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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Romero Days to celebrate archbishop

Journalist Eugene Palumbo to deliver annual lecture, student panelists will present

By NORA KENNEY
News Writer

"Romero Days 2009: In the Footsteps of the Bishop of the World" — an annual event that celebrates the life of Oscar Romero — will kick off on Monday with several panel discussions and lectures.

The event, a joint effort of the Latin American North America Church Concerns (LANACC), the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Latin American Studies Program, the Center for Social Concerns and the Shaheen Fund, will examine Romero's influence on history and Catholic culture in Latin America and his relevance to Notre Dame stu-

dents.

LANACC Director Fr. Robert Pelton said he has been extremely dedicated to the organization of Romero Days since he first started the project in 1987.

He said his passion for Romero's cause stems from his work to further human rights.

"[Romero] was clear in his commitment to people and human rights. So clear was he, in fact, that he was willing to die for his cause," Pelton said.

March 24 marks the 29th anniversary of Romero's death. He was an archbishop in El Salvador who was assassinated while saying Mass. As an outspoken and influential public figure

see ROMERO/page 4

"Romero Days 2009: In the Footsteps of the Bishop of the World" schedule

March 23

"I Shall Arise in the Salvadoran People"

A student panel will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

March 24

A mass in honor of women of service in Latin America will be held at 11:00 a.m. in the Church of the Loretto at Saint Mary's College.

"Aparecida and the Latin American Church's Road Map to Intercultural Dialogue"

Fr. Judd, a Latin American specialist, will present at 12:30 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center.

22nd annual Romero Lecture: "Now I Understand"

Journalist Eugene Palumbo will give the talk at 7:00 p.m. in the Eck Center.

Andrea Archer | THE OBSERVER

University takes part in research initiative

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

Notre Dame was recently accepted as a partner in the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (ICTSI), a medical research initiative that aims to transform medical discoveries into practical applications like improved patient care and business opportunities.

The University joined the program to partner with other major research universities in Indiana to work on cutting-edge research said Melanie E. DeFord, director of operations for Centers, Institutes and Special Research Projects at Notre Dame.

"This collaboration provides us a vehicle with which to pair our basic researchers with translational and clinical researchers," DeFord said.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded a five-year Clinical and Translational Science Award to the Indiana University School of Medicine in May of last year to fund the activities of ICTSI at both Indiana University and Purdue University. Notre Dame has been an active member since

see RESEARCH/page 4

ND, USC a cappella groups to perform



Allison Ambrose/THE OBSERVER

Members of Notre Dame's a cappella group, Halftime, practice for their concert, which will take place Saturday in the Hesburgh Library.

By JENN METZ
News Writer

Rivalries with USC only go as far as the sports field; this weekend, the Trojans' famed a cappella group, the SoCal VoCals, will make the trip to South Bend to perform with the Notre Dame group Halftime.

"They are the cream of the crop when it comes to a cappella groups," Brian Kastenholz, the music director for Halftime, said.

On their spring break tour of colleges and universities, the SoCal VoCals asked

Halftime to perform in a joint concert.

This marks the first time Halftime will perform with an a cappella group from outside of Notre Dame.

The relationship between the two groups has been anything but tense like that seen on the football field when the two schools interact.

"It's nothing like the football team, that's for sure," Kastenholz, a junior, said. "They've been really welcoming, and we have as well."

Performing with other groups is beneficial to the

see HALFTIME/page 6

Senior nabs Churchill scholarship

Andrew Manion wins grant to pursue graduate work at Cambridge

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Senior Andrew Manion is the first Notre Dame student to receive a Winston Churchill scholarship, which sponsors graduate work at the University of Cambridge in England next fall.

The one-year award is worth approximately \$50,000 and is given to students planning to pursue graduate studies in science, engineering or mathematics.

Manion is one of 14 students nationwide to win the award.

A math, music theory and history major from Coon Rapids, Minn., Manion said he plans to use his year in Cambridge to

participate in the math courses and earn a certificate of advanced study in mathematics.

Manion said he learned of the Churchill scholarship through Notre Dame's Fellowship Office and then completed the application, which consisted of applying to the University of Cambridge independently of the scholarship. He said he then applied for the Churchill scholarship after acceptance into Cambridge.

Manion said he plans to return to the United States after his year abroad.

"I want to come back to the U.S. for a Ph.D. program," Manion said.

He said he is undecided about where he would like to pursue his doctorate.

Manion was excited when he found out he won the scholarship and is looking forward to beginning his studies at Cambridge.

"I think it's a great opportunity," Manion said. "I've heard really good things about the program and I'm excited to be at Cambridge."

Besides the educational opportunity, Manion said he was drawn to the program because he was unable to participate in a study abroad program while attending Notre Dame.

"It's a chance to live in another country since I didn't get to study abroad," he said. "Because of scheduling, it

see CHURCHILL/page 6

Club plans events for disability month

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

As March is Disabilities Awareness Month,

Perspectives, a Notre Dame campus club that encourages disability awareness, will be hosting several discussions about disabilities on campus.

"For Disabilities Awareness Month, Perspectives will host a panel discussion about learning and physical disabilities at St. Augustine Parish on Sunday," Mel Tardy, faculty advisor for Perspectives, said.

"[On] Notre Dame's campus, Perspectives will also host a student panel discussion on

learning disabilities this coming Monday."

Tardy said Perspectives began in 2005 when a group of students met after a panel discussion during Disabilities Awareness Month.

"First, they quickly realized that they shared a lot in common and appreciated having each other with which to share common concerns," she said.

"Second, while over 200 students use the resources of the Office for Students with Disabilities, there were no natural opportunities for them to actually meet others with disabilities to fellowship or to

see DISABILITY/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Great Expectations

From random hook ups to routine hook ups, students complain that the dating scene doesn't meet their expectations. As it goes, because of University policy and loads of homework, there is little interest in serious

Robert Singer

commitments — few are able or willing to put forth any effort beyond weekend text messages and Keystone-inspired rendezvous to Sbarro's.

Assistant News Editor

From year to year, the Notre Dame community experiences frustration when the football talent doesn't measure up to schools with lower academic standards, more temperate climates and fewer statues of religious zealots.

On the surface, these two phenomena of disappointment are connected, as they appear to be caused by the same outlook: high expectations that demand improvement without acknowledgement of inflexible circumstances.

It's tough to admit that Notre Dame's uncompromisable academic mission may preclude any serious run at a national championship. But what could be keeping serious relationships from developing is a condition more flexible than rules on pariets or same-sex dorms.

In the case of the dating scene, greatly inflated expectations — in addition to the oft-blamed causes of heavy workloads, the need for instant gratification, the jock culture, etc. — are a source of the problem. That is, all too often, if someone doesn't look like he or she could be on the cover of GQ magazine and talk like Pierce Brosnan or possess the sparkling personality of Tina Fey, he or she is written off as a dating prospect.

A casual stroll through La Fortune at a busy hour shows this attitude to be self-defeating. It should be examined closely — perhaps in a mirror.

Maybe the availability of chapels on campus fosters the belief that prayer can summon the divine intervention needed to bridge the gap between what we think we deserve and what we can reasonably expect.

Or maybe the expectations about dating partners which range from high to naive are a result of attending a school with a price tag roughly equivalent to the lifetime earnings of the average Ukrainian. If you're paying top dollar to put the top med schools and law schools within reach, why shouldn't the most attractive people also be available?

Regardless of the reason, you probably know several people who have remained dateless in the prime of their lives because they refuse to give the time of day to anyone who exhibits what they view as a minor flaw.

Luckily, since people are not tools for career advancement, the basis for choosing date prospects is much more subjective and a lot less rigid than the criteria for ranking graduate schools.

In fact, if you want to receive more than text messages and pizza-shaped grease with cheese on the weekends, it could be as easy, or as difficult, as an attitude adjustment.

The fix is the same one the admissions office won't consider for the football program. Lower — or alter — your standards.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Robert Singer at rsinger@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

Due to a reporting error in the Mar. 3 edition of The Observer, the new student center was called the Stayer Center. The new Executive MBA building will be called Stayer and as of yet there are no names or funds for the new student center. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHO DO YOU PREDICT WILL WIN MARCH MADNESS?



Drew Davis
freshman Sorin

"Memphis"



Jean Namkung
junior Farley

"Megahn Pearl!"



Lauren Kalinoski
freshman Breen-Philips

"Definitely Akron, the Zips!"



Meghan Pearl
junior Pangborn

"BANG BALLAZ, get some!"



Pat Duret
junior Pangborn

"The Half-Ton Hotties will dominate."



Sean Mitchell
sophomore Sorin

"I can tell you who's not going to win ..."

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



COLEMAN COLLINS/The Observer

Freshman class president Malcolm Phelan interacts with a child cancer patient at the St. Baldrick's Day event Thursday.

IN BRIEF

Gaelic Storm will be performing a concert at 2 p.m. on Saturday in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Purchase tickets online, visit or call the ticket office at 574-631-2800.

"The USA and the EU: Two Modern Forms of Empire?" will be held at 2:30 p.m., today in C-103 Hesburg Center for International Studies. Speakers will include Vittorio Hosle, Paul G. Kimball and Kroc Institute faculty fellow.

"Nanotechnology-The Legal and Ethical Issues" symposium will take place at 3:00 p.m. today in Room 100-104 McKenna Hall. The event will feature Dave Brenner, Wolfgang Porod, Gregory Crawford, Davis Baird, Ralph Hall, and Baker & Daniels. For ticketing information call the ticket office at 574-631-2800.

"Picturing History: Documenting Pre-Photographic History for Television" will be held in Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 4:30 p.m. Catherine Allan will be speaking. For ticketing information call the ticket office at 574-631-2800.

Mass will be held at 5:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Chip Kid will be give a lecture in the Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum of Art. The lecture will be held at 7:30 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

OFFBEAT

Man loses toot while fighting over etiquette

ROCKLIN, Calif. — Police said a dispute over bowling etiquette led one man to assault another with a 16-pound ball, knocking out one of the man's teeth. They said a 24-year-old man hit a man in the face with the bowling ball during a melee involving six bowlers at the Rocklin AMF Lanes. Two groups got into a fist fight about 12:40 a.m. Thursday after two bowlers approached the lane at the same time. They couldn't agree which should go first.

