.04	79.72
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+19.00	1,137.30
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+1.38	95.58

Exchange Rates

YEN	88.5850
EURO	1.3636
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0352
BRITISH POUND	1.5025

IN BRIEF

Apple sues iPhone competitor

SAN FRANCISCO — As Apple Inc.'s iPhone faces stiffer competition in the lucrative market for smart phones, the company is going after one of its main rivals with patent lawsuits claiming theft of touch screen technology and other features.

The complaints, which Apple filed Tuesday, cover a slew of models made by Taiwanese phone maker HTC Corp., including the Nexus One, G1 and myTouch 3G — all using the free, rival Android mobile operating software from Google Inc. Non-Android phones include HTC's Touch series.

But consumers shouldn't worry about buying or using any of those phones. Patent cases can take months or years to resolve — sometimes longer than the life of these phones — and agreements over licensing and royalty payments often emerge.

Still, it shows Apple's get-tough strategy as significant competitors emerge.

"We can sit by and watch competitors steal our patented inventions, or we can do something about it," Apple CEO Steve Jobs said in a statement. "We've decided to do something about it."

Apple said HTC has infringed on 20 of its patents covering aspects of the iPhone's user interface and hardware.

Yahoo CEO: Rebound could take years

SUNNYVALE, Calif. — Yahoo CEO Carol Bartz says she hopes investors growing impatient for her to turn around the slumping Internet company remember how long it took for Steve Jobs to revive Apple.

In a Tuesday meeting to celebrate Yahoo's 15th anniversary, Bartz reminded reporters that Apple struggled for the first four years after Jobs returned to that company as CEO in 1997.

It wasn't until Jobs unveiled the iPod in late 2001 that Apple's profits and stock price began to soar.

Bartz says the challenges she has faced in her first 14 months as Yahoo's CEO have been compounded by the worst U.S. recession in 70 years.

Nevertheless, Yahoo is making modest progress. Bartz expects the company's first quarter to show the first revenue gains since the summer of 2008.

Merger activity helps lift stocks

Companies' growing optimism gives market third straight winning day

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The stock market had its third straight winning day on signs that companies are becoming more optimistic about the economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 2 points Tuesday but closed off its best levels. The Dow had managed to erase its losses for the year during trading but was down 22 points for 2010 by the close. Broader indexes pushed into the black for the year on Monday and extended their gains Tuesday.

More merger activity and a plan by Qualcomm Inc. to buy back stock brought reassurance that business leaders expect the recovery to continue. The economy's health had been in doubt in recent months after reports indicated the pace of improvement was slowing and as countries including Greece struggled with heavy debt loads.

In deal news, CF Industries made a new offer for fertilizer maker Terra Industries, which last month agreed to be sold to Norway's Yara for \$4.1 billion. Dow Chemical Co. sold its Styron plastics business to private equity firm Bain Capital for \$1.63 billion. Investors often see takeovers as signs of confidence in the economy.

Meanwhile, Qualcomm said it would buy back \$3 billion in stock and raise its dividend by 12 percent. Shares of the maker of wireless chips and other mobile technology rose 6.7 percent.

Markets got a lift from upbeat economic reports abroad and growing hopes European leaders will come up with a bailout for Greece. The Greek government is scheduled to detail deeper spending cuts on Wednesday.

Manufacturing exports in India rose for a third month in January and new orders reached an 18-month high last month. Japan's unem-



The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 2.19 points Tuesday. The average is up 85 points in three days and at its highest level since January.

ployment rate dropped for the second straight month in January and household spending grew.

The array of reports about dealmaking and global economic readings are clues for investors who are trying to determine how fast a recovery will take place. A long climb in the stock market began to stall in mid-January following mixed economic reports and concern about debt in Greece and other relatively weak European economies like Portugal and Spain.

Major stock indexes stand at their highest levels in more than a month but the gains have come in light trading volume. That indicates many investors are staying out of the market as they await more evidence

about the economy.

Darell Krasnoff, managing director at Bel Air Investment Advisors in Los Angeles, said the rebound after the slide in January and early February is a sign that the market needed a break before it could proceed. Still, he said that investors feel burned by the slide in 2008 and early 2009 and have concerns about the economy.

"There is still tremendous anxiety about the state of the global economy," he said. "It doesn't take much to rekindle the animal spirits of the bear market."

The Dow rose 2.19, or less than 0.1 percent, to 10,405.98. It is up 85 points in three days and is at its highest level since Jan. 20.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.60, or 0.2 percent, to 1,118.31, and the Nasdaq rose 7.22, or 0.3 percent, to 2,280.79.

Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note was flat at 3.61 percent from late Monday.

The dollar mostly fell against other major currencies. Gold rose.

Crude oil rose 98 cents to \$79.68 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Stocks rose Monday after American International Group agreed to sell its Asian life insurance business for \$35.5 billion. The bailed-out insurer is selling off divisions to help repay government loans.

February auto sales exceed expectations

Associated Press

DETROIT — Automakers plowed through a snowy February to better-than-expected sales, and new incentives led by beleaguered Toyota will keep the momentum going into spring.

Despite some analysts' predictions of single-digit gains, sales rose 13 percent over last February and all major automakers but Toyota Motor Corp. reported higher U.S. sales. Most took customers from the Japanese automaker, which has been struggling with a series of massive safety recalls. Toyota's U.S. market share fell to 12.8 percent, its lowest level since July 2005, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank.

To win back sales, Toyota said it will offer zero-percent financing on most models this month plus two years of

free maintenance to returning customers. General Motors Co. and Chrysler LLC matched the financing deals.

Toyota's U.S. sales fell 9 percent last month, besting some analysts' predictions that its sales would fall by double digits. Meanwhile Ford, GM, Nissan, Honda, Hyundai and BMW all reported double-digit growth compared with February 2009, at the depth of the recession. The gains might have been even higher without the blizzards that paralyzed the East Coast.

Ford's sales shot up 43 percent and the automaker outsold GM for the first time since August 1998, when GM was in the midst of a strike. Ford's gains were led by cars, which rose 54 percent, with sales of the midsize Fusion, a Toyota Camry rival, more than dou-

bling. Those results included Volvo, which Ford is preparing to sell.

Other winners included Kia Motors Corp. and Subaru. Even struggling Chrysler saw a slight increase in sales.

February was the first full month since Toyota suspended sales of eight popular models on Jan. 26. Toyota Vice President Bob Carter said Tuesday that almost all of those vehicle have been repaired and are now on sale. Toyota also has announced temporary production cuts at two U.S. plants.

Carter estimated the sales suspension cost the automaker 18,000 sales in February. Media coverage of the safety lapses also has taken a toll. Toyota officials and federal regulators appeared before House lawmakers last week and were testifying before the Senate Commerce Committee Tuesday.



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U.N. campaigns against HIV

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations launched a global campaign Tuesday to prevent girls and women from contracting HIV, now the leading cause of death and disease among women worldwide between the reproductive ages of 15 and 49.

The U.N. AIDS agency and Scottish singer and AIDS activist Annie Lennox unveiled a five-year action plan amid a two-week meeting to review a 1994 platform to achieve equality for women. The platform was adopted by 189 countries at a historic conference in Beijing and included a call for increased action to prevent HIV in women as well as treat and care for them.

The U.N. Millennium Development goals, adopted in 2000, include halting and reversing the AIDS pandemic by 2015.

But Michel Sidibe, the executive director of UNAIDS, said the agency's latest report in December showed the proportion of women infected with HIV has risen in many regions of the world over the past 10 years.

According to UNAIDS, HIV is the leading cause of death and disease worldwide among women of child-bearing age from 15-49.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 60 percent of people living with HIV are women, and in south-

ern Africa the prevalence of HIV among women aged 15-24 is on average about three times higher than young men of the same age, UNAIDS said.

Lennox said a "broad movement for change" is needed.

"I see this agenda for action as a great opportunity to bring the realities faced by many women and girls to the forefront and to call attention to the injustices faced by many women and girls, placing them at a bigger risk of HIV," she said.

Nearly 30 years into the HIV epidemic, Sidibe said, growing inequality between women and men and human rights violations against women including "brutal rapes" and trafficking for prostitution are putting women and girls at greater risk of HIV infections.

He told a news conference that 400,000 babies are born every year with HIV in Africa and 30 percent will die before their first birthday without medicine, "but it also means 400,000 women have not been checked for HIV" and had no treatment "to at least avoid the transmission from mother or child."

"What we are trying to do is create a new movement, to mobilize the world around a new urgency — urgency which is about stopping violence against women ... an urgency which will call for a new mobilization of leaders in order to

reduce the number of new infections among girls" and will target more services to women, Sidibe said.

The Agenda for Action launched Tuesday calls for the U.N., governments and voluntary organizations to work together to combat violence against women, analyze and address the factors that prevent women and girls from protecting themselves against HIV, and scale up engagement with men's and boys' organizations to support the rights of women and girls.

Suksma Ratri, who has HIV, and is a member of Indonesia's Positive Women's Network, said she believes the agenda will help countries strengthen services for women and girls — including those with the virus that causes AIDS.

If the agenda is implemented by every country, she said, "gender inequality between men and women will slowly vanish" and women will be empowered, even HIV positive women.

Sidibe said he believes the plan will work because it was not developed just by the U.N. but by governments and voluntary groups and has a timeline with targets.

For the first time, he said, countries will be reporting back and there will be "a scorecard which can really show what type of progress has been made."

Voters debate future of Yankee nuclear plant



Voters debate continued operation of a nuclear power plant at a Wainsfield, Vt. town meeting Tuesday.

Associated Press

WAITSFIELD, Vt. — In their annual town meeting on Tuesday, folks in this Vermont ski town voted on a town budget, debated the need for a new roof on the fire department building and adjourned at lunchtime to nosh on Tracey Coutts' famous "yummy chicken pieces" casserole and cherry pie.

But at this year's annual exercise in New England-style democracy they also weighed in on a debate that has consumed lawmakers in Montpelier and dominated radio talk shows and newspaper opinion pages: the continued operation of an aging nuclear power plant whose "leaks and lies" are fueling a push to close it.

People in Waitsfield and 13 other towns approved resolutions urging the state Legislature to pull the plug on the Vermont Yankee plant. One town voted against the measure and another opted not to take it up Tuesday. Though nonbinding, organizers hope the votes will give further momentum to a movement to stop it from operating past 2012. Voters here have had this direct democracy privilege since colonial days.

The 38-year-old power plant, which supplies about one-third of Vermont's electricity, is scheduled to close in two years, but owner Entergy Corp. is seeking permission to run it for another 20 years.

Normally, the decision would be solely in the hands of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Not in Vermont: It's the only state with a law giving the Legislature a say in the relicensing of a nuclear plant. And on Tuesday, regular people had their say, too.

Last week, the state Senate voted overwhelmingly against continued operation, though Entergy may go to court to challenge the state's authority.

The plant, which sits on the banks of the Connecticut River in the town of Vernon, has always endured a love-hate rela-

tionship with the state and its residents.

The relationship has soured in recent weeks with the discovery of leaking radioactive tritium at the plant and admissions by plant officials that they misled state regulators about the extent of underground piping on the property.

"Either they're lying or they're incompetent, and neither one is good when you're talking about a nuclear power plant," said Carol Hosford, of Waitsfield.

On Tuesday, she stood outside Waitsfield Elementary School, handing out slips of paper urging town meeting voters to support Item No. 13 on the agenda, which urged state lawmakers to turn thumbs-down on the relicensing and require Entergy to shore up a "decommissioning fund" of money to be used

to render it safe once it's shut down.

Even some nuclear power supporters say it's time to pull the plug.

"I'm very much in favor of nuclear power, but I'm not in favor of continuing Vermont Yankee," said Dave Beach, 81, a retired Eastman-Kodak camera designer who lives in Stowe. "(Nuclear power) is nonpolluting and can be run properly. It's just that Vermont Yankee's not being properly managed."

While state health officials and Vermont Yankee acknowledge that the tritium has infiltrated groundwater, it has not been found in drinking water supplies.

The state believes that tritium — which can cause cancer if ingested in large amounts — has reached the Connecticut River, but it hasn't shown up in measurable levels.

"A few years back, I wasn't as adamant about it," said Cheryl Allen, a 56-year-old graphic designer. "We all use energy. It's easy to say that we need to close it up, but we all use energy, so it's kind of hypocritical. But when it starts polluting the Connecticut River, it just can't go on."

The Core Council for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Questioning Students Seeks New Undergraduate Student Members For 2010-2011

We welcome "Allies" and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning Students.

