

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 44 : ISSUE 117

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2010

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Students anticipate pep rally venue

Student government leaders urge University to consider alternate locations for next year

By SAM STRYKER
News Writer

After multiple pep rallies took place on Irish Green last year, some students say the door remains open for a change of venue.

Student body president-elect Catherine Soler and vice president-elect Andrew Bell said they are operating on behalf of the student body to produce the best football weekend experience possible.

"We're working very hard to collaborate with the Athletic Department, the University and Game Day Operations to ensure a pep rally experience that is exciting for students and energizing for campus this fall," Soler said.

Soler said the venues for pep rallies next year have yet to be determined.

"As soon as we have solid plans, we'll let you know," she said.

Director of Game Day Operations Mike Seamon said in an e-mail to The Observer that plans for next year's pep rallies have not been finalized. He said the Athletic Department and Football Program will begin to engage in discussions concerning venue choice with Soler and Bell soon.

Student body president Grant Schmidt said he feels students generally do not support Irish Green as a location for pep rallies.

"Last year it was evident that students were not going to attend the pep rallies at Irish Green," he said.

Schmidt said by not having strong student attendance, the integrity of the pep rally is being compromised.

"We're really losing a lot of tra-



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

A student crowd surfs in the student section at the USC pep rally last fall. The pep rally was held on Irish Green. The location for next year's pep rallies is not finalized.

dition," he said. "It's one of our key football traditions that is being lost."

Schmidt said while students should be the focal attendees of the pep rallies, they are not demanding total control of the events.

"There's several groups you have to cater to, but the number one group should be student body," he said. "We're not saying it has to be student only, but it needs to get everyone fired up. It can't be commercialized. It needs to be authentic."

Some students echoed Schmidt's sentiments. Freshman Patty Walsh said Irish Green was not a conducive environment for

student excitement.

"I thought the pep rallies on Irish Green were disappointing because the student body makes the atmosphere strong," she said. "The venue should be focused towards the students."

Sophomore Ellen Kozelka said the distance of the venue discouraged the more casual football fan from attending.

"It's hard enough to motivate myself to get to pep rallies in general, let alone drag myself all the way to Irish Green. I'd compromise if they were all on South Quad," she said.

Freshman Madison Hagen said the commercial atmosphere of the venue also detracted from the

true purpose of the event.

"It was like a carnival with all the tents, food and families," she said. "It felt more like social entertainment than a tool to invigorate the student body."

Junior Ian Heraty said he felt the pep rallies on Irish Green lacked one of their most crucial elements — noise.

"Pep rallies aren't as loud on Irish Green," he said.

In order to help enact what seems to be the desire of the majority of students in terms of pep rally venue, Soler and Bell said they are planning to involve as many areas of student govern-

see PEP RALLY/page 4

Ruof to be next Chief of Staff

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

When the time came for student body president-elect Catherine Soler to select the chief of staff for her term, she said she had no difficulty making her decision.

Soler named junior Nick Ruof, currently chair of the Residence Life committee in Student Senate, as



Ruof

her chief of staff, the No. 3 position in student government. Soler and student body vice president-elect Andrew Bell take office April 1.

"Picking Nick was easy," Soler said. "He helped us a lot with our campaign, and he was always encouraging, enthusiastic and there for us through all the long nights."

Soler also said it was important to choose an experienced member of student government who has goals that are similar to those of Soler and Bell.

In this respect, she said, Ruof was perfect for the job.

"The chief of staff must be a selfless person because they put just as much work in as the president and vice president without the recognition," Soler said. "He really

see RUOF/page 4

Hundreds to go hungry for Haiti

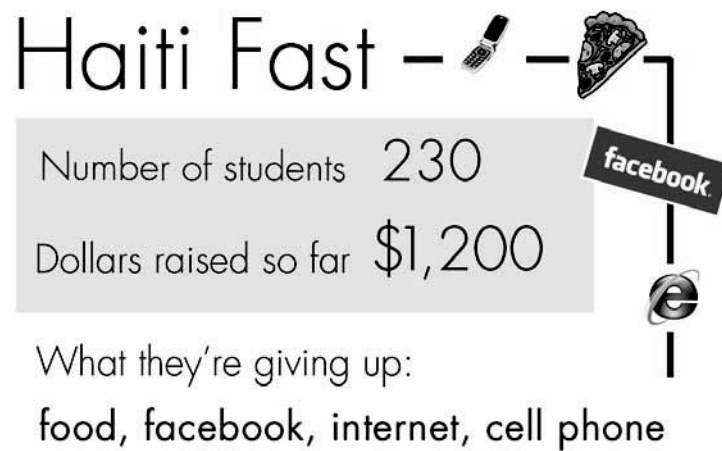
Students fast to raise money, awareness for disaster-struck country

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

To redraw the Notre Dame community's attention to Haiti's continuing struggles in light of the January 7.0-magnitude earthquake, more than 200 students will participate in a campus-wide fast starting tonight.

"The earthquake happened in January ... We want students to keep up awareness in general, to not forget it. Haitian people need our

see FAST/page 4



JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

Male student reports recent sexual assault

Observer Staff Report

A male student reported a sexual assault that occurred on South Quad at about 1 a.m. Sunday morning, Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) said in an e-mail to the student body Monday.

The student said he was walking near the flag pole on South Quad when the suspect rode toward him on a bicycle. The suspect dismounted the bike, struck the victim and then touched the victim's

genitals, according to the report.

The student said the suspect did not speak to him. The victim was able to escape and leave the area.

The suspect was described as a white male and was about 6-foot-1 or 6-foot-2. He was wearing a red, hooded-sweatshirt with the hood pulled over his head.

Anyone with information about this matter is asked to contact NDSP investigations at 574-631-5555.

INSIDE COLUMN

Dive in and go for it

Recently I've been stressing about what I'm going to do over the summer because, in all reality, I have absolutely no clue. I've applied for several internships but I won't hear back from any until May (if I hear back at all), and if I get something I'd still have to apply (and receive) funding, and if all goes wrong I can't even 'just go home' because I live in Brazil, and tickets can be quite pricey if not bought far in advance. And on top of internship applications, applications for internship funding, the hundreds of thousands of research papers I have to write for each one of my classes, readings, exams and work — I'm also out of flex points. Why, oh why, must this all be so difficult?

Tatiana Spragins

Scene Writer

Yes, I know this isn't new to anyone here at Notre Dame and I'm very grateful my problems are good problems. And just when it seems like I'm just whining for no reason my dad e-mails me and asks me if I've done my taxes yet. What? Taxes?! What taxes?! I've never had to do taxes before! And just like that, I'm being just rushed into real life.

I'm only a sophomore, so I've heard there's still plenty of time for me to figure out my life. I don't need to worry about all these things quite yet and thus, my panic attack is unfounded. Except it's not the lack of time I'm worried about, or even that I don't know where I'll be two months from now, but it's that I don't know what I'm going to do next. And just like that, it dawned on me. I'll never know what's coming next. I've been awakened to something that I'll always have to deal with, which is, what do I do now?

You'll always encounter new unfamiliar situations to deal with and, at least what it seems to me is that, you probably won't ever know what to do but you just have to go for it anyway. That's part of the fun. All of a sudden everything in my life got more serious and my financial issues are more "how will I budget my life in a Manhattan for three months" and less "how much is this really cute dress that I totally don't need really worth?" And I realized that that's the way it works. Things are getting more serious, and it's not just papers and grades I have to worry about; it's jobs, and rent, and taxes. But there's good in that because it means I'm adjusting, and the fact that I'm part scared, part excited, means I'm ready for it.

I guess what I'm saying is I just have to dive in and go for it. Living and learning. Hopefully I'll get an internship, and if I don't hopefully I'll still afford to go home. And with that, may the good times roll...

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Tatiana Spragins at tspragin@nd.edu

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHO SHOULD PERFORM AT THE SUB CONCERT?



Christina Wheaton

sophomore Walsh

"Lady Gaga, obviously."



Vince Lau

sophomore Knott

"Dashboard Confessional."



Hui Hung

senior off campus

"Beyoncé. Hands down."



Adam Woodruff

senior off campus

"The Fleet Foxes."



Mariel Lee

sophomore Lyons

"Justin Bieber."

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



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Classical pianist Seamus De Barra lectures about Irish composer Aloys Fleischmann at a lecture-recital hosted by the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies Monday.

OFFBEAT

Police: Drunk man tries to revive dead opossum

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — Police say they charged a Pennsylvania man with public drunkenness after he was seen trying to resuscitate a long-dead opossum along a highway. State police Trooper Jamie Levier says several witnesses saw 55-year-old Donald Wolfe, of Brookville, near the animal Thursday along Route 36 in Oliver Township, about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

The trooper says one person saw Wolfe kneeling before the animal and

gesturing as though he were conducting a seance. He says another saw Wolfe attempting to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Levier says the animal already had been dead a while.

Man cites boredom after arrest on streaking charge

KINGSPORT, Tenn. — A man who has been charged with making a naked dash through a Tennessee supermarket told police he was "bored and didn't have anything else to do."

The Kingsport Times-

News reports that a man entered an IGA store Friday night, wearing nothing but a face mask, and ran around the aisles.

A police report says officers found the suspect in the bathroom of a nearby Hardee's restaurant. Employees say he entered the fast food outlet wearing nothing but an orange hooded sweat shirt and asked if anyone could lend him clothes. An employee gave him a pair of athletic shorts.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

An exhibition titled "All Art is Propaganda" will be presented today from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The exhibit will be held in Hesburgh Library's Special Collection Room 102. Admission is free.

An exhibit titled "Caroline Chiu: Polaroids as Chinese Ink Painting" will be held today from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The event will be held in the Milly and Fritz Kaeser Mestrovic Studio Gallery in the Snite Museum of Art.

Daily Mass will be held at 11:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. today in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The Creative Writing Program will host a conference titled "The Open Light: A Celebration of Notre Dame Poets," beginning today at 3 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m. All readings will take place in McKenna Hall, Seminar Rooms 100-104.

The Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering will sponsor a seminar titled "Imaging Microflows Using Molecular Tagging Diagnostics," beginning today at 3:30 p.m. The seminar will be presented in 138 DeBartolo Hall.

Campus Ministry will present a campus-wide Stations of the Cross today at 7 p.m. The procession starts from the Grotto. There will be an opportunity for individual confession following Stations in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 9 p.m.

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

CORRECTIONS

In the March 29 edition of the Observer, the Observer stated that "Will Hudgins gave up a two-run homer in the eighth inning." It should have read "Will Hudgins gave up a solo home run in the eighth inning." The Observer regrets this error.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 61 LOW 42	HIGH 55 LOW 42	HIGH 75 LOW 47	HIGH 72 LOW 48	HIGH 70 LOW 50	HIGH 69 LOW 50

Atlanta 67 / 40 Boston 51 / 42 Chicago 61 / 48 Denver 72 / 50 Houston 77 / 54 Los Angeles 66 / 51 Minneapolis 73 / 54 New York 51 / 41 Philadelphia 51 / 40 Phoenix 87 / 62 Seattle 51 / 40 St. Louis 69 / 52 Tampa 70 / 50 Washington 51 / 41

College's professor named Fulbright scholar

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Some of us receive new clothes around Christmas time. But visiting assistant mathematics professor Steven Broad received a free trip to research in Brazil.



Broad

Broad was chosen as a Fulbright scholar, which will allow him to travel to Brazil in the summer of 2010 to further his current research in differential geometry.

"Interestingly enough, I found out I received the grant the day we left for the Christmas holiday," Broad said. "Right before we were leaving the house, [my wife] went to check the mail and there was a letter from Fulbright. It was paper thin, and that's supposed to be bad news."

But when his wife opened it, she had good news to share with him.

Broad's research is in differential geometry.

He said the Fulbright is an affordable way to complete his research.

"I always sort of knew about the Fulbright," Broad said. "I have a collaborator who works and lives and Brazil and my dissertation advisor is from there originally. We had to figure out how I could go to Brazil for some extended period of time without having to pay for it."

As an undergraduate, Broad studied mathematics and physics, and before he got a Ph.D., he wanted to be sure of what he wanted to do. He said he worked as a

software engineer in order to give himself time to decide what field he wanted to pursue.

"I was always thinking about how I was going to get back," Broad said.

After taking courses in analysis and complex analysis, Broad said he found something that interested him.

"People think of [mathematicians] as sort of insensitive to beauty and in fact really most of us are all about it," Broad said. "The reason I study things in mathematics is because to some extent, they are beautiful."

Broad taught at Notre Dame from 2006-09 before coming to Saint Mary's in the fall of 2009.

"This is an extraordinary award and such an honor for Professor Broad and for the department. Having a faculty member of this stature in the math department is evidence of the academic strength of Saint Mary's College," Joanne Snow, professor and chair of the mathematics department, said in a press release.

"Professor Broad is an asset to the College due to his scholarly excellence as well his commitment to the mission of Saint Mary's College, which includes helping women to develop their talents and prepare them to make a difference in the world," Snow said.

After completing his time in Brazil, Broad will bring the information back to the United States and share what he has learned with the campus community.

"Here at Saint Mary's, we care very much about the power and beauty of mathematics," Broad said.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

OIT warns of anti-virus scam

Anti-Virus Scam

What to look for: pop up with name like 'anti-virus 2010'

What to do: press 'Control + Alt + Delete' and kill the browser

What NOT to do: click on the pop up

JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

By CAITLYN KALSCHUR
News Writer

Computer users beware — the Office of Information Technologies (OIT) has launched a campaign to warn students against fake anti-virus scams that are causing problems on computers across campus.

"Fake anti-virus attacks are when a pop-up from an unknown anti-virus program occurs and tells the user that it has discovered malware and needs to clear your computer of a potential virus," David Seidl, Information Security Program manager, said.

But the trick is that the anti-virus is actually a virus itself that aims at getting credit card information from unsuspecting users, he said.

"What happens is that the user clicks on the pop-up and allows the virus to install itself on their computer," Seidl said. "Once the virus is installed, it says it found malware on your computer and that you must pay a certain amount of money to get rid of it. Then, it takes your credit card information."

"These programs prey on a user's fear they're infected."

Seidl said OIT launched the program to benefit students and faculty.

"The first thing is to be aware,"

Seidl said. "The pop-up will look like it's from your anti-virus software, but it's not. It will often have a name like, 'Anti-virus 2010' or something generic."

Once someone identifies the potential attack is to hit 'control+alt+delete' and then kill their browser," he said. "The entire box is a clickable window, so if the user hits anywhere in the pop-up, the program will open and begin installing."

Seidl said students can also decrease their chances of being attacked by having a safe anti-virus program, making sure their current browser and operating systems are up-to-date and practicing safe browsing habits.

"OIT provides a free anti-virus program, available on the Web site," Seidl said. "We have done technical protections, but the best protection is to get users not to click on the fake anti-virus pop-ups."

Seidl said OIT launched the campaign in response to an increase in Help Desk calls regarding viruses.

"It has definitely been showing up more, and Help Desk calls have gone up recently," Seidl said. "Every year for the past

three years, new versions of this have come out. As we see new versions and increased infections, we want to be sure people deal with it."

Seidl said his top suggestion for computer safety is to be aware of the threats that exist.

"Knowing the name of your anti-virus software and the risk of the sites you visit is important," he said.

He also suggested updating the computer regularly and maintaining confidentiality.

"Do all updates," Seidl said. "Most people I know click 'ignore' when the updating windows come up, but more and more attacks are happening on outdated browsers."

"Last, never provide personal information where you shouldn't. If you don't provide that information, they can't get it. For example, the Help Desk would never ask for your password, and no legitimate site should ask for a password unless you're logging in."

Seidl encouraged students to visit secure.nd.edu/fakeav for more information on fake anti-virus scams and he advised any students with questions or concerns to go to the OIT Web site or the OIT Help Desk.

Contact Caitlyn Kalschur at ckalsche@nd.edu

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

Members discuss discipline, rectors' role

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

Campus Life Council (CLC) passed a recommendation to keep discipline at the lowest administrative level, particularly at the level of the rector, whenever possible, at its meeting Monday.

Student body president Grant Schmidt said the overall message of the recommendation is "greater communication and greater consultation with the rectors."

The Council drafted this recommendation in order to prevent a student from acquiring an unnecessary disciplinary record that could hurt his or her applications to post-graduate school. Under this policy, a rector could handle a first-time alcohol violation or similar offense without creating a record for the student in the Office of Residence Life and Housing (ORLH).

The Council recommended "the Office of Student Affairs and ORLH consult the rectors and provide greater attentiveness to the

input of rectors when making disciplinary decisions," the resolution said.

"One of the big words we wanted to focus on was 'consult,'" Senate representative Elise Jordan said.

This distinction includes the rectors in the disciplinary process, but also leaves ORLH with flexibility and the power to have the final say, said Jordan.

CLC members were concerned in particular with first-time alcohol offenses that occur off-campus or in an area outside a residence hall, such as the Notre Dame Stadium.

"I think that [a rector] should be able to address a first-time offense even if it happens off-campus," Schmidt said.

The Council plans to recommend that ORLH consult the student's rector before opening up a disciplinary record when first-time alcohol violations occur off-campus or outside a residence hall.

"The whole idea of an off-campus violation is something that the

rectors do not always want control over, but sometimes would like to handle themselves," student body vice president Cynthia Weber said.

Judicial Council President Ian Scvciar said the conversation between a rector and a student is "a very good pastoral moment," which should be emphasized.

At previous meetings, CLC members objected to creating a policy that would be too subjective. The rectors on the Council voiced concerns with the recommendation again Monday.

"This policy assumes that the rector stays and remains the rector," Keough Hall rector Father Pete McCormick said.

If a new rector was placed in a dorm, the history between the previous rector and the members of that dorm could be lost, he said.

"It becomes very difficult and very subjective when every single issue is at the lowest administrative level," Schmidt said.

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu

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Recycle The Observer.

Ruof

continued from page 1

has a great vision of what student government should be, so we're very happy about his passion for helping us out and being involved."

Ruof, a chemical engineering major from Carroll Hall, served as Carroll's senator his sophomore and junior years "to meet people and effect change on campus," he said.