Man blames weight as reason for being fired

PONTIAC, Mich. — A 61-year-old man has sued his former employer, claiming he was fired from a \$75,000-a-year salesman's job because of his waistline. But the employer says Patrick J. Ronayne was let go because of his performance, not his weight. The Detroit News reported Thursday that Ronayne's lawsuit seeks more than \$25,000 from Winston Golf and Winston Manufacturing. It claims weight and age discrimination.

Jurors discuss urine discrimination

NORFOLK, Va. — Jurors in Norfolk are deliberating the discrimination case of a female dock worker who was punished by her union for urinating on the job when a male co-worker who also relieved himself wasn't. The U.S. District Court jury began deliberations Wednesday in the case of Sonyo Tillett-Bond, who was told to go home after the Oct. 5, 2006, incident at the Portsmouth port.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 47 LOW 29	HIGH 36 LOW 29	HIGH 55 LOW 35	HIGH 55 LOW 37	HIGH 50 LOW 41	HIGH 59 LOW 45

Atlanta 65 / 39 Boston 41 / 25 Chicago 57 / 42 Denver 71 / 46 Houston 79 / 57 Los Angeles 70 / 52 Minneapolis 50 / 35 New York 47 / 30 Philadelphia 49 / 30 Phoenix 90 / 63 Seattle 50 / 38 St. Louis 44 / 25 Tampa 83 / 60 Washington 48 / 32

Nominees under review

Committees currently considering nominations for Joyce Award

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Writer

Selection committees are currently reviewing the 255 nominations made for the Joyce Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Dockweiler Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising, according to Notre Dame Associate Provost Dennis Jacobs.

The Provost's Office will announce the recipients of the awards in April. Winners of each award will receive a \$1,500 cash prize and will be honored for "extraordinary contributions to undergraduate education at Notre Dame," Jacobs said.

Of the 161 nominations received for the Joyce Award, Jacobs said 152 of them came from students. He said that students made 83 of the 94 nominations for the Dockweiler Award.

Jacobs said he especially enjoyed reading the student nominations for the awards.

"I am grateful to the students who submitted nominations for this year's awards," Jacobs said. "It is inspiring to read about how

students' lives were touched by faculty members who are deeply committed to offering an outstanding undergraduate education."

Both students and faculty were invited to propose nominations for the Joyce Award, and students, faculty and staff made nominations for the Dockweiler Award, Jacobs said.

Jacobs sent several e-mails to students in the weeks before Spring Break requesting nominations for the awards.

The online nomination form asked students to submit an essay describing why the nominee deserves the award, including specific examples of the nominee's impact on the student's undergraduate experience.

The Joyce Award honors faculty from seven different subject areas: business, engineering, fine arts and architecture, humanities, language and literature, science and social science, Jacobs said.

He said the recipients of the award are faculty members who "create environments that stimulate significant student learning, elevate students to a new level

of intellectual engagement and foster students' ability to express themselves effectively within the discipline."

Jacobs said the Dockweiler Award, created through a gift from the Julia Stearns Dockweiler Charitable Foundation, honors three faculty or staff members who advise undergraduate students.

"The Dockweiler Award aims to demonstrate in a tangible way that mentoring, academic advising and career counseling activities are important and valued roles for faculty and staff at Notre Dame," he said.

The Deans of the relevant colleges appointed faculty selection committees for each of the seven subject areas of the Joyce Award. The committees will review the nominations and make recommendations to the Provost's Office, Jacobs said.

The Office of the Provost appointed faculty and staff to a selection committee for the Dockweiler Award. This committee will recommend the top candidates to the Provost's Office, Jacobs said.

Contact Laura McCrystal at
lmccryst@nd.edu

Institute launches new Facebook page

By CASEY KENNEY
News Writer

The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at Notre Dame recently launched a Facebook page as a way to connect with prospective students and share information about academic programs, people and news, according to Joan Fallon, director of communications at the Kroc Institute.

"Peace Studies is not a standard major and the Institute's programs are really unique, so we are always looking for creative ways to reach out to students and expand interest," Fallon said.

She said the use of Facebook by college and university administrators to raise interest in programs seems to be a growing trend around the country.

"We are not the only one using Facebook at Notre Dame," Fallon said. "Notre Dame Magazine uses Facebook, and I am told other programs use it, as well. It seems to be a national trend as other universities and programs are all now utilizing this important tool."

Fallon said the Kroc Institute attracts students from around the world, and Facebook is an ideal tool to reach out to international students.

"Typically, around three-quarters of the students in our Master's Degree program are from abroad, and the program has included students from 90 countries," Fallon said. "With this high level of interest coming from

abroad, and since students are increasingly learning about programs online, Facebook provides a very effective way to network and spread information to a diverse range of people. Facebook has a growing international presence, so this is a way to reach students right where they are."

The Kroc Institute's page features photos of the program's interns at field sites around the world. It also provides information for events, frequent updates to news about the program and links to pages on Kroc's Web site at <http://kroc.nd.edu>.

Fallon said Kroc staff will monitor the page and respond to comments and questions on the Facebook wall.

"After only two weeks since its launch, the page has already gained over 100 fans. This really attests to the effectiveness of using such a Web site," she said.

According to a recent news release, the Kroc Institute created the page after staff members consulted with undergraduate Peace Studies students to reflect matters of importance to them, such as learning about their professors. The page includes links to faculty profiles and a community of faculty and alumni.

Current Notre Dame undergraduates will also be able to use the Facebook page as they assess their choice of Peace Studies as a major or minor.

Contact Casey Kenney at
ckenny@nd.edu

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Research

continued from page 1

November 2008.

"The NIH strategic plans increasingly encourage collaborations of basic researchers, translational researchers and clinicians and also values team science and multi-investigator awards," DeFord said.

The ICTSI is one of only 38 academic health centers in the country funded by this award.

"We are very happy to be a part of this consortium and to be a part of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research," DeFord said. "It should be a win-win situation for all of us."

The ICTSI provides the framework for basic scientists, translational scientists and clinicians to do research together.

"The idea is to move ideas from the bench to the bedside more smoothly and quickly," DeFord said. "The Institute also includes commercial partners, and this will enable projects and devices to get to market more efficiently," DeFord said.

By joining this initiative, Notre Dame hopes to better address biomedical issues.

"It will enable all of us to obtain different perspectives and approach serious research questions from various angles," DeFord said.

The membership enables researchers from the University in areas such as the College of Engineering's biomechanics and biomaterials groups, the Eck Institute for Global Health, the Keck Center for Transgene Research and the new Mike and Josie Harper Cancer Research Institute the ability to move their work into a clinical setting.

"A majority of the clinical research in the state takes place in Indianapolis," DeFord said. "However, there is clinical research going on here in South Bend."

DeFord said another goal of the initiative is to allow researchers to communicate and eventually collaborate on specific projects.

"A goal of the Institute is to bring together our basic researchers with clinical faculty," DeFord said. "It can also pair clinical faculty in our community with basic researchers here or at one of the other institutions."

The collaborations will allow members of the Notre Dame research community to expand their work.

"These collaborations may lead to increased opportunities to obtain research funding and realization of their research as a potential patient therapy or device," DeFord said. "We also now have access to all the research cores and resources."

The membership in the ICTSI will not hinder Notre Dame researchers from partnering with institutions that are not members.

"Our membership in the ICTSI is not exclusive and is certainly not intended to replace any other collaborations," DeFord said.

The ICTSI Web site provides extensive information on funding opportunities, clinical trial opportunities and research core resource offerings.

University faculty are encouraged to go to the site to explore opportunities. They have the ability to customize the site using their University net ID and password.

Initially, graduate students that have a faculty mentor that conducts research and that has the capability to become or partner with translational and/or clinical research will have the opportunity to participate in the initiative.

DeFord said, however, that they are in the process of creating opportunities for undergraduate students as well.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at codonne1@nd.edu

Romero

continued from page 1

during a controversial time in El Salvador, he was vocal about human rights despite death threats.

As Pelton has extensively studied the role of the Catholic Church in Latin America, he said he is traveling to Chile next week to give a series of lectures on the subject. He has also written several books about liberation theology and Romero.

"[Romero] provides a type of leadership that we do need in both the society and the church," he said.

Pelton said this makes the bishop very relevant to Notre Dame students.

Romero Days begins on Monday evening with a student panel entitled "I shall arise in the Salvadoran people: An Interview Project on Romero's Continuing Presence."

Cinnamon Sarver, a graduate

student in theology, will be featured in the panel, as well as Victor Maqqe, a graduate student studying Latin American History. Sophomore Jenna Knapp, an anthropology and peace studies major and junior Michael Angulo, a history and peace studies major, will be respondents. Pupasas, an El Salvadoran tortilla, will be served at a reception following the panel.

On Tuesday, Fr. Stephen Judd will celebrate Mass in honor of women in service in Latin America at the Church of Loretto at Saint Mary's College.

Judd will also present a lecture Tuesday entitled "Aparecida and the Latin American Church's Road Map to Intercultural Dialogue."

Romero Days will conclude Tuesday evening with speaker Eugene Palumbo's presentation on Romero called "Now I Understand." Palumbo is a journalist based in El Salvador.

Contact Nora Kenney at hkenney@nd.edu

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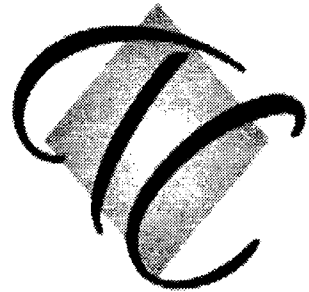
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Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 7:30p.m.: "Human Beings"

Thursday, March 26, 2009, 7:30p.m.: "Creation"

All lectures will be in Jordan Auditorium
Mendoza College of Business



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WORLD & NATION

Friday, March 20, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Countries reject Madagascar leader

MBABANE, Swaziland — Southern African nations declared Thursday they will not recognize Madagascar's new leader, an army-backed politician who ousted an elected president, and the United States said it would reconsider aid to the island nation.

The stance came as Madagascar's neighbors held a mini-summit Thursday on the situation in the Indian Ocean nation and after Zambia declared that the power change in Madagascar threatens democracy in Africa.

Representatives of the Southern African Development Community also urged the African Union and the international community not to recognize Andry Rajoelina as president of Madagascar and called for a return to "democratic and constitutional rule in the shortest time possible."

Mexican drug cartel leader arrested

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's military has captured the security and operations chief of the nation's most powerful drug cartel, officials said Thursday, delivering another punishing blow only weeks after U.S. officials rounded up hundreds of cartel members north of the border.