Applications are available on the Core Council Web Site: <http://corecouncil.nd.edu>

or can be picked up from:
The Office of Student Affairs
316 Main Building
8am to 5pm Monday-Friday

Completed Applications are due Monday, March 15 by 5pm in the Office of Student Affairs Attn: Sr. Sue Dunn, OP

Your participation in this Council will:

- Assist with identifying the ongoing needs of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual & questioning students
- Assist in implementing campus-wide educational programming, support and outreach.

Please visit our web site for more information: <http://corecouncil.nd.edu>



Write News. E-mail Madeline at mbuckley@nd.edu

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Matt Gamber.

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Why I'm a hockey fan now

Every time the Olympic Games roll around, all kinds of sports pick up new fans. It has almost become cliché to talk one's love of curling after the winter games or a newfound respect for the modern pentathlon (pistol shooting, epee fencing, 200 meter swim, show jumping, and a cross country race) following the Summer Olympics. However, with the passing of the Vancouver games, I have found myself a newly minted hockey fan.



Jason Coleman

Man at Large

As a Kansas City native, the opportunity to play hockey never really presented itself. There are fewer rinks in the city limits than I could count on my two hands. My high school had a club team, but I don't have any idea who they played. The closest I ever got to getting into hockey was when Kansas City, Mo. built a puck-shaped arena downtown, and subsequently failed to woo the Pittsburgh Penguins to town. I wasn't really heartbroken.

However, after watching five or six games over the past two weeks with my hockey-loving roommates, I have to say it is definitely a different kind of sport. While the championship game

between the U.S. and Canada ended the Olympics on a thrilling note, it was all the games and personalities in between that got me.

First, I never watched a game closely enough to realize how fast it moves. As a former lacrosse player, I understood how players were subbed in "on the fly" and lines frequently changed to keep the speed at a max. I was not prepared for how seamlessly these changes took place. Collegiate lacrosse is known for wasting tons of time while changing lines, with players often holding or passing the ball around while players move in and out. In hockey, it is not even possible to see when the lines are changing.

Second, the play of goalies is incredible. American goalie Ryan Miller finished the tournament saving 94.6 percent of shots that came his way. With pucks moving off of sticks, feet and walls all around the rink, being able to keep an eye on the puck as a viewer is sometimes impossible. In fact, it seemed that the only bad shots were the ones I could see on TV. Watching these athletes in action is a seminar in hand-eye coordination that TO or Ocho Cinco couldn't begin to match.

Third: the hits. One can't write 600 words about hockey without talking about the hits. Given our football tradition, it follows that American viewers would be into the hits. I am no exception. Whether it was the slam

that loosened the outside boards or any of the checks that tore sticks in half, they were always more impressive at high ice speeds. On top of it all, none of these players ever seem to get hurt or call for a timeout. That's some serious grit.

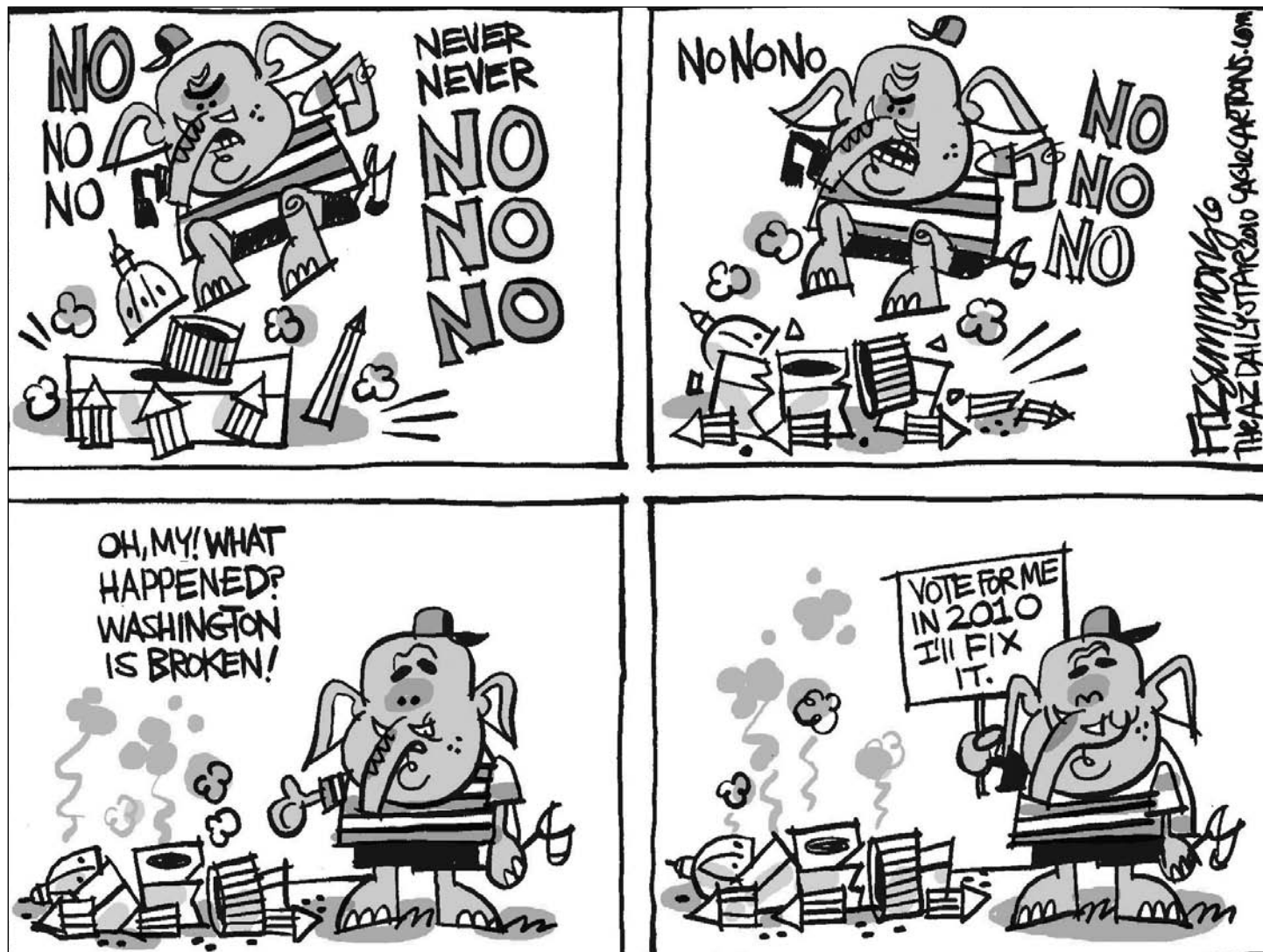
Fourth, the games are not conducive to commercials or pauses. Sixty minutes of hockey takes two hours on TV, not three or four. That adds up to almost ten more minutes of action per hour than football. The clock keeps running, the hits keep coming and the action stays consistent.

Any hockey fan will look at these reasons and probably gloat. After all, they've known this for years. But for me, when taken together, these are all more than enough reason to start watching some hockey in my free time. With a move to Ann Arbor on the horizon, it might be even more important to pick up a team, if only to make sure I can find friends. I've heard the Red Wings aren't bad. Of course, this could fade as fast as so many Olympic fan's curling dreams, but I have a feeling my newfound enthusiasm is here to stay.

Jason Coleman is a senior accounting major. He can be contacted at coleman.70@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required."

Sir Winston Churchill
British politician

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Love truth, and pardon error."

Voltaire
French author

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be aware of the R-word

I agree with yesterday's column ("Spread the word to end the word," March 2) and the Letter to the Editor ("The hurtfulness of one word," March 2) on the importance of the efforts to end the careless use of the words "retard" and "retarded." On March 3, I call on all students to be aware of the use of these words and to be vocal in combating them. There are three main ways these words are used. First is when the R-word is used as a derogatory term for someone with intellectual disabilities. This is hurtful, crass and just plain low. Although it's the most obvious use of the R-word, it's not the most common use on campus. We should pay attention to the other, more insidious uses of the R-word. One is the use of the R-word for something annoying, worthless or undesirable (e.g. "Parietals are so ___!") This sends a message to society, whether you intend it or not, that peo-

ple with intellectual disabilities should be associated with unwelcome or inconvenient things. That's just not true. The last use of the R-word is as a casual insult against fellow students, coworkers, or faculty. When you call your peers the R-word, you take their (and your) intellectual abilities for granted. Be grateful for the talents God gave you, the ones that got you a high school diploma and a college acceptance with relatively little difficulty; be aware at the same time that some people face challenges to fit in every day. People with intellectual disabilities display amazing strength and bravery.

On March 3, share in that courage. Pledge to end the R-word.

Katherine Pierret
 alumna
 Class of 2009
 March 2

Basilica Wedding Madness

As a member of the Notre Dame community, I have always known about the "ring by spring" mentality. This year, I got more insight to the phenomenon. It started last summer and slowly but surely progressed until the last minute end of January proposal. Then the calling group organization began. No less than three of my friends, no doubt braver than I, decided to try to have their weddings at the Basilica in the summer of 2011. I myself went to my local church as soon as I got engaged and was able to set my date at the time I wanted that day.

I can understand the allure of the Basilica, and the further connection to Notre Dame would have been wonderful, but the hassle turned me off. In today's day and age, the busy signal is almost forgotten. This is not true if you want to get married at the Basilica. Notre Dame has an online lottery for all other important facets of student life. From application, to housing, to registration, to football tickets, to senior week activities, it is all automated. Why has one never been developed for weddings? It wouldn't be

hard to do. Just collect people's information when they get engaged, ensure that they are appropriately affiliated with the University and then give them a pin. On March 1, they log on and get their date.

My greatest concern is for Amy Huber's sanity. In today's article, it said she dealt with 70-80 calls today. She must get annoyed eventually, and the couples must be frantic by 2 p.m. or so. I called for three hours and it seemed like an awfully long time. Also, what about the people on the West Coast? They had to get up at 5 a.m. Moreover, wedding hopefuls and their hapless friends and relatives have to use their limited vacation days, which recent graduates rarely have and could be better using going to weddings.

So let's fix the system, and maybe by the time my children are getting married, I won't have to call the Basilica for them

Megan Aldrup
 junior
 Holy Cross Hall
 March 2

Nothing turns me on like short hair and charity

As most of us know, Spring Break is the prime-time for getting hair cut. Whether it's convenient to make an appointment at your home hairdresser or you want to look good for Panama City, the locks usually drop. The purpose of this article is quite simple: to convince every female on this campus to not cut her hair until April 21.

Now all you lovely ladies may be a little confused as to why such a huge sacrifice needs to be made. On April 21-23, multiple clubs and dorms on campus (such as Sophomore Class Council, Duncan Hall, to name a few) will be joining forces to host the first annual event "The Bald and the Beautiful." All the money collected from head shaving and hair cuts will go towards cancer research. For those not brave enough to shave their heads, Pantene Beautiful Lengths asks for eight inches of hair with the aim of making a wig for cancer patients who have recently undergone chemotherapy.

If you aren't convinced yet, then maybe you should take my word on the

matter. Having sported everything from a bleach-blond Mohawk to a handprint shaved into my head, I know what it takes to make hair look good. If nothing else, hair should be an extension of your personality. So, if you really want to wow that guy in your seminar, let him notice your great, new haircut after April 23. Once he finds out you sacrificed your hair appointment during Spring Break so that a child undergoing chemotherapy wouldn't have to suffer through the process of balding, I'm sure you would gain a little respect.

All I ask is that you females take my advice both as an average guy and a hair enthusiast: Don't let your beautiful hair be cut off at a typical hair salon and simply lay around on the ground. Make the small sacrifice of having longer hair for a few weeks so that a cancer patient can be happier.

Ben German
 sophomore
 Dillon Hall
 March 1

Chile earthquake

I am a 2009 graduate living in Santiago, Chile since May of last year. It is with incredible frustration that I write to you today, as 80 percent of the population of my country has been affected by one of the greatest natural disasters recorded in history.

An 8.8-magnitude earthquake struck the morning of Saturday, Feb. 27, leaving thousands in the streets. What was not destroyed by the heavy shaking was taken down by a massive tsunami merely 20 minutes after. The images are sad-denning, to say the least.

Thankfully, Santiago took the cataclysm quite well, with only a few buildings suffering terminal damage, and a couple highway over-passes collapsing. Concepción, however, did not pass unharmed. Though multiple buildings collapsed, leaving many trapped in the ruins, it is not the physical damage what is affecting the region the most.

Thousands of now-homeless people have resorted to rioting and violence to get a hold of prime necessities like food, medicine, water and fuel. But there are even more people using the situation only to create chaos.

Grocery stores have succumbed to the masses, just like department stores, drugstores and gas sta-

tions. People are taking everything they find in their way. News stations have shown images of people carrying refrigerators on their backs, LCD televisions, and even liquor. Some who haven't found what they were looking for have lit these places on fire. Concepción these days is as close as many of us will get to hell while alive.