Soler said Ruof will also bring a unique perspective to a student government that will be led by two juniors next year.

"The fact that Nick will be a senior living off campus next year is really important for connecting with other off-campus seniors,"

Soler said. "It really adds another dimension to our leadership."

Ruof similarly emphasized his interest in improving relations between student government, the University and students living off campus.

"I'll be working with the Northeast Neighborhood Council because I want to be a part of the neighborhood," Ruof said. "It's important for off-campus students to have someone who is a member of student government living off campus who has an ear with

the administration."

In addition to serving as the third-highest ranking member of student government and as chief adviser to Soler and Bell, he will also oversee all 10 student government committees and the newly revamped freshman leadership program, First Undergraduate Experience in Leadership (FUEL), which aims to get more freshmen involved in student government.

Ruof said he will also take on special interests and plans to generate new ideas for improving campus life, such

"The fact that Nick will be a senior living off campus next year is really important for connecting with other off-campus seniors."

Catherine Soler
student body
president-elect

as installing lights on the McGlinn Fields and selling dorm apparel in the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore.

"We are also focusing on the Multicultural Affairs Committee to increase awareness of diversity and change

its perceptions on campus," Ruof said. "[Outgoing committee chair] Nika Giger has done a great job, so we want to continue her good work next year."

Ruof's varied goals, experience and seniority have Soler and Bell looking forward to a successful term next year.

"We're extremely confident in his abilities to carry out our platform," Soler said. "We're really excited because he's done a great job so far."

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

Fast

continued from page 1

help," Noelle Hilmer, the event's organizer, said. "It's easy to give a donation and forget about it. We want the students to fast in solidarity with our Haitian brothers and sisters."

The fast will start at 6 p.m. tonight with a prayer service in Ryan Hall, and it will end with a Mass in Dillon Hall Wednesday at 6 p.m., Hilmer said.

"Right now, we have about 230 students signed up," she said.

Fast participant Genie Alfonzo, a junior, said the fast is an excellent way for students to more closely relate to a disaster — one that most of the Notre Dame community is removed from, geographically and otherwise.

"It lets us reflect and think about, for a day, how the earthquake has affected people's lives," Alfonzo said. "It's a great way to reflect on how privileged we are here at Notre Dame, and the money that we raise can really make a difference in the lives of

these people."

Hilmer said some students will be abstaining from other activities.

"I'd say the majority [of students] are abstaining from food but there are a few ... abstaining from other things," she said. "Facebook, Internet, their phone, things like that."

In addition to individual participants' collections, an online donation site has been established.

"We're collecting money Tuesday and Wednesday, and we'll be collecting through April. We know our shopND link has already gotten about \$1,200," Hilmer said.

Students who wish to sign up can go to www.fast4HaitiND.com, where they can also donate money, she said.

The fast is supported by several campus organizations. The main sponsor, ND-8, is a student club that works against poverty. The Progressive Student Alliance, Human Rights ND and the Center for Social Concerns also are supporting the fast, Hilmer said.

Contact John Cameron jcameron2@nd.edu

Pep rally

continued from page 1

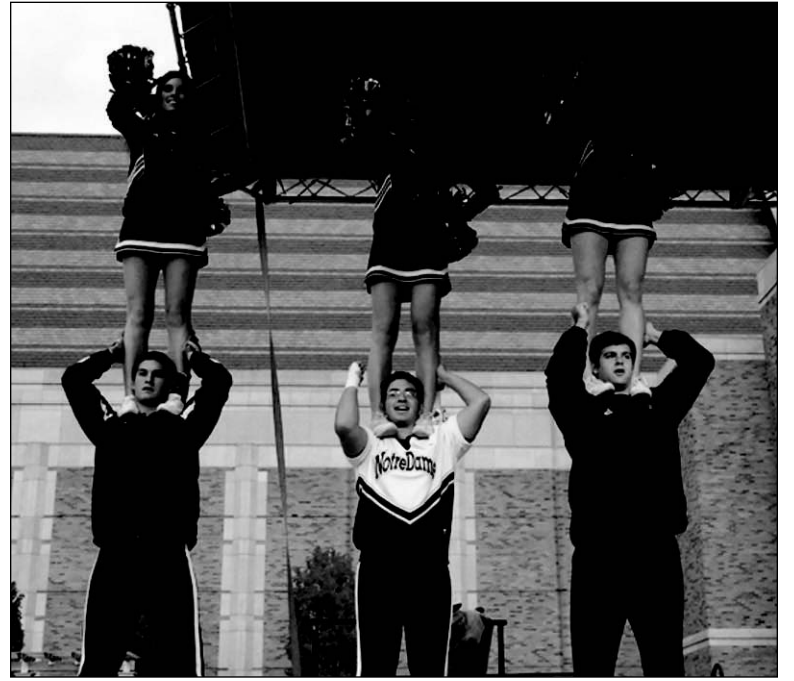
ment as possible.

"This is going to be an effort not just of our branch of student government, but also Hall President's Council which has traditionally planned pep rallies," Soler said.

Bell also said no matter what happens, the duo hopes to host an event similar to the student-only pep rally that took place before the Michigan away game last year.

"One of our main goals is to host a student-only sendoff pep rally," he said. "We really feel this environment is exciting for students and players alike, and we hope to experience it again."

Contact Sam Stryker at sstryke1@nd.edu



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer
Cheerleaders perform at the USC pep rally last fall, which took place on Irish Green.

AFGHANISTAN

Obama seeks balance with Karzai

Associated Press

KABUL — President Barack Obama's tone in Kabul was all business as he hammered home his theme that the Afghans need to do more to fight corruption and reform government to defeat the Taliban.

The arm's-length approach was the administration's latest attempt to strike the right balance in dealing with President Hamid Karzai. Although the U.S. believes Karzai is a flawed leader, it cannot afford to alienate him because he is key to a successful American exit from the war.

Former President George W. Bush established a more personal relationship with Karzai. In contrast, Obama was critical of Karzai from the start, stating last December when he announced his troop surge that "the days of providing a blank check are over."

Neither strategy worked well. Bush's approach failed to push Karzai toward more effective governance. Obama's criticism angered Karzai, feeding fears that the Americans were trying to undermine him. The Afghan president's visits in recent weeks to neighboring China and Iran show that he has options for support from other countries.

Such blunt criticism from the U.S. now appears more measured.

A day after the visit, Karzai's spokesman, Waheed Omar, described the two leaders' private meeting as cordial and dismissed reports that Obama flew to Kabul on Sunday to order a recalcitrant Karzai to get his government in line.

"Our relationship with the United States has gone

through ups and downs," Omar said Monday. "At this point in time, there are more ups than downs. We have certain views about certain issues and they have certain views about certain issues. Sometimes we agree and sometimes we don't."

The new tone is only part of the administration's evolving approach toward Kabul. The U.S. is now seeking to deal with the broader Afghan leadership — not just Karzai.

It was the White House's insistence that Karzai's Cabinet later join the talks over a dinner of kebabs and rice that pointed to Obama's strategy of raising the clout of ministers favored by the West as a way to promote reform.

Ashraf Ghani, a respected former finance minister and World Bank official, described the meeting with the Cabinet and Afghan dignitaries as "very courteous and businesslike."

"A foundation for strategic cooperation between the two countries has been clearly laid through this visit," Ghani said.

Western diplomats briefed on the meetings said Obama worked to convince the Afghan officials that Afghanistan can count on a long-term commitment from the U.S. despite the president's desire to start withdrawing American troops in July 2011 — just 16 months from now. They said Obama also stressed that while there's been some progress, more work is needed to set up better local, provincial and central governments run by people picked for competence, not cronyism.

That's a message Afghanistan's small, urban, political class expected the American president to deliver. Many of them are also frus-

trated by the failures of their own government.

"I'm sure he gave a very, very tough message, strong message to President Karzai that the U.S. could not tolerate another dysfunctional government for the next five years and it's time for President Karzai to act," said Haroon Mir, director of Afghanistan's Center for Research and Policy Studies. "I think it was a message for Afghans that the U.S. will remain committed to Afghanistan."

Obama might not be happy with the pace of progress in Afghanistan, but he also can't be seen as sending U.S. troops to fight for a corrupt government. Public approval for his war strategy is on the rise, and Obama needs to maintain domestic support for the war at a time when the number of U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan has roughly doubled in the first three months of this year, compared to the same period last year.

The latest Associated Press-GfK poll at the beginning of March found that 57 percent of Americans surveyed approved of Obama's handling of the war compared with 49 percent two months earlier.

While Obama pressed the Afghans to battle graft, those briefed on the meeting said Karzai's Cabinet ministers told the president that they wanted to control more of the billions in international aid pouring into the country and direct the money to priority projects set by Afghanistan, not foreign capitals.

The Karzai government has long maintained that the U.S. and other donors must share the blame for the lack of improvement in the daily lives of Afghans since foreigners control the purse strings.

Want to read about something in The Observer? Have an idea for a News story? Email Sarah at smervosh@nd.edu

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Rio Tinto workers face jail time

SHANGHAI — Unexpectedly harsh jail sentences of seven to 14 years for four Rio Tinto employees charged with taking bribes and stealing commercial secrets could augur tougher times for foreign companies and errant executives in China's unruly business world.

Seeking to protect its business ties from what it termed the men's "deplorable behavior," the mining giant promptly fired all four.

The court's rulings against Australian citizen Stern Hu, former manager of Rio Tinto's iron ore business in China, and three Chinese co-workers suggest authorities are taking a sterner stance toward foreign companies caught violating the country's often selectively enforced corruption code.

Korean ship explodes off coast

SEOUL, South Korea — A naval mine dispatched from North Korea may have struck the South Korean warship that exploded and sank near the Koreas' disputed sea border, the defense minister told lawmakers Monday, laying out several scenarios for the maritime disaster.

Defense Minister Kim Tae-young said there was no sign of a direct attack from rival North Korea, but military authorities have not ruled out North Korean involvement in the sinking of the Cheonan late Friday night.

An explosion ripped the 1,200-ton ship apart during a routine patrol mission near Baengnyeong Island west of the peninsula. Fifty-eight crew members, including the captain, were plucked to safety; 46 remain missing.

NATIONAL NEWS

Kandahar offensive to begin in June

WASHINGTON — NATO forces in June will make a long-planned assault on the Taliban's spiritual home in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, a senior military official said Monday.

The goal is to rid the city of Taliban forces before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins in August, according to the official.

U.S. officials have previously disclosed plans for a NATO-led offensive in the area this year, but have not said when it might happen. The two-month offensive will be a major test of President Barack Obama's new strategy in Afghanistan and a bellwether of the war in general.

Christian group accused of plot

DETROIT — Nine alleged members of a Christian militia group that was girding for battle with the Antichrist were charged Monday with plotting to kill a police officer and slaughter scores more by bombing the funeral — all in hopes of touching off an uprising against the U.S. government.

Seven men and one woman believed to be part of the Michigan-based Hutaree were arrested over the weekend in raids in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, and another was still being sought. Authorities blocked off a rural area Monday evening about 30 miles from the site of Saturday's raid near Adrian but wouldn't say who they were searching for or whether the search was related to the weekend raids.

FBI agents moved quickly against the group because its members were planning an attack sometime in April, prosecutors said. Authorities seized guns in the raids but would not say whether they found any explosives.

LOCAL NEWS

Farmers contribute to poverty relief

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — A Bloomington food bank has received a donation of more than 60,000 eggs as part of a national push to assist people struggling with poverty.

Some of Indiana's egg farmers donated 5,400 cartons containing 64,800 Grade A, extra-large eggs earlier this month to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank.

Since then, more than half of the eggs have been snapped up by families in need.

Food bank executive director Julio Alonso says eggs aren't the kind of food that stays on the Bloomington-based food bank's shelves for very long.

RUSSIA

Moscow bombings kill dozens

Two female suicide bombers affiliated with al-Qaida explode in crowded subway

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Terror returned to the heart of Russia, with two deadly suicide bombings on the Moscow subway at rush hour, including an attack at the station beneath the headquarters of the secret police.

At least 38 people were killed and more than 60 wounded in Monday morning's blasts, the first such attacks in Moscow in six years.

Russian police have killed several Islamic militant leaders in the North Caucasus recently, including one last week in the Kabardino-Balkariya region, which raised fears of retaliatory strikes and escalating bloodshed by the militants.

As smoke billowed through the subway tunnels not far from the Kremlin and dazed survivors streamed out of the vast transportation system, al-Qaida-affiliated Web sites were abuzz with celebration of the attacks by the two female suicide bombers.

The bombings showed that the beleaguered rebels are still strong enough to inflict harm on an increasingly assertive Russia, and they followed a warning last month from Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov that "the war is coming to their cities."

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who built much of his political capital by directing a fierce war against Chechen separatists a decade ago, promised to track down and kill the organizers of what he called a "disgusting" crime.

"The terrorists will be destroyed," he said on national television.

In a televised meeting with President Dmitry Medvedev, Federal Security Service head Alexander Bortnikov said the remains of the two bombers pointed to a Caucasus connection. "We will continue the fight



A man places a candle in memory of the subway blasts' victims at the Lubyanka Subway station, which was earlier hit by an explosion Monday, killing at least 38.

against terrorism unswervingly and to the end," Medvedev said.

Umarov, the Chechen rebel leader, has relied on al-Qaida's financial support and has several al-Qaida emissaries in his entourage, said Alexander Ignatenko, the head of the independent Moscow-based Institute for Religion and Politics, who has closely followed the Islamic insurgency in the Caucasus.

"Al-Qaida has established a presence in the North Caucasus, like they did in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Somalia and Europe," Ignatenko told The Associated Press. The militants' links with al-Qaida also are recognized by other experts on terrorism.

Militants in the Caucasus have declared the creation of an Islamic state as their top goal. Radical Islamic sects have spread throughout the Caucasus region and parts of Russia as well, with religious schools set up. In Chechnya, Kremlin-backed strongman Ramzan Kadyrov has conducted a campaign to impose Islamic values in an effort to blunt the appeal of hard-line Islamic separatists.

Monday's first explosion took place just before 8 a.m. at the Lubyanka station in central Moscow, beneath the notorious headquarters of the Federal Security Service or FSB, the KGB's main successor agency. The FSB is a symbol of power under Putin, a former KGB officer

who headed the agency before his election as president in 2000.

About 45 minutes later, a second blast hit the Park Kultury station on the same subway line, which is near renowned Gorky Park. In both cases, the bombs were detonated as the trains pulled into the stations and the doors were opening.

"I was getting off the train when I heard the sound of an explosion and saw clouds of smoke," said Yegor Barbatunov, 29. "The (Park Kultury) station was jammed with people trying to get out, but there was no panic. I saw a young man walking past, blood pouring off his head and neck and trickling to the floor."

Teens accused of bullying girl to suicide

Associated Press

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — Insults and threats followed 15-year-old Phoebe Prince almost from her first day at South Hadley High School, targeting the Irish immigrant in the halls, library and in vicious cell phone text messages.

Phoebe, ostracized for having a brief relationship with a popular boy, reached her breaking point and hanged herself after one particularly hellish day in January — a day that, according to officials, included being hounded with slurs and pelted with a beverage container as she walked home from school.

Now, nine teenagers face charges in what a prosecutor called "unrelenting"

bullying, including two teen boys charged with statutory rape and a clique of girls charged with stalking, criminal harassment and violating Phoebe's civil rights.

School officials won't be charged, even though authorities say they knew about the bullying and that Phoebe's mother brought her concerns to at least two of them.

Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel, who announced the charges Monday, said the events before Phoebe's death on Jan. 14 were "the culmination of a nearly three-month campaign of verbally assaultive behavior and threats of physical harm" widely known among the student body.

"The investigation revealed relentless activity directed toward Phoebe, designed to humiliate her and to make it impossible for her to remain at school," Scheibel said. "The bullying, for her, became intolerable."

Scheibel said the case is still under investigation and that one other person could be charged. It wasn't immediately known Monday whether the teens who have been charged have attorneys.

Scheibel said the harassment began in September, occurring primarily in school and in person, although some of it surfaced on Facebook and in other electronic forms. At least four students and two faculty members intervened to try to stop it or report it to administrators, she said.

French president, first lady take on New York

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With a lectern flown in from France and his fingers firmly entwined with those of his smiling wife, French President Nicolas Sarkozy made a splash Monday even before he opened his mouth for a no-holds-barred speech at Columbia University.

Amid blogger reports of strains in their marriage, Sarkozy and ex-supermodel Carla Bruni-Sarkozy made every effort to appear the happy couple, walking closely together and clasping hands as they mounted a staircase into an auditorium packed with students, faculty and other spectators.

The French first lady, elegant in a swept-up chignon and form-fitting black top with gray skirt, at times threatened to upstage her husband, who scolded his American hosts about health care and for not paying enough attention to the rest of the world.

French Web sites immediately picked up on the message. "Carla Bruni et Nicolas Sarkozy amoureux a New York" read a headline on the online site of entertainment magazine *Voici*, which mentioned the "electric atmosphere" of the Big Apple and its effects on the French presidential couple.

Sarkozy is in hot water at home. His poll ratings are at record lows of around 30 percent and there are widening cracks in his conservative party. In New York, though, he basked in the rapt attention of hundreds of Columbia students and even jettisoned a prepared speech.

"Speeches kill off creativity," he said. "I'm going to speak from the heart."

And he did.

"Welcome to the club of states who don't turn their back on the sick and the poor," Sarkozy said, referring to the U.S. health care overhaul signed by President Barack Obama last week.

From the European perspective, he said, "when we look at the American debate on reforming health care, it's difficult to believe."

"The very fact that there should have been such a violent debate simply on the fact that the poorest of Americans should not be left out in the streets without a cent to look after them ... is something astonishing to us."

Then to hearty applause, he added: "If you come to France

and something happens to you, you won't be asked for your credit card before you're rushed to the hospital."

Despite the strident words, the mood was celebratory — and Bruni-Sarkozy held the spotlight, with more than 100 members of the media focusing on her every move.