Vicente Zambada allegedly became a top Sinaloa cartel leader last year, with control over logistics and authority to order assassinations of government authorities and rivals. He was arrested before dawn Wednesday at a home in an elite Mexico City neighborhood, said Gen. Luis Arturo Oliver, the Defense Department's deputy chief of operations.

Zambada's father, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, also is considered a top leader of the Sinaloa cartel and is among Mexico's most-wanted suspects.

NATIONAL NEWS

Gitmo prisoners declared innocent

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Many detainees locked up at Guantanamo were innocent men swept up by U.S. forces unable to distinguish enemies from noncombatants, a former Bush administration official said Thursday.

"There are still innocent people there," Lawrence B. Wilkerson, a Republican who was chief of staff to then-Secretary of State Colin Powell, told The Associated Press. "Some have been there six or seven years."

Wilkerson, who first made the assertions in an Internet posting on Tuesday, told the AP he learned from briefings and by communicating with military commanders that the U.S. soon realized many Guantanamo detainees were innocent but nevertheless held them in hopes they could provide information for a "mosaic" of intelligence.

Foreigners acquire Md. licenses

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — In an online Spanish language chat room, people from all over the East Coast seek tips on how to get driver's licenses in Maryland even though they don't live there.

Businesses run classified ads in Spanish-language publications in Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland urging "undocumented Hispanic friends" to take advantage of the opportunity to get Maryland ID without having to prove they're in the country legally.

LOCAL NEWS

Woman sells valueless stock

INDIANAPOLIS — A Hamilton County woman was charged Thursday with one count of securities fraud and 10 counts of theft for allegedly defrauding investors in a coal gasification project of more than \$2.5 million over two years.

Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi said Dorothy Geisler-Tragardh sold Class A stock in Praxis Resources Partners at \$56 a share but represented them as Class B shares and failed to tell investors that as Class A shares, they had little or no value.

House passes bill taxing AIG bonuses

Lawmakers approve legislation that will restrict company's employee benefits

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Denouncing a "squandering of the people's money," lawmakers voted decisively Thursday to impose a 90 percent tax on millions of dollars in employee bonuses paid by troubled insurance giant AIG and other bailed-out companies.

The House vote was 328-93. Similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate and President Barack Obama quickly signaled general support for the concept.

"I look forward to receiving a final product that will serve as a strong signal to the executives who run these firms that such compensation will not be tolerated," the president said in a statement.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told colleagues, "We want our money back now for the taxpayers. It isn't that complicated."

The outcome may not have been complicated. But the lopsided vote failed to reflect the contentious political battle that preceded it.

Republicans took Democrats to task for rushing to tax AIG bonuses worth an estimated \$165 million after the majority party stripped from last month's economic stimulus bill a provision that could have banned such payouts.

"This political circus that's going on here today with this bill is not getting to the bottom of the questions of who knew what and when did they know it," said House Republican Leader John Boehner of Ohio.

He voted "no," but 85 fellow Republicans joined 243 Democrats in voting "yes." It was opposed by six Democrats and 87 Republicans.

The bill would impose a 90 percent tax on bonuses given to employees with family incomes above \$250,000 at American International Group and other companies that have received at least \$5 billion in government bailout money. It would apply to any



House Minority Leader John Boehner speaks at a news conference on Capitol Hill on Thursday.

such bonuses issued since Dec. 31.

The House vote, after just 40 minutes of debate, showed how quickly Congress can act when the political will is there.

It was only this past weekend that the bailed-out insurance giant paid bonuses totaling \$165 million to employees, including traders in the Financial Products unit that nearly brought about AIG's collapse.

AIG has received \$182.5 billion in federal bailout money and is now 80 percent government owned.

Disclosure of the bonuses touched off a national firestorm that both the Obama administration and Congress have scurried to contain.

In a statement issued by the White House late

Thursday, Obama said the House vote "rightly reflects the outrage that so many feel over the lavish bonuses that AIG provided its employees at the expense of the taxpayers who have kept this failed company afloat."

"In the end, this is a symptom of a larger problem — a bubble-and-bust economy that valued reckless speculation over responsibility and hard work," he said. "That is what we must ultimately repair to build a lasting and widespread prosperity."

Topic No. 1 raised by Republicans during the House debate was the last-minute altering of a provision in Obama's \$787 billion stimulus law to cap executive compensation for firms receiving government bailouts.

The measure might have

forestalled payment of the AIG bonuses.

But Senate Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd, a Connecticut Democrat and the author of the provision, says the administration insisted that he modify his proposal so that it would only apply to payments agreed to in the future.

That, critics claim, cleared the way for the AIG payouts.

"The idea came from the administration," Dodd said Thursday.

Dodd said he was not aware of any AIG bonuses at the time the change was made.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner confirmed such conversations with Dodd. He said the administration was worried about possible legal challenges to the provision.

IRAQ

Iraqis currently held by U.S. to go free

Associated Press

CAMP BUCCA — Thousands of Iraqis held without charge by the United States on suspicion of links to insurgents or militants are being freed by this summer because there is little or no evidence against them.

Their release comes as the U.S. prepares to turn over its detention system to the fledgling Iraqi government by early 2010. In the six years since the war began, the military ultimately detained some 100,000 suspects, many of whom were picked up in U.S.-led raids during a raging, bloody insurgency

that has since died down.

The effort to do justice for those wrongly held to begin with, some for years, also runs the risk of releasing extremists who could be a threat to fragile Iraqi security.

As part of an agreement between the two countries that took effect Jan. 1, Iraqi authorities have begun reviewing the cases of the detainees to decide whether to free them or press charges. About 13,300 remain behind barbed wire in U.S. custody in Iraq.

But Iraqi judges have issued detention orders to prosecute only 129 of the 2,120 cases they have finished review-

ing so far this year — or about 6 percent, according to U.S. military data. As of Thursday, 1,991 detainees had been freed since Jan. 1.

An Associated Press reporter embedded for two days at Camp Bucca, the largest U.S. detention facility in Iraq, and talked with military officials about preparations to shut it down.

"God willing, God willing," said Layla Rasheed after learning that her son, a former government worker from Baghdad, was likely to be released. "He doesn't have anything to do with terrorists. I don't know why he was picked up."

SMC choir finishes spring break tour

By M.B. GIZINSKI
News Writer

The Saint Mary's Women's Choir will wrap up their spring break tour with a Homecoming Concert today.

Over spring break, 31 members of the Women's Choir toured the Great Lakes region, including Detroit and Toronto. They visited churches and schools to promote the Saint Mary's music program.

"In the daytime, we went to high schools with strong women choral programs," Choral conductor and Professor of Music Nancy Menk said. "In the evenings, we went to churches with great acoustics that highlighted the choir's voices."

Menk said female Catholic high schools are the main feeder for the program.

This trip was freshman Elizabeth Carian's first choral tour. She said the tour was a beneficial experience for everyone involved.

"[The tour] gets the school's name out there as well as giving us a chance to learn," Carian said. "We learn from the choirs we sing with and the schools we perform for learn from us."

Menk said she hopes students enjoyed the trip as well as learned from it.

"I pick the end city first and go from there. I always try to pick fun cities because it is [the choir member's] spring break. I also try to choose places with

active alumni clubs," she said.

Menk said this combination of work and fun helped to sync the choir. The choir becomes better musically when they form stronger bonds socially.

"The tour bonds them socially and musically. It makes us better, more cohesive. We achieve one sound," Menk said.

The concert today is the final one of the choir's tour and the seniors' last.

"I have been in Women's Choir for all four years of college," senior Lindsey Appelquist said. "At other schools you must be a music major to be in the top choir, and I really enjoyed the acceptance of this music department with being a science major."

During the homecoming concert, Menk said the choir will focus on religious songs from different eras. Each member has a song that she prefers.

"My favorite song is 'Ubi Caritas' by Eleanor Daley because it is a beautiful piece that begins with a chant, brings in a three-part harmony in the middle and then ultimately ends with a chant again," Appelquist said. "It is a good example of the development of music throughout history while holding on to traditional text."

The concert will begin tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of Loretto.

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Churchill

continued from page 1

would have been difficult for me to study abroad and still complete my major requirements on time."

While overseas, Manion said he plans to use his free time to experience the diverse travel opportunities that a year in England will provide.

"I want to go all over Europe," he said.

Manion said his music background will play a part in his travel plans.

"Being a music major, I want to see the music stuff," he said. "Go see Salzburg and Vienna, where all the composers were."

The program begins on Oct. 1, 2009. Manion said he plans to leave for Cambridge several weeks ahead of time to be able

to get acclimated to life in Europe and do some traveling before his classes begin and he is burdened by a heavy workload.

The Churchill scholarship includes fully paid tuition to the University of Cambridge as well as a stipend.

The stipend can be used to pay for housing, which is also organized through the Churchill program. The left-over stipend money is Manion's to use for food, travel expenses and any other costs he may incur while in England.

Despite his excitement, Manion said that there are aspects of life in the United States

that he will be sad to leave behind.

"I'll miss Notre Dame football games," he said. "And I'll definitely miss my family."

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Halftime

continued from page 1

members of Halftime, he said.

"It's really good thing to have for kind of a growing group like ours," he said of Halftime, which is in its fifth year. "The experience of being with another group, especially another group that's so prestigious as they are is great."

The SoCal VoCals boasts a win at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella annual competition, where they took home top honors.

Halftime performs pop-rock arrangements — "modern, popular stuff," Kastenholtz, who arranges the songs for the group, said.

"We like to bounce ideas off the group. It's a good process," he said of the group's song selections.

"Ultimately we decide what would be the most fun to arrange and the most fun for the group to perform," Kastenholtz said.

Singing a cappella comes with some challenges.

"It's our goal to emulate what you hear on the radio," Kastenholtz said. "You try to embody the instruments you're singing."

A cappella is an Italian phrase that, in music terms, means without musical

accompaniment.

"It's definitely a challenge there — trying to embody what the song is with the instruments and then trying to take over the instruments with our voices," Kastenholtz said.

The 13-member group boasts a wide range of sounds; one member is able to imitate a "guitar-synth voice," he said.

Learning to sing a cappella is a transition from other musical forms, but "the people in the group are all very musically inclined to begin with. It's not really a challenge to learn the music, just to perfect it," Kastenholtz said.

Perfecting the a cappella sound comes from "observation — viewing other a cappella groups, listening to them," he said.

The concert this weekend with the USC group is "not just about us — it's about the SoCal VoCals — there's no better group than the SoCal VoCals — we're really honored that they want to do a concert with us," Kastenholtz said. "If you've ever been interested in a cappella, this is the group to see."