It is to end this situation, that many, including myself, have resorted to campaigning to get help from any source we can find. Many Web sites have been established to receive donations directed to the building of emergency housing, a prime necessity to keep the people in Concepción off the streets while the rescue teams are trying to get to those still trapped.

Please go to stanfordchile.org and donate whatever you feel you can to help ease the situation here.

As an alum, I know the Notre Dame family is especially sensitive to those in need. And Chile needs us now. So, on behalf of the entire Chilean people, I will be eternally grateful to you for helping us.

Always Irish,

Gonzalo Brenner
 alumnus
 Class of 2009
 March 2

EDITORIAL CARTOON





Figure Skating Fashion at the Olympics

the elegant, the sparkly & the feathery

The 2010 Winter Olympics figure skating competition showcased amazing athletic artistry, but along with triple toe-loops come the costumes. They ranged from blandly tasteful to perfectly ludicrous. Here's a small sample of the standout outfits from the men's, women's, pairs and ice dancing competitions.

Evan Lysacek (above)
USA

Men's short program
The gold medalist's outfits were designed by Vera Wang (who was also a competitive skater when she was young). If Lysacek had ditched Wang's feathers, the all-black effect would have been magnetic – as is, it's just silly and distracted from his routine.

Jordan Gamble

*Associate
Scene Editor*



Evgeni Plushenko
Russia

Men's freestyle program
The silver medalist turned in a clunky routine, then whined that he didn't get the gold. Good thing he makes up for his bad attitude with a Lite Brite tuxedo.



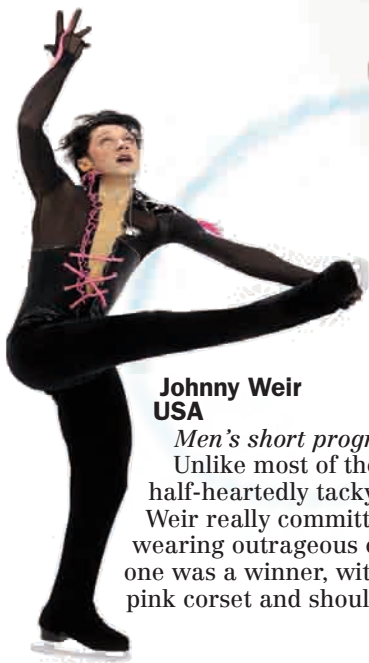
Joannie Rochette
Canada

Women's freestyle program
Rochette won the bronze just days after her mother died, and her emotion was visible in all her routines. She moved into the top three with this sophisticated Princess Jasmine number.



Sinead Kerr and John Kerr
England

Ice dancing, folk program
The British must think Britney Spears and Toby Keith count as "folk music."



Johnny Weir
USA

Men's short program
Unlike most of the men's half-heartedly tacky costumes, Weir really committed to wearing outrageous outfits. This one was a winner, with a flashy pink corset and shoulder tassel.



Kevin van der Perren
Belgium

Men's short program
Van der Perren must be going for the "crypt keeper on ice" look but forgot pelvic bones and about four ribs.



Cheltzie Lee
Australia

Women's short program
Both of Lee's outfits had lovely color and just enough sparkles. She brings to mind the elegant but sporty looks of Kristi Yamaguchi and Michelle Kwan.



Miki Ando
Japan

Women's short program
What's with the giant cross on her chest? If the rest of the costume didn't already look like Dracula's bride, I'd say she had it to ward off vampires.



Oksana Domnina and Maxim Shabal
Russia

Ice dancing folk program
Domnina and Shabal performed a routine based on the dances of the Aboriginal peoples in Australia by wearing brown-face illusion netting and fabric leaves (and these are the toned-down costumes). They took cultural insensitivity to whole new level, considering they were competing against skaters actually from Australia.



Xue Zhao and Hungbo Shen
China

Pairs short program
This married couple — and eventual gold medalists — definitely brought their romance into their routine with these lovely costumes.

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



By GENNA McCABE
Scene Writer

As with much else on the Internet these days, YouTube has become a part of life. Just as “Google” became a verb several years ago, we now use the word “YouTube” in precisely the same way.

Do you want to see the latest music video from your favorite artist? “YouTube it!” Do you want to watch “Charlie Bit Me” for the 10,000th time? “YouTube it!” Did you miss that epic thing that happened on TV last night? “YouTube it!”

There is no doubt YouTube has become a cultural phenomenon. It has entirely changed the way people use and share video. And while it may be a struggle for YouTube itself to monetize its content, many individuals are capitalizing on this invaluable resource at their fingertips.

Sam Tsui and Kurt Schneider, both students at Yale University, have done just that, creating a slew of YouTube videos that have accumulated more than 20 million hits.

Their winning recipe, which combines Tsui’s impressive singing voice with Schneider’s production skills, was not actually the duo’s original intention.

According to an interview on “The Bonnie Hunt Show,” Tsui and Schneider grew up right down the street from one another. Upon coming to Yale, Schneider began producing videos and thought Tsui would be perfect for an upcoming project he was planning. The song, “Can I Have This Dance” from the film “High School Musical 3,” was intended as a duet between a boy and a girl, but when the girl stood them up, Schneider had the idea to record Tsui singing both parts. From there, he decided to shoot two Tsuis in the

video — essentially, Tsui singing a duet to himself. And a brilliant idea was born.

Tsui and Schneider decided to continue collaborating after their initial success. Having found a formula that worked for them, Tsui and Schneider have produced more than 15 videos and have many more planned for the future.

The first video to put them on the map, their version of Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believing”, has accumulated more than 5 million views alone.

Several of their videos are must-sees, especially for the pop music fan. Their Lady Gaga medley features several of Lady Gaga’s top hits mixed to near perfection. This video, above all, exhibits the brilliance of Tsui’s voice. He delivers an inspired performance, belting out Lady Gaga’s songs almost better than the pop diva herself.

Perhaps the best example of Schneider’s production skills, their Michael Jackson medley features no less than six Tsuis on stage singing the Prince of Pop’s greatest hits, impeccably strung together. Anyone who is a Michael Jackson fan or loves a good medley will have a hard time watching this video just once.

Future plans for Tsui and Schneider are sure to include music. Recently they performed on “Oprah,” and they have recently released an album of their covers on iTunes. The album includes the Michael Jackson medley, the Lady Gaga Medley, “Don’t Stop Believing” and seven other fantastic tracks.

If nothing else, Tsui and Schneider are an excellent example of what talent, ingenuity and the wonders of the Internet can do for college kids looking to make their mark.

Contact Genna McCabe at
gmcabec@nd.edu



This Week’s Mix – British Invasion



by Alex Kilpatrick

- 1 “Yellow” - Coldplay
- 2 “Back to Black” - Amy Winehouse
- 3 “London Calling” - The Clash
- 4 “One of These Things First” - Nick Drake
- 5 “Coffee and TV” - Blur
- 6 “So Here We Are” - Bloc Party
- 7 “Baba O’Riley” - The Who
- 8 “Goodnight and Go” - Imogen Heap
- 9 “Ramble On” - Led Zeppelin
- 10 “Paranoid Android” - Radiohead
- 11 “Time” - Pink Floyd
- 12 “Space Oddity” - David Bowie

From Britpop to punk, one might argue that England has produced the best and most influential music over the past five decades. London, Manchester and Oxford alike have produced bands, singers and musicians with astounding musical ability and creativity. This playlist comprises just a broad representation of the best music from across the pond.

12 songs,
1 weekend,
43 minutes, 8 seconds of music

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

No. 1 Syracuse tops St. Johns by 19 points

Reynolds puts up 17 points in Villanova's victory over Cincinnati; Jenkins, Ogilvy lead Vanderbilt victory over Florida

Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Fifth-year seniors Andy Rautins and Arinze Onuaku made their final home game at Syracuse one to remember, combining for 35 points and the Orange beat St. John's 85-66 on Tuesday night in their first game in two decades as the No. 1 team in the nation.

Syracuse (28-2, 15-2 Big East) beat No. 9 Villanova 95-77 on Saturday night before an NCAA record on-campus crowd of 34,616 to move from No. 4 to the top spot on Monday. It was the first time the Orange were there since a six-week stint in 1989-90 and they apparently like the view.

They close the regular season on Saturday at Louisville looking to finish 9-0 on the road. Their only losses this season were at home to the Cardinals and Pittsburgh.

Onuaku finished with a season-high 21 points and had eight rebounds. Rautins had 14 points and seven assists. Wes Johnson had 13 points, four assists and four blocks and reserves Kris Joseph and Scoop Jardine combined for 23 points.

D.J. Kennedy led St. John's

(15-14, 5-12) with 19 points, while Paris Horne had 18.

St. John's dropped to 0-7 against ranked teams this season, but the Red Storm beat Louisville at home and Notre Dame on the road in consecutive games just over two weeks ago and kept pace with the Orange early.

Horne hit two 3-pointers and Kennedy hit another to move St. John's within 23-20 with 8:27 left. But the Red Storm lost their second-leading scorer and top outside threat midway through the first half when Dwight Hardy twisted a knee and was carried off the court by two teammates.

Syracuse finished the half on a 19-8 run, and Rautins led the way. After driving and dishing off to Onuaku for a layup, Rautins hit a 3 from the top of the key and set up Joseph with a perfect lob to boost the lead to 33-22 with 4:55 to go.

St. John's found some openings in the Syracuse zone at the outset as Anthony Mason Jr. and Justin Brownlee converted lobbs from Malik Boothe. But the Orange began to extend their defense and the Red Storm struggled, getting called for a shot clock violation and backcourt viola-

tion on consecutive possessions

Syracuse extended its 42-28 halftime lead to as many as 16 points in the first 5 minutes of the second when Brandon Triche hit a pullup 3 in transition to make it 52-36 with 16:27 left.

After Horne hit his fourth 3 of the game to cut the margin to 11, Jardine negated it with a three-point play, and Onuaku's follow of a missed 3 by Rautins gave the Orange a 59-44 lead with 12:27 left.

Johnson's soaring slam dunk and four straight baskets by Onuaku — a slam off a pass from Johnson, a put-back, and consecutive layups off feeds from Rautins and Jardine — had Syracuse up 72-54 with 7:31 remaining.

Villanova 77, Cincinnati 73

Scottie Reynolds scored all of his 17 points in the second half Tuesday night, and No. 9 Villanova let most of its late 16-point lead slip away before holding on for a 77-73 victory over Cincinnati.

The struggling Wildcats (24-5, 13-4 Big East) got their second win in their last five games, and it didn't come easy. Villanova was coming off a 95-77 drubbing at No. 1 Syracuse, a low point of its season.

Down by 16 points with 6 minutes left, Cincinnati (16-13, 7-10) regrouped for a 14-point run that cut it to 66-65 with 2:17 to go. Reggie Redding hit two free throws and a 3-pointer that blunted the comeback. Reynolds finished it off with two free throws with 3.2 seconds left.

Rashad Bishop had 19 points and Deonta Vaughn, one of two Cincinnati seniors honored before the game, kept the Bearcats in it with 14 points in the first half, and a 3 that sparked the late run.

Vanderbilt 64, Florida 60

John Jenkins scored 18 points, A.J. Ogilvy added 16 and No. 13 Vanderbilt beat Florida 64-60 on Tuesday night, delivering a blow to the Gators' NCAA tournament hopes.

Jermaine Beal chipped in 13 points for the Commodores, including two key free throws with 6.2 sec-



Florida's Kenny Boynton attempts to drive to the basket during the Gator's 64-60 loss to Vanderbilt Tuesday.

onds remaining.

Vanderbilt (23-6, 12-3 Southeastern Conference) swept the season series for the first time since 1997 and stayed in the hunt for the league's regular-season title. The Commodores need No. 3 Kentucky to lose its remaining two games to have a chance.

Vernon Macklin led the Gators (20-10, 9-6) with 21 points and nine rebounds. No other Florida player scored in double digits, the biggest problem for a team trying to get back to the NCAA tournament for the first time in three years.

Nonetheless, coach Billy Donovan's team had several chances to pull off an upset. But Macklin missed a free throw, Erving Walker missed a short jumper and Kenny Boynton missed a 3-pointer with 10 seconds remaining.

The Gators even tipped in the go-ahead basket. Dan Werner, the team's lone senior who was recognized before his final home game, tipped one through Vandy's hoop with 1:06 to play.

Werner somewhat made amends with a blocked shot on Vandy's next possession, but Florida struggled down

the stretch and lost for the fourth time in its last seven games.

The Gators have dropped two straight and play the Wildcats in the regular-season finale Sunday.