Columbia President Lee Bollinger introduced Sarkozy, but before the French leader could utter a single word, Bollinger asked the audience to give the French first lady "a special welcome."

Hundreds of students, professors and members of the public obliged, giving Bruni-Sarkozy a rousing ovation, which she acknowledged by rising, turning toward the audience and smiling.

She then listened to her husband speak, nodding supportively in the front row as Sarkozy called on the audience to "reflect on what it means to be the world's No. 1 power."

"The world needs an open America, a generous America, an America that shows the way, an America that listens," he said, calling on the U.S. to champion firm regulations of financial systems, from tax havens to hedge funds.

Columbia organizers said the French provided their own white lectern and light gray rug for the speech, and also requested a special espresso machine.

The podium and rug complemented the color-coordinated French first couple — including his black suit and white tie and her wraparound black top, gray skirt and black-and-white umbrella.

In a change from the usual protocol, Sarkozy entered the Low Library by walking up the middle of the grand staircase that faces the Columbia campus, instead of from behind a gold curtain like most other speakers.

After arriving in New York on Sunday, the presidential couple left their hotel with arms wrapped around one another, smiling for cameras and kissing before going to lunch at the Boathouse restaurant in Central Park with Sarkozy's son from his second marriage, 12-year-old Louis, who goes to school in New York.

After meeting later Monday with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Sarkozy and the first lady will join the Obamas for a private dinner in the White House on Tuesday.

Victims criticize Church



Members of SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests) hold a press conference outside The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee Monday.

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — A man who says he was among some 200 deaf boys allegedly molested by a priest in Wisconsin said Monday the Vatican's defensive responses to revelations about the case make him feel like he did when he was 12, when no one would listen to him about the abuse.

Arthur Budzinski, 61, said at a news conference outside the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist that Pope Benedict XVI is trying to protect himself against criticism of his handling of the Wisconsin case against the Rev. Lawrence Murphy. Murphy was accused of molesting some 200 boys at the St. John's School for the Deaf outside Milwaukee from 1950-1975. He never was defrocked.

"It's 2010. I'm not trying to hurt the pope," Budzinski said. "The pope should do something. I'm just telling my story. That's all I'm doing," said his 26-year-old daughter Gigi Budzinski, who interpreted his sign language.

Top Catholic officials are rubbing salt "into the already deep wounds of those who have been victimized and disillusioned by the Catholic church" by criticizing those speaking out about

the Vatican, said Mary Guentner, a spokeswoman for the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests.

Guentner, who says she was abused by a nun in a different school, said victims should be praised, thanked and welcomed but instead have been vilified, mischaracterized and insulted for speaking out.

"It's ludicrous to claim that these hundreds of once-trusting, devout Catholics are somehow conspiring to hurt the world's most powerful religious figure," she said.

Recently released documents showed a Vatican office led by the pope, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, halted a church trial against Murphy. Ratzinger's deputy, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, shut the process down after Murphy wrote Ratzinger a letter saying he had repented, was old and ailing, and that the case's statute of limitations had run out. Bertone now serves as the Vatican's secretary of state.

The Vatican has said the case only reached the Vatican in 1996, that Murphy died two years later, and that there was nothing in the church's handling of the matter that precluded any civil action from being taken against him.

Benedict made no direct mention of the scandal in his Palm

Sunday homily, but said Jesus Christ guides the faithful "toward the courage that doesn't let us be intimidated by the chatting of dominant opinions, toward patience that supports others."

The Vatican newspaper recently said there was a "clear and despicable intention" to strike at Benedict "at any cost."

Several victims held signs at the Monday news conference that read "Stop attacking us!" and "I'm not despicable."

Guentner said when the church attacks victims' motives, it intimidates other victims and witnesses whose information might protect other children. She said she wants Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listeck to "ask the pope to be transparent, to disclose any involvement in any sexual abuse cases and to stop insulting victims," she said.

She also responded to comments made Sunday by former Milwaukee Archbishop Timothy Dolan, who is currently the New York Archbishop. He said the pope was suffering some of the same unjust accusations once faced by Jesus.

"(It) seems a little extreme to me," she said. "I think that seems a little extreme to all of us. We are now feeling persecuted from the response of the Vatican."

East bracing for more flooding

Associated Press

BOSTON — Nervous residents along the sodden East Coast watched rivers rise Monday as they braced for a new round of flooding — and the wettest March on record in some areas.

The National Weather Service posted flood warnings and advisories from Maine to the Carolinas as forecasts called for as much as 5 to 7 inches of rain over the next three days. The storm threatened to push already swollen rivers over their banks and add to the misery of homeowners still struggling to bail out flooded basements from other recent storms in the Northeast.

Ted Les, 76, and his wife, Blanche, 69, worried what would happen if rains caused any more damage to their home of 40 years in Clinton, Mass.

In the event of more damage,

"we can't live here anymore," Les said. "We don't know where we are going to go."

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick declared a state of emergency Monday and mobilized as many as 1,000 National Guardsmen to assist in the event of major flooding.

"Residents of flood zones should closely monitor the storm and prepare for the possibility of evacuating quickly," should waters rise, Patrick said.

Meteorologists warned of a possible "life-threatening" situation along the Pawtuxet River in Rhode Island, which reached flood stage Monday night, with heavy flooding by Tuesday afternoon.

"We have a very serious problem. This is turning out to be a nightmare," said Steve Kass, spokesman for the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency.

The storm hit as the Northeast continued to recover from a storm March 13-15 that dropped as much as 10 inches of rain, causing several rivers to rise and flooding basements throughout the region.

The rainiest March on record in Boston was 1953, when 11 inches fell during the month; nearly 10 inches had already fallen before the start of the latest storm.

New York City was within 3 inches of the March record of 10.54 inches set in 1983, and forecasters said the storm could easily eclipse that mark.

"Our ground is so wet it's like pouring water into an already saturated sponge," said Tony Sutton, commissioner of Emergency Services for Westchester County, N.Y., north of the city. "Thank God we're not expecting real strong winds. That's a break."



French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his wife, Carla Bruni, arrive at the World Leaders Forum in New York Monday.

MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 10,895.86 +45.50

Up: 2,662 Same: 141 Down: 1,128 Composite Volume: 5 29,967,002

AMEX	1,891.91	+15.76
NASDAQ	2,404.36	+9.23
NYSE	7,464.90	+61.32
S&P 500	1,173.32	+6.73
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	10,986.47	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	5,710.66	+7.64

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC. (C)	-3.02	-0.13	4.18
FORD MOTOR COMPANY (F)	-2.09	-0.29	13.57
BANK OF AMERICA (BAC)	+0.78	+0.14	18.04
GENERAL ELECTRIC (GE)	+0.33	+0.06	18.40

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.23	+0.09	3.86
13-WEEK BILL	-3.85	-0.05	0.125
30-YEAR BOND	+0.23	+0.11	4.76
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.19	-0.05	2.60

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+2.17	82.17	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+6.10	1,110.3	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+3.00	96.70	

Exchange Rates			
YEN		92.4250	
EURO		1.3492	
CANADIAN DOLLAR		1.0215	
BRITISH POUND		1.4993	

IN BRIEF

Judge strikes down gene patents

NEW YORK — In a ruling with potentially far-reaching implications for the patenting of human genes, a judge on Monday struck down a company's patents on two genes linked to an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet challenging whether anyone can hold patents on human genes was expected to have broad implications for the biotechnology industry and genetics-based medical research.

Sweet said he invalidated the patents because DNA's existence in an isolated form does not alter the fundamental quality of DNA as it exists in the body nor the information it encodes.

He rejected arguments that it was acceptable to grant patents on DNA sequences as long as they are claimed in the form of "isolated DNA."

"Many, however, including scientists in the fields of molecular biology and genomics, have considered this practice a 'lawyer's trick' that circumvents the prohibitions on the direct patenting of the DNA in our bodies but which, in practice, reaches the same result," he said.

The judge said his findings were consistent with Supreme Court rulings that have established that purifying a product of nature does not mean it can be patented.

He said the company deserved praise for what is "unquestionably a valuable scientific achievement," but not a patent because the "isolated DNA is not markedly different from native DNA as it exists in nature."

Ericsson signs with China Mobile

STOCKHOLM — Swedish wireless equipment maker L.M. Ericsson AB says it has signed deals worth \$1.8 billion with Chinese operators China Mobile and China Unicom.

Ericsson says it signed a \$1 billion agreement Monday to provide a radio access network and technology to China Mobile, the world's largest phone company by subscribers.

The new technology will boost the capacity of the company's network and develop it into a so-called internet protocol network.

Ericsson also signed a \$800 million contract to provide a faster, third-generation network to China's no. 2 mobile company, China Unicom.

Both contracts will be implemented this year.

IBM exec pleads guilty to fraud

Moffat involved in insider trading case, faces possibility of six months in prison

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A former IBM senior executive pleaded guilty Monday to federal charges arising from what prosecutors call the largest insider trading case in hedge fund history.

Robert Moffat, 53, of Ridgefield, Conn., pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit securities fraud and securities fraud, charges which carry a potential penalty of 25 years in prison.

A plea agreement, though, contained language indicating he may end up serving six months in prison or less.

Moffat, once considered a candidate for chief executive officer at IBM, was considered the highest level executive arrested in a case that resulted in 21 arrests. He is the 11th person to plead guilty. He remained free on \$2 million bail. Sentencing was set for July 26. His lawyers said he was not cooperating with the government's probe.

During a hearing in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, Moffat told the magistrate in a shaky voice that he provided inside information between August and October 2008 to Danielle Chiesi, a friend and a co-defendant in the case. At the time, Moffat was senior vice president and group executive at International Business Machines Corp.'s Systems and Technology Group.

"I disclosed this information in this case intentionally and I knew that what I was doing was wrong," he said.

After the plea, Moffat's lawyer, Kerry Andrew Lawrence, released a statement saying his client "accepted responsibility for his conduct in improperly disclosing confidential information" to Chiesi.

The lawyer wrote that Moffat never engaged in any trading in connection



Former senior vice president of IBM Robert Moffat exits Manhattan Federal Court Monday. Moffat pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit securities fraud and securities fraud.

with inside information he gave out and he received no money or other financial benefit in return.

"Mr. Moffat deeply regrets his conduct and is deeply sorry for the embarrassment his conduct has caused to his family and to his former employer, IBM," the statement said.

Chiesi, 44, of Manhattan has pleaded not guilty to charges in the insider trading scheme that could carry a potential penalty of up to 155 years in prison. Chiesi worked for New Castle, the equity hedge fund group of Bear Stearns Asset Management Inc. that had assets worth about \$1 billion under management.

She has asked that her

trial be severed from the trial of Galleon Group founder Raj Rajaratnam, 52. He too has denied securities fraud charges that were first brought in October.

Once described as one of wealthiest men in the United States, Rajaratnam remains free on \$100 million bail. Charges against him carry a potential penalty of up to 185 years in prison.

Prosecutors say Rajaratnam may have made more than \$50 million through improper securities trades.

In court papers filed in the case, prosecutors provided excerpts of transcripts of telephone conversations between Chiesi and Rajaratnam.

Chiesi and Rajaratnam were heard on a government wiretap of a Sept. 26, 2008, phone conversation discussing whether Moffat should move from IBM to a different technology company to aid the scheme, according to the papers.

"Put him in some company where we can trade well," Rajaratnam was quoted in the court papers as saying.

The complaint said Chiesi replied: "I know, I know. I'm thinking that too. Or just keep him at IBM, you know, because this guy is giving me more information. ... I'd like to keep him at IBM right now because that's a very powerful place for him. For us, too."

ENGLAND

Euro strengthens; world markets rise

Associated Press

LONDON — World markets mostly rose and the euro strengthened Monday in the wake of last week's announcement of a eurozone aid plan for Greece as well as strong consumer spending figures in the U.S.

The 16-country common currency has been the main beneficiary of the support program for Greece announced at an EU summit Thursday night, while stock gains have been more modest. Greek borrowing rates, meanwhile, showed little improvement.

The euro was at \$1.3448 in

European morning trade Monday, up from \$1.3401 late Friday in New York. On Thursday it had hit a 10-month low below \$1.33.

Germany's DAX rose 0.4 percent to 6,142.78, while Britain's FTSE 100 benchmark index was down 0.1 percent at 5,696.77 and France's CAC-40 was flat at 3,986.25.

After gains in Asia, Wall Street also rose on the open. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 0.4 percent at 10,894.72 and the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.5 percent to 1,172.93.

U.S. markets were given a boost by data showing consumer spend-

ing rose 0.3 percent in February, a fifth consecutive monthly rise. The increase buoyed hopes that households are regaining confidence — consumer spending accounts for the largest portion of activity in the world's largest economy.

In Europe, investors kept their eyes on Greece's debt crisis, with the good news of a bailout plan announced last week offset by caution about the details.

"Last week's agreement on an aid package to Greece helped return a semblance of confidence to markets and the euro," said Mitul Kotecha, analyst at Credit Agricole CIB.

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POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$120 for one academic year; \$65 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779
Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

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Reform vs. the Constitution

Now that the Democrats have managed to wheedle, bribe, cajole, threaten and otherwise cram their health care package through Congress and into the law books, popular resistance and political consequences be damned, it may seem like the vicious battle has finally reached a conclusion.

But as defenders of liberty across the country have declared, the war is far from over. Already, over 30 states have taken steps to challenge various aspects of the law, the most controversial of which is the individual mandate that requires all Americans to purchase health insurance. Such a mandate, according to the Congressional Budget Office, is unprecedented in the history of our nation, and there is reason to believe that it is patently unconstitutional.

Of course, anyone who is determined enough to risk political suicide to pass a piece of legislation is not going to let something as trivial as the Constitution stand in his or her way.

Case in point: last fall, when a reporter asked Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi about what part of the Constitution gives Congress the authority to mandate the purchase of health insurance, the speaker responded with an incredulous, "Are you serious? Are you serious?" She then promptly ignored the question by turning to another reporter.

Why yes, Madam Speaker, the possibility that a proposed piece of legislation is unconstitutional is a serious question to most Americans. Much more serious, believe it or not, than a question the president chose to answer last year about what has most "enchanted" him about the office.

Unfortunately, Pelosi is not the only one who needs to brush up on her knowledge of the Constitution. Back in December, Senator Kent Conrad (D - N.D.) admitted he could not specify where in the

Constitution Congress is granted the authority for an individual mandate.

"You know, I'm not a lawyer," Conrad said, "so, I'm not an expert on the constitutional issue. That's not my committee's jurisdiction. So, I know that attorneys who have looked at it believe that it's fully constitutional. But I'm not, I'm not a lawyer, so I can't, I can't pass judgment on that based on my own legal analysis."

Well, excuse us voters for thinking that a sitting senator would consult the Constitution before setting out to pass a reform package with such far-reaching consequences. Perhaps we should pose the question, as Conrad suggests, to someone on the Judiciary Committee. And why not start with House Judiciary Committee Chair John Conyers (D - Mich.)?

"Under several clauses, the good and welfare clause and a couple others. All the scholars, the constitutional scholars that I know — I'm chairman of the Judiciary committee, as you know — they all say that there's nothing unconstitutional in this bill and if there were, I would have tried to correct it if I thought there were."

Yes, you read that correctly. The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee just referred to a non-existent constitutional clause to defend a piece of legislation.

The fact that a senator, the House Judiciary chairman, and the speaker of the house care so little about where their authority comes from should be cause for widespread alarm among the population. The very document upon which our entire system of government was founded, the document that has preserved our rights and freedoms for well over two centuries, the document that these people swore to "support and defend ... against all enemies" and to "bear true faith and allegiance," has become irrelevant in their eyes.

To Americans who still see the Constitution as meaningful, they understand that the debate over this healthcare package is not really about health care at all. Rather, like the soon-to-be insolvent entitlement programs that exist today, it is a manifestation of the federal government seeking to exert more control over

the people by convincing them to sacrifice liberty to gain some security from social ills, and a tenuous security at that. Friedrich Hayek understood the dangers inherent to this exchange when he declared, "If we wish to preserve a free society, it is essential that we recognize that the desirability of a particular object is not sufficient justification for the use of coercion."

There are alternate ways of solving the problems confronting the health care and insurance industries, solutions that do not involve substantial government meddling or adding to the nation's crushing debt while crippling our economic recovery. Curbing frivolous lawsuits that encourage costly defensive medicine, allowing individuals to purchase insurance across state lines, expanding and reforming high-risk pools and reinsurance programs to guarantee access to affordable health care even for those who have preexisting conditions, all of these proposals fall into this category.

If the history of the American Experiment tells us anything, it is that only when the powers of government are limited can society truly flourish, economically or otherwise. How else can one explain how a lowly British colony emerged as the greatest economic and military superpower the world has ever known in, as far as human history is concerned, the blink of an eye? Certainly not by pointing to any coercive efforts by the government. We have the wisdom and foresight of the founders to thank for framing the government in such a way that it allowed us to reach a standard of living that is unrivaled by any prior generation. Eschewing this lesson by ignoring the constitutional restraints on government authority is akin to tearing up the Declaration of Independence and resubmitting ourselves to monarchical rule.

Of course, the liberals in Congress probably wouldn't mind.

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



Christie Pesavento

Right-Winging It

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Pray you now, forget and forgive."

William Shakespeare
English dramatist & poet

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Never refuse any advance of friendship, for if nine out of 10 bring you nothing, one alone may repay you."

Madame de Tencin
French author

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
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Real reform at last

Last week, by a slim majority vote of 219-212, the House of Representatives passed the most progressive social legislation in decades, sending to President Obama the Senate's Health Care Reform Bill, which had been passed by the Senate nearly three months ago on Christmas Eve.

**Anthony
Matthew
Durkin**

*A Confederacy
of Dunces*

On Jan. 19th when a young, little-known Republican State Senator from Massachusetts had overtaken the filibuster-proof seat in the Senate once held by the champion of health care reform, Democrat Edward Kennedy, many predicted health care reform was dead. It seemed that the Obama presidency had failed, spending a good deal of its political capital attempting to get bi-partisan support for its most important domestic policy initiative. The focus of domestic policy in Congress had shifted to the economy and job creation. Yet the Obama administration refused to surrender. After a bipartisan nationally televised summit meeting on Feb. 25 drove the two parties further apart, the White House gambled and urged House Democrats to approve the Senate's version of the bill and pass changes to the bill through budget reconciliation.