Something to look forward to for fans of Miley Cyrus: Kastenholtz said the group's five- or six-song set will wrap with her hit single "See You Again."

"It's our fun song right now," he said.

Halftime has made a name

for itself since it first came to campus; last fall over 50 people came out to audition for three open spots, Kastenholtz said.

"I really feel like this concert is just going to put us over the edge and get more recognition," he said.

They've still been trying to find their role among other campus groups, however, like The Undertones.

"The Undertones are connected ... they're more established, they've been around longer, they have more tradition than we do," he said.

Another way the co-ed Halftime differs from the all-male Undertones: "Every girl is obsessed with them," Kastenholtz said.

The concert with the SoCal VoCals, which will take place Saturday at 4 p.m. in the Carey Auditorium in the Hesburgh Library, is just one event Halftime has on its schedule this weekend; the group will also perform in an exhibition with other Notre Dame a cappella groups, including The Undertones on Sunday.

Tickets for the SoCal VoCals and Halftime are \$3 for students and \$5 for non-students and are available at the LaFortune Box Office or at the door.

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Disability

continued from page 1

share insights and concerns," Tardy said. "Finally, from their discussions, they realized that more campus awareness of disability issues was necessary."

The students decided to take action, she said.

"They hoped that forming a student club would help address these issues and improve Notre Dame and adjacent campuses for current and future students with disabilities," Tardy said.

This is the second year Perspectives has been an official club at the University.

Sophomore Kalen Wilczek,

president of Perspectives, said the club's intent "is to provide awareness and discussion to different forms of disabilities on the Notre Dame campus."

"We want to open up lines of discussion on disabilities. We want to provide an outlet to broaden people's perspectives on disabilities," she said.

Club member Matt Swinton, a freshman, agreed.

"Perspectives' goal is to promote awareness and understanding of disabilities, both physical and learning, in the Notre Dame community," he said. "We want the community to understand that everyone has something to offer here at Notre Dame, no matter what that person's situation is."

The club meets every

Monday and always welcomes new members, Wilczek said.

"This club is open to all. If you have a disability, want to provide support for someone who does have a disability, want to learn more about different forms of disabilities or just want to have a fun time hanging out with cool people, then this is the club for you," she said.

Swinton agreed.

"I would encourage students without disabilities to take part," he said. "Part of the college experience is to broaden one's horizons, and I cannot think of a better way to do that than to take part in Perspectives."

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	7,400.80	-85.78	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
1,911	95	1,807	1,719,273,003
AMEX	1,335.74	-2.52	
NASDAQ	1,483.48	-7.74	
NYSE	4,937.22	-38.08	
S&P 500	784.04	-10.31	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,945.96	-26.21	
FTSE 100 (London)	3,816.93	+11.94	

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-15.58	-0.48	2.60
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-9.65	-0.74	6.93
AMERICAN INTL GP (AIG)	+17.39	+0.24	1.62
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-1.24	-0.99	78.94

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+2.53	+0.064	2.60
13-WEEK BILL	-7.32	-0.020	0.19
30-YEAR BOND	+1.12	+0.040	3.61
5-YEAR NOTE	+7.99	+0.121	1.64

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+3.47	51.61	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+69.70	958.80	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+1.53	91.75	

Exchange Rates	
YEN	94.6200
EURO	1.3661
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2411
BRITISH POUND	1.4498

IN BRIEF

Auto parts suppliers receive aid

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department will pump up to \$5 billion in financing into troubled auto parts suppliers to prevent an auto industry collapse that could undermine the government's work to restructure General Motors and Chrysler.

The funds, announced Thursday, will be made available from the government's Troubled Assets Relief Program, or TARP, in a financial entity similar to a revolving credit. Large suppliers would be eligible for financing auto parts they have shipped to the Detroit carmakers but have not yet received payment.

U.S. automakers — General Motors Corp., Chrysler LLC and Ford Motor Co. — will have the option of using the program and designate the companies that need financing, giving them a large role in determining which parts suppliers will survive.

Bailed out firms owe \$220 mln. in taxes

WASHINGTON — At least 13 companies receiving billions of dollars in bailout money owe a total of more than \$220 million in unpaid federal taxes, a key lawmaker said Thursday.

Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., chairman of a House subcommittee overseeing the federal bailout, said two companies owe more than \$100 million apiece.

"This is shameful. It is a disgrace," said Lewis. "We are going to get to the bottom of what is going on here."

The House Ways and Means subcommittee on oversight discovered the unpaid taxes in a review of tax records from 23 companies receiving the most money, Lewis said as he opened a hearing on the issue.

The committee said it could not legally release the names of the companies owing taxes. It said one recipient of bailout money had almost \$113 million in unpaid federal income taxes from 2005 and 2006. A second recipient owed almost \$102 million dating to before 2004. Another was behind \$1.1 million in federal income taxes and \$223,000 in federal employment taxes. "If we looked at all 470 recipients, how much would they owe?" Lewis asked.

Jobless claims fall further to 646,000

Demand for unemployment insurance drops, but requests still at record highs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New jobless claims fell more than expected last week, but continuing claims set a new record for the eighth straight week and few economists expect the labor market to improve anytime soon.

The Labor Department said Thursday that initial requests for unemployment insurance dropped to a seasonally adjusted 646,000 from the previous week's revised figure of 658,000. That was better than analysts' expectations.

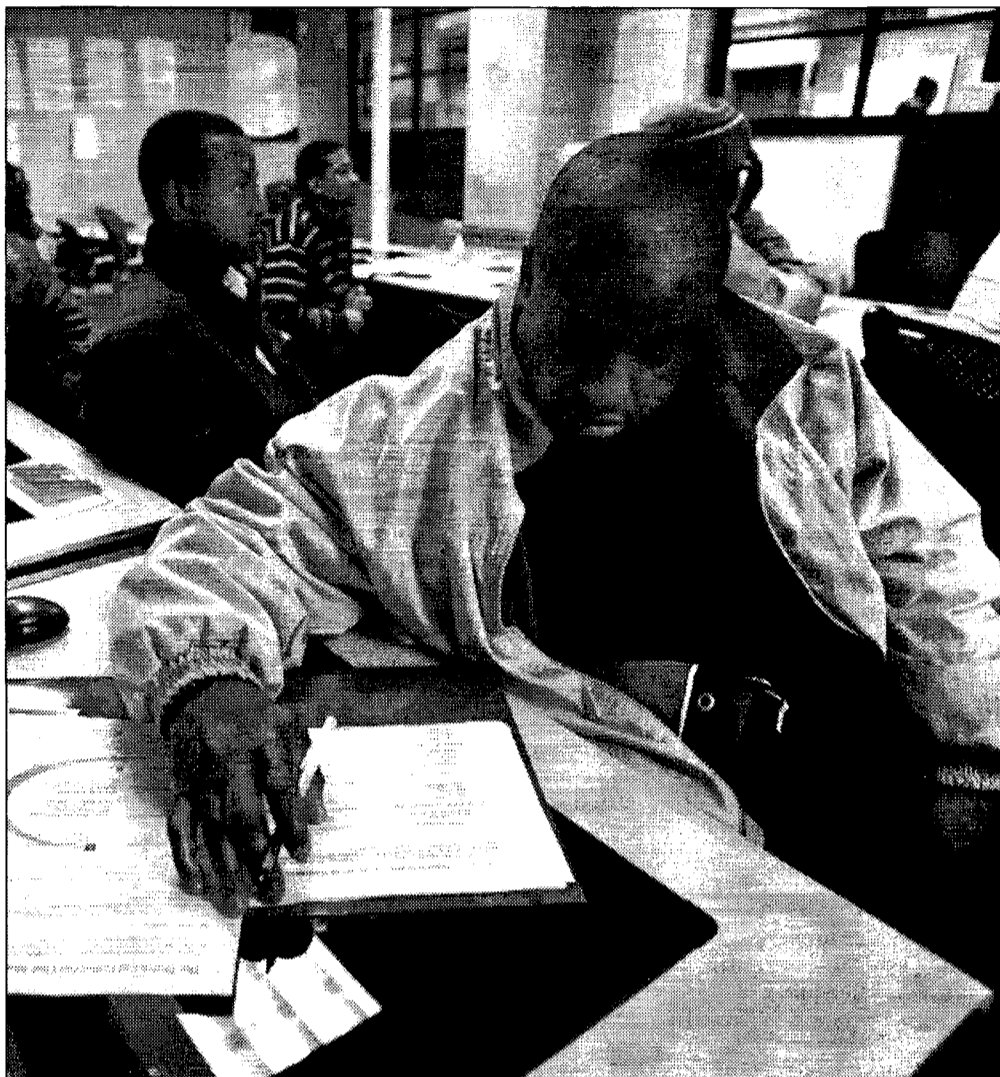
But continuing claims jumped 185,000 to a seasonally adjusted 5.47 million, another record-high and more than the roughly 5.33 million that economists expected.

Other economic news was slightly more upbeat. A private sector group's index of leading economic indicators dropped less than expected in February, although growth is not expected before next year. On the housing front, rates on 30-year mortgages dipped below 5 percent, and may fall further after the Federal Reserve launched a new effort to prop up that flailing market.

But on Wall Street, where the market has advanced six of the past seven sessions, stocks fell Thursday as investors scrutinized the latest Fed actions. The Dow Jones industrial average lost nearly 86 points to close at 7,400.80, and broader indicators also dropped.

The four-week average of jobless claims rose to 654,750, the highest since October 1982, when the economy was emerging from a steep recession, though the labor force has grown by about half since then.

Economists said the signs of life that have cropped up in other areas of the economy in the past week, such as upticks in retail sales and housing starts, aren't yet apparent in the labor market.



Eddie McNeely, 40, looks over paperwork at an unemployment center in Washington on Monday.

ket.

"There is no sign of even a temporary easing in the downward pressure on employment," Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote in a client note.

Initial claims have topped 600,000 for seven straight weeks, a level that many economists say is consistent with another huge drop in net payrolls when the Labor Department issues its monthly employment report next month.

Net job losses could top 700,000 in March, Shepherdson said, which would bring total losses to above 5 million jobs since

the recession began in December 2007.

Meanwhile, the New York-based Conference Board's monthly forecast of economic activity fell 0.4 percent last month, slightly better than the 0.6 percent decline economists expected. The index is designed to forecast economic activity in the next three to six months, based on 10 components that include stock prices, money supply, jobless claims and building permits.