Florida turned the game with a 16-2 run midway through the second half, and Boynton did most of the work.

Erik Murphy had a tip-in, then Boynton found Alex Tyus and Macklin for layups on consecutive trips. Macklin followed with a one-handed jam off Boynton's miss, and then Boynton tipped in a shot to give the Gators their first lead of the game.

Jeffrey Taylor silenced the O'Connell Center with a dunk on the other end, but Florida kept it going when Tyus hit a short jumper and Macklin got loose for a layup that made it 53-48 with 9:24 remaining.

The Commodores got it back to 55-54 on Jenkins' 3 from the corner, Vandy's eighth of the game. Jenkins hit another one about a minute later — his fifth — and tied it at 57.

Florida had it tied again, 60-all, and Ogilvy got credit for the basket that Werner tipped home.



Syracuse's Arinze Onuaku posts up against St. John's defender Justin Burrell during Syracuse's victory over St. John's Tuesday.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

WANTED

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TICKETS

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NOTICES

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PERSONAL

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If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, we can help. For more information, visit Notre Dame's website: <http://csap.nd.edu>

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at

1-7819 or Ann Firth at 1-2685. For more information, visit ND's web site: <http://pregnancysupport.nd.edu>

I want you listen to me, friend, and I want you to listen to me good. I am going to come at you. And I am going to come at you hard. I am going to steal all of your clients. And then I am going to kill them in front of you.

And you know what? I am here for you. Let me be, your, traveling pants.

It happened this morning in the parking lot. I took her to the hospital. And the doctors tried to save her, life, they did the best they could. And she is going to be ok.

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Division I Women's Basketball AP Poll

team	previous
1 Connecticut	1
2 Stanford	2
3 Nebraska	3
4 Tennessee	4
5 Xavier	5
6 NOTRE DAME	7
7 West Virginia	8
8 Florida State	9
9 Duke	6
10 Ohio State	10
11 Oklahoma	11
12 Georgetown	13
13 Iowa State	15
14 Baylor	17
15 Texas A&M	12
16 St. Johns (N.Y.)	18
17 Gonzaga	19
18 Texas	14
19 Kentucky	16
20 Oklahoma State	23
21 LSU	20
22 Georgia	24
23 Hartford	25
24 Virginia	21
25 Michigan State	NR

NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Coaches Poll

team	previous
1 Connecticut	1
2 Stanford	2
3 Nebraska	3
4 Tennessee	4
5 Xavier	5
6 Florida State	9
7 NOTRE DAME	8
8 Duke	6
9 West Virginia	7
10 Ohio State	12
11 Georgetown	11
12 Oklahoma	10
13 Iowa State	13
14 Texas A&M	15
15 Baylor	17
16 St. John's (N.Y.)	19
17 Gonzaga	20
18 Kentucky	14
19 Virginia	18
20 Oklahoma State	21
21 Hartford	23
22 Texas	16
23 Michigan State	25
24 Georgia	24
25 UCLA	NR

NCAA Men's Basketball Big East Standings

team	conf. W-L
1 Syracuse	15-2
2 Villanova	13-4
3 West Virginia	12-5
4 Pittsburgh	11-5
5 Marquette	10-6
6 Louisville	10-6
7 Georgetown	9-8
8 NOTRE DAME	8-8
9 South Florida	8-9
10 Connecticut	7-9

around the dial

NHL Hockey
Capital at Sabres
7 p.m., Versus

NCAA Men's Basketball
Duke at Maryland
9 p.m., ESPN

MLB



Mets outfielder Carlos Beltran, above, was contacted by authorities regarding his involvement with controversial Canadian doctor Anthony Galea. Beltran's involvement comes after authorities discussed the doctor with fellow Mets teammate Jose Reyes.

Beltran latest player involved in probe

Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Mets center fielder Carlos Beltran talked to federal investigators last week about a Canadian doctor accused of selling an unapproved drug and said he recommended the physician to teammate Jose Reyes.

Beltran went to Toronto last summer seeking Dr. Anthony Galea's opinion on his bruised right knee, the All-Star said Tuesday. He worked with Galea for a month and felt better following a rehab program, but his knee regressed when he went home to Puerto Rico.

"I have nothing to worry

[about], nothing to hide," Beltran said. "I just went there for an opinion for my knee."

Galea is facing four charges in Canada related to the drug known as Actovegin, which is extracted from calf's blood and used for healing. His assistant also has been charged in the U.S. for having HGH and another drug while crossing the border in September.

Investigators talked to Reyes last week. New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez said Monday that he had been contacted about the probe.

Galea is known for using a blood-spinning technique designed to speed recovery

from injuries. Among the athletes he has treated are golfer Tiger Woods, swimmer Dara Torres and several NFL players.

The New York Times reported on its Web site Tuesday that authorities wanted to speak with Beltran and former Mets first baseman Carlos Delgado because another athlete said he was referred to Galea by the stars.

Beltran confirmed he recommended Galea to Reyes.

"When I was out, Reyes was one of the guys that was out also," he said, adding he told his teammate, "Reyes, give it a try. He helped with other athletes."

"So Reyes at the same

time put his agent in contact with the doctor and they were in contact with the team," he said.

It was not known whether authorities had talked to Delgado, a free agent. David Sloane, Delgado's agent, declined comment when reached by The Associated Press.

Beltran, who was sidelined for 2½ months last season with a painful bone bruise on his knee, said he heard about Galea from friends and he did not undergo the platelet-rich plasma therapy.

Beltran was accompanied by an attorney when he talked to investigators, who asked if Galea injected him with HGH.

IN BRIEF

Hamilton scratched from game due to shoulder injury

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Texas Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton will miss the team's exhibition opener Thursday because of a bruised left shoulder.

Hamilton was scratched Tuesday from the second of the team's two intrasquad games because of the shoulder contusion, sustained when he dived for a ball during a pop-up drill on Feb. 25.

Rangers manager Ron Washington said there's no timetable for Hamilton's return.

"He'll let me know when," said Washington, whose team opens against the Kansas City Royals in the annual charity game Thursday.

Tuesday's intrasquad game between the regulars and reserves ended after four innings in a 4-4 tie.

David Murphy had an RBI double, scored a pair of runs and stole a base, and Vladimir Guerrero had an opposite-field RBI single for the regulars.

Reebok to be sued over 'Finish Strong' Saints apparel

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Saints' Super Bowl-winning season has led to a trademark dispute involving the team's unofficial 2009 motto and two manufacturers of athletic wear.

In a suit filed in Chicago federal court, Finish Strong LLC claims trademark infringement by Reebok International LLC, which manufactured and marketed a T-shirt using the "Finish Strong" mantra that Saints quarterback Drew Brees adopted during the 2009 NFL season.

Finish Strong claims it has had a registered trademark on the phrase since 1998 and uses it in a branded line of apparel including T-shirts, pants, skirts and shirts.

The Reebok T-shirt carries the slogan: "We Finish Strong! We Are Saints."

The suit, filed on Feb. 25, asks for Reebok to turn over all profits from the shirt to Naperville, Ill.-based Finish Strong, plus unspecified damages.

Strasburg likely to start season in minor leagues

VIERA, Fla. — Washington Nationals manager Jim Riggleman dropped another strong hint Tuesday that right-hander Stephen Strasburg, the top pick in June's amateur draft, is destined to start the season in the minor leagues.

"It's just more challenging to pitch in Double-A or Triple-A in April than it is in spring training in March. We get a better read," Riggleman said.

Strasburg is slated to make his first spring training start at Space Coast Stadium on March 9 against Detroit in a game that will be televised live in Washington. He was scheduled to throw live batting practice Tuesday.

Strasburg has shown a blazing fastball this spring and earned raves from the front office and teammates for his poise. But his manager acknowledged there may come a point where the rookie will need more innings than he can get in the major league camp.

NFL DRAFT

Hickman turns down chance for pro career

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Jacob Hickman started 36 straight games in a Nebraska program famous for developing offensive linemen. He was poised to achieve the dream of the millions of boys on America's sandlots.

Hickman had an invitation to be among more than 300 pro prospects showcasing themselves at the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis.

He said no.

The passion was gone.

"Playing in the NFL was never a dream for me, like the end-all, be-all," Hickman said. "I kind of thought if that happens, it's something I would do. As it has progressed, I've kind of gone in a different direction."

Some scouting services ranked Hickman as high as the No. 10 center available in April's NFL draft. But a few days after the Cornhuskers beat Arizona in the Holiday Bowl, Hickman came to the conclusion that he simply doesn't feel like playing football anymore.

"I enjoyed everything I did here," Hickman said. "I had a great experience. I didn't feel the need to continue playing. It just didn't feel like it's what I wanted to do with my life."

The list of players who hang around too long in their sport grows every year. Far shorter is the list of those who, with a legitimate professional opportunity in front of them, decide it's time to do something else.

It would be easy to point to Hickman's lengthy history of injuries as the reason. That

was a consideration. But just as important — and Hickman can't express exactly why — he didn't have the stomach for pro football.

"There are so many guys who deserve and want to be at this level that a guy whose heart is only halfway into it isn't going to be successful," he said.

NFL draft consultant Gil Brandt, who has worked in the league since the 1960s, said it happens about every other year that a player expected to be drafted calls it quits after college. He said Hickman probably would have been a sixth- or seventh-round pick.

People who haven't played football at the major college or pro level can't understand the toll it takes on the mind and body, Hickman said. The 6-foot-4, 290-pound Hickman already has developed arthritis. He played through a painful hip pointer last season. He's had surgeries on a knee, ankle, hand and elbow.

"I've got 14 screws, two plates and a washer in me," he said.

Hickman is 23. He knows his income potential would have been great in the NFL if he made a team and stuck. But having weighed the money he might have made against his lack of desire and the risk of a debilitating injury, he's walk-

ing away while he can.

"I know a lot of guys who have similar injury issues like me tend to have a lot more surgeries once they get to the league," he said, "and it's not something I was looking forward to."

Hickman, who is from Bakersfield, Calif., was recruited to Nebraska in 2006 by former coach Bill Callahan. He admitted to having thoughts about quitting from time to time the past four years.

He couldn't bring himself to do it until after his senior season and he's glad he stuck around as long as he did.

Bo Pelini took over Callahan's moribund program and in two years built it into a 10-game winner that came within a point and last-second field goal of beating Texas in the Big 12 championship game.

Hickman talked to Pelini and a couple assistants, his wife and his father before deciding to hang it up. He was among the first wave of players to receive invitations to the scouting combine, which caused him to re-think his decision.

"Getting one as early as I did makes you think you have a pretty good shot," Hickman said. "I wanted to make sure that if I decided to quit that it wasn't because subconsciously I was afraid I couldn't make it. I know I had a chance to make it, and I still decided I didn't want to pursue it."

"Playing in the NFL was never a dream for me, like the end-all, be-all."

Jacob Hickman
Former Nebraska
Offensive Lineman



Former Nebraska offensive lineman Jacob Hickman rejected an invite to the NFL Combine, saying, "I didn't feel the need to continue playing."

Just because Hickman is done playing doesn't mean he's done with football. Though he'll graduate in May with a degree in construction management, he's considering going into coaching.

"I like the mental aspect of the game, and it's something I could be good at," he said. "There is a vast difference

between playing and coaching. I wasn't burned out on the game itself."

And Hickman and his wife of two years, Savannah, hope to start a family someday.

"If I play for another 10 years, I might be walking with a limp when I'm 40," he said. "I would like to be able to play ball with my kids."

MLB

Mets defeat Braves 4-2 in first exhibition game

Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Cross another last off the list for Bobby Cox.

Atlanta's longtime manager got two scoreless innings from Tommy Hanson, but the New York Mets spoiled Cox's last spring training opener with a 4-2 victory over the Braves on Tuesday.

Cox announced last September that he plans to retire after his 21st consecutive season in Atlanta's dugout — the longest tenure of any active manager — and 25th overall. He has agreed to serve as a consultant for the team after he steps down.

On a damp day in Florida, the 68-year-old Cox seemed happy to be off and running with another round of spring games.

"Just getting ready," he said. "It's business as usual and nothing has changed. I don't look at it that way. It'll hit me the last week or so."

New York, which was riddled by injuries last year, scratched Jose Reyes and all of their regulars from the lineup when morning showers drenched the field.

"When it rains like that and

wind and (the) forecast is this and that, I just feel it wasn't necessary to do," Mets manager Jerry Manuel said.

Jason Pridie, Jesus Feliciano and Ruben Tejada each drove in a run in the fifth inning for New York, which is scheduled to play Atlanta in Kissimmee on Wednesday. Russ Adams homered in the eighth.