Let's get some facts straight about this historic bill, which admittedly is less than perfect, but does much to correct the glaring and unconscionable inequities in American health care. The bill will provide coverage to over 30 million uninsured

Americans who presently cannot afford it. Although the bill will not achieve full universality, by 2019, 95 percent of Americans will be insured. Individuals will be required to obtain health insurance, achieved mostly through subsidies provided to low and middle income individuals and families, enabling them to purchase coverage on newly created exchange markets in each state. It will expand Medicaid to cover 16 million parents and childless adults that are not covered under the current rules. Further, this bill will reform many of the worst practices by insurance companies. Insurers will no longer be able to drop individuals who become ill. They will no longer be able to reject applicants on the grounds of "pre-existing conditions." By 2014, if someone loses their job or has to buy their own policy, they cannot be denied coverage. The legislation will begin to attack the problem of rising premiums, first with the new exchange market, and then in 2018 with a new excise tax to push employers and workers away from high-cost insurance policies. Finally, in a provision that should be of significant interest to everyone on this campus, particularly those with pre-existing medical conditions and those who might wish to do service work after graduation, parents can pay an additional fee to keep their children on their policies until age of 26. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the bill will cost \$938 billion over 10 years, while reducing the deficit by \$138 billion over that same period.

This historic bill is monumental in many ways. For one, it reflects a continued shift in policy from the Reagan era "laissez-

faire" revolution of tax cuts, light regulation of markets and a patchwork social safety net. It also signals something more significant. Democrats, many who put their November re-election on the line, did the right thing and trumped the fear of political backlash from Republicans. They answered "the call of history" and fought a difficult battle to reform a broken and morally unacceptable industry unlike any in other advanced industrial nations. The Democrats scored a monumental victory that will not be forgotten.

As for Republicans, their united opposition to any sort of health care reform should hurt them in the long run, as they continue to earn the nickname, "the party of no." When the House vote essentially became a vote on the issue of whether federal money would be used to fund abortions, Republicans fought to sway pro-life Democrats to vote in opposition to the bill. Although they won the support of some, they lost the battle with the leader of the pro-life Democrats, Bart Stupak of Michigan, and others like Notre Dame alumnus Joe Donnelly. These pro-life Democrats put their support behind the bill after Obama promised to sign an Executive Order ensuring that no federal money would ever be used to fund abortions. Pro-life Republicans immediately unleashed their anger at Stupak and others, most notably with Randy Neugebauer, a Republican congressman from Texas, going so far as to call Stupak a "baby-killer," despite the fact that Stupak has been one of the most vocal pro-life voices in Congress since 1992. Further, the Republicans continue their refusal to dis-

tance themselves from the Tea Party movement, which is getting increasingly out of hand in its viciousness. Some Republican lawmakers were seen cheering on protesters outside of the Capitol and inside with signs that read "kill the bill." These same protesters spit on Missouri congressman Emanuel Cleaver and hurled racial and homophobic epithets at others. Violence has continued at members of Congress, with at least four reported acts of vandalism as well as death threats. The ugliness of these acts reveals the power of misinformation in the media on this issue.

In the end, it may and should be the Republicans who will be hurt politically for not supporting this legislation. Once people begin to see the benefits, Democrats will be able to say they achieved the measure without any support whatsoever from Republicans. Regardless, the passage of this legislation made me proud to be an American, being able to witness this historic legislation become law. I am confident that Obama's remarks will ring throughout the nation; "When faced with crisis, we did not shrink from our challenges. We overcame them. We did not avoid our responsibilities, we embraced it. We did not fear our future, we shaped it."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Debate good for learning

I write this letter in response to Sy Doan's Viewpoint ("Christopher Hitchens is the next Obama," Mar. 25) Though the upcoming debate between Christopher Hitchens and Dinesh D'Souza contains elements that our University is opposed to in its mission, it is precisely these elements of opposition that stand to better maximize the depth, discussion and propagation of Christianity. Hitchens may say that organized religion is "violent, irrational, intolerant, allied to racism and tribalism and bigotry, invested in ignorance and hostile to free inquiry, contemptuous of women and coercive toward children," but these are exactly the sorts of claims that rational religious persons should seek to answer.

There is nothing more conducive to introspection or the consequential strengthening of one's faith than the presence of an opposition to that faith. For answers to be found, the questions must first be known; for convictions to be strengthened, they must be forged in the fires of opposition. Truly, no medium is better capable of ensuring well-reasoned beliefs.

Similarly, this impact stands to be better realized in the long term as a result of the debates; in a campus of relative religious conformity, welcoming an outside perspective likewise affects the atmosphere of campus discourse. Discussion becomes laudable — the refrain, "Well, if you believe that then you shouldn't have come here," might no longer be sufficient to quell the concerns of non-Catholic members of the Notre Dame family. Nor, I believe, should it be.

It stands to reason that the debate will actually encourage the propagation of the faith, in that there is a positive value in dissuading others from the notion that Christianity is marked by anti-intellectualism. It seems that now, more than ever, Christianity is criticized for its resistance to both reason and discourse; it seems also that Christians have much to gain by doing away with this perception and meeting the atheist on his own playing field.

I shall, in closing, examine the most potent of the underlying fears of the many religious at Notre Dame: that of the potentiality of conversion away from the faith. Toward this end, however, conversion via debate is a non-issue. If one expects to engage the world in a meaningful manner on topics concerning faith, it is necessary that he or she rise above the petty notion that people might be "tricked" into believing one position over another. The debate will be comprised of two prominent academics, delivering well-reasoned arguments to a bright and competent student body — the mentality that we need fear discourse is not only unjustified, but ignorant. It is in the same spirit that the Catholic Church abolished the Index Librorum Prohibitorum that we must welcome and, indeed, learn from those who disagree with our positions: ultimately, a faith that cannot withstand discourse is one without merit. As Pope John Paul II opined, "Reason and faith cannot be separated without diminishing the capacity of men and women to know themselves, the world and God in an appropriate way."

Dennis Grabowski
sophomore
Dillon Hall
March 28

Truth on orientation

Historians, psychologists, anthropologists, political scientists and videographers are usually extremely subjective. Their disciplines are limited. A historian will never know all events throughout all of history. A psychologist will never be able to comprehend the inner-workings of every human mind that has ever existed. An anthropologist will never experience every culture. A political scientist will never know every political structure in history. A videographer will never be able to see every video ever created. They are limited by their life spans and the constant movement of time. They will always be able to do some research, but they will never be able to do all research.

Thus, these researchers and their respective fields are unable to completely answer timeless questions on their own. The only complete way to objectively view reality would be to see all of the universe in all of history all at the same time. So, how can students at a Catholic university pursue Truth?

In theology, we pursue the only Being with a truly objective view of reality. In the study of God, we discern Truths that are timeless and uncontestable. Theology enables us to learn about the rightful Judge

of reality.

I commend many ideals behind Gail Bederman's "Scholarship on sexual orientation" (March 24). The fields examining the issue of sexual orientation are certainly academic, but they are lacking in this proposed column. Alone, they fail to fully aid in "informed political and ethical judgments." "Solid and up-to-date knowledge" is not complete by itself. Our constantly changing and evolving knowledge must be examined in the light of eternal truths.

In failing to include philosophy and theology in this column, we enter into the relativistic culture of ignoring and denying Truth, and we fail in our mission as a Catholic university. History, psychology, anthropology, political science and film are certainly important disciplines, but they are incomplete when we attempt to separate them from the Truth. We must accept the eternal in our mortal pursuits. Otherwise, when the winds buffet and blow, as they have throughout history, these fields will not stand.

Christopher Damian
freshman
Dillon Hall
March 29

Dream schools

Reading the article on a dream college, I thought it was well balanced in its comments. I would like to add one that was left out. By the fact that Notre Dame continues to be in the top 10 of this list, it was pointed out that it is the only religious affiliation as well as the only Catholic institution to make the list. This brings with it more visibility and so on. This should also bring with it more responsibility to stand up for its Catholic identity. There is more responsibility to represent Catholic values and not take a step back but to

take a step up when called to stand for the truth. To whom much is given, much is expected. If Notre Dame is visible let it be so we can stand and be leaders and uphold what the Catholic church teaches us to stand up for. This responsibility starts at the top. Ask honestly, has this been what has happened in recent times?

Sue Chambers
St. Mary's alumna
Class of 1977
March 29

By COURTNEY COX
Scene Writer

South Bend Je T'aime! Okay admittedly this wouldn't make such a great movie, but "Paris Je T'aime" certainly is a celebration of one of the world's most fascinating cities. The film is a series of vignettes that take place in Paris and show the various characters that live within the City of Light.

The film is interesting because

SUB said, "We chose 'Paris Je T'aime' for a couple reasons. It's a movie that a lot of students, even those that don't usually watch foreign films, have heard of. We thought that because many of the stars and directors are well known here and because there are parts in English, it would be a great movie to show because it could attract both people that like foreign films as well as those that have maybe never seen one before."

in fact father and daughter. It plays on the fact that when you hear Paris you expect romance when really there is so much more to the city.

The Coen brothers, (of the 2007 Oscar-winner "No Country for Old Men") directed a vignette starring the lovingly creepy Steve Buscemi as a lonely tourist simply trying to blend in by following the native

diverse group of directors making the project come to life.

The film has many recognizable names and faces attached to it, but that wasn't a big plus for true Parisians. One of the main controversies surrounding the film is the fact that the actors, directors and writers were mainly American. In a film so Paris-centric it would only make sense for all involved to be Parisian as well. It is difficult for artists to give an honest portrayal of a city if they do not in fact live in it. Only a true Parisian can judge whether or not the city really is the way it appears in the film.

"Paris Je T'aime" is however, one of the best vignette-

based films made in quite some time. The stories do not connect as they do in classics like "Love Actually" and "He's Just Not That Into You" so don't be waiting for the moment when the mime will finally meet the vampire. The fact that the stories don't connect makes it easy to come and go, so it's the perfect movie for a Tuesday night study break and as Larson said, "It's a good excuse to bring pastries to campus!"

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'PARIS, JE T'AIME' comes to LaFortune

there is honestly nothing that unites all of the scenes aside from the fact that they all take place in Paris. There are of course the romantic scenes typical of any film that takes place in Paris, but there are also scenes about vampires, immigrants and even mimes. It is a quick, moving ode to one of the most romanticized cities in the world.

A presentation of "Paris Je T'aime" sponsored by the Student Union Board (SUB) will take place tonight at 8 p.m. in the LaFortune ballroom. To enhance the viewing experience, coffee and pastries will be served.

Meg Larson, one of the Cultural Arts Programmers for

Those big stars include indie sweetheart Natalie Portman, Best Supporting Actress Nominee Maggie Gyllenhaal, "Lord of the Rings" star Elijah Wood and many others.

Each story is directed by a different world-renowned director. Alfonso Cuaron, ("Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban"), crafted a witty scene in which two people who appear to be lovers in a quarrel are

customs. Let's just say it does not end well for him.

Wes Craven (the "Scream" trilogy) directed a piece that follows a honeymoon couple who are not exactly giddy and upbeat.

These are just a few of the most notable, but they serve as a great representation of the



Fashion For All Time At BCAC's Signature Event

By STEPHANIE WALZ
Scene Writer

From the roaring 20s to the modern day, the Black Cultural Arts Council (BCAC) took its audience on a ride through time Saturday night to show off the latest popular fashions and current hip-hop trends with their signature event, the BCAC Fashion Show.

BCAC is an organization designed to respond to the needs of the African-American community by providing leadership opportunities and sponsoring community service projects.

The program at Washington Hall, this year titled "The Time Warp," featured 25 clothing models, dancing, poetry readings and a range of jazzy and current music.

Freshman Chiamaka Chinenye said the show is a celebration of black culture and diversity within the Notre Dame community.

"The show was not only a fashion show, but also a dance showcase which displays the intellectual creativity of African Americans," she said.

This year's show included poetry readings interspersed throughout the musical numbers. Students recited classic poetry, such as one from author Langston Hughes, recounting the story of the African-

American's plight in the United States.

One of the most inspirational poems of the evening, Maya Angelou's "I Rise," told of the struggles and hardships of slavery but, more importantly, how African-Americans overcame them.

Keeping with the Time Warp theme, models also recited some more modern poems and songs, such as Gemineye's "Penny for your Thoughts" and Anthony Hamilton's "Dear Life."

Short sketches and dances received most of the attention, as the models confidently sported fashions from various clothing donors, including Old Navy, DEB, Tops and Bottoms and the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore.

Music ranged from the old-school Jackson Five to the contemporary hip hop and R&B music, like Beyonce, as per the show's theme.

Throughout the show, students and community members alike helped to maintain the energy of the show as they were enthusiastic and supportive of their friends on stage.

Sophomore Mike Wiederecht said, "It was an enjoyable way to learn how different cultures express themselves, and to bring the campus community closer together."

Students cheered on their peers during the performance, as the performers incorporated the crowd and

facilitated audience participation by dancing and strutting down the aisles during the show.

But the show is about a lot more than simply clothes and culture. BCAC also uses the event to contribute funds to both education and charity.

In fact, \$2,000 of the money raised this year will go toward the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. The scholarship, established in 1993, assists one female and one male African-American non-athlete college student each year. It is awarded in the student's sophomore year and pays for his or her undergraduate career.

Another portion of the show's takings will go directly toward the Haiti Relief Fund through the Holy Cross Mission Center.

The Council's hard work was not only designed to entertain and educate current students and community members, but also prospective students. Not coincidentally, Spring Visitation, the admissions outreach program for multicultural prospective students, also took place this past weekend. These high school seniors were invited to both the fashion show and Latin Expressions (La Alianza's signature event), so they could experience the opportunities and diversity on campus.

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By **MARISSA FROBES**
Scene Writer

Indie rock band Vampire Weekend played two sold-out shows at the Riviera Theater in Chicago this weekend. Touring for their new album "Contra," which premiered at number one on the Billboard 200 chart in January, the group from New York City riled up the young crowd for over two hours.

With the band running on stage to a Jock Jams song, a black curtain fell to reveal the "Contra" album cover: a headshot of a blonde donning a preppy white polo, with eyes that glowed different colors throughout the show.

The set-list started with "White Sky," one of the upbeat tunes from their new album. Front man Ezra Koenig immediately had all the teenage girls, with their spots staked out close to the stage, screaming with his spastic dance moves.

The group has been growing in popularity since the release of their first self-produced album, "Vampire Weekend," which debuted in January 2008. Comprised of four Columbia graduates, the band experienced much success with the tracks from this debut, any of which are featured on the soundtracks for movies such as "Step Brothers" and "I Love You, Man."

Music careers are a nice change of pace for the group of friends who had all been working full-time jobs after graduating in 2006 from

Columbia University. Their music fuses African pop with Western, New England preppiness to create the college anthems sung in every dorm room in the U.S.

But the Ivy League graduates create lyrically intricate songs: The hit "Oxford Comma" speaks against "linguistic imperialism," as Koenig told *Bwog*, the online partner to Columbia's undergraduate magazine "The Blue and White."

The set-list for the Chicago show included the majority of both albums, making the crowd extremely spirited.

whole crowd keep moving for the entire two-minute-long jam.

About half way through the concert, six chandeliers lowered from the ceiling, possibly to pay homage to the "Vampire Weekend" album cover. Their flashing lights combined with the eyes glowing red of the "Contra" cover girl created the hype the band was asking for. Screaming the lyrics to "One," Koenig asked how angry the crowd could get as we chanted "Blake's got a new face!" over and over. They got angry — anything for Ezra.

Some of the other highlights from the concert were the first single "Cousins," "Holiday," which details the dream of a summer vacation, and the winter-drinking song "Horchata." Still, the crowd was at its prime for the band's older hits. The Riviera radiated "college" when Vampire Weekend played "Campus," which Koenig dedicated to all the "students out there."

Before the band's encore, the crowd begged for "one more song!" and when not immediately pacified moved onto asking for a heftier finale of "10 more songs, 10 more songs!" They got two: a new song and "Walcott," apparently their traditional closing song.

Despite this rousing show and enthusiastic audience, the band has been receiving a lot of flack from critics who hear a strong resemblance between "Contra" and Paul Simon's 1986 hit album "Graceland." The band denies any replication of Simon's album, but the artists do cite similar African pop influences, which may account for their similarities.

Still, the house was packed in Chicago, and the band is in the throws of a huge North American tour. There are no signs of slowing down for these city boys. Everyone left exhilarated Friday night, thanks to the buoyant performance of the foursome.

Check out their music video for their newest single, "Giving Up the Gun" (surprisingly left out of the Chicago set-list Friday), which features cameos by Joe Jonas, Jake Gyllenhaal and Lil' Jon to name a few.

Is the Indie band selling out? See for yourself, but the "underdog prevails" message of the video sticks true to the VW persona.

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Everyone knew the whole new album and head-bopped accordingly, but the venue turned into a legitimate mosh pit during classics such as "A-Punk" and "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa."

Koenig told everyone to take a deep breath before playing another old song "Bryn" because he demanded the

By **CAITLIN FERRARO**
Assistant Scene Editor

Justin Bieber's 'My World 2.0' needs a little retooling

Bieber mania has hit an all time high with the debut of the 16-year old's first full album, "My World 2.0," released last Tuesday.

Justin Bieber's fame developed based on a seven-song EP entitled "My World" which features his hit song "One Time." The teenager was discovered on YouTube and subsequently fought over by Usher and Justin Timberlake. Usher won and the Canadian-born Bieber blew up in the United States.

Some have affectionately called him "The Singing Fetus." After all, he is only 16 (and looks even younger) but has a great voice and style. Surprisingly, he isn't a spawn of the Disney empire. He excels at providing a great male counterpart to Taylor Swift in the teen pop realm — both play an instrument and co-write their songs.