Despite beating expectations, the index's broad decline of the past 19 months persisted and is unlikely to end until next year, economists said.

Elsewhere, government-

controlled mortgage finance company Freddie Mac said Thursday that average rates on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages dropped to 4.98 percent this week, down from 5.03 percent last week. It was the lowest since the week of Jan. 15, when it was at 4.96 percent, the record low for Freddie Mac's survey that dates to 1971.

The rate quotes included in Freddie Mac's survey were taken before the Fed said Wednesday it will pump \$1.2 trillion into the economy in an effort to lower rates on mortgages and other and loosen credit. That could drive mortgage rates down even further, perhaps past record lows.

Stock rally fades, Fed's plan evaluated

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Investors had a change of heart about the Federal Reserve's plans to buy Treasury bonds and doused Wall Street's two-week-old rally.

Banking and other financial shares pulled the market lower Thursday as investors worried the Fed's plan would hurt the dollar and revive inflation. But energy stocks rose, getting a lift from soaring crude oil prices.

The retreat came a day after stocks surged in reaction to the Fed's aggressive plans to pump more than \$1 trillion into the financial system by buying Treasury bonds and stepping up its purchases of other debt securities. The aim is to lower borrowing rates and stimulate lending.

But investors began to digest the possible downsides of the Fed's pro-

gram, such as a potentially weaker dollar that can lead to higher prices for commodities such as oil and grains. And, eventually, staples like gas and food.

"After the initial euphoria surrounding the surprise announcement yesterday, there's a little more analysis of this going on and it's leading to some questions," said Todd Salamone, senior vice president of research at Schaeffer's Investment Research.

Skepticism about how long it would take for the effects of the Fed's program to take hold also weighed down shares, particularly those of banks. Investors have been hungry for any signs that confidence may finally return to battered U.S. banks, and the market has had a generally dim view of the government's efforts to date to get lending moving again.

The Dow Jones industrial average

fell 85.78, or 1.2 percent, to 7,400.80.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 10.31, or 1.3 percent, to 784.04, while Nasdaq composite index fell 7.74, or 0.5 percent, to 1,483.48.

Declining issues narrowly outnumbered advancers on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 8.8 billion shares compared with 9 billion shares Wednesday.

Wall Street's move lower ended, at least for now, a buying spree that has driven stocks sharply higher since last week. Even with Thursday's slide, the Dow is still up 13 percent and the S&P 500 index is up 15.9 percent over the past eight days. The gains are impressive considering that only a few weeks ago the market was trading at levels not seen in more than a decade.

Accident burns boy scout

Associated Press

TOMS RIVER, N.J. — It was a hot July night when Eagle Scout Brian Lenz decided to show a group of younger boys at his camp a trick called the "circle of fire," in which he would squirt rubbing alcohol in a pattern on a table and set it aflame.

It would look cool. And it would quickly burn out.

When Lenz tried to reignite what he thought was a dying flame, fire leapt from the table along the stream of liquid, back into the squeeze bottle he was holding. He instinctively shook his hand, flinging the burning bottle away and spraying flaming alcohol onto the other Scouts.

In an instant, Sean Whitley, a 17-year-old nearing his own Eagle Scout rank, was horribly burned on his legs and abdomen. He died four days later at a Philadelphia hospital. Two other Scouts, including Whitley's twin brother and a 14-year-old Scout, were also burned but soon recovered.

Now Lenz has struck a deal that allows him to avoid jail time in a case that has shone an uncomfortable light on the Scouts' safety and supervision policies.

"Even one incident like this is one too many," said Craig Shelley, Scout executive for the Jersey Shore Council. "We have redoubled our efforts to ensure the safety of every child in our care. Fire safety is something we are having increased discussions about."

Boy Scout policies prohibit the use or possession of flammable liquids as fire starters, and Shelley said two adults are supposed to be present "in all situations." Lenz was 18 at the time and still is.

The accident at the Joseph A. Citta Reservation in Waretown, N.J., on July 6, 2008, came about two years after the organization reached an out-of-court settlement with the family of a New Jersey Scout who was killed by lightning at a Pennsylvania camp.

Whitley's family sued Lenz, of Waretown, and the Boy Scouts about a month ago, seeking unspecified damages and alleging that negligence led to Whitley's wrongful death.

"The loss of Sean has been a tragedy for all involved," the victim's family said in a statement provided to The Associated Press on Wednesday by its lawyer. They did not attend Lenz's court appearance and would not speak to reporters.

"We hope this incident helps focus attention to the need for increased fire safety training and supervision of minor counselors," they said. "The love Sean had for the camp and his friends on staff demands that every effort be taken to ensure their absolute safety."

Lenz, tall and pale with close-cropped brown hair, did not speak in court other than to answer, "Yes, sir" to a series of technical questions the judge asked. Outside the courtroom, Lenz and his parents, other relatives and his lawyer all

declined to comment.

The teen was admitted into a pretrial intervention program that will enable him to avoid jail time or even a criminal record.

The Whitleys' lawyer, Joel Rosen, would not say how the family feels about Lenz being admitted to the intervention program. But a prosecutor said the family was consulted before the decision was made to offer it to Lenz.

Pretrial intervention is designed for nonviolent, first-time offenders. It lets them avoid criminal prosecution in return for staying out of trouble for a year, performing community service, and paying fines or restitution.

Whitley, who lived in Evesham in Burlington County, was attending the first day of the weeklong camp in Lenz's hometown. Whitley and his brother Kenneth were staff members at the camp, which they had both attended for years.

A Web site by Whitley's family and friends described him as "a quiet, intelligent kid with a dry sense of humor. He and his twin brother Ken were inseparable and did nearly everything together."

"Not overly athletic or academically driven, Scouting gave him the opportunity to shine and to display the maturity and responsible nature that seemed unusual for his age," they wrote on the site. "His enthusiasm for Scouting and for the friends he made through it were extraordinary."

Man convicted of 23 counts, faces 400 years

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A Miami businessman accused of bilking nearly 600 people across the country out of \$126 million and using the money on a personal jet, a yacht and other luxuries was convicted Thursday on 23 counts, including fraud and money laundering.

After a three-week trial, a federal jury deliberated over two days before finding Edward Hugh Okun guilty of all charges. Four counts previously had been withdrawn or dismissed.

Okun stood, his head solemnly bowed, as the verdict was read. He faces up to 400 years in prison when he is sentenced Aug. 4.

Rob Wagner, the federal public defender, told reporters he will appeal.

Okun, 58, owned two Richmond companies that held money from clients seeking to defer capital gains taxes on property sales.

The scheme eventually collapsed, leaving many of his clients unable to reclaim their money.

Several victims who attended

the trial embraced one another and prosecutors as Okun was led away by federal marshals. Bonnie Schloss of Silver Spring, Md., who said she lost \$335,000 from the sale of a house she had purchased with an inheritance, choked back tears.

"It doesn't bring back the money, but it does make you feel like somebody paid attention and cared about us," said Schloss, 59.

Barry and Sandy Cogan of Short Hills, N.J., said they lost about \$500,000 from the sale of a small strip mall that had been in Sandy Cogan's family since the late 1920s.

"I think it was just and it was fair, and I think he will never again be able to destroy peoples' lives," said Barry Cogan, 67. "This page in our lives has been turned."

Okun, who lived in a waterfront mansion, operated companies known as "qualified intermediaries," which held property sellers' proceeds in escrow. The Internal Revenue Service allows sellers to defer capital gains tax if they deposit the proceeds with a qualified intermediary until they can buy a replacement property.

Three indicted after investigation

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — A judge, school superintendent and county clerk in southeastern Kentucky have been indicted on charges they extorted money from political candidates so they could bribe voters in a scheme to rig several elections, authorities said Thursday.

The U.S. Attorney's office said charges include racketeering, bribery, extortion and voter fraud against Clay County Circuit Court Judge Russell Cletus Maricle, school superintendent Douglas C. Adams, Clay County Clerk Freddy Thompson and others.

The investigation began after voting irregularities were reported during the 2006 elections. A statement from the federal prosecutor's office claims the officials tried to rig federal, state and local elections in 2002, 2004 and 2006 in Clay County, about 170 miles southeast of Louisville.

Prosecutors claim a group led by Maricle and Adams, who were essentially "political bosses," recruited a slate of candidates to run for certain offices and then tried to

rig elections in their favor. They also tried to recruit members of the local elections board so they might avoid an investigation.

It was unclear how much money was involved in the alleged scheme, and exactly how long it may have been going on.

Thompson, the county clerk, allegedly provided money for election officers to buy votes. Thompson also told election officers how to change votes at the machines, according to the indictment.

Some voters were bribed at the voting booths. Some officials told voters to use booths incorrectly, so that they could go back and change the tallies, the indictment says.

William and Debra Morris are also charged as associates who helped dish out money to buy votes.

Secretary of State Trey Grayson, who is chairman of the Kentucky Board of Elections, said the allegations would be a "great injustice" to Clay County voters if true.

"We hope that the judicial system will work expeditiously on this matter," Grayson

said, "so that the dark cloud of suspicion hanging over these elections will not affect future elections."

Kyle Edelen, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office in Lexington, said the officials are expected to make their initial appearances in court on Friday in London, Ky.

A message left at a number listed for William Morris was not returned, and there was no listing for Debra Morris. Stivers and Adams did not have listed phone numbers. A number for Jones rang unanswered.

A call made to Maricle's office led to a recording on another judge's phone line and was not immediately returned. A number listed for Maricle was disconnected.

Leigh Anne Hiatt, spokeswoman for the Administrative Office of the Courts, said in an e-mail that Maricle was a senior judge, but did not know his immediate status.

Thompson's number was unlisted. Beverly Gray, the deputy clerk in Thompson's office, declined to comment. An e-mail message to Thompson seeking comment was not returned.



SATURDAY, APRIL 18

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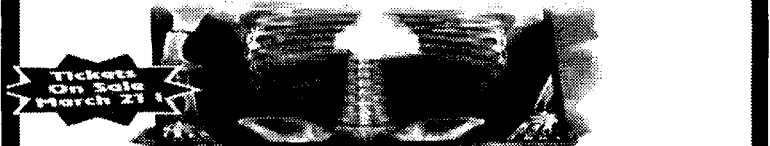
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Dann fined for illegal funds

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A divided Ohio Elections Commission found Thursday that former Attorney General Marc Dann twice violated state elections law by using campaign funds to pay for an expensive in-home security system and a cell phone often used for personal calls.