Hanson allowed a leadoff single to Feliciano before retiring six straight batters. The right-hander struck out three.

"That was definitely a confidence booster out there today," he said. "I wouldn't say I didn't expect to throw that well, but it went better than planned."

Hanson went 11-4 with a 2.89 ERA in 21 starts last year as a rookie, despite spending the first month of the season at Triple-A Gwinnett.

Another Braves phenom, Jason Heyward, walked twice, singled and stole a base. Heyward is 20 years old and has never played in the majors, but could be Atlanta's starting right fielder on opening day.

"He's got great instincts," Cox said. "That's why he's ahead of the 20-year-olds. He does a lot of other things, other than just hit. He had a great day."



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NBA

Iverson will not play for remainder of season

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia 76ers have said goodbye to A.I.

Allen Iverson's second stint with the team he once led to the NBA finals ended with a whimper Tuesday when the Sixers announced he would not return for the rest of the season.

Iverson has mostly been absent from the team for a month, returning to Atlanta to be with his family as they deal with an undisclosed illness of his 4-year-old daughter, Messiah.

Iverson, who returned to the 76ers as a free-agent in December, has not played since Feb. 20.

"After discussing the situation with Allen, we have come to the conclusion that he will not return to the Sixers for the remainder of the season, as he no longer wishes to be a distraction to the organization and teammates that he loves very deeply," team president Ed Stefanski said. "It has been very difficult for Allen and the team to maintain any consistency as he tries to balance his career with his personal life."

The former NBA MVP and four-time scoring champion averaged 13.8 points in 28 games this season. He started the season with Memphis but only played three games before he announced a short-lived retirement.

Coach Eddie Jordan said at practice it was best for Iverson to move on and put his focus on his family.

"I think it was the right thing to do at the right time," Jordan

said. "His body of work has proven to be a terrific body of work in the history of the NBA."

Iverson's agent, Leon Rose, did not immediately return messages seeking comment. Other attempts to reach Iverson were unsuccessful.

The 34-year-old Iverson made a tearful return to Philadelphia eager to prove he wasn't finished after disastrous stints in Detroit and Memphis. He returned to a sold-out crowd dotted with No. 3 jerseys, but he only showed flashes of his former playmaking self when he ruled the NBA as one of the best guards around. He scored at least 20 points six times — including a 23-point effort in a game against the Lakers that turned into a throwback 1-on-1 duel vs. Kobe Bryant.

"Before it was like, give him the ball, everybody spread out and let him do his thing," Sixers center Samuel Dalembert said. "Now, he's like, you have to run this, you have to get him involved. He was still learning the offense. There were a couple of games where it was a struggle offensively, but other games he got the feel for it. You got the flash of A.I."

Iverson said at a Feb. 15 practice that it was emotionally draining to leave his family to

play basketball.

"It was tough to leave her and my wife and kids," Iverson said. "But I do have a commitment and an obligation to be with my team and to do my job. But it is rough. I think this is the only thing I do in life where for a couple hours during the game I don't think about nothing but (basketball)."

Iverson was hobbled by an arthritic left knee and constantly needed it drained. He usually walked gingerly around the locker room after games. His dwindling production didn't bother his fans — Iverson was voted a starter for the East All-Stars, though he did not play.

Dalembert, who played with Iverson in both his Philly stints, said A.I. was not the same player who once terrorized the opposition. But Dalembert also noticed a more reserved, humbled Iverson who just wanted to fit in instead of dominating the ball or making splashy headlines with controversial or selfish actions.

"He was focused, he was being a leader," Dalembert said. "It was a completely different Iverson. The role we needed him to play, he was doing it. He understood what he needed to do for the team and he came in and did it."

The Sixers have been awful with or without Iverson. They are 22-37 after a 126-105 loss

"We have come to the conclusion that he will not return to the Sixers for the remainder of the season, as he no longer wishes to be a distraction to the organization and teammates that he loves very deeply."

Ed Stefanski
Sixers president



Philadelphia 76ers' guard Allen Iverson sits on the bench during a 76ers loss on Feb. 20. Iverson will not play for the 76ers again this season.

to Orlando on Monday night. They were on a nine-game losing streak when Iverson made his debut on Dec. 7.

Andre Iguodala, another Sixer who saw both ends of Iverson's time in Philly, said he'll miss No. 3.

"He did a good job bringing his personality to us," Iguodala said. "On the plane, on the bus,

just having a chance to laugh. He brought a huge positive side. Guys enjoyed being around him."

Iverson was the No. 1 overall pick in the 1996 draft and spent 10 seasons in Philadelphia before he was traded to Denver in December 2006. He won the MVP in 2001 when he led the Sixers to the Finals.

PGA

Woods returns home after counseling session

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.— Tiger Woods is back at home after a week of family counseling in Arizona and is trying to get into a routine that includes golf and fitness, a person with knowledge of his schedule said Tuesday.

Woods returned to his home near Orlando on Saturday and has been hitting balls on the range at Isleworth, not far from where he ran his SUV into a tree in a middle-of-the-night accident on Nov. 27 that set off revelations of his extramarital affairs.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because only Woods is authorized to release information about his schedule, said there is still no timetable for golf's No. 1 player to return to competition.

Woods was photographed hitting golf balls at Isleworth on Feb. 18, the day before he ended nearly three months of silence by speaking to a small group of associates in a 13½-minute statement that was televised around the world. Those photos of Woods were arranged to counter the paparazzi trying to follow his every move since Thanksgiving.

Woods has not practiced in

earnest since winning the Australian Masters in Melbourne on Nov. 15 for his 82nd victory worldwide.


News of him getting back into a routine is sure to begin speculation when he might return to the PGA Tour. Woods announced on Dec. 4 that he was taking an "indefinite break" to try to salvage his marriage.

"I do plan to return to golf one day, I just don't know when that day will be," Woods said Feb. 19 in his statement at Sawgrass. "I don't rule out that it will be this year."

Woods said he was leaving the next day for more therapy, without saying what kind. The person who spoke to The Associated Press said he went to Arizona for a week of family and marriage counseling with his wife, Elin.

Woods said at Sawgrass of his infidelity. "As Elin pointed out to me, my real apology to her will not come in the form of words; it will come from my behavior over time. We have a lot to discuss; however, what we say to each other will remain between the two of us."

Woods is not likely to play next week in the World Golf Championship at Doral, where he has won three times.



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NBA

Wade leads Heat in win over Warriors, 110-106

Associated Press

MIAMI — Dwyane Wade had 35 points and 12 assists, and the Miami Heat snapped a four-game slide by digging deep late to beat the undermanned Golden State Warriors 110-106 on Tuesday night.

Quentin Richardson scored 15, including two big 3-pointers in the final minutes, for the Heat. Michael Beasley also had 15 points, while Jermaine O'Neal and Carlos Arroyo each added 14 for Miami, which moved a half-game ahead of Charlotte in the race for the No. 8 seed in the Eastern Conference.

The Heat also got within two games of Toronto for the No. 5 seed.

Anthony Morrow scored 24 points, C.J. Watson had 20 and Stephen Curry added 18 for Golden State, which had a chance to tie the game with 5 seconds left — but Curry's pass skipped off Ronny Turiaf's hands, Arroyo followed with two free throws, and Miami escaped.

Turiaf finished with 15 for the Warriors, who dressed only the minimum eight players — including Reggie Williams, who was signed earlier Tuesday to a 10-day contract after being called up from the Sioux Falls Skyforce.

The Warriors were without leading scorer Monta Ellis (sore back) and center Andris Biedrins (sports hernia), both of whom are expected to miss at least the next four games as well. It all meant Golden State used its 35th starting lineup of the season, and like most of the other 34, this one simply didn't have enough to win.

That's not for a lack of trying.

Warriors coach Don Nelson spoke before the game about how much he's enjoyed watching his team — which has known it has no playoff chance for some time — continue to play hard, and right on cue, they delivered another one of those performances against Miami.

Golden State attacked the rim in the first quarter, shooting 10 of 11 from inside the lane and that, combined with six early Miami turnovers, gave the Warriors a 34-33 lead after one. And even though Wade had 19 by halftime, Morrow had 17 for Golden State in the first 24 minutes, so Miami's 56-54 lead at intermission — especially when considering the home woes that have dogged Miami all season — seemed tenuous at best.

Eventually, the Heat found a way.

It was far from easy.

Down 95-94 after Morrow hit a 3-pointer with 6:00 left and silencing a half-empty building, the Heat looked to Wade for a burst, and once again, he delivered. A 15-footer — his longest made jumper of the game to that point — gave Miami the lead, and then he set up Richardson for a 3-pointer and a 99-95 lead.

Wade to Richardson for another 3-pointer 59 seconds later, and it was 104-97.

Exhale?

Not yet.

Curry made a jumper from the foul line with 1:01 left to get the Warriors within two, and Morrow had an open look at a 3-pointer with 10 seconds left that would have put Golden State up by one. It clanged off the rim, O'Neal grabbed the rebound and the Heat held on.

NHL

Capitals hopeful after break

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Washington Capitals entered the Olympic break atop the NHL standings. That doesn't mean life will be easy as they prepare for their first game in 18 days.

On Wednesday, the Capitals will face the Buffalo Sabres and Ryan Miller, MVP of the Vancouver Olympics and silver medalist as goaltender of the U.S. team.

It just also happens to be the day of the league's trade deadline. And the Capitals are playing with a superstar who's even more motivated than usual. And there's only 20 games over the next 40 days to settle on a No. 1 playoff goalie.

"We want to be playing as well as we can when we hit the playoffs," forward Brooks Laich said. "The next 20 games are going to be used to iron out how we're going to play, and identify our strengths and our weaknesses, and then we want to have momentum going into the playoffs."

First, there is Wednesday's trade deadline, a date that's been a significant milestone in seasons past but is now being downplayed by nearly everyone in the organization. There might be a minor move or two — more depth at the blue line could be a priority — but there seems little logic in disrupting the chemistry of a team that set a franchise record by winning 14 straight games in January and early February.

Team owner and blogger extraordinaire Ted Leonsis posted that he doesn't see the Capitals "doing anything dramatic this week," adding: "I threw out our 'stupid pills' a couple of years ago."

"Sometimes the best move," Laich said, "is not making a move at all."

That said, all is not perfection in Caps Land. After the 14-game



Washington Capitals Alex Ovechkin celebrates after scoring against the New York Rangers on Feb. 4.

streak, the team lost its last three before the break, allowing an average of five goals per game. That's why defensive play has been the message of the last few days.

"We were winning, we were all doing the right things, and then we just got away from doing the right things, and then it's like a runaway train," coach Bruce Boudreau said. "You start scoring goals, and you get so hungry scoring goals that you forget about the other end of the ice."

Boudreau also has three potential No. 1 goalies to juggle, each with at nine wins. Veteran Jose Theodore has as many starts (31) as youngsters Semyon Varlamov (15) and Michal Neuvirth (16) combined. Theodore has a 10-game personal winning streak that tied

the franchise record, but his goals-against-average and save percentages are the worst of the three.

Injuries and inconsistency have kept Boudreau for settling on a definitive No. 1. Last year he entered the playoffs with Theodore as his starter, only to yank him in favor of Varlamov after only one game.

"We'll have somebody when we're going into the playoffs as the one that starts," the coach said. "The good thing is we've got guys that are ready to go if that person isn't successful. That's our stance, and I think last year we showed we're not afraid to make a change. We want to win, so, whatever we have to do to put the best team on the ice in my mind to win, we'll do."

MLB

White Sox shape up new pitching rotation

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Gavin Floyd was efficient while Chicago White Sox teammate Daniel Cabrera was wild once again Tuesday during a practice game against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Dodgers won 4-2 in a seven-inning game at the spring training complex they share. Both teams play their exhibition openers later this week.

Floyd gave up one hit, two walks and hit a batter. He figures to be the third or fourth starter in Chicago's rotation.

"I want Gavin Floyd to win 20 games," Chicago manager Ozzie Guillen said. "I think he's got the potential to do it."

Cabrera, trying to regain his form, gave up four runs on three hits and three walks in one inning.

Control problems have plagued Cabrera the past two years. He walked 42 and struck out 23 last season with the Washington Nationals and Arizona Diamondbacks.

Cabrera dismissed this performance — 28 pitches, 12 for strikes — as only being the first outing of spring training.

"Understand, it's been a while and I didn't do the things I wanted to do," Cabrera said. "I just have to keep working and I'm getting into form now. It's just going back out there and pitching and hopefully doing better next time."

Guillen expressed disappointment in Cabrera's performance. The White Sox are trying to convert the hard-throwing righty into a long reliever.