"My World 2.0" is a formative album that shows Bieber's growth as a young artist. The bottom line, however, is that the album is definitely teen pop music, so listeners must enter with caution.

The best track off of the album is easily its first single and hit "Baby," featuring Ludacris. The duo The-Dream and Tricky Stewart, who were behind Rihanna's "Umbrella" and Beyonce's "Single Ladies," created the song. It has an old school charm layered with hip-hop and pop sounds. Ludacris brilliantly harkens back to the feeling of first love in his rap with the likes of: "There was nobody compared to my baby / And nobody came between us, no one could ever come above / She had me going crazy, oh I was star-struck."

The track is fun and fast, and a great tune to jam to in the car.

Another great upbeat song on the disc is "Runaway Love," a mid-tempo tune reminiscent of Michael Jackson. There

are stop-and-go keyboards giving Bieber room to strut his stuff and the overall sound of the song is funky and modern with Bieber's catchy vocals.

Bieber can also please with a ballad, as in the heartfelt "That Should Be Me." The song illustrates the pain of teenage heartbreak as he belts out: "That should be me / Holdin' your hand / That should be me / Makin' you laugh / That should be me / This is so sad." While Bieber may not be old enough to have experienced so much love and heartbreak, he sure sells it.

"Somebody to Love" has certain redeemable qualities in that it has a cool dance beat, almost disco in nature. But it is too electronic, overshadowing his voice and the well-done melodies. The kid can sing, so there is no reason to hide it.

Other songs on the album do not work well at all. "Stuck in the Moment" is simply cheesy with its allusions to famous couples. And "U Smile" has a soul sound, but otherwise is not noteworthy.

The album also has two too many collaborations. In addition to featuring Ludacris, "My World 2.0" also features

Sean Kingston on "Eenie Meenie." This song had the potential to be great. While its premise of a childhood song is ridiculously goofy, it could be really fun. Unfortunately, Kingston steals the show by hogging the mic and turning the song into one that could be one of his own.

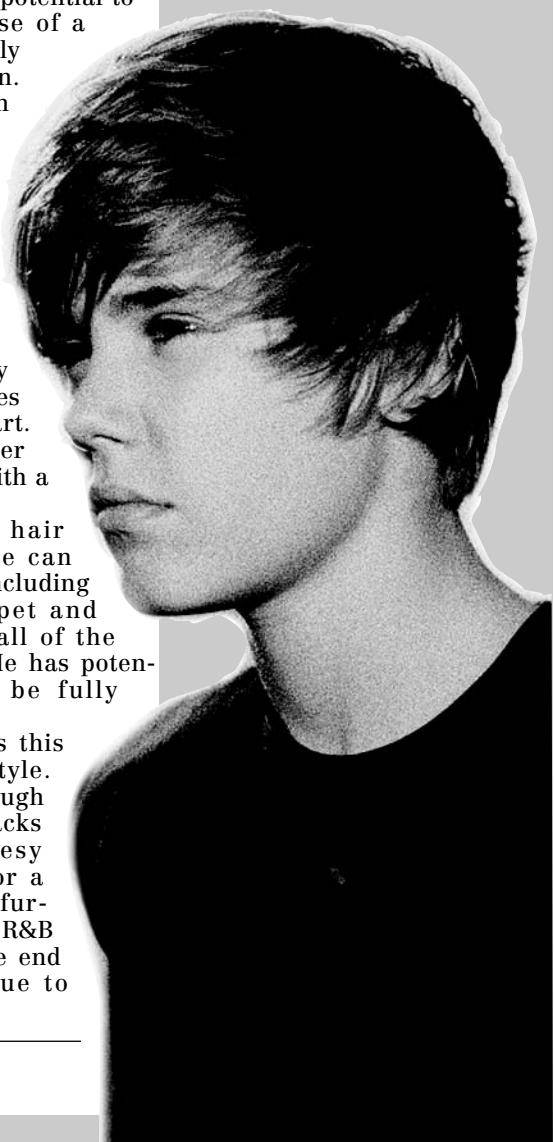
The other duo is with newcomer Jessica Jarrell on "Overboard." However, due to Bieber's androgynous voice, collaborating with a teenage girl is totally unnecessary. In fact, at times it is hard to tell the two apart. Bieber should wait until after puberty for his next work with a female singer.

Beneath that head of hair Bieber has real talent. He can play several instruments including the guitar, drums, trumpet and piano. He also co-wrote all of the songs on the new album. He has potential that will hopefully be fully explored in future albums.

What ultimately redeems this work is that Bieber has style. His personality shines through on even the weakest of tracks and salvages many cheesy lyrics. If you're looking for a good pop album, look no further. Bieber tries to include R&B and dance beats, but in the end the album is pop gold due to Bieber's signature swagger.

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'My World 2.0'
Justin Bieber
Label: The Island Def Jam
Best Tracks: "Baby" and "That Should Be Me"



CLUB SPORTS

Sophomores Hannigan and Cole lead gymnasts

Goalie O'Neill defends in the pool; men's volleyball finishes third against Big Ten teams in tournament; ultimate teams find success across the boards; sailors host Icebreaker Regatta; Senior Perricone shines through for cyclists

Special to the Observer

Notre Dame enjoyed a successful meet at Eastern Michigan's Michigan Madness this weekend, earning several individual honors. Sophomore Michael Hannigan led the men's squad with a first place finish on rings, and a 6th place finish in the all around with a score of 66.5. Junior Patrick Gorman completed a strong all around performance as well, highlighted by a 10.9 on floor and 11.9 on vault for a 7th place all around of 62.4. Sophomore Kyle Sandberg, in only his second competition, registered a 10.6 on floor and 11.3 on vault. Grad student Brian Dunn showed strong scores with a 10.7 on high bar, an 11.7 on parallel bars, a 12.5 on vault. The men's squad finished 2nd in team standings.

The Irish women's team featured four new competitors to collegiate gymnastics. Sophomore Sarah Cole showed a 7.0 on floor and 7.2 on the beam. Sophomore Ellie Frawley, returning to gymnastics after a 12-year hiatus, finished with a 6.0 on floor and 8.0 on vault. Sophomore Courtney Dahms additionally posted a 7.6 on beam and 8.0 on vault. The 4th new member, freshman Bryanna Bocardo, sustained an ankle injury during her floor routine and was not able to continue with competition. Sophomores Elizabeth Bonne and Olivia Schreuder posted career highs with Bonne receiving an 8.6 on vault and Schreuder receiving a 7.3 on floor and 8.35 on vault. Notre Dame graduate and former team president, Kelleen O'Leary, competed on an Alumni team and scored 9.4 on beam to finish 2nd in the entire competition.

Both the men's and women's squads will next compete in San Marcos, Texas, in two weeks.

Women's Water Polo

This weekend, the Irish traveled to Oxford, Ohio to participate in the Miami Invite. The Irish played their first game against Michigan State University Saturday morning. The game was a strong start for the Irish with one goal apiece by seniors Cristina Romano and Emily Hari. Junior Ali Durkin and sophomores Erin Gibson and Maisie O'Malley each scored once for the Irish. Graduate student Betsy O'Neill defended the goal with seven saves. Senior Meghan Pearl used her speed to win all four swim-offs in the game. Durkin worked in set, drawing six ejections and one 5-Meter, as the Irish won.

Two hours later, the Irish were

back in the pool facing Lindenwood. Nineteen players from Notre Dame contributed in the 11-4 win. Durkin led the scoring with four goals, while Gibson registered three goals. Adding one each for the Irish were Romano, O'Malley, Flanagan and Pearl.

Leading the defense, O'Neill and Gibson split time in goal with five and three saves respectively. Pearl won all three sprints that she attempted.

In Saturday's last game, the Irish faced the No. 1 ranked UCLA. Despite a strong effort, the Irish suffered a 5-4 loss. Scoring for the Irish were O'Malley, Pearl, senior Emily Harig and freshman Victoria Anglin. Pearl won three out of four sprints. O'Neill defended goal with seven saves.

In the final game of the weekend, the Irish faced off against the University of Michigan in a rematch from last weekend. Scoring for the Irish on two man-up opportunities was O'Malley. Flanagan added one from outside and Durkin slipped a shot past the goalie from the set. Pearl won all four sprints of the game. O'Neill defended goal with 11 saves to secure the 4-2 win, avenging a bitter loss against the 3rd ranked Wolverines.

The Irish have Easter weekend off, but will return the following weekend for Midwest Conference Championships at Rolf's Aquatics.

Men's Volleyball

Playing in the Midwest Intercollegiate this weekend, the Irish finished third in a tournament featuring Big 10, Midwest 10 and Great Midwest conference teams. In opening pool play, the Irish defeated Ohio Northern, 25-22, 25-17 and dropped a close one to Michigan State, 25-22, 22-25, 16-14. They defeated both Central Michigan, 23-25, 25-16, 15-11 and Ohio State, 25-19, 21-25, 15-11.

In seeded tournament play, the Irish defeated Baldwin Wallace, 25-20, 26-24, and then beat Lakeland College squad, 16-25, 25-23, 15-13. The Irish fell in the semi-finals to Michigan State, 25-20, 25-19. Senior Mike Nejedly was a stalwart throughout the weekend aided by great setting by sophomore Josh Rehberg. Freshman Rob Bauer and junior Jason Healy stepped up their play in the big win over the Buckeyes. The entire squad, led by junior libero Mark landolo, raided the game to defeat Lakeland, the first win over this national power since 2006.

The Irish will next compete in the Nationals at Louisville.

Ultimate

Notre Dame played host to the annual White Smoke Invitational this weekend. In women's play, the A team asserted its dominance early in the tournament, posting decisive victories over Purdue, Illinois-Chicago and Marquette Saturday morning. The D squad also defeated the Notre Dame Alumni team, 10-7 Saturday afternoon. The Irish continued to play well Sunday, defeating Indiana 15-6 to reach the championship game against Marquette.

Although this had been its closest game Saturday, the team was even better prepared for the second meeting. They began with an early lead and won the championship 15-5. Freshman Kelly Taylor made strong cuts all weekend and senior Erin Maxwell rebounded from a previous injury and also played very well.

The women's B team was more challenged at this tournament and posted a 1-5 record after both days of play. The team struggled with its deep game, both defensively and offensively, and was unable to gain much momentum Saturday. The D squad lost to Indiana, Notre Dame Alumni, Purdue and Valparaiso. The team faced Loyola-Chicago Sunday and while the contest ended in a 14-10 loss, it was played at a much higher level. Freshman Kelly Nickodem made some great catches in the end zone and junior captain Kim Ford had an excellent weekend defensively. The tournament ended with a victory for the team after Illinois-Chicago forfeited the final game.

Both men's teams were active Saturday playing regional opponents. Notre Dame A went 4-0 Saturday, beating Western Michigan, Marquette, Purdue and North Park. The final game of the day was against a team of Notre Dame alumni. After a hard fought game and many injuries, Notre Dame A lost to the alumni 15-14.

Notre Dame A beat Western Michigan again, this time 13-4 for the 9th place victory. Sophomores Thom Kenealy and James Denué came up from Notre Dame B to play in this game and really showed poise on the field. Denué scored three points over the course of the game. Notre Dame B also had a strong showing Sunday and won both of their games.

Men and women resume play April 17-18 in Naperville, Ill. at the 2010 UPA Central Plains Sectionals.

Sailing

Notre Dame hosted the Freshman Icebreaker Regatta this weekend on St. Joseph's lake.

Twelve races were completed in each division. Notre Dame teams finished second and fifth overall. Marquette claimed the trophy, edging the Irish number one boat by two points.

Cycling

Riders were greeted with sunny weather for the first time in two race weekends this past Saturday as sunny skies and warm temperatures found the University of Illinois at Carbondale. Saturday's road racecourse featured a seven-mile "stem" leading from the start to a nine-mile loop.

The first Notre Dame rider to compete was senior Jenn Perricone in the 42 mile Women's A race. A third of the way through the competition, Perricone maneuvered herself into a breakaway of four riders who were clearly the class of the field. As one of the strongest sprinters in the group, Perricone looked to be in position for a win until, with less than 15 miles remaining, her chain was jarred loose at the base of a climb. Forced to dismount and fix the problem, Perricone lost a great deal of time to the leaders.

Law student Josh Johnson followed Perricone in the 33-mile Men's C category. Johnson rode in the center of the pack for most of the race to avoid the powerful crosswinds. In the final kilometers he moved to the front and sprinted to a 12th place result.

Graduate student Douglas Ansel and freshman Joe Magro represented Notre Dame in the 42-mile Men's B road race. The first seven miles of the race were run at a pedestrian tempo but attacks began the instant the field began the first of three laps around the loop. A breakaway of three formed on the first major climb and quickly established a 25 second gap on the main field. Ansel hit the front of the peloton and began working to reel the break in, but a lack of cooperation from other schools paralyzed his efforts. The pace slowed again until Magro accelerated off the front and took off in pursuit of the breakaway.

A rider from Marian University came along in Magro's slipstream, but refused to help bridge the gap as Marian was already represented by two riders in the existing break. Magro caught up to the break and the group, now five riders, quickly established an insurmountable advantage over the rest of the race. By the end of the third and final loop, Magro's break had put over three minutes on the main field and it was clear the winner would come out of this

selection.

The final miles of the competition were ridden at a lethargic pace, with no member of the breakaway wanting to expend unnecessary energy. When the finish came into view, the three Marian riders launched a final lunge to the line, but Magro was positioned perfectly to counter their effort.

Coming out of the Marian slipstream with 100 meters to go, Magro powered past to take his second win in as many weeks. Back in the main field, Ansel was able to escape the group with five kilometers remaining but was swallowed by the peloton with barely a kilometer left to ride. Exhausted from the effort, he still sprinted to fourth place in the field, good for ninth overall.

The clear skies of Saturday were replaced with a cold rain Sunday morning as riders raced through the campus of Southern Illinois in the criterium event.

Josh Johnson was the first Notre Dame rider to discover the danger of the course in the 30 minute Men's C race. All riders were on edge due to the conditions, but the cautious nature of the field was not enough to keep everyone upright as halfway through the event a number of riders slid out and skidded across the pavement coming through a turn.

Johnson avoided the other bikes, but was forced into the grass where he too crashed. Unfazed, after quickly checking his equipment Johnson rejoined the race and bettered his result of the day before with an eighth place finish.

The Men's B race with Magro and Ansel got off to a blistering start with Ansel setting the tempo for many of the early laps. The group was quickly weeded out to the 15 strongest with both Ansel and Magro present.

Magro ran over a piece of glass and shredded his rear tire. Feeling the loss in pressure, he was forced to pull off and eventually abandon the race. Ansel's luck was not much better as he took a hairpin turn at speeds over 26 miles per hour and crashed.

Perricone closed the weekend's action for Notre Dame in the Women's A race. Early in the event, two Marian riders escaped off the front of the field with Perricone, a rider from Lindsey Wilson, and a rider from DePauw giving chase. These five riders eventually came together and left the weaker main field far behind. Perricone placed fifth in the final sprint, giving her two top fives for the weekend and her best showing yet of 2010.

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.

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Believe that life is worth living and your belief will help create the fact. William James

Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment. Buddha

To the best friends anyone could ever ask for: Thanks for everything. MK AL AW

Holla atcha Bermuda Triangle.

AROUND THE NATION

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

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Women's Division I Tennis ITA Poll

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

Men's Division I Baseball USA Today Poll

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

Men's Division I Baseball Big East Rankings

team	record
1 Pittsburgh	3-0
2 Rutgers	3-0
3 South Florida	3-0
4 Louisville	2-1
5 Villanova	2-1
6 West Virginia	2-1
7 Connecticut	1-2
8 Cincinnati	1-2
9 Seton Hall	1-2
10 St. John's	0-3

MLB



Giants starter Matt Cain throws a pitch during a spring training game. The 25-year-old was signed by the team to a three-year extension. He was named to the All Star team for the first time last season as he posted a 14-8 record with a 2.89 ERA.

Giants lock up Cain with three-year extension

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Matt Cain and the San Francisco Giants have agreed to a \$27.25 million, three-year contract, while closer Brian Wilson has been given a \$15 million, two-year extension through 2012.

Left-hander Jeremy Affeldt has been given a one-year extension through 2011 that adds \$5.5 million in new money.

In all, the team added \$43.25 million in new commitments in the three deals.

Cain gets a \$1 million signing bonus, \$4.5 million this year, \$7 million in 2011 and \$15 million in 2012. He was due to make \$4.5 mil-

lion in 2010, the final season of a \$9 million, four-year contract that included a \$6.25 million team option for 2011.

Depending on how he does in Cy Young Award voting, Cain's salary could escalate to \$7.5 million in 2011 and \$15.5 million in 2012. He would earn a \$50,000 bonus each year he pitches 225 innings and gets a limited no-trade provision giving him the right to block deals to eight teams.

Cain was a first-time All-Star last year and went 14-8 with a 2.89 ERA in 33 starts. His four complete games tied for first in the NL.

"It just shows apprecia-

tion for the things I've done, and the way they run the organization," Cain said. "It shows that we can do something to benefit both sides."

The 25-year-old showed he is nearly ready for the regular season on Sunday by pitching five innings of no-hit ball in a minor league game. He gave up two home runs in the sixth and pitched the seventh.

Wilson, 28, already was signed for \$4,437,500 for this year under a settlement in January that avoided salary arbitration. The extension added salaries of \$6.5 million in 2011 and \$8.5 million in 2012.

He had 38 saves last season and 41 in 2008. He was

a first-time All-Star in 2008.

The 30-year-old Affeldt receives a \$500,000 raise to \$4.5 million this season, gets \$4.5 million in 2011 and has a \$5 million club option for 2012 with a \$500,000 buyout.

He tied with Minnesota's Matt Guerrier for the major-league lead in holds with 33 last season.

In February, the Giants and two-time Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum finalized a \$23 million, two-year deal.

"It's what we've been talking about all spring," Cain said of the Giants' rotation. "We love playing together. We all feed off each other."