The panel fined both Dann and his campaign committee \$1,000 each in the security system matter, and issued him a public reprimand over the handling of his cell phone expenses. The campaign's then-deputy treasurer, Mary Beth Snyder, received a \$250 fine for signing off on the security system expenses.

Commission members stopped short of referring any of the matters for criminal prosecution, however.

The former consumer bulldog sat pensively throughout the hours of legal wrangling, only occasionally becoming agitated over having to funnel answers to commissioners' questions through his lawyer rather than answering them himself.

The commission ended the day with only one of two cases resolved against Dann. He still faces a future hearing over a wide-ranging set of allegations brought by the state watchdog, Inspector General Tom Charles, after a four-month investigation.

Dann's lawyer, Donald McTigue, fought unsuccessfully Thursday to have the second case dismissed on grounds that Charles was acting outside his jurisdiction.

After the proceedings, Dann said he was disappointed that violations were found, but gratified no criminal charges were sought. He said he will decide

whether to appeal.

"I made a choice over whether to use taxpayer dollars — what would have been hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of time I was serving as attorney general — to protect myself and my family, or to use campaign funds," he said. "I think I made the right decision at the time."

Elections commissioner Yvette McGee Brown said during the hearing that evidence didn't bear out that Dann made the decision to be magnanimous. She noted that documents submitted in the case indicated Dann did not decide to use campaign funds until he learned the executive budget could not cover the expense, and because having police officers around was interfering with his family's privacy.

Assistant Attorney General Melinda Osgood, representing the state, said an in-home security system is not a normal way to handle such threats. She said Ohio has a history of providing law enforcement protection to officeholders who face danger, and that Dann had been provided with such protection.

Dann, who turned 47 last week, resigned in May amid a sexual harassment scandal in his office and after admitting to an extramarital affair with an employee.

The Youngstown Democrat was part of a near-sweep of statewide offices by Ohio Democrats in 2006 after a scandal over state investments sullied the reputation of the Ohio Republican Party.

Despite the public furor surrounding the Dann scandal, Osgood said, the issue was very simple.

"Campaign money simply can't

be converted for personal use," she said.

The security system and cell phone complaints were brought by Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, a fellow Democrat, after an audit of Dann's campaign finance reports through 2007. Osgood said Brunner is auditing his 2008 reports.

Charles' complaint accuses Dann of misusing campaign funds to give gifts to family and friends, pay for unauthorized trips for his family, and to cover everyday expenses such as coffee, meals and newspapers. Charles also alleges Dann provided incomplete, inaccurate and false information on his state campaign finance filings.

McTigue told the commission that Charles' investigation went further than what was allowed by the Legislature.

"We believe this is an instance of a government official overreaching his authority," he said.

McTigue argued Thursday that the \$27,000 security system was a legitimate expense under Ohio campaign finance laws because it was made necessary in the course of Dann's official duties as a result of threats to Dann and his daughter. McTigue said the girl was being observed by a man with a teardrop tattoo, which can mean a person is a past sexual offender.

McTigue used Gov. Ted Strickland's decision to approve some enhanced security for Dann before the security system was installed as evidence that there was a legitimate need.

Strickland, who led the push last spring for Dann to resign, said Thursday he may have approved State Highway Patrol protection for Dann for a brief period.

School officials allow cage fights

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas school system was rocked by allegations Thursday that staff members at an inner-city high school made students settle their differences by fighting bare-knuckle brawls inside a steel cage.

The principal and other employees at South Oak Cliff High knew about the cage fights and allowed the practice to continue, according to a 2008 report by school system investigators.

"More than anything, I'm in shock and disbelief — shocked that this could ever occur and shocked that it would be condoned by a professional administrator," said Jerome Garza, a member of the Dallas school board.

The report, first obtained by The Dallas Morning News, describes two instances of fighting in an equipment cage in a boys' locker room between 2003 and 2005. It was not clear from the report whether there were other fights.

Superintendent Michael Hinojosa told the newspaper that there were "some things that happened inside of a cage" and called the fights "unacceptable."

No criminal charges were ever filed, and there was no mention in the report of whether anyone required medical attention or whether any employees were disciplined. A district spokesman would not comment.

The allegations came to light during a grade-fixing investigation that eventually cost the high school its 2005 and 2006 state basketball titles. School officials were suspected of altering students' grades so that they could remain eligible to play for South Oak Cliff, a perennial basketball powerhouse in one of the poorer sections of the city.

In an interview with the Morning News, Donald Moten, who retired as principal last year, denied any fights were held.

"That's barbaric. You can't do that at a high school. You

can't do that anywhere," Moten said. "Ain't nothing to comment on. It never did happen. I never put a stop to anything because it never happened."

In the report, a teacher was quoted as saying Moten told security personnel to put two fighting students "in the cage and let 'em duke it out," according to the report.

The report said a hall monitor, Gary King, told investigators he witnessed the head of campus security and an assistant basketball coach place two students in the cage to fight.

Another hall monitor, Reno Savala, told investigators he came upon two students fighting in the cage "bare-fisted with no head or eye protection." Savala said the assistant coach was watching the fight and broke it up when Savala told him to.

"It was gladiator-style entertainment for the staff," Frank Hammond, a fired counselor who has filed a whistle-blower lawsuit against the district, told the newspaper. "They were taking these boys downstairs to fight. And it was sanctioned by the principal and security."

Hammond did not actually witness any of the fights, according to the report.

Garza, the school board member, said the board should look into whether criminal charges should be filed. He expressed frustration that the allegations were not brought to the board's attention earlier.

"If, in fact, it bears out that this did occur, clearly the administration had a responsibility to inform the board in the proper manner and in a timely fashion," he said.

Dallas police said they have no record of any investigation by the department. The district attorney's office would not comment.

The allegations come about 10 days after law enforcement authorities reported that careworkers at a Corpus Christi institution forced mentally disabled residents to fight each other and recorded the brawls for their entertainment.

Expert pleads guilty to stealing dinosaur

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — A famed paleontologist who discovered the world's best preserved dinosaur intends to plead guilty to stealing dinosaur bones from federal land.

The change of plea motion from Nathan Murphy follows state and federal investigations into his alleged attempts to cash in on the highly lucrative fossil market.

Murphy, 51, is a self-taught dinosaur expert who spent much of the last two decades searching for bones in central Montana's Hell Creek formation — a rocky badlands once stalked by the fearsome tyrannosaurus rex. In 2000, he famously discovered a

mummified, 77-million-year-old duckbilled hadrosaur known as Leonardo, considered the best preserved in the world.

But after previously denying wrongdoing, court documents filed Wednesday show Murphy has reached a plea deal on a federal charge that he stole bones from public land near Malta. Prosecutors have not disclosed how many were taken.

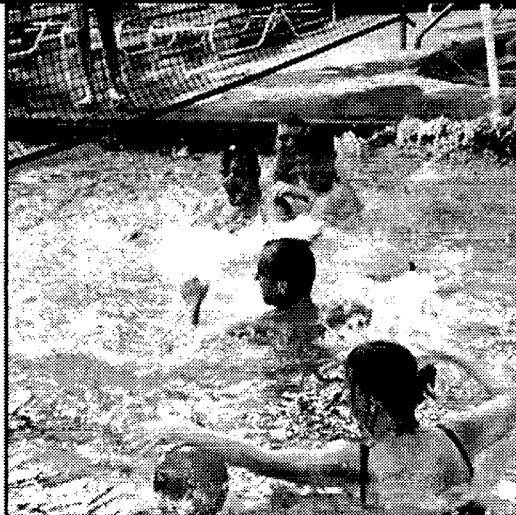
He faced up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Murphy's case offers a rare glimpse into the illicit underside of paleontology, in which wealthy collectors are willing to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for rare or unusual specimens.

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Petition allows chance for dialogue

The Princeton Review, a company that publishes data on national colleges and universities, currently ranks Notre Dame No. 1 in the category, "Alternative Lifestyles not an Alternative" — a fancy way of saying Notre Dame is perceived as having a lower tolerance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (GLBTQ) students compared to other universities. This is something the Progressive Student Alliance's Campaign for Human Dignity has been working to address by submitting a petition and letter to the Office of the President Wednesday asking that sexual orientation be added to its nondiscrimination clause.

Over the past several months, the group has demonstrated students are not actually as intolerant of "alternative lifestyles" as the Princeton Review ranking would lead one to believe. They collected over 2,300 signatures supportive of the petition to alter the University's nondiscrimination clause to protect GLBTQ students and faculty. While student support for the change is considerable, the Campaign for Human Dignity is encountering less support from the administration.

Last spring, the Campaign for Human Dignity submitted a similar petition to University President Fr. John Jenkins, but the administration did not respond. Assistant Vice President for News and Information Dennis Brown told The Observer last month that when the last petition was submitted, "no new information was presented that would have caused us to change our position."

This failure to acknowledge the petition sent a message to students that the University is willing to ignore this important student concern.

But supporters of the clause change persisted. This year, the student group doubled their efforts, and this time around, it seems they are making more progress because Jenkins has agreed to a meeting with group leaders on March 30 to discuss the petition.

Along with the petition, the Campaign for Human Dignity submitted a letter asking the University to recognize the groups, OUTreach ND and Alliance ND, which provide support GLBTQ students on campus. Currently, neither group has official club status.

Members of the Campaign for Human Dignity claim that by not including sexual orientation, the University reserves

the right to discriminate.

The University's prior statements on the issue counter this view: "We welcome all people, regardless of color, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, social or economic class, and nationality for example, precisely because of Christ's calling to treat others as we deserve to be treated," states Notre Dame's Spirit of Inclusion document, released in 1997. The document was adopted by the officers of the University after then-University President Fr. Edward A. "Monk" Malloy announced that the University had considered adding "sexual orientation" to the clause for over a year, ultimately deciding not to.

"Within society at large, the phrase 'sexual orientation' sometimes becomes a term that does not admit of distinction between sexual orientation and the manner in which people live out their sexual orientation — a distinction that is critical to us as a Catholic institution," Malloy wrote in a letter accompanying the document.

While the University has made its position clear, it is disappointing they have ignored the concerns of students when raised in the years since the document's release. Jenkins should be commended for agreeing to meet with the Campaign for Human Dignity this year, creating the opportunity for real and constructive dialogue, over 10 years since the Spirit of Inclusion was written.