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MLB

Butler looks to make name for himself in KC

Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — If Billy Butler's breakthrough season of 2009 had come in New York, Los Angeles or Boston, the barrel-chested first baseman would likely be one of baseball's most celebrated young hitters.

Fame is hard to come by in a major league backwater like Kansas City, which hasn't hosted a postseason game in 25 years — even for young athletes who achieve a level of excellence known only to an elite few.

Until Butler came along last season, just seven men who were 23 or younger had hit 50 or more doubles in a season. You may have heard of Hank Greenberg, Alex Slaughter, Stan Musial, Alex Rodriguez, Albert Pujols, Grady Sizemore and Miguel Cabrera.

Toss in Butler's 21 home runs and the list drops to only five men in the modern era of the game who legged out 50 doubles and hit 20 homers before turning 24.

It was one of the finest seasons in Royals history. And to many people, even serious baseball fans, it went virtually unnoticed. Even many of those in Kansas City failed to appreciate what their hardworking young first baseman was doing because attention was riveted on Zack Greinke, who won a Cy Young Award with a major league-best 2.16 ERA.

The funny thing is, Butler doesn't seem to mind. He knows he's not playing in a major market, and he knows he's playing for a team that's long been out of the national spotlight.

Most of all, he knows that one great season is not the sum total of the career he envisions for one Billy Ray Butler of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

"I know what company I'm in there," he said. "By no means do I think I'm as good as those guys. They didn't do it just one year. They did it multiple years, consistently. A-Rod's done it for a decade. Stan Musial did it for a lifetime. I did it for one season. If I do it again this year, I'll take a little more credit. If I do it three seasons, I'll take a little more credit."

Last year was quite a season for the young man who averaged .336 in the minor leagues. Spraying the ball all over the field with his quick and powerful right-handed swing, he amassed 73 extra-base hits and a .301 average for 299 total bases — 10th-best in the majors. His 51 doubles were three short of Hal McRae's team record. Historians say he's the first player since the modern era began in 1900 to have four games with three doubles in one season.

"If I don't ever repeat anything close to that again, then it was just a fluke year," he said.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

OSU clinches Big Ten Title

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jon Diebler once again lit up Illinois from behind the arc, hitting seven 3-pointers for 21 points, to lead No. 6 Ohio State to a 73-57 victory on Tuesday night that assured the Buckeyes of at least a share of the Big Ten title.

It was the third conference title in the last five years for Ohio State (24-7, 14-4), winners of four straight overall and 13 of 15.

William Buford added 17 points, seven rebounds and five assists, Evan Turner contributed 16 points and 12 rebounds and David Lighty had 15 points for Ohio State.

DeMetri McCamey had 18 points for the Illini (18-12, 10-7), who have lost two straight and four of five.

Diebler hit six 3-pointers and scored 18 points in the Buckeyes' 72-53 rout at Illinois on Feb. 14.

After the game, fans rushed the court and cheered while several players ran over to their families to celebrate with them.

The crowd chanted "One More Year!" for Turner, a front-runner for national player of the year who has not decided if he will give up his senior season to jump to the NBA.

Athletic director Gene Smith then presented the Big Ten championship trophy while the band played.

The Buckeyes used a 12-0 first-half run — built around two 3s by Diebler — to take the lead for good. The Illini stayed close before Ohio State



Ohio State's Evan Turner holds the Big Ten trophy after the Buckeyes beat Illinois to clinch a share of the Big Ten title.

scored 12 of 14 points to pad its lead.

The title was Ohio State's 18th. The victory also locked up the No. 1 seed in next week's Big Ten tournament, with the Buckeyes getting nine days off until they play in the quarterfinals in Indianapolis.

With Ohio State on top by four points at halftime, both teams tightened things up on defense.


The Buckeyes' lead hovered around four points until Kyle Madsen hit a baseline jumper and, after an Illinois turnover, Lighty took one quick step to the basket and scored on a left-handed layup while Illini big man Mike Tisdale picked up his third foul. Lighty's


three-point play pushed the lead to 58-49 with 9 minutes left.

After McCamey picked up his first points of the half on an 18-foot jumper, the Buckeyes hurried the ball down the court and Buford hit a short jumper — with Tisdale collecting his fourth foul. Buford's accompanying free throw made it 61-51.

Buford then stole a pass and drove, fouling out Tisdale, before hitting both free throws.

Illinois had made just 4 of 24 3-point shots in the earlier matchup, but came out connecting at Value City Arena. They hit 6 of their first 10 shots behind the arc and set the pace early.





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NBA

O'Neal promises return for 2010 postseason

Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio — Now that his regular season is all but ended, Shaquille O'Neal promises he'll make it up to Cleveland in the playoffs.

The Cavaliers center had surgery on his injured right thumb Monday and seems likely to miss the rest of the regular season. He should miss about eight weeks, the team said.

He was examined Sunday by specialist Dr. Thomas Graham at the National Hand Center in Baltimore, who operated Monday morning.

He was acquired in a trade by the Cavs in the offseason to help them win the NBA finals in LeBron James' final year under contract in Cleveland. Shaq immediately took to the challenge, saying he was there to win LeBron his first NBA title.

"Will be out for a min but when I return it is on," O'Neal posted on his Twitter account Monday morning. "Win da ring for da king! Luv my team, Cavs baby!"

O'Neal was averaging 12 points and 6.7 rebounds in 53 games. He injured the thumb Thursday at Boston when his shot was blocked by Glen "Big Baby" Davis with just over 7 minutes left in the first half.

Making things worse for the Cavs, they had just traded away longtime center Zydrunas Ilgauskas, who had come to overlap roles with

O'Neal.

The recovery timeline means O'Neal, who turns 38 on Saturday, may not be ready for the start of the playoffs April 17. The Cavaliers acquired him last summer with an eye toward the postseason, after Dwight Howard and Orlando eliminated them in the Eastern Conference finals.

"He feels like he let us down, but we understand injuries happen in the game," said teammate Jamario Moon, who got a text from the star center along with the other Cavs. "I think he's really down about being out. ... He let us know it's time to continue playing basketball and he's going to be all right."

Cavs general manager Danny Ferry said O'Neal will wear a splint for the next two weeks, then begin his rehab.

"Our guys have done a very good job of stepping up this season. We are confident they will do the same in this situation," Ferry said. "We are fortunate to have some depth in our front court that can keep us moving forward while Shaq recovers and returns to play for the post-season."

Anderson Varejao will continue to start at center for Cleveland, which has the NBA's best record at 44-16. J.J. Hickson and Leon Powe, who recently returned from knee surgery, are also options.

NBA

Arenas breaks silence, attends event put on by PETA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As he has done many times in the month of March, Gilbert Arenas took off his shirt in a building full of adoring fans.

This time, though, he was simply changing into a T-shirt with the PETA logo, not removing his Washington Wizards jersey to toss into the crowd on the way to the locker room after a game. Suspended by the NBA for the rest of the season for bringing guns to the locker room, he was giving away used fur coats to women in need on behalf of one of the few groups still proud to be associated with him: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

"I have a lot of free time on my hands," Arenas said when one of the organizers thanked him for coming.

After the coats were handed out, Gilbert spoke to The Associated Press, his first interview since pleading guilty to a felony gun possession charge in January. Appearances such as these are helping pass the time until the next big date on his calendar: March 26, when he'll learn whether he'll go to jail for his crime.

Asked if he was nervous, Arenas shrugged.

"If the judge goes off with the story the papers write, then, yeah," Arenas said. "But if he goes off the actual real story, then I have no problems with it."

Arenas has maintained that he had four guns in the Wizards locker room and took them out in a "misguided effort to play a joke" on teammate Javaris Crittenton, who then displayed a firearm of his own and has since been sentenced to a year of unsupervised probation for a misdemeanor gun charge. Arenas could get anything from probation to five years in jail, although the government indicated it will not seek more than six months.

Until the fateful date comes and goes, questions about Arenas' future are hard to answer. Would he be willing to play again for the Wizards, the team that gone to great lengths to disassociate itself from him, the team that has removed nearly every trace of him from the Verizon Center?

"I have no problem," Arenas said. "Basketball is basketball. I don't think people realize that. No matter what city, overseas, D-league, park league — I just want to play."

Then again, Arenas noted that his future with the Wizards is not up to him. He's only in the second season of a six-year, \$111 million contract.

"That's up to the city and the owners," Arenas said. "It's out of my hands."

Arenas' sentence could determine whether the Wizards will attempt to void the remainder of his contract, something the players' union would almost certainly oppose. Still, team president Ernie Grunfeld has indicated an Arenas appearance in a Wizards uniform could happen again, saying last month: "He's part of the organization. If he wants to play, he's going to play here."

Arenas is not big into downtime — he's been known to play online poker during halftime of NBA games and work out in the Verizon Center gym at 2 a.m. — but knee problems that derailed his previous two seasons have made it easier for him to cope while away from the arena.

"You've got to remember: I've been hurt for two years before this, and so I did all my stir-crazy

moments then," he said. "So now it's like 'I'm used to this, I'm used to this time off.' Just play with the kids, be a father."

Arenas also said he's "staying in shape and finding causes to help, without all this publicity behind it." The athlete who used to make news regularly via blog, Twitter and outlandish comments in the locker room expressed surprised to find a reporter at the PETA event, and his short answers exhibited his preference to lay low.

His million dollar smile came to

life, however, for the people at Rachael's Women's Center, where the event was held. It might seem unusual for PETA to be giving away furs, but these were all donated by people who bought them, then had a change of heart and wanted to discard them for ethical reasons. Rather than throw them away, PETA accepts the furs and gives them to homeless people and others in need of a inter coat to stay warm.

Arenas helped the women try on the furs, giving advice on size

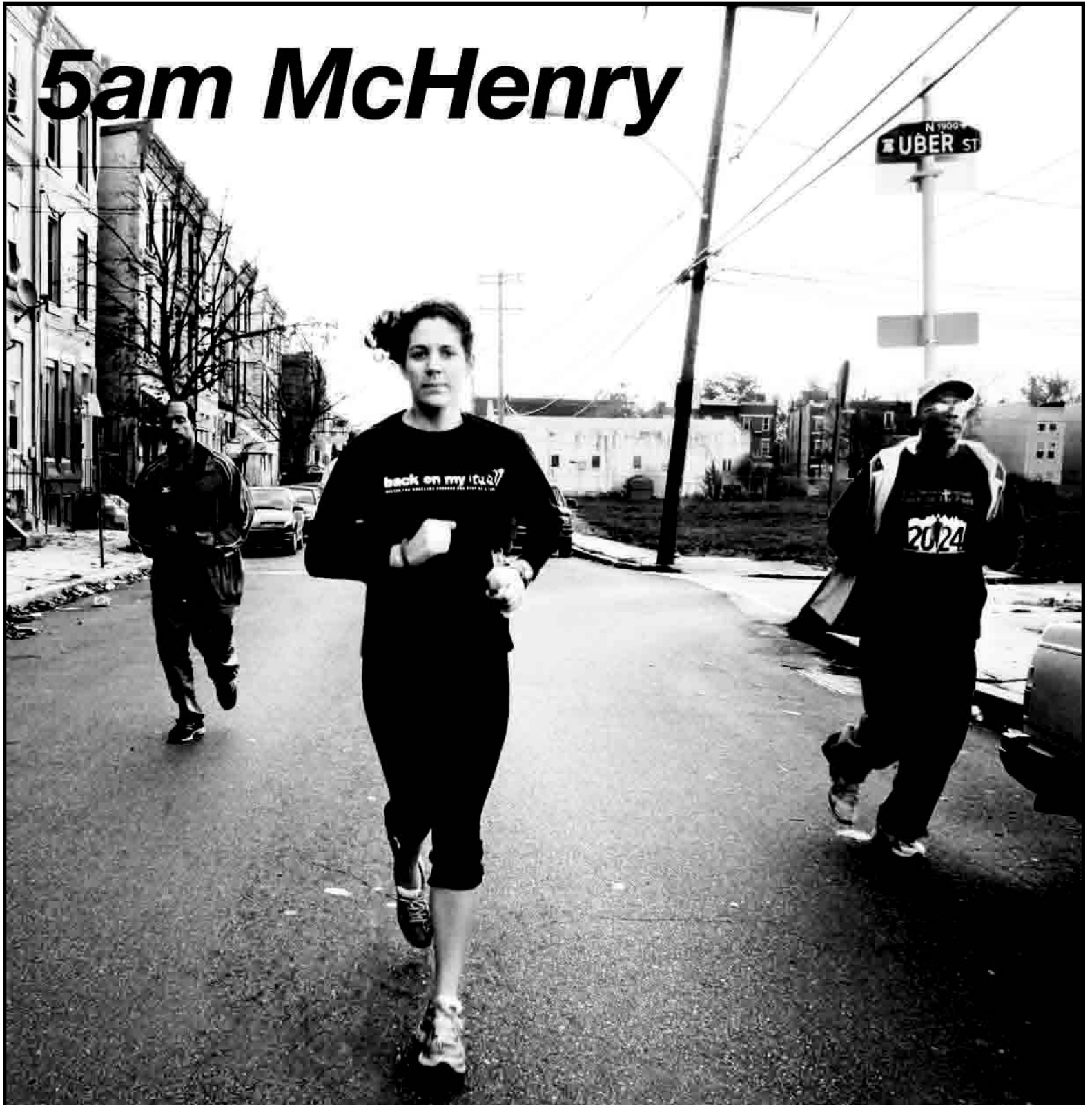
and looks. Several asked for autographs, photos or hugs — or a combination of all three — and he complied every time. He was called "my favorite basketball player" by one woman and told by another how much the last-place Wizards need him back.