IN BRIEF

Izzo shoots down Oregon rumors, says he is happy

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said Monday that he is happy where he is after a report that Oregon wants to make him the richest coach in the nation.

KEZI-TV in Eugene, Ore., cited anonymous sources in reporting that the school plans to offer Izzo college basketball's largest contract with help from Nike Inc. co-founder Phil Knight.

"I have not been contacted," Izzo told The Associated Press on Monday. "I'm happy here and I'm focused on trying to win another national championship."

Izzo led the Spartans to a title a decade ago. He will take them to the college basketball's showcase this weekend for the sixth time in 12 seasons, a string of success accomplished only by UCLA's John Wooden and Duke's Mike Krzyzewski in NCAA history.

Florida woman accuses Steelers' Holmes of assault

ORLANDO, Fla. — A Florida woman is suing Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Antonio Holmes, saying the one-time Super Bowl MVP hit her in the face with a glass at an Orlando nightclub and then offered to pay her so she wouldn't press charges.

Anshonoe Mills claimed in a lawsuit filed Wednesday that Holmes grabbed her face and threw the glass at her because she was sitting on a couch in the Rain Night Club's VIP section on March 7.

The lawsuit said the glass hit Mills on the right side of the face, cutting the woman near the eye. The four-page document also claimed Holmes and a police officer intimidated Mills so she wouldn't press charges.

Holmes offered to pay Mills because he was an NFL star and couldn't afford to get into trouble, the lawsuit said. The woman felt pressured and incoherently told police that she was hit in the face and was bleeding but wouldn't press charges, according to the lawsuit.

Steelers' Roethlisberger misses first day of workouts

PITTSBURGH — Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, accused of assaulting a female college student in Georgia, did not report to the team's offseason workouts.

Team spokesman Dave Lockett said Roethlisberger will not work out with his teammates this week. Some, but not all, of the Steelers' most experienced players began the conditioning and weightlifting program on Monday. Less-experienced players began working out two weeks ago.

The Steelers do not start on-field practicing until April 19, when most players are expected to be on hand.

The team apparently believes it would be a distraction for Roethlisberger to be working out at this time. An investigation into the Georgia case is ongoing.

around the dial

NHL Hockey
Blackhawks at Blues
8 p.m., Versus

NCAA Women's Basketball
No. 4 Kentucky vs. No. 3 Oklahoma
9:07 p.m., ESPN

MLB

Obama to throw ceremonial pitch

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama will throw out the ceremonial first ball at the Washington Nationals' opener, marking the 100th anniversary of a presidential pitch to start the season.

William Howard Taft first did it on April 14, 1910. This will be the 48th time a president has made an opening-day pitch in the nation's capital.

The Nationals open at home on April 5 against the Philadelphia Phillies.

"I am proud that President Obama will continue the long presidential tradition of throwing out the first pitch of opening day

in Washington, D.C.," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said.

Obama will have an experienced target, too: When he played in Texas, new Nationals catcher Ivan Rodriguez, a 14-time All-Star, twice caught ceremonial pitches from President George W. Bush, a former Rangers owner.

Rodriguez is looking forward to this occasion.

"He's a great guy, a great president, a sports fan," Rodriguez said. "It's going to be a great day."

This will be the first time President Obama attends a game at Nationals Park.

Pitcher John Lannan will be starting the game for the

Nationals and worried he could be warming up in the bullpen right when the Commander in Chief is touring the home clubhouse.

"We were hoping he'd do it last year. The timing's right," Lannan said. "You have some perks when you're living in D.C."

Obama threw out the first pitch at last year's All-Star game in St. Louis, wearing a White Sox jacket. Noting that the Nationals host the White Sox this season for a three-game series June 18-20, Washington manager Jim Riggleman joked, "He's going to be answering some tough questions about whether he's a Nationals fan or a White Sox fan."

NFL

Bradford prepares for draft

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — After a record-setting college career that landed him a Heisman Trophy, one giant question loomed over Sam Bradford's prospects of becoming the No. 1 overall pick in next month's NFL draft.

How would the quarterback's throwing arm respond to surgery that cost him most of his final season at Oklahoma?

Bradford provided a convincing case Monday that he's well down the road to recovery, completing all but one of his five dozen passes during a workout on his college campus.

"Really positive. I thought the whole workout was positive," said St. Louis Rams general manager Billy Devaney, who has the No. 1 pick in the draft that starts April 22. "I think he answered a lot of questions for a lot of people today."

Bradford's first public throwing exhibition since his surgery featured an assortment of passes ranging from a swing pass to a running back to patterns forcing him to throw to the sidelines and even a post pattern that went more than 50 yards in the air.

Bradford went 13 for 13 during a warmup session and then missed only one of 50 passes in the workout that followed — a slant pattern that was slightly behind Adron Tennell but still hit him in the hands.

"I thought I did very well today," Bradford said. "I showed a wide variety of throws. I didn't just come out and show the basic things, I showed some in the gun, on the move and different throws. I think I showed everyone that I can still make all the throws and my shoulder is just what is was before I got hurt."

Among those there to watch were Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, Cleveland Browns president Mike Holmgren and San Francisco 49ers coach Mike Singletary. The Seahawks control the sixth and 14th picks, Cleveland picks seventh and the 49ers have the 13th and 16th selections.

"He hit every ball, he was dead on it and looked great. This is what you'd hope happens and he did a beautiful job," Carroll said.

Bradford won the Heisman Trophy in 2008 after throwing for 4,720 yards and 50 touchdowns with only eight interceptions while leading the Sooners to the



Former Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford throws passes for NFL scouts in Norman, Okla., Monday afternoon.

BCS championship game. No player in NCAA history has thrown more than Bradford's 86 touchdown passes through his freshman and sophomore seasons.

But after deciding to return for another shot at a national title, Bradford's junior year was cut short. He sprained his right shoulder just before halftime in Oklahoma's season opener against BYU, then returned to play one full game before getting hurt again against Texas.

He had season-ending surgery in late October and declared for the draft, with experts tabbing him as a possible No. 1 pick even though he opted not to throw at the NFL combine or at Oklahoma's regular pro day in order to give the arm more time to heal.

"He lived up to it. He did what he needed to do today. It's a big day for Sam, too, after all of the time off," Carroll said. "He came through in the kind of manner you would expect a big-timer to come through."

Bradford said he had breakfast with Spagnuolo and the Rams' offensive coaching staff before his workout. Devaney also said the Rams plan to have a private workout with Bradford.

"It's another piece," Devaney said of the Rams' evaluation of

Bradford. "It's an important piece but it's a piece."

Bradford said every player dreams of being picked first in the draft, but he hasn't given it much thought. And he said it would be up to the Rams whether he'd sign a deal before draft day, should they decide to draft him at No. 1.

"I don't control that. I have no clue how it's going to play out," Bradford said. "If that's how it works, then that's how it works. If not, I'll be excited to hear my name called on draft day."

Bradford admitted being nervous before the throwing session, in part because it was an unusual situation to have one receiver running a pattern at a time with no defense.

"At the end of the day, it's still just a workout," Bradford said. "I'm not going to go to the NFL and throw routes on air to guys. I'm going to have to play against a very good defense week in and week out."

After Bradford was finished, former teammate Gerald McCoy — a longtime friend who's also in the mix to become the No. 1 overall pick — came rushing over from the sideline to give him a hug.

"I knew he was going to be at his best," McCoy said. "Sam is the best, man. He's a beast. That's why I call him King Sam."

PGA TOUR

Els wins 18th career victory at Invitational

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Ernie Els made two clutch par putts, escaped trouble from a buried lie in the bunker and wound up wearing a blue blazer Monday for winning the rain-delayed Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Suddenly, it's easy to picture him in a different color jacket two weeks from now.

Els overcame a few nervous moments with four solid pars to wrap up a 1-under 71 and win by two shots at Bay Hill, giving him back-to-back victories for the first time in seven years and setting himself up as a favorite at Augusta National.

"I'd like to put this jacket in some dye," Els said at the trophy presentation. "Some green dye."

Coming off a four-shot victory in the World Golf Championship at Doral two weeks ago, Els had to work harder than he should have for his 18th career victory on the PGA Tour.

He had a five-shot lead Sunday afternoon with six holes remaining until hitting into the water on No. 13 for a double bogey and hitting into the sand on the next hole for a bogey. Then came the thunderstorms, halting the final round until it resumed at noon Monday.

Els immediately felt pressure as he stood over a 6-foot par putt, but he made it.

With his lead down to one shot over Kevin Na, his 4-iron came up short of the 17th green and plugged into the face of the bunker. Els blasted out to 6 feet and made that one for par.

"The whole thing changed from being very comfortable to being just as tense as I've been for a long time," Els said. "So it was a hard struggle today. If I can say it, I really earned this one."

He finished at 11-under 277 and moved to No. 7 in the world rankings. Els earned \$1.08 million, giving him more than \$3 million for the year and putting him atop the PGA Tour money list.

Na missed an 18-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole for a share of the lead, then drove into the right rough and had to lay up short of the water. He hit a wedge within 8 feet and missed the putt, giving Els some breathing room.

Na closed with a 69 and shared second with Edoardo Molinari of Italy, who also had a 69.

Els blasted out of the buried lie in the bunker on the 17th and was knocking the sand from his spikes when he saw that Na, in the group ahead of him, had driven into the right rough. When he reached the 18th tee, Els could hear the groan from the gallery around the green and realized Na had

made bogey.

"Even Tiger Woods couldn't have gotten over the water," Na said, referring to his decision to lay up. "With the lie as wet as it is, there's absolutely no chance."

Facing a difficult tee shot on the 18th to secure the victory, Els pretended to be at the Masters.

"It's always in my head this time of the year," he said. "You try and downplay it, but you do think about it. Today, I thought about it on the 72nd hole. I was like, 'OK, you're standing at Augusta and you've got to hit this hard fade.'"

And he nailed it.

Playing cautiously away from the water, he pulled his approach into the rough near a bunker, chipped to 8 feet and holed the par putt.

It was his second victory at Bay Hill, the other coming 11 years ago in a 36-hole Sunday because of rain. Els became the first player since Tiger Woods in 2001 to win twice on the Florida Swing. Woods won at Bay Hill and The Players Championship, then made it three in a row when he captured the Masters.

Els has had nothing but heartache at Augusta National.

"I know the history of Augusta pretty well, and there's been a lot of nice stories," Els said. "There's been a lot of cruel ones — thinking of (Tom) Weiskopf and (Greg) Norman and myself — but there's also been some really great ones. So we still are hoping for the great one."

Els planned to fly up to Augusta on Tuesday for a practice round before playing in the Houston Open.

"I think he's going to be tough at Augusta," Palmer said after greeting Els behind the 18th green.

Retief Goosen (69) and Chris Couch (71) tied for fourth. Ben Curtis, who started the final round one shot out of the lead, closed with a 74 and finished alone in sixth.

"It's great to see Ernie playing well again," Goosen said. "He's really settled in after moving to America now. His game has seemed to really come around."

Els had gone two years without winning — the longest drought of his career — and now has consecutive wins for the first time since he won the Heineken Classic and Johnnie Walker Classic in Australia early in the 2003 season. Earlier that year, he won the PGA Tour's first two events in Hawaii.

"I want to make this a special year, especially after these two wins," Els said. "But I still have a lot of work left, and there are a lot of majors left. And that's going to be fun now."

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Duke prepares for Final Four

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke is headed to another Final Four after showing it takes more than a cold night from one of the "Big Three" to stop the Blue Devils.

Kyle Singler missed every shot he took in the regional final. In an earlier round, Jon Scheyer was 1 for 11.

"It's not always about what we do in terms of shooting" Scheyer said after beating Baylor in the South Regional final. "If we have a couple of off shooting nights ... usually the three of us try to make up for it in other ways."

And they have. Duke has won three of four NCAA tournament games by double figures. The Blue Devils play West Virginia on Saturday in Indianapolis.

Duke (33-5) depends on the trio for most of its scoring. For the most part, they've come through all season. Each averages at least 17 points, and the threesome combines to average more than 53 points — nearly 69 percent of Duke's points.

For opponents, the challenge is figuring out how to stop the one with the hot hand.

California slowed Scheyer in the second round, continuing his shooting slump and holding him to seven points on 1 of 11 shooting. But Nolan Smith lit up the Golden Bears for 20 points and Scheyer added 17.

Then Baylor thought it had Singler figured out, holding him without a field goal for the first time in his college career while he focused on defending Bears star LaceDarius Dunn. Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski later admitted that with Singler's "anxiety to cover Dunn, he got out of his game a little bit."

"I think Kyle's a great player, and he's not always going to play great," Krzyzewski said. "You can't give knee-jerk reactions when a kid just doesn't perform at a top level. He's trying to fight through it and a lot of us, most of us, if we were trying to guard Dunn, it would take away from



Blue Devils forwards Lance Thomas, 42, and Kyle Singler, 12, celebrate with guards Nolan Smith and Jon Scheyer after beating Baylor.

our offense. There's no question about it.

"You can get into a mode where you're a little bit more conservative," he added, "because you on the court is a valuable asset, even if it's not 100 percent."

Not to worry, Smith stepped up like he did against California. He had a career-high 29 points and Scheyer added 20 and five 3-pointers while breaking out of that slump in a 78-71 win that put the Blue Devils in yet another Final Four.

"Just coming into the game, I wasn't going to worry about or think about my shot. I was just going to let it go if I was open," Scheyer said. "Just play my game, not worry about just being a spot-up shooter or anything like that. I really want to follow my instincts and not worry about it. Just throw myself into the team, and naturally it just goes in when you're doing that."

Indeed, Duke never seems rattled when one of its "Big Three" has an off night. It's when two of them go cold that the Blue Devils

could be in trouble. Fortunately for them, it's only happened once.

Georgia Tech was the only team this season to hold two of them to single-digit scoring, limiting Singler and Smith to nine points apiece in a 71-67 win two months ago in Duke's ACC road opener.

Now the Mountaineers will try to get in down against Duke. West Virginia effectively mixes man-to-man and zone defenses and seems constructed to slow down the Blue Devils.

The Blue Devils have started preparing for West Virginia, but they took a moment to savor what they accomplished.

"We've worked really hard, this group, and I think we've come a long way since our freshman year," Scheyer said. "And to be in a position in the Final Four and contend for a national championship, it means a lot. I don't know if it's fully hit me. I'm sure after the year I'll have a better appreciation. But right now I'm just ecstatic and just really happy to share with all my teammates."

TENNIS

Sony Ericsson Open continues for some

Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Venus Williams rallied to beat Daniela Hantuchova 1-6, 7-5, 6-4 in the fourth round at the Sony Ericsson Open on Monday.

The third-seeded Williams trailed for most of the match but swept the final seven points, hitting winners on the last four points. She overcame 45 unforced errors, including 11 as she lost the first four games.

Williams improved to 10-0 against Hantuchova.

The lone American woman to reach the final 16, Williams is seeking her fourth Key Biscayne title, but her first since 2001. Her quarterfinal opponent will be No. 6 Agnieszka Radwanska, who beat Yaroslava Shvedova 6-1, 6-4.

An unusually inconsistent Roger Federer edged Florent Serra 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3) in the third round. The top-ranked Federer lost serve three times, each time when he led. He committed 35 unforced errors to 32 for Serra.

But Federer won eight consecutive service points in the tiebreakers and closed out the victory with a service winner.

"All in all, I'm thrilled to be through," he said. "At the end of the day, that's what counts."

The crowd included Rafael Nadal, a potential opponent in the men's final Sunday.

"It has always been a lot of fun playing against him," Federer said. "I hope that day is going to come soon again."

The top-seeded woman,

Svetlana Kuznetsova, was hampered by a right shoulder injury and lost to Marion Bartoli 6-3, 6-0 in the fourth round.

Kuznetsova, the 2006 champion, required treatment from a trainer three times during the match and won only eight points in the second set.

"I almost had stars in my eyes, it was so painful," Kuznetsova said. "I cannot return. Then I cannot serve."

The upset was nothing new for the 13th-seeded Bartoli, who has won seven of her past 11 matches against top five players.

Bartoli advanced to the quarterfinals at Key Biscayne for the second time. She also reached the final eight as a qualifier in 2003.

Mardy Fish reached the fourth round with his second consecutive win over a seeded opponent, beating No. 29 Feliciano Lopez 7-5, 6-3. Fish upset defending champion Andy Murray in the second round.

Federer's fourth-round opponent will be No. 16 Tomas Berdych, who beat Horacio Zeballos 6-4, 7-5.

Federer's 7-6, 7-6 win was his first since October 2008. He played only four tiebreakers in his 14 previous matches this year, going 2-2.

"It's nice having won two breakers," he said. "That doesn't happen every match you play."

The Key Biscayne champion in 2005-06, Federer has won 36 matches in the tournament, third behind Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras.

NHL

Coach Playfair fined for tantrum

Associated Press

ABBOTSFORD, British Columbia — Abbotsford Heat coach Jim Playfair says that while he is not proud of the stick-breaking tantrum that got him fined by the American Hockey League, he won't apologize for it.

"It isn't my proudest moment for sure," he said Monday. "It's not to the point where it's embarrassing."

The amount of the fine was undisclosed.

Playfair, a former NHL player and coach of the Calgary Flames, was upset after one of his players was given a 5-minute penalty and game misconduct Saturday by referee Jamie Koharski for running into Hamilton's goalie.

The coach tore off his suit jacket, stood on the bench and smashed two sticks over the boards, throwing the pieces on the ice.

"It is what it is," Playfair said Monday after the Heat

practiced. "I'm not going to apologize for it.

"It's part of the emotion level you have to have to get to be a professional person. That's what happened."

The 45-year-old Playfair said his own children have shown him the video "20 or 30 times."

"I can't take it back. I can have you check my history and it's just not something I do consistently. It's not a motivational tool. It's something that happened in the heat of the moment."

Playfair regrets that his actions send the wrong message to children watching hockey.

"I have kids in minor hockey myself," he said. "I understand a parent's perception of it."

"It's not cool. I do apologize to the kids and parents. It's not right."