The administration has stated it does not discriminate based on sexual orientation. If this is the case, meeting the demands of the petition and amending the nondiscrimination clause would go a step further than saying "[w]e welcome all people." The University would legally prove that GLBTQ students and faculty are not discriminated against and undeniably confirm that these students and faculty are accepted and valued members of the Notre Dame community.

Being a Catholic institution, Notre Dame should be a place lauded for its acceptance of all. Instead, the Princeton Review ranks it No. 1 for intolerance towards the GLBTQ community. It is now up to the University's administration to make clear that Notre Dame is a place that does not discriminate "on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, veteran status, age or sexual orientation."

THE OBSERVER Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Church at war against rape and abortion

This is a response to James Spitalere's March 18 letter entitled "Rape vs. abortion: Culture war." While concern for adolescent maternal mortality does indeed draw attention to an important issue in the case of the Brazilian girl who underwent an abortion, I cannot accept the argument that the excommunication of the doctors and mother behind the abortion is proof that the Catholic Church seeks to uphold a "moral grandstanding" (read: façade) over the health and well-being of young girls. Rather, it is precisely the genuine concern for the dignity and worth of all human beings that has moved the Church to act as it has.

Rape is undeniably an affront to human dignity, and it is never acceptable in any case. But, an evil deed is not a justifiable response to another evil deed. Forcing a young girl to receive an operation that halts the body's natural functioning before she has even had time to heal from the incident of rape does not seem more loving to me than lavishing medical

care, support groups and therapy would be.

The assumption that the girl's age makes her automatically unable to carry a child safely is, aside from being altogether false, no call to terminate the pregnancy before malignant symptoms are even present.

With modern medicine, it is entirely possible in cases of hazardous pregnancies to monitor the mother's health closely, allow the baby to develop as much as possible and remove it via a Cesarean section should it become necessary to save the lives of the mother and baby. Why is abortion the obvious choice when there are viable pro-life options that have worked in numerous instances?

Arguably, the persistent presence of abortion (and contraceptives) heightens the threat to young women in vulnerable positions. If a man can rape a woman with the knowledge that his deed can be hidden, he has an added incentive to commit the act. In fact, in the case of the

Brazilian girl, the stepfather's actions were only uncovered when the pregnancy was discovered because the girl had gone to the doctor for stomach pains.

Morality and ethics require that you unequivocally hold up unchanging truths as good and just. In order for the Church's teachings on morality and ethics to hold any validity, they must be applied consistently in every case because they are based on universal truths.

Abortion is never an acceptable response to rape, whether the victim is a 40-year-old woman or a 9-year-old girl. The Church's stance against abortion is only strengthened by the fact that it is never reinterpreted to suit current societal or cultural trends. I support Pope Benedict's decision to uphold the excommunications.

Sarah Dapkus
senior
Opus Hall
March 19

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"They can conquer who believe they can."

Virgil
Roman epic poet

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Observe your enemies, for they first find out your faults."

Antisthenes
Greek philosopher

Catholicism à la carte

Mary Blessed Mother of God, why must so many in this country insist that their own personal style of religion be imposed on others? Three times during the last two decades, in 1990, 2001 and last year,

researchers at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., conducted one of the nation's largest major surveys of religion. Results released earlier this month reveal that the rigidity of religion tends to move Americans to the fringes of the religious spectrum.



Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

The percentage of Americans who call themselves Christians has dropped dramatically during the past two decades. The American Religious Identification Survey, funded by the Lilly Endowment and the Posen Foundation, most recently surveyed more than 54,000 people between February and November of last year. Americans identifying themselves as Christians has dropped to 76 percent of the population, down from 86 percent in 1990.

Those who call themselves Christian are increasingly identifying themselves without traditional denomination labels, describing themselves rather as "non-denominational," "evangelical" or "born

again." Forty-four percent of America's 77 million Christian adults now say that they are evangelical or born again. Even 18 percent of Catholics choose that label as they join 40 percent of the non-Catholic population into what Trinity's Program on Public Values director calls "a sort of generic, soft evangelicalism."

The number of people who use non-denominational terms has increased from 194,000 in 1990 to more than 8 million last year. On this end of the spectrum, the survey substantiated trends sociologists already identified. While the importance of denomination has slipped in America, a growing number of people say they have "no" religion. Moreover, religious minorities has increased, most notably Muslims, Mormons and movements like Wicca and paganism.

One need but to read the recent rantings on this Viewpoint page to ask why in our world-class academic Notre Dame community must many also insist that their understanding of Catholicism is the only, correct and absolutely certain way to worship? If those expressions are any indication of this season's personal Lenten enlightenments, the only response can be — shame, shame, shame.

Shame on the drunken Notre Dame architectural students in London who loudly badgered fans from other teams, for that conduct does not gain heaven. Shame on the University administration

for parsing the word "festival" in the ongoing Queer Film Festival series so as to suggest that the event celebrates gays and homosexuality rather than their artistic creations. Shame on last year's alumnus who ridiculed those pointing out the festival controversy while so much as saying Notre Dame should not care about gays, and goose-stepped page by page through the Catechism in an effort to prove universal truth and Catholic morality ("A Catholic University," Feb. 17).

Finally, shame on the Innsbruck program student whose Viewpoint column ("The same Church, but not mine," March 17) published on St. Patrick's Day, the cheeriest day on campus, was equally as self-absorbed. Her Catholic European Ash Wednesday experience left her so void of the feeling her Georgia parish gives that she felt like a guest rather than a member of the one, true, universal Catholic Church. Maybe her homesickness can be forgiven, but why must she choose her Catholicism à la carte like so many — especially that 18 percent now more frequently calling themselves evangelicals?

The à la carte answer may lie in our religious dogma falling siege from our free will and intellect. Ask two Catholics why Christmas day celebrates the birth of Jesus. One will say that it is the actual birthday while the other will correctly note that it was set by the early Church to counter a pagan winter solstice holiday. Ask two Catholics why

priests may not marry. One will say that it is to better minister to the flock, naturally avoiding how equally well other married religious denominations can minister. The other will cite Pope Gregory's edict and his desire to grab a priest's property which otherwise went to spouses. Ask any number of questions, including why women cannot be priests or why certain gospels were rejected when writing the Bible, and the magic infallibility answer emanates from those protecting the rigidity of the man-made traditions of Catholicism.

Lent is a time of self-examination and introspection, a time when we attempt to identify with the original Christians who gave witness under penalty of death, without politics, material riches or the belittlement of others. Our Lenten eye should be on behavior that recognizes the internal conflicts of each soul and extends a patient hand as one of our own personal à la carte offerings to others. Only then can we draw others closer in rather than out to the fringes.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a communications strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at

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

A guide to overcoming the random hook-up

As has been discussed ad nauseam in this space over the course of the year, random hook-ups occur quite frequently at Notre Dame. While these hook-ups are almost always characterized simply as making out (thankfully different

from our state school counterparts), they can happen almost anywhere. In order to assist the student body in overcoming the emotional hardships that coincide with random hook-ups, the following guide isolates the five stages it takes to overcome them and what actions go along with them.

1. Denial

Denial is the first and possibly most prolonged stage of the post-hook-up timeline. Similar to my refusal to attend NIT basketball games, perpetrators of the random hook-up in the denial stage will pretend/convince themselves that said hook-up did not occur (just like I was never looking at NCAA tournament sites over winter break). If one sees their co-conspirator in the dining hall, he or she will turn the other way and be sure to sit with their back facing the other. When talking to friends, the perpetrator will pretend that they were "riding the blackout train" even though they never got close to the station. They will say things like "Man, I was so drunk, I don't even know what happened last night." This translates to: "I did something so stupid; I don't even want to know what happened." Students cannot begin to overcome their hook-up as long as they are in denial of it.

2. Anger

The second stage of overcoming a random hook-up involves anger amongst the perpetrators. They are angry at their friends, their parents, Taylor Swift, Excise Police, and at

themselves, but most importantly, they are just plain angry. They might say something like, "I got so drunk last night..." which translates to, "Hulk Smash." The anger stage oftentimes coincides with the late afternoon hangover of the next day. Perpetrators refuse to get off the couch, and spend a lot of time moaning about the previous night. After a particularly bad hook-up, a perpetrator might punch things to help him or her deal with their stupidity. This does not help, unless of course you have a time machine and can go back to punch yourself in the face (but I don't want to consider how many paradoxes that would create).

3. Bargaining (Rationalization)

The third stage of overcoming a random hook-up is bargaining, which can better be described as rationalization. The perpetrator will attempt to rationalize their actions by saying things like, "I really needed that" or "she was kinda hot." They will try to convince themselves that their co-conspirator does not hook up with a lot of people, and that this was just a onetime thing. Extreme rationalizers will convince themselves that there is 'something there' when it was really no more than a random hook-up. One example of this is Melissa Buddie, who seemed to believe that each of her hook-ups would result in the victory of a long term relationship. Everybody knows that random hook-ups only result in long term relationships if they are happening in the twisted mind of Judd Apatow (and last time I checked most Notre Dame Students aren't funny enough to be figments of Mr. Apatow's imagination). Therefore, all hook-ups need to move on to the next stage.

4. Depression

Once a perpetrator has found major difficulty rationalizing his or her random hook-up, the fourth stage (depression) ensues. This stage can often be confused with the second because it involves a lack of moving around and significant groaning. For some, this stage can last for days or even weeks and might cause the perpetrator to lose any and all desire to go out with their friends. A per-

petrator might say things like, "but I'm gonna be alone." If they continue like this, they will be alone. They need to hurry up and get to the final stage.

One way to quickly move through the depression stage is to watch one of your favorite romantic comedies. What could possibly cheer you up more than Ryan Reynolds and Isla Fischer ending up together at the end of "Definitely, Maybe?" Romantic comedies are the best way to get through the depressive stage because they are also one of the best ways to cure the hangover that usually accompanies a random hook-up. Action movies are too loud. Dramas are too sad. Foreign films require too much effort to read the subtitles. Indie films demand too much thinking. Romantic comedies are the perfect blend of mindless entertainment that can make you feel better about life without having to think much at all.

5. Acceptance

Acceptance will finally come when a perpetrator returns to the way he was before the hook-up. Since hook-ups are trivial acts, there is no way that they can change a person. If the two perpetrators were friends before the hook-up, they will continue to be friends after the hook-up. If they didn't know each other before, they still do not know each other. A person who has accepted what happened might say things like, "you know what, it was fun. No harm, no foul" or "it was the best random hook-up of all the random hook-ups." This person is ready for what comes next.