PETA approached Arenas about becoming a spokesman for the organization early in the season. It was coincidental that the organization released a photo of his tattooed bare chest with the slogan "Ink, Not Mink" the very week that he was initially suspended by

NBA commissioner David Stern.

"Nothing that allegedly happened had anything to do with how animals are treated on farms or the issues that we advocate for as an organization," said Dan Shannon, director of campaigns for PETA. "If he wants to speak out about the cruelty in the fur industry, we want him to do that."

Arenas said he's never owned a fur. Being welcomed by PETA is a welcome change: The Wizards have kept their distance and his shoe company, Adidas, has dropped him altogether.



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PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 

Start

continued from page 24

friendly environment," Bednarski said. "Let's hope that our athletes will be able to effectively run this emotional rollercoaster during the conference championships."

The Irish finished the regular season with the top-ranked men's and women's teams. Both sported an undefeated record, the first time this has occurred since 1991.

Although the Irish have passed every test so far, they are aware their work is not done, and a season that has been so satisfying could very easily turn sour with a couple of bad performances.

"[The] postseason is coming and we are now a different type of events," Bednarski said. "The regionals and final of the NCAA have different rules and different emotional pressure. I am sure that these events will decide how much we appreciate our regular season results."

A pair of Olympians — sophomore Gerek Meinhardt and senior Kelley Hurley — has led the Irish all season.

Meinhardt was a first team All-American as a freshman and finished second in the NCAAs last year. Hurley was the 2008 women's epee national champion. But Bednarski said the team's depth is a strength that will hopefully lead the Irish to a NCAA team title.

"Beyond [Meinhardt and Hurley] we have a big group of individuals who can win anytime and against anybody," Bednarski said. "They are prepared physically and mentally and they are one unit, one team that wants to win."

As they head into the conference championships, the already decorated team has grander aspirations and expects that it can do great things.

"In the sport of fencing, it is not the season but Conference rings and NCAA medals that give bigger satisfaction and last longer in a memory of athletes," Bednarski said.

Contact Luke Mansour at lmansour@nd.edu

Tennis

continued from page 24

biggest win of his career against Luke Ross O'Connor [of Wisconsin]," Bayliss said. "Sam's ability to finish at net a year ago cost him, came in a lot, and made a big difference. Put us on the board, home court advantage."

Havens also came away with an easy win, only dropping one game in a victory at No. 2 singles.

No. 19 Watt did not have such an easy time with his opponent at No. 1 singles. No. 109 Marek Czerwinski defeated Watt 7-5, 6-4.

Freshman Blas Moros was the next Irish player to fall, losing 6-

4, 6-3 at No. 6 singles.

Anderson lost again at No. 4 singles in a tough three-set match by a score of 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Anderson was coming off of a big win for the Irish as he beat a talented freshman on the Wisconsin team over the weekend to help lift the Irish to a victory.

No. 72 junior Dan Stahl fought to a three-set finish with No. 66 Souza, as he jumped out to an early lead with a 6-2 victory in the second set and then dropped the second set 6-4, and was tied 6-6.

The Irish have 10 days off before they travel south to take on South Florida and Florida State over Spring Break.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgraba01@saintmarys.edu

Border

continued from page 24

Overall, Kubinski said he is confident he will see a positive performance from his team heading into the weekend tournament, especially from seniors Doug Fortner and Josh Sandman.

"I'm really looking for our

seniors to show what kind of games they have," Kubinski said. "Each has worked very hard the last couple weeks in preparation, so I think we'll see good things."

The Irish will take to the course starting Friday in Laredo, Texas, with the time to be announced.

Contact Luke Mansour at lmansour@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Belles prepare for trip to Orlando to train

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

After only three matches, the Belles will take their annual spring trip to Orlando, Fla., March 6-13. The trip will allow the team to work on several aspects of their game that have been a focus during training.

"We have been working really hard to improve our doubles and also improve our conditioning going into the trip," Belles coach Dale Campbell said.

The weeklong trip will test the Belles' (2-1) mettle and training. Over six days, the Belles will face Ursinus, Carthage, Wesleyan, Wartburg, St. Francis and

Wheaton.

"We will be playing six matches in six days which should challenge us physically," Campbell said.

Although the season is young, Campbell said he has already noticed some improvements in his players, such as maturity on the court, better concentration and adjusting games in the middle of matches.

Despite the progress made in the short period of time, Campbell said more improvements must be made as the team looks to continually advance its game heading into MIAA conference play.

"We still need to get stronger to face the top teams in our conference," Campbell said. "Our doubles has to get more aggressive and have a stronger presence, as well as make our opponents react to us."

The trip will give the Belles an opportunity to get some much-needed experience against non-conference competition similar to that which they will face in league play.

Nonetheless, the spring trip is invaluable in preparing the team for tougher stretches ahead.

In terms of expectations, Campbell said he just wants to see his players get better.

"My expectations are to improve and have the most effort possible," Campbell said. "The wins will come but we have to get better, improve our doubles teamwork and continue to play a higher level offensively in singles."

The trip offers the Belles a chance to work on their short-term goals.

"We want to improve our footwork, selection and placement of shots at all times, and continue to believe in our ability to play at a higher level," Campbell said. "We have the talent to be able to do that."

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu



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UConn

continued from page 24

The Irish, Brey said, are preparing as though they will not have Harangody, who missed the last four games because of a bone bruise in his knee. Brey said the team will evaluate the injury on a week-to-week basis rather than a day-to-day basis.

"A bone bruise takes time," Brey said. "Each guy's different and you have to be really, really cautious with it."

Brey said if Harangody could not play Wednesday, he could not see him playing Saturday on the road at Marquette and that his status would be re-evaluated next week in preparation for the Big East tournament.

In Harangody's absence, junior forward Carleton Scott has stepped up and performed. He scored 17 points and had nine rebounds in Notre Dame's 78-64 win over No. 19 Georgetown on the road in his third start.

"Certainly starting, I think, helps a guy get confident," Brey said. "I think he's getting very, very comfortable playing with older guys and getting into a rhythm."

Scott has also started shooting

the ball well, which Brey said he knew was coming.

"The man can shoot the ball," Brey said. "I've been waiting for him to shoot the way I think he can shoot."

Brey also said Scott was an underrated passer and had passed the ball well all season.

The play of sophomore guard Kemba Walker, Brey said, was part of what had the Huskies doing so well. Walker has led the team in scoring in four of the past five games, averages 14.8 points per game and scored 28 points in a 78-76 loss to Louisville Sunday.

For the Irish, junior forward Tim Abromaitis has continued to score. He led the team in scoring in three of the last four games, and in those games he averaged 23.3 points. He is also third in the Big East in 3-point percentage, making 47.3 of his 3s, and 14th in the nation.

Brey said slowing down the offense has helped the team limit possessions and find better shots.

"We either have transition or really patient now," he said. "There's not much in between."

Tip-off is at 7 p.m. in Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Run

continued from page 24

more improbably, Notre Dame marched into the Verizon Center and shocked Georgetown by 14 points three days later.

And in one stunning week, without their future NBA draft pick, the Irish firmly placed themselves back on the ubiquitous NCAA Tournament bubble. They've fought their way back in the conversation, but cementing that status starts with a win tonight.

Without their star player, the Irish have played an incredible and unselfish brand of basketball. Young players have stepped up to fill the void left by Harangody, and more experienced players like Tory Jackson and Ben

Hansbrough have stepped up their scoring and leadership.

The future without Harangody also suddenly looks brighter, as returning big men like Tyrone Nash, Carleton Scott, Jack Cooley and Mike Broghammer have stepped up for big minutes. Scott had the best game of his career against the Hoyas on Saturday, stealing offensive rebounds from Georgetown players and throwing down big dunks.

Cooley, who probably has been asked for autographs by people who might think he actually is Harangody, has resembled the big man not just with his appearance but with his play. Cooley played hard-nosed defense on Georgetown 7-footer Greg Monroe, scored four clutch points and grabbed three rebounds.

All of these players will have to continue to step up the final two

games of the regular season and for the Big East tournament. The group has opened up the offense and buckled down defensively against top opponents, but if they drop games to the Huskies and Marquette next week, they'll be competing for a consolation prize instead of a championship.

The game tonight is close to an elimination game for both teams. Connecticut is more experienced, more talented and more athletic, yet if the Irish continue to play with the intensity and heart of the past two games, they should pull it out. Either way, one team tonight will leave Purcell Pavilion one step closer to the NCAA Tournament, and the other one step closer to hosting round one of the NIT.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

NHL

Pens and Leafs complete trade

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Penguins made their second trade in as many days as they look to make another deep playoff run, picking up left wing Alexei Ponikarovsky from the Toronto Maple Leafs for forward Luca Caputi and defenseman Martin Skoula.

Penguins general manager Ray Shero was pleasantly surprised to add a productive wing with good size — Ponikarovsky is 6-foot-4 — without dealing any top-line play-

ers.

"I didn't think this was a deal we'd be able to do. If you'd have told me we could do it a few days ago, I'd have said no way," Shero said Tuesday night. "This gives us a chance to be a good team again. I was happy with our team. We didn't have to take anything off our team."

On Monday, the Penguins acquired defenseman Jordan Leopold from the Florida Panthers for a second-round draft pick. He made his Penguins debut during a 3-2 victory over Buffalo

on Tuesday.

Ponikarovsky has 19 goals and 41 points in 61 games and needs one more goal for his fourth 20-goal season. He has more goals than any wing currently on the Stanley Cup champion Penguins' roster; Bill Guerin, who plays on Sidney Crosby's line, has 17 goals.

In 477 career games, Ponikarovsky has 114 goals, 143 assists, 257 points and a plus-56 rating. He had 23 goals last season. Ponikarovsky was held out of the Leaf's 5-1 loss to Carolina in Tuesday night before the trade.

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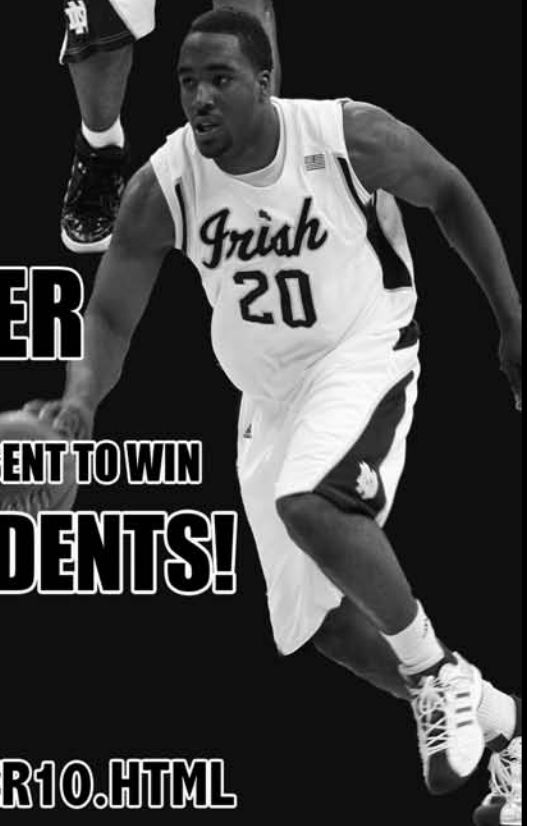
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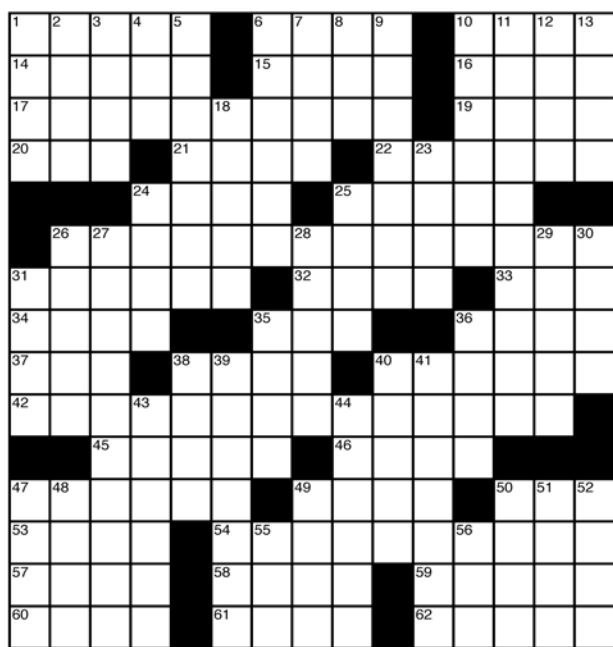


CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Intimate inn, familiarly
 - 6 Actor David of "Rhoda"
 - 10 Common rhyme scheme
 - 14 Cara of "Fame" fame
 - 15 "Damn Yankees" woman who gets what she wants
 - 16 Mug spray?
 - 17 What helps pay the governor's salary in Austin?
 - 19 Suffix with convert
 - 20 Mother's urging at the dinner table
 - 21 Like some sums
 - 22 Pay
 - 24 "It's a ___"
 - 25 Hudson and LaSalle, once
 - 26 Try to telephone some snowbirds?
 - 31 Monopoly purchases
 - 32 Modern addresses, for short
 - 33 Broadway play about Capote
 - 34 Major in astronomy?
 - 35 Calendario span
 - 36 "Put ___ writing"
 - 37 Back of a soccer goal
 - 38 Con
 - 40 Whimsical roll-call response
 - 42 Be familiar with a city near White Plains?
 - 45 Be grandiloquent
 - 46 Journalist Paula
 - 47 Deli offering
 - 49 Explore Yosemite, perhaps
 - 50 Pickle
 - 53 It may be sprung
 - 54 Some film work Down East?
 - 57 Rebuke from Caesar
 - 58 Vogue competitor
 - 59 Unthinking servant
 - 60 Have a bawl
 - 61 Hollywood constructions
 - 62 Journeys

- Down**
- 1 Fall for something
 - 2 Figure in geometry
 - 3 On deck
 - 4 Kind of sample
 - 5 "Hush!"
 - 6 "My pleasure!"
 - 7 Classic theater name
 - 8 Corrida cheer
 - 9 Knows people, say
 - 10 Key of Beethoven's "Für Elise"
 - 11 Occasional role for a 30-Down, maybe
 - 12 Rights grp.
 - 13 Audible warning on the road
 - 18 Spats
 - 23 Platte River people
 - 24 Earth goddess
 - 25 Retro hairstyle
 - 26 Quiz show scandal figure Charles Van ___
 - 27 "You had your chance"



Puzzle by Alan Arbesfeld

- 28 Unpleasant encounter
- 29 Have trouble passing the bar?
- 30 Family member
- 31 Playgirl calendar type
- 35 Perfectly, after "to"
- 36 Airs
- 38 Composer Khachaturian
- 39 Daily since 1851, briefly
- 40 "Are you ___?"
- 41 From memory
- 43 Finish
- 44 Online reads
- 47 Worry (over)
- 48 "Laugh-In" comedian Johnson
- 49 Sword handle
- 50 Agree
- 51 Wild
- 52 Team Gil Hodges both played for and managed
- 55 Bass, for one
- 56 Neither's partner

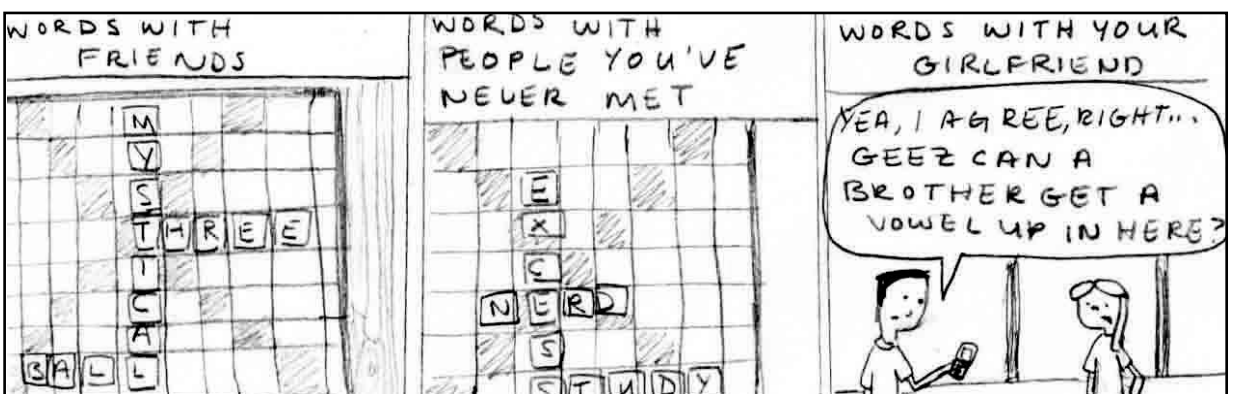
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bryce Dallas Howard, 29; Chris Martin, 33; Jon Bon Jovi, 48; Lou Reed, 68

Happy Birthday: Don't let anyone bully you into something you don't want to do. You will have a change of heart that can disrupt your home and personal life. Before jumping from one lifestyle to another, consider the consequences. This is not the year to put up with anyone meddling in your affairs. Keep things out in the open. Your numbers are 7, 10, 14, 23, 26, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Ask questions if you are confused about what's expected of you. Your contribution will determine how much you will get back and how far you can advance. Don't divulge secret information. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get in touch with people you have worked with or know from a long time ago and you will get the information, help or suggestions you need to move forward. Taking action and making things happen will ease your stress. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Before you share your good ideas, make sure you aren't giving away too much information. Someone you least expect will try to take credit for something that you say or do. This is not the best time for love or personal gains. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Change is upon you and can bring about some interesting new contacts and a chance to take part in something that will enhance you mentally, physically or financially. Use your imagination and you will entice others to help you. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Plan a trip or sign up for a course that will change your outlook, lifestyle or routine. A money deal will attract you but do your homework before you get involved. Someone is likely to paint an inaccurate picture. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You need to enjoy the moment and forget about any of life's trials and tribulations. Socializing or just spending more time with the person you love most will help to ease your stress. A partnership will take a favorable turn. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't try to cover anything up. The more upfront you are, the sooner you can get on with personal and professional business. A creative outlet will inspire and motivate you in other areas of your life. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take control. Stick to your bottom line. Don't go over budget. Keep things simple and manageable and you will impress onlookers and entice others to join or help you out. Love and romance are in the stars. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Friends, neighbors or relatives will be difficult to handle. Make sure you have lived up to your promises. Inconsistent behavior will hurt your reputation and give others the chance to take over. Don't let a personal problem affect your productivity at work. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take an old idea and turn it into something new. Reaching out to people from your past will help you understand situations that you've been questioning for some time. Clear up unfinished business before starting something new. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can put your money to better use if you invest in a project or educational pursuit. Get involved in a cause you believe in and you will have the opportunity to form an alliance with someone who will complement what you have to offer. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of your responsibilities and you will avoid getting into trouble with friends and family. You can improve your environment once you recognize what you need in your life to feel greater satisfaction. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are not afraid to challenge or push your way to the top. You know how to get things done and are a strong and forceful leader.

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

JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

NADAP
ORND
OASURE
TOSFRY



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

A: A "PROXY" (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: PROXY GRIPE TYRANT MOHAIR
Answer: Although the conceited salesman never traveled, he was always on — AN EGO TRIP

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Race to the finish

Notre Dame now the hot team in rematch

By **BILL BRINK**
Sports Writer

Connecticut has had an up-and-down season, but Notre Dame has yet to meet the Huskies when they're down.

The first time the teams met, the Huskies had won five of six games, and beat the Irish 82-70. Later, they lost five of six.

But now, Connecticut (17-12, 7-9 Big East) has won three of four, and comes to town to face a hot Notre Dame (19-10, 8-8) squad on Senior Night.

"We're playing the UConn that started the year now," Irish coach Mike Brey said.

The Irish recently beat two top-15 opponents without senior forward Luke Harangody and are making a push to be in consideration for the NCAA Tournament.

"The power of the Big East always presents itself with playing our way in," Brey said.

see UCONN/page 22



Junior forward Tyrone Nash, center, posts up against a Pittsburgh defender in Notre Dame's 68-53 win on Feb. 24. The Irish play for their tournament lives tonight against Connecticut.

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Team experiencing a rebirth without star Harangody

This senior class has won more Big East games than any in Notre Dame history, but tonight's showdown with Connecticut might be the biggest of their careers.

A week ago, this Irish team looked dead. Luke Harangody, their All-American, All-Everything forward and leader, was out far longer than anyone expected with a bone bruise. While the Irish showed their resiliency and mettle in a double-overtime loss at Louisville, the bad defeats to Rutgers, St. John's and Loyola Marymount looked to doom Mike Brey's squad to a second straight NIT appearance.

Then everything clicked. The Irish made every open shot and locked down Pittsburgh's offense in a blowout at Purcell Pavilion. Even



Michael Bryan

Sports Writer

see RUN/page 22

MEN'S GOLF

Team looking for strong showing at Border Olympics

By **LUKE MANSOUR**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame hopes to get the second half of its season off to a good start at the Border Olympics tournament this weekend in Laredo, Texas.

The Irish will look to improve upon their 11th-place finish at the Battle of the Beach two weeks ago in their first tournament of 2010.

The squad has been success-

ful at the tournament over the last couple of seasons. In 2009, the Irish scored a fifth-place finish, and in 2007, they held the lead halfway through before faltering in the tournament's second half. Irish coach Jim Kubinski said he expects the team to be able to build off its recent successes in Texas.

"The Border Olympics has been a good event for us in the past, and I think the course sets up well for us," Kubinski said. "Our expectation is to give our-

selves an opportunity to win come Saturday afternoon."

As in most tournaments, Kubinski said he is focusing on limiting mistakes in the tournament.

"The [Border Olympics] is a course where if you drive the ball well, you'll have a number of birdie chances," Kubinski said. "If we can limit our mistakes to bogey at worst, we'll have a chance to win. Like in any event, if we putt well, we'll place well."

The Irish have enjoyed a successful season so far, recording their first tournament win since 2006 and receiving several contributions from underclassmen, including sophomores Max Scodro and Chris Walker. Scodro notched a 22nd-place finish on the individual leaderboard at the Battle of the Beach. Walker lowered his score each day in the tournament and finished in 58th place.

"I've come to expect [Max and Chris] to be there each week,"

Kubinski said.

But the Irish will also need to count on solid contributions this weekend from the seniors, many whom have battled through up and down seasons.

"We've had some tough weeks this season but if we can get our seniors to play to their potential, I think we're a team capable of competing favorably against the nation's best," Kubinski said.

see BORDER/page 21

FENCING

New challenges await squad

By **LUKE MANSOUR**
Sports Writer

Undefeated Notre Dame has enjoyed the same kind of regular-season dominance it has in recent years, but the Irish know the most important challenges still lie ahead.

The Irish (33-0) will face the first of these challenges Saturday when they host the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships at the Purcell Pavilion.

Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said he knows his team has a target on its back as it heads into postseason play on its home turf.

"It is sometimes easier to fence on the road and easier to organize a group when you stay out of the

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Senior Kelley Hurley fences during a tournament earlier this year. The Irish have finished the regular season 33-0.

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

MEN'S TENNIS

Individuals shine in Irish loss to Illinois

By **KATE GRABAREK**
Sports Writer

The No. 38 Irish fell to No. 12 Illinois yesterday in Champaign despite a strong showing.

The Irish maintained their changes in the doubles lineup and were able to pull out a win at No. 1 doubles as sophomore Casey Watt and junior Stephen Havens defeated the No. 48 team by a score of 8-4.

"We switched some of our doubles teams," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Casey [Watt] was playing with [junior] Tyler [Davis], but now he is playing with Stephen. Nothing is set yet, but it was good to see them pull out a win over

Wisconsin over the weekend."

The other doubles teams didn't have as positive of results as the Irish dropped the doubles point to start off the match.

Sophomore Niall Fitzgerald and Davis dropped their match at No. 2 doubles to No. 38 Abe Souza and Connor Roth by a score of 8-6.

Juniors David Anderson and Matt Johnson lost their match 8-1 at No. 3 doubles.

The Irish were able to come away with two wins in singles starting off with sophomore Sam Keeton, who pulled off a 6-2, 6-1 win at No. 5 singles to get the Irish started.

"Sam Keeton pulled out the

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