After the game, Playfair called the owner of the Heat, the president of the Flames

and the president of the AHL to explain his actions.

"I expressed to those people how I feel," he said. "It's not the proper action of any type of coach."

"Let's be serious. It's not what you are supposed to do when you are a professional person in a market where we are trying to educate people and kids on how to play. It's not the right thing to do."

Playfair also wants to speak with Koharski.

"I will make the effort to speak with the referee and explain," he said. "He's a young referee that carries around a big family name."

"He is trying to get to the highest level."

Koharski is the son of retired NHL official Don Koharski, who was involved in one of the NHL's most infamous tirades.

In 1988, Devils coach Jim Schoenfeld called Koharski a "fat pig" and told him to "Have another doughnut."



Venus Williams hits back against Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova Monday during the Sony Ericsson Open in Key Biscayne, Fla.

CLUB SPORTS

Men's water polo squad goes 3-1

Special to the Observer

This weekend featured the Alumni Invitational at the Rolfs Aquatic Center in which five teams participated in a round robin tournament. Notre Dame's alumni team was comprised of water polo alumni who have graduated since 2001.

The Irish opened play with a loss to St. Louis University. Notre Dame quickly scored three goals to take the early lead. However, St. Louis soon game back with four goals of their own, forcing the Irish to design a new strategy. After a timeout, Notre Dame was able to tie the game, but the Bilikens scored twice more before halftime. The third quarter continued in the same manner, with a shot from freshman John Deggelman, bringing the Irish within two goals at the end of the third period. A quick goal from senior Billy Bauman brought the Irish within one goal in the fourth period. However, the squad was not able to capital-

ize on numerous opportunities, and SLU won, 11-8. Freshman Chris Jennis played well, scoring two of the Irish's eight goals, while Billy Bauman led Notre Dame with three.

The next and most anticipated game of the weekend was Notre Dame versus the Alumni team. The current Notre Dame squad jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead thanks to two goals by sophomore captain Dan Geisman. Notre Dame continued to apply pressure in the second quarter, scoring six goals, including a pair from Jennis, and goals from sophomore Rob Ray and senior captain Luke DePasquale. Although the alumni mounted a comeback in the second half, the squad held the lead, winning 15-9. Freshman John Hancher had a hat trick, and Deggelman put in two goals of his own.

The last game Saturday pitted Notre Dame against Michigan. The score was never separated by more than two goals, until Notre Dame

was able to forge a 10-7 lead in the fourth quarter. However, the Wolverines fought back to tied the score at 11, with 1:33 left and sent the game into a two period overtime. During regulation, Geisman, DePasquale and Bauman each scored a goal, and Matt Fordonski scored five goals. In overtime, Fordonski quickly scored twice more, giving him seven for the game. The Irish held the lead, winning 13-12.

The final game Sunday was Notre Dame against Purdue. Again, Notre Dame started strong, jumping out to a 6-0 lead by the start of the second period. However, Purdue fought back, bringing the score to 9-6 in the third period. The Irish regained their composure, and coasted in the end, winning the game, 14-9. Fordonski again led the Irish with five goals, while Bauman registered a hat trick. Geisman and DePasquale both put away two goals, and senior Alex Wheeler added a goal.

WNBA

Mercury lose champion Pondexter to Liberty

Associated Press

NEW YORK — WNBA star Cappie Pondexter is headed to the New York Liberty as part of a major three-team trade.

The league champion Mercury have a deal in place to send All-Star guard to New York for Shameka Christon and Cathrine Kraayeveld, according to a person familiar with the trade. Christon and Kraayeveld will be shipped to Chicago for All-Star Candice Dupree.

The person told The Associated Press on Monday night on condition of anonymity because the trade hadn't been announced.

Pondexter averaged 19.1 points last season for the Mercury, who won their second title in three years. The 27-year-old guard, who was the second pick in the 2006 WNBA draft by Phoenix, will be reunited with 2008 Olympic basketball coach Anne Donovan and former Rutgers teammates Essence Carson and Kia Vaughn.

Pondexter, who was playing overseas this winter for UMMC Ekaterinburg in Russia, helped the U.S. win its fourth straight gold medal at the Beijing Olympics. She was one of the first eight players announced as part of the U.S. national team pool for the World Championships this fall.

The 25-year-old Dupree averaged 15.7 points last season for the Sky, who just missed out on making the playoffs.

Christon led New York in scoring last season, averaging 16.1 points and was recently added to the USA basketball national team pool. Kraayeveld averaged 9.0 points last year and was one of the team's best 3-point shooters.

The Liberty didn't make the playoffs last season, a year after advancing to the Eastern conference finals.

The WNBA regular season starts May 15. The Liberty are at Phoenix on July 3 and host the Mercury on August 14.

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Baylor's women get revenge against Duke

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Baylor's youth nearly cost the Lady Bears a trip to Final Four, and ended up saving the day.

Phenomenal freshman Brittney Griner caught a pass, spun around and hit a short jumper with 45 seconds left to propel fourth-seeded Baylor to a 51-48 win over No. 2 seed Duke on Monday night for its second trip ever to the Final Four.

"I knew we needed that bucket so I did everything I could to get position and to have (the defender) pinned behind me and step through and go up strong," Griner said.

The 6-foot-8 Griner and her teammates hoisted Kim Mulkey onto their shoulders so the coach could cut down the net. Mulkey led the Lady Bears to their only other appearance in the national semifinals in 2005 en route to the national championship.

"I've never had players tall enough to lift me to cut the net so that's a first," Mulkey said.

Baylor's men's team lost to Duke 78-71 on Sunday in the South Regional final. It was the first time ever that there had been the same regional final matchup in both brackets since the women's tournament began during the 1981-82 season, according to STATS LLC.

Duke led the entire second half until Griner's basket and by as much as 10 points — enough for freshman Jordan Madden to start longing for the bench.

"I really didn't want to be out there because I didn't want to make a mistake and turn the ball over or foul and let them shoot free throws,"

Madden said.

The Blue Devils held a 46-38 advantage with 4:59 left before a pair of free throws by Kimetria Hayden launched a 13-2 run for the Lady Bears (27-9).

Krystal Thomas spent 26 minutes guarding Griner in the paint before fouling out with 2:17 left. That cleared the way for Griner, who hit the game-winning shot over Cheek's extended arm.

"When Krystal Thomas was fouled out, that's the game. That's the story. That's it," Duke coach Joanne P. McCallie said. "If you take our best 6-4 player out of the game for the last three minutes, it changes the game enormously. And they took advantage."

Hayden, also a freshman, made a pair of free throws and stole the following inbounds pass by Cheek, dishing it to Melissa Jones for a layup with 2:10 left that pulled the Lady Bears within one. Jones, who finished with 10 points, also hit a pair of free throws with 26 seconds left, forcing Duke (30-6) to scramble.

A fired-up Mulkey sat Griner for 20 seconds early in the second half because she wasn't playing aggressively enough and spent a timeout after Hayden's two free throws yelling at Hayden and fellow freshman Shanay Washington for their lack of effort in rebounding.

"Dang if the kid doesn't come back and make the play of the game under the basket pressing," Mulkey said of Hayden's steal. "It's what you get with freshmen. You get the good and you get the bad."

Two 3-point attempts by Cheek in the last 17 seconds

bounced off the rim as the Blue Devils missed their last nine shots and a chance at their first Final Four since 2006.

Griner just missed her third triple-double of the season, finishing with 15 points, 11 rebounds and nine blocks.

Both teams struggled early. Duke missed its first 10 shots from the floor, but Baylor only held a 7-1 lead 5½ minutes into the game.

"When you have somebody in the paint with shot-blocking ability like that, it can make it difficult for you to take the shots you want to take," Cheek said.

The game was every bit the defensive battle that was expected, with Baylor shooting 27.6 percent and Duke 24.2 percent in the first half. The Lady Bears have held each of their opponents in the NCAA tournament to under 35 percent shooting.

Griner, who blocked 14 shots in the second round against Georgetown to set an NCAA tournament single-game record, has 35 through four tournament games. That broke the previous record of 30 by Duke's Alison Bales in 2006.

The Blue Devils have had plenty of experience with slow starts, trailing early in nine of their last 10 games. They slowly warmed up on offense and took a 16-15 lead on a putback layup from Bridgette Mitchell with 6:04 left before halftime.

Karima Christmas scored six straight points in the last 1:30 of the first half to give Duke a 26-21 lead at the break. Christmas finished with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Duke shot a season-worst 23.1 percent for the game, and for once the Blue Devils



Baylor center Brittney Griner goes up for a shot against Duke center Krystal Thomas in the first half of their games Monday.

weren't able to generate points through their offense with Baylor handling the pressure.

The Blue Devils entered the game ranked second in the nation with an average 13.3 steals per contest and had 23 against San Diego State in the regional semifinals but logged only six, ending their streak of 10 straight games with 10 or more thefts.

Duke has thrived off low-scoring games this season. It was the 23rd time the Blue Devils held an opponent to 60 or fewer points but only the first time they'd lost when doing so.

"We did the best we could with what we had," McCallie said. "Our kids were great. Our team fought very, very hard. They shouldn't be hard on themselves at all."

NBA

Double-doubles from Boozer and Williams lead to win

Nowitzki has triple-double in victory; Paul returns to pre-injury form; league-worst Nets earn 10th win by topping Spurs

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Carlos Boozer scored 26 points and pulled down 14 rebounds, Deron Williams added 23 points and 14 assists and the Utah Jazz took over first place in the Northwest Division with a 103-98 win over the New York Knicks on Monday night.

Paul Millsap also had a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz, who scored 44 in the first quarter then needed to hold off the Knicks down the stretch.

The Knicks rallied from 15 points down and tied it late in the third quarter but couldn't overcome a 10-2 surge by the Jazz in the fourth.

Utah's victory combined with Denver's loss at Dallas puts the Jazz one game ahead of the Nuggets for the division lead and keeps the Jazz within a half-game of the Mavericks, who are second in the Western Conference.

Al Harrington led New York with 26 points and 17 rebounds.

It was the 50th double-double of the season for Boozer and Williams' 41st. Williams almost had his wrapped up before the end of the first quarter, finishing with 14 points and eight assists. The Jazz made all seven of their 3-point attempts and shot 17 for 20 in the period, missing as many from the foul line as they did from the floor.

But the Knicks hacked away at the lead and cut it to 64-60 by halftime, then tied it in the third.

A 3-pointer by Harrington tied it at 84, then Tracy McGrady drew a foul while shooting a 3-pointer. He made the first foul shot to tie it at

87, but missed the next two and it was still tied entering the fourth.

Utah opened the fourth with a 6-0 run and the Knicks weren't able to catch up again, but they kept it close until the final minute.

Okur hit a 3-pointer midway through the third that put Utah up 96-91 and started a 10-2 run that clinched it for the Jazz. After Rodriguez cut it to 96-93 with a layup, Boozer followed with a layup and then Williams hit back-to-back jumpers, including his fifth 3-pointer of the night to restore Utah's lead to 10.

Mavericks 109, Nuggets 93

Dirk Nowitzki had 34 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his second career triple-double, and the Dallas Mavericks maintained the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference with a victory over the Denver Nuggets on Monday night.

Shawn Marion added 21 points and Jason Terry contributed 15 for Dallas, which increased its conference lead over Denver to 1 1-2 games.

Nowitzki's other triple-double came with 29 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists against Milwaukee on Feb. 6, 2008.

Nowitzki hit 4 of 5 from 3-point range and went 16 for 17 from the free throw line as the Mavericks moved to 4-4 since snapping a season-best 13-game winning streak.

J.R. Smith scored 27 points and Nene had 14 for the Nuggets, who lost their fifth in six games. Carmelo Anthony, the league's No. 3 scorer, went 3 for 16 from the floor and had 10 points, 18.9 below his average.

The Nuggets pulled to 82-75 with 10:08 left, but Terry scored

the Mavericks' next eight points, including a pair of 3s, for a 90-77 lead with 8:05 to play.

Dallas went on to lead by as many as 20 points down the stretch. The Mavericks carried a 79-69 advantage into the fourth quarter after leading by as many as 17 in the third.

Denver's top rebounder Kenyon Martin missed his 14th straight game due to left knee patella tendinitis.

The Nuggets continue to struggle without Martin and with Adrian Dantley as acting coach while George Karl undergoes treatment for throat cancer. Denver is 7-7 in Karl's absence.

A little over an hour before tip-off, Dantley called the matchup "a big game — a huge game."

Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle wasn't as dramatic, but he said it was "a tiebreaker game, so it's important."

Marion's 10 points helped put Dallas in front 31-23 heading into the second quarter.

The Mavericks closed the second quarter with an 8-2 run, including consecutive 3s from Jason Kidd and Roddy Beaubois for a 55-46 edge.

Denver went the final 4:30 of the second quarter without a field goal, going 0 for 5 from the field with three turnovers.

Hornets 108, Lakers 100

Chris Paul had his first double-double since returning from injury with 15 points and 13 assists to help the New Orleans Hornets beat the Los Angeles Lakers on Monday night.

David West scored 20 points for New Orleans, while Marcus Thornton had 18 points and fellow



Knicks guard Sergio Rodriguez shoots over Jazz forward Paul Millsap in Utah's 103-98 win Monday.

rookie Darren Collison, a former UCLA standout, added 17 points against his hometown team.

Kobe Bryant had 31 points and Pau Gasol added 26 points and 22 rebounds, but they didn't have much help as the Lakers trailed throughout the final three quarters and fell behind by as much as 17 points in the fourth before losing for the second time in three games.

Thornton and James Posey each had three 3-pointers for the Hornets, who hit 10 3s in all while snapping a two-game skid. Posey finished with 13 points and Emeka Okafor grabbed 13 rebounds.

Ron Artest scored 14 points and Lamar Odom 10 for Los Angeles, but the Lakers did not have a point from a reserve until Jordan Farmar's 3-pointer with 2:42 left in the third quarter, which cut New Orleans' lead to 66-61.

The Hornets responded with eight straight points, capped by West's layup on a feed from Paul.

After Gasol's free throws pulled the Lakers to 74-63, Los Angeles was looking to cut it to single digits when Posey swooped in for a backside block on Gasol. New Orleans broke the other way and Collison hit a driving floater in a crowd while being fouled by Gasol. He converted the three-point play to widen New Orleans' lead to 77-63 heading into the fourth quarter.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson appeared ready to concede after Okafor tipped in West's miss to make it 87-70 with a little more than nine minutes left. Bryant joined Gasol on the bench, even thought the Lakers' reserves were being outscored 31-5 to that point. However, the Lakers scored 11 straight points, the last when Bryant checked back in just in time to put back Farmar's missed free throw, cutting it to 87-81 with about 5:40 still remaining.

Darius Songaila, who had 10 points on 5-of-6 shooting, then hit a jumper to snap the run. After Farmar hit another 3, West banked in a tough fade over Odom.

Artest then missed his second 3-point attempt in three possessions and the Hornets began rebuilding their lead. Songaila tipped in West's miss. Soon after, Posey's 3 put the Hornets up 96-86 with 2:19 to go. The Lakers started fouling, but the Hornets hit their next eight free throws — four by Paul and two each by Thornton

and Posey. New Orleans wound up outshooting the Lakers 49 percent to 42 percent as Los Angeles was hurt by 7-of-29 shooting from 3-point range.

Gasol scored the Lakers' first 12 points and his dunk later gave Los Angeles a 21-17 lead, but New Orleans regained the lead for good on consecutive 3s by Posey and Collison.

Those baskets began a 17-1 run that carried into the second quarter and featured two more 3s, one each by Paul and Collison, and New Orleans' lead hovered around 10 points throughout the period.

Odom scored on a spin move in the lane while being fouled as time expired in the second quarter, but missed his free throw, and the Hornets led 50-42 at halftime.

Nets 90, Spurs 84

The New Jersey Nets notched their 10th victory Monday night, avoiding any chance of tying for the worst record in NBA history by beating the short-handed San Antonio Spurs.

Brook Lopez had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who grabbed control with a 15-4 run late in the fourth quarter to improve to 10-64. The 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers, who went 9-73, will remain in the record books as the league's worst team.

Public address announcer Gary Sussman shouted "We got 10! The Nets win!" after New Jersey snapped a 14-game losing streak in the series, committing a franchise record-low four turnovers in beating San Antonio for the first time since the 2003 NBA finals.

With Manu Ginobili (lower back spasms) joining Tony Parker on the injured list and Tim Duncan struggling through a poor shooting game, the Spurs had few answers on the second night of a back-to-back following an impressive victory at Boston on Sunday.

George Hill scored 19 points and former Net Richard Jefferson finished with 16 after a strong start for the Spurs, who fell out of a sixth-place tie in the Western Conference with Oklahoma City and Portland.

New Jersey has been in danger of the worst record ever since opening the season with an NBA-record, 18-game losing streak. But the Nets have now won three of four, taking the pressure off the remainder of their schedule.

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Rawls

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two over par. This finish beat Brophy's score of last year and Park's this season. Park went on to finished tied for 43rd with an overall score of 234, 18 above par. She had difficulty finding consistency as the weekend went on, having seven bogeys and two double birdies in the final round, but she managed to come back with one birdie.

Sophomore Becca Huffer followed closely behind Brophy, tying for 29th place overall with 230 points, 14 over par. She ended the weekend on a high note, scoring 76 on Sunday after 77 both of

the previous days after struggling the first day, when she sat tied for 41st at five over par.

Conway concluded the team score, finishing tied for 73rd with a total score of 242, six above par.

"As a team, we feel as though our games are close to peaking and this is the time of year where that feeling is important. We are definitely looking forward to a strong finish in Florida," Conway said.

The Irish take a week off before they travel to Gainesville, Fla., for the Sun Trust Lady Gator on April 10 and 11.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

Wildcats

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"His strong play is so important to our team in that we have an anchor and one who is comfortable with it," Kubinski said. "I think Doug realizes he doesn't have to try to be more than who he is to play great golf."

To complement Fortner's efforts, the Irish also had some help from sophomore Max Scodro, who finished second for Notre Dame, helping the team notch a solid weekend. He ended with a 224 (+11) total for the tournament.

Senior Carl Santos-Ocampo finished two shots behind Scodro with a 226 (+13). Santos-Ocampo began the tournament in a good position as he fired his first two rounds of 74. But the final round was a major setback in his quest for success. He recorded a 78 (+7) to end the tournament with the deciding factor of three double bogeys.

The Irish now enter into some of the most important weeks of the season. Next up for Notre Dame is the Big East championship and about one month later is the NCAA

Championship.

The Big East championship is just the start for a wild ride for the Irish. Despite not having a strong finish at the Spring Break championship, Kubinski said the team learned a lot on what needs to be done to get better. With a few weeks to prepare, the Irish hope to build up a positive attitude.

"We don't need false confidence though," Kubinski said. "We need confidence based on improvements we've made in preparation."

When preparing for the tournaments, Kubinski said the team looks to work on some of the aspects of their game that have been exposed at the last tournament.

But he said talent does not seem to be an issue.

"Our talent has never been in question; it's evident to all," Kubinski said. "We need to attack the areas that have let us down since our win at home in October and get our swagger back."

The Irish will have a chance to prove that they are back when they compete in the Big East championship on April 18-20 in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Contact Tim Singler at tsingler@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles give up 28 runs in two losses to Bethel

By KEVIN BALDWIN
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's dropped a pair to top-ranked cross-town rival Bethel in a doubleheader Monday.

The Belles fell 14-4 in the first game. Errors hampered the team's defensive effort, and despite putting a few runs on the board, the game was called due to the 10-run rule in the sixth inning.

Things did not immediately improve for Saint Mary's in the second game, with the Pilots scoring nine runs in the top of the first inning. The Belles battled back, capitalizing on base hits with smart base running to add runs in every inning and gradually narrow the Pilots' lead. However, after a full seven innings Bethel came out ahead 14-11.

"I told them we just need to chip away a little bit every inning, they did such a great

job of stringing hits together," Belles coach Erin Sullivan said. "I'm just so impressed with how our hitters did, almost everybody had multiple hits."

The team remains confident that the persistence and positive attitude they showed today will carry them through the tough games that await them when they begin conference play.

"The way we played against Bethel ... if we play team ball we should be in the top three in our conference," Sullivan said. "Today was just a really good team effort, we weren't shut out our pitchers through well and our hitters were really consistent."

The Belles will take to the road on Thursday to play North Central College, their last game before their first conference game, against Kalamazoo Saturday.

Contact Kevin Baldwin at kbaldwi2@nd.edu

Florida

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ball a lot. They just hustle all the time."

While the game against Northwestern will certainly be a highlight of the upcoming road trip, the Irish are trying to stay fresh for upcoming games against Georgetown and Loyola Maryland.

"We're just taking it one game at a time, even though I know that's cliché," Coyne said. "We've got to be able to turn around and be ready for Georgetown."

The Irish will take the field against the top team in the land in Evanston at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu



EILEEN VEIHMEYER/The Observer

Senior attack Gina Scioscia makes a move during Notre Dame's 11-9 victory over Louisville Saturday.

Streak

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accomplished last season. Pitzenberger is second on the team with a .433 batting average, behind junior Erin Marrone's .453 clip.

But Valdivia said her team does not talk about the streaks.

"I think the greatest thing about this team and this year is to go one game at a time," she said. "We take every game, every day as our most

important game."

The Ramblers (6-12) enter the game having lost their last four games, including an extra-innings loss to Butler. Third baseman and pitcher Angie Funston leads the team in several categories, entering the game with a .347 batting average, 10 RBIs, 17 hits and a 1.25 ERA.

The non-conference game comes after Notre Dame opened its Big East season against the Pirates; the Irish will return to conference play Thursday against Rutgers.

"Any time we have these

"We take every game, every day as our most important game."

Jody Valdivia
junior pitcher

non-Big East games our focus is to stay fresh and work a lot of things," Valdivia said. "We look at it as another game where we have to pick up a win."

After the game the Irish will return to Notre Dame for an 11-game, 17-day home stand.

"Excited is not even a word to describe how we feel about [the home stand]," Valdivia said. "... Being able to come home and play in front of our own fans honestly is the greatest feeling in the world."

Notre Dame and Loyola-Chicago will begin play today at 4 p.m. CDT.

Contact Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu

Trine

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ter."

The Belles expect their success to carry over to tomorrow's match.

"It was a huge confidence boost to win all three doubles matches and get off to such a strong start on Saturday," Grabarek said. "That will continue to be key for the team the rest of the way during the season. We are continuing to work together to improve the team overall. We are definitely bonding well together and are looking forward to con-

tinuing our success that we have had so far."

Calvin will be just the second conference match of the season for Belles and continues a stretch of difficult opponents leading up to next month's MIAA Tournament.

Following Tuesday's match, the Belles will not play until the following Wednesday against Calvin College. The layoff during Easter Break will allow the Belles to rest and heal the minor injuries they

have.

"We are encouraged to hit and or workout as much as possible over break. It will be a good opportunity to rest some of our small n a g g i n g injuries that our recurring before heading into the home stretch of our conference season," Grabarek said. Matches will begin at 4 p.m. today.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

"We are continuing to work together to improve the team overall."

Kate Grabarek
Belles junior

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

Knights of Columbus dominate

By LUKE MANSOUR
Sports Writer

The highly anticipated matchup of the Knights of Columbus vs. Charlie and the Loaners quickly turned into a blowout as the Knights of Columbus took control of the game from the outset.

The Knights of Columbus consisted of freshman Bobby Thompson, junior Michael Bohnert, law student Lee Metzger, sophomore Sean Mullen and freshman Matt Jackson. Charlie and the Loaners started staffers Gene Pilawski, Charlie Castline,

Alexis Wolf, Kallie Kubacki and Leah Jasinski.

The game began slowly as both teams struggled to score on their first few possessions. Fighting the cold and windy conditions, the teams struggled to keep control of the ball and the offense was stagnant.

Thompson scored the game's first points with a hard drive and lay-in to give the Knights of Columbus the lead. However, again both teams missed opportunities, with the Knights missing a few lay-ups on fast breaks.

The Knights of Columbus began to take control of the game as it went on, scoring on high percentage shots to jump

out to a big lead. A block by Sean Mullen led to a pretty feed to big man Lee "Odd Man" Marsh to give the Knights a 11-0 halftime lead.

The Knights' defense was relentless as they blocked several shots in the paint and gave guards Kubacki and Pilawski no room to operate. Pilawski eventually broke the shutout with a driving layup in the lane to make it 14-1.

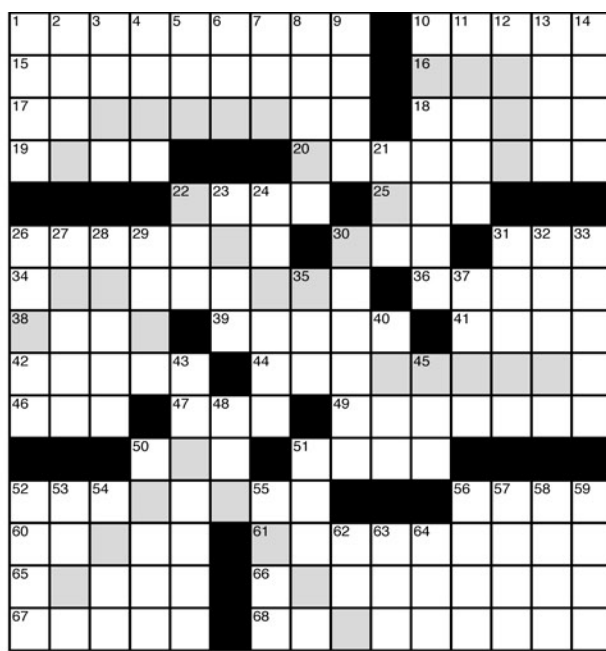
The Knights cruised the rest of the way to claim an easy victory, moving onto the second round.

Contact Luke Mansour at lmansour@nd.edu

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Camera openings
 - 10 Wooden shoe
 - 15 Patron of the hearts?
 - 16 Weather of a region
 - 17 Fidgety
 - 18 "What's it all about, ___?"
 - 19 Too much of e-mail
 - 20 They lift kites
 - 22 Bouquet holder
 - 25 Half of the tai chi symbol
 - 26 And other women: Lat.
 - 30 Day's end, to a poet
 - 31 Grappling site
 - 34 "Come and get it" signals in the Army
 - 36 Candied, as fruits
 - 38 Org. that approves trailers
 - 39 Is a maître d' for, say
 - 41 Hibernia
 - 42 Busybody
 - 44 Service leaders in the service
 - 46 See 59-Down
 - 47 "Ready or ___"
 - 49 Like most promgoers
 - 50 Wildebeest
 - 51 Grant
 - 52 Song whose title is repeated before and after "gentle" in its first line
 - 56 John who wrote "My First Summer in the Sierra"
 - 60 Sainted 11th-century pope
 - 61 References
 - 65 Having plenty to spare
 - 66 Den mothers
 - 67 Wedding invitation encls.
- Down**
- 1 Dollar competitor
 - 2 Sensory appendage
 - 3 First name of the First Lady of Song
 - 4 500 sheets
 - 5 Blast producer
 - 6 Colorado tribe
 - 7 Narrow inlet
 - 8 Come after
 - 9 Trickle (through)
 - 10 Halloween activity
 - 11 Edgar ___ Poe
 - 12 "Back to the Future" bully
 - 13 Not mention
 - 14 Caddie's bagful
 - 21 Tint
 - 22 Trader ___ (restaurant eponym)
 - 23 Some batteries
 - 24 Grade of beef
 - 26 Outstanding Miniseries and Outstanding Drama Series
 - 27 Conical dwelling
 - 28 Yoga position
 - 29 Exam with sections known as "arguments," for short
 - 30 Brideshead, for one
 - 31 Mrs. Arnold Schwarzenegger
 - 32 Getting an A+ on
 - 68 Geographical features ... or what the shaded squares in this puzzle represent



Puzzle by Joanne Sullivan

- 33 Uptight
- 35 "Well, ___-di-dah!"
- 37 Meager
- 40 Hightailed it
- 43 Extensions
- 45 Founding father Richard Henry ___
- 48 No longer fashionable
- 50 Slyness
- 51 Salsa singer Cruz
- 52 "Lackaday!"
- 53 Champagne Tony of golf
- 54 "Well, that was stupid of me!"
- 55 Like most N.B.A. players
- 56 Prefix with -zoic
- 57 CCCP, in English
- 58 Line-___ veto
- 59 With 46-Across, Antarctic waters
- 62 Cambodia's ___ Nol
- 63 "Tristan ___ Isolde"
- 64 3, on a telephone

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



SCHAD & FREUDE

WILL GUAPPONE & BRI KRAFCIK



T.I.N.D.

DAN POHLMAN



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Capriati, 34; Amy Sedaris, 49; Annabella Sciorra, 50; Bud Cort, 62

Happy Birthday: Focus on achieving your goals. Your determination and serious approach will change the way others view you. Don't be shy about your likes and dislikes. Once you make it perfectly clear what you want and how you are going to get it, the rest will come easy. Your numbers are 2, 5, 16, 23, 25, 33, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a back seat if it will help you avoid opposition or meddling. Don't confide in anyone for now. You will be misinterpreted easily. It will be hard to cover up or reverse any mistakes made. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Short trips or educational activities will motivate you and give you greater vocational options. Avoid any sort of pressure situation. Activities that will help get you into shape will be your best recourse. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can expect to encounter unanticipated alterations due to responsibilities concerning children or elders. Treat your hobbies or sideline ventures as serious pastimes with the potential for profit. A love interest will be enticing but risky. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): New business connections can be made through the company you keep and the way you handle the situations you face. Don't let emotions rule, causing you to miss out on the potential for greater freedom. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't waste time arguing when you should be brainstorming. Opportunities do exist -- all you have to do is recognize them and put your heart into making things work. Don't push others when it's you who needs to be shoved. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take aggressive action when it comes to money, health or legal matters. Show your competitive drive so that no one will misunderstand your earnest intentions. A change to your current financial situation can turn a negative investment into a positive prospect. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Not everyone will be as open as you are. Hold back a little until you know what everyone else is thinking. Be strong and wait until you feel comfortable making a move. Volunteer work will open your eyes to a host of new avenues. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let added responsibilities get you down. Focus, instead, on the opportunities that will help you get ahead. Take a different approach to something you have done in the past and you will attract greater interest this time around. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't make last-minute changes or try to meddle in someone's affairs. Focus on love, romance and keeping the peace with the people who have the potential to change your status or financial situation. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be careful how you spend your time. If you neglect someone or something important, you will end up with an emotional dilemma. Aggressive action is likely to lead to obstacles and limitations. Take one step at a time. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Job projects should be at the top of your list. Ask friends and family to keep an eye out for a position that might interest you. You will reach your goals if you send out resumes or talk to people you have worked with in the past. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be faced with uncertainty when dealing with a partnership. Try not to limit your options. If you are honest about what you can and cannot do, you will come out ahead in the end. Don't let someone push you out of the way. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are energetic and a bit of a thrill seeker. You always strive to experience and learn more. You are aggressive and outgoing.

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

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JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

REWAY
EWTTE
SHATAM
NEXETT

Always cut the power before making repairs

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

Answer: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VIGIL FORCE SIPHON FONDLY
Answer: What the associate did when the regular dentist went on vacation -- "FILLED" IN

ND SOFTBALL

Streaking to the city

Notre Dame looks to extend streak to 12

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

It's rarely good when a team is called streaky, but Notre Dame has only seen the upside of that description.

The Irish (24-5) are riding an 11-game win streak into a matchup with Loyola-Chicago this afternoon in Chicago.

Junior pitcher Jody Valdivia (18-2) carries a streak of her own after winning her 16th and 17th straight games this weekend against Seton Hall. She pitched a no-hitter Saturday and followed that up with a complete-game, 11-strikeout effort Sunday.

Junior outfielder Sadie Pitzenberger has now hit safely in 24 straight games. Her streak is a new school record, as she surpassed sophomore Dani Miller's 21-game stretch, which Miller

see STREAK/page 18



Junior left fielder Sadie Pitzenberger takes a swing during Notre Dame's doubleheader sweep of Toledo 11-0 and 8-4 on March 24. The Irish have won 11 straight games.

TOM LA/The Observer

SMC TENNIS

Belles build momentum for matches

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

Following a victory over Alma this past weekend, the Belles look to continue their success today when they play Trine.

The win gave the Belles a 7-3 record on the season and a victory in their first conference game.

"It was definitely a big confidence boost for the team in general," said junior Kate Grabarek, an Observer Sports writer. "We needed that coming off of a tough loss to Indiana Wesleyan the week before. It was a great kickoff to the conference season as Alma recently lost a close match to Albion. However, I think we sent a strong message to the rest of the conference that we're playing bet-

see TRINE/page 18

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Hot team gets ready to face No. 1 Wildcats in Evanston

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

Irish coach Tracy Coyne has the No. 11 Irish (5-2) on a roll as they travel to Northwestern on Tuesday to take on the No. 1 Wildcats (7-0) and try to beat the best. Coyne said the team is going to Evanston with only winning on its mind.

"The team is coming off a good and focused practice," Coyne said. "We're ready to

pull off the upset."

The Wildcats, who are five-time National Champions in women's lacrosse, certainly pose a stiff test for an Irish team that is still establishing an identity. Still, Coyne believes her program is at a point where they should expect to win against top competition.

"Look, back when I started the program we took pride in keeping it close and playing 30 minutes of good lacrosse," Coyne said. "We're past that

point now. We're past moral victories. We need to compete to win and believe in who we are. I don't know if we've 100 percent gelled yet but our mentality is to show up and be the team we can be."

If the Irish are to pull off the upset, they will need to account for the many offensive weapons of the Northwestern attack. That attack begins with senior and reigning first-team Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches' Association

All-American Katrina Dowd. Dowd has 25 goals in seven games to lead her team this season.

Coyne said she believes her team can match up with the attack led by Dowd and fellow senior Shannon Spencer.

"We're going to put our people in specific matchups," Coyne said. "With all deserved respect to them, they are playing some younger players that I feel we can back off of a little bit to focus on some of their

key personnel. We'll need good goaltending, and [freshman goalkeeper Ellie Hilling] will have to rise to the occasion."

On the whole, Coyne says her team is preparing for a fast game against the Wildcats, who are strong on both sides of the ball.

"They're known as a team that shoots well," Coyne said. "They play a relentless, swarming style and double the

see WILDCATS/page 18

MEN'S GOLF

Fortner shines in Florida

By TIM SINGLER
Sports Writer

Senior Doug Fortner led the way for the Irish in their recent 12th place finish at the Spring Break Championships held in Delray Beach, Fla.

Fortner finished the tournament in a tie for second place as he shot a final round of 70 (-1). He finished with 209 total strokes on the weekend, four-under par in a field of 93 golfers. Fortner tied his lowest round total for this season, which came at the Mason Rudolph Championship.

Irish coach Jim Kubinski said Fortner's performance as of late has been exceptional and vital for the Irish.

see FLORIDA/page 18



Senior Doug Fortner chips down the fairway in the Gridiron Classic on Oct. 5 and 6. Fortner took second place in Florida.

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish grab 11th place in Texas tournament

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

This weekend, the Irish traveled to Austin, Texas for the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational, where they took 11th place out of the 17 teams competing.

The windy Texas course made for a series of difficult matches, but that did not stop them from advancing in the rankings.

"This weekend was a bit of a disappointment for our team," junior Katie Conway said. "We have really built up our schedule strength from our improvement in the rankings, and although

we beat three teams ranked ahead of us, we all felt as though our games could have been better."

Senior Annie Brophy paved the path for the team, finishing 26th in the final round overall out of 90 golfers with 229 points, 13 over the par.

Brophy ended the third and final round with 77 points, five above par, with 12 holes at par and one birdie on the last hole.

The first day of the tournament began with Brophy and junior So-Hyun Park tied for 12th place individually with a score of 74, only

see RAWLS/page 18