Sometime after the perpetrator has accepted what has happened, either one of two things will happen: a) They will enter into a long term relationship with somebody they are already friends with, or b) they will randomly hook up with another person.

Bob Kessler is a senior majoring in political science and economics. You can contact him at rkessler@nd.edu

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



Bob Kessler

House of Stix

This box is grey.

Make it black and white.

Submit a Letter to the Editor.

viewpoint.1@nd.edu

Straightforward Mexican at Puerto Vallarta

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By J.J. REES
Scene Writer

As many students come back from a spring break spent at much more temperate locales, those who went to the Mexican beach town Puerto Vallarta might be tempted to reminisce about their week in the sun by visiting a restaurant of the same name on Grape Road in Mishawaka.

However, despite a few perks, Puerto Vallarta — the one a few miles from campus — proved to be mostly forgettable.

The restaurant itself, tucked into a plaza, fails to leave an impression. It

seems to have been half-decorated. The walls have been left their dim burnt orange color “for now,” and the few paintings and decorations are allowed on the wall until their more sensible replacements arrive.

It’s possible that the restaurant offers too much variety, not permitting itself to focus on a few dishes. However, one looking for Mexican food would surely find whatever they are after.

Puerto Vallarta offers 26 combination platters (priced \$6-9) outside of their regular menu, which includes burritos, fajitas and other standard Mexican dishes.

But with a kitchen that must be relatively small, considering the restaurant’s size, the staff might do well to hone their skills on dishes like the flautas (corn tortillas rolled around a chicken filling, then fried), the quesadillas or the burritos, which already have a good start.

Puerto Vallarta’s horchata (rice milk with cinnamon) is silky with

a fairly strong cinnamon taste that made a second glass undesirable. The appetizer sampler was the clear standout of the meal, with chicken taquitos, shredded beef quesadillas and nachos covered by ground beef, cheese and beans. The savory, rich tastes were fantastic way to begin the meal.

A huge amount of food was required to fill the massive plates, and the large burritos were a good start. The Vallarta

Vegetarian Burrito (beans, rice and lettuce wrapped in a flour tortilla and smothered with guacamole and fresh tomatoes) was an undeviating combination of the ingredients and, at every point of the meal, was too much to eat.

The flautas were crusty and had a fitting texture. The taste of the fresh tomato topping made up for the plain flavored chicken. In general, the shredded beef was slightly too thick and too tough, although juicy and full-bodied in the tacos and quesadillas.

The cooks paired sauce and cheese well, especially when the two were matched with the savory chicken. The

enchiladas proved to be simply too much, and the over-serving of cheese did not help the cause.

The real highlights of the meal were the bookends: The aforementioned appetizer sampler, and the dessert treat, which consisted of fried tortilla sprinkled with cinnamon and sugar, drizzled with honey, and topped by a surprisingly tasty dollop of whipped cream. This unexpected gift is typical of the service, which is laid back but efficient and quick. Cokes

were brought out quickly after the horchata refills were ruled out.

Another peak of the meal was the live music. Upon entering, at least on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, one is greeted by a pleasant guitarist playing and singing songs. This music provides excellent entertainment or just background music.

Puerto Vallarta delivers straightforward Mexican food with very comfortable prices (the most expensive entrée is \$13). Nothing is extremely disappointing, but not much leaves an impression. The restaurant does gain points for the appetizer sampler and the live music, but otherwise it only offers a wide variety of standard fares.

Contact J.J. Rees at jrees@nd.edu

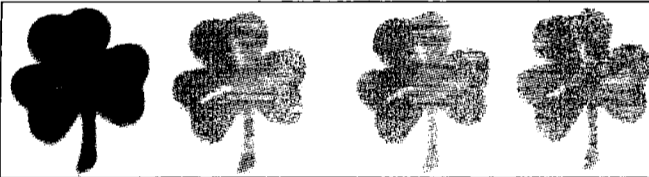
Puerto Vallarta

4609 Grape Rd.; (574-271-9959)

Hours: 11-9 M-Th, 11-10 F-S, 12-8 Su

Prices: Apps \$3-6, Entrées \$6-13

10 Words or Less: Wide variety of straightforward Mexican food, appetizer sampler worth the money.



It's possible that the restaurant offers too much variety, not permitting itself to focus more on fewer dishes.

Upon entering, at least on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, one is greeted by a pleasant guitarist playing and singing songs.



‘All I Ever Wanted’ is Kelly Clarkson’s Return to Summer

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By EMILY LeSTRANGE
Scene Writer

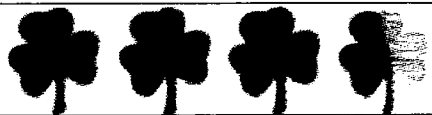
With the recent temperature-boost in South Bend, you might be in the market for new spring clothes, shoes and, of course, that new album with summertime vibes to blast in the car or in your room. Fans of pop — look no further, Kelly Clarkson’s “All I Ever Wanted” is the perfect new release to prep you for the upcoming summer months.

All I Ever Wanted

Kelly Clarkson

Label: Sony BMG

Recommended Tracks: “My Life Would Suck Without You,” “Longshot,” “I Do Not Hook Up”



As Kelly fans may remember, 2007’s “My December” was an uncharacteristically dark and gothic album that failed to earn the kind of success that 2004’s “Thankful” and 2005’s “Breakaway” managed to win. Fear not, for “All I Ever Wanted” returns to the fun-pop music that propelled Kelly to A-list status after her American Idol win in 2002. Clarkson’s fourth album is a collection of numerous tracks that rejuvenate the world of pop music with fun lyrics and addicting beats.

In addition to the single “My Life Would Suck Without You,” the album includes other hits that will entice you to sing along. Two sure hits, “Longshot” and “I Do Not Hookup,” were written in collaboration with the rising star of pop, Ms. Katy Perry, and her influence is quite obvious. However, Clarkson’s passionate voice and angry, spunk spirit give life to the songs in a way Katy Perry could not. Ryan Tedder, a lyricist who is responsible for Leona Lewis’ “Bleeding Love” and Beyonce’s “Halo,” is the creator behind a couple of songs on

Clarkson’s new album, including “Impossible” and “Already Gone.” These pieces, however, do not generate the same kind of excitement as other songs that help display Clarkson’s loud, booming voice. Clarkson sounds best not crooning soft R&B ballads, but rather commanding attention with her pop-rock voice while being accompanied by catchy beats.

What is most exciting about the album is the sheer diversity of songs that remind us why we chose Clarkson as the winner of American Idol so long ago. In addition to the bubblegum pink pop songs like “Whyawannabringmedown” and “Ready,” Clarkson includes a handful of numbers that echo the “A Moment Like This” days with their soft ballad-like tempos and lyrics that speak to broken hearts, including “If No One Will Listen” and “Cry.” Clarkson successfully crosses genre lines in “All I Ever Wanted,” a feat many artists are incapable of accomplishing.

In the two weeks since the album’s release, “All I Ever Wanted” has

remained in the No.1 spot on the Billboard 200 Albums Chart. In the album’s first week alone, it sold 255,000 copies; this week, readers can anticipate seeing similar numbers. The album is already breaking records; the single “My Life Would Suck Without You” holds the record for the biggest leap to the top spot on the Billboard 100, jumping from No.97 to No.1 and displacing Britney Spears’ “Womanizer.” A deluxe edition of the album, which includes two bonus songs, three videos and a digital booklet, is available on iTunes for all you die-hard fans.

Overall, “All I Ever Wanted” is guaranteed to be a staple of 2009 hit summer albums. Clarkson redeems the 2007 flop “My December” with an album that promises to continue to break records. So, if your search for a perfect summer album has left you empty-handed, a good suggestion is “All I Ever Wanted.” Clarkson will not disappoint.

Contact Emily LeStrange at clestran@nd.edu

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, March 20, 2009

THE
OBSERVER



LIVE A ROCK

Senior goaltender Jordan Pearce's steady play and steadier demeanor have led the Irish to the CCHA semifinals

Back in the semis, but this isn't like last year

Technically, Notre Dame is in the same spot — the CCHA semifinals — as it was a year ago.

But the Irish could hardly be in a different situation this time around.

A year ago, Notre Dame was limping into Joe Louis Arena after a tough three-game series against Ferris State. The Irish were the lowest seed left heading into their semifinal game against Miami (Ohio), and their NCAA Tournament lives were hanging by a thread. In its last 18 games last year, Notre Dame struggled to a 6-8-4 record.

"Last year we just kind of squeaked by Ferris State," Irish senior center Christian Hanson said. "We were kind of the underdog going in there."

The Irish lost to the RedHawks in a heartbreaking overtime loss after giving up a goal with just under four seconds left in regulation.

Now?

Notre Dame is the No. 1 team in the country, the CCHA's top seed wrapped up for a month. It's safe to say that no one would be surprised to see Jeff Jackson and company lifting the Mason Cup on Saturday night.

"This year, we're coming in with all the momentum, and I think the target's really going to be on our back," Hanson said.

"Momentum" is an understatement. The Irish have lost only two games since November, and netminder Jordan Pearce has given up only one goal in the past five games.

The most important position for any playoff run is between the pipes, and Jordan Pearce said that he feels more prepared for this year's trip to Joe Louis.

"I would say having the experience of being there and knowing what the whole weekend is about, I think I'll be a little bit more prepared this time to not let the distractions get to me," he said.

He also admitted, though, that it's easier to play the role of underdog, as the Irish did last year.

"It's kind of tough because the expectations are for you to win," Pearce said. "It's easier to play as underdogs because you've got nothing to

lose."

The Irish won't be able to stretch on anyone this year. Notre Dame played well against Miami last year, no doubt, but the Wildcats will have extra motivation tomorrow that Miami didn't have last year. If Northern Michigan can knock off the Irish, it would be the highlight of their season. The RedHawks' win was just a stepping-stone on the way to loftier goals.

Notre Dame certainly has the right man at the helm to deal with the target on their backs. In his ten years coaching in the CCHA — six with Lake Superior State and four with Notre Dame — Jackson has only missed out on a trip to Detroit once, his first year with Notre Dame.

The reason the Irish will be able to overcome Northern Michigan's upset aspirations is Jackson's even keel.

"How he approaches things is the same from week to week, which is good because if you don't, you get out of whack — you get too high, you get too low — but he's been very consistent," assistant coach Paul Pooley said before the team's trip to Denver for last year's Frozen Four.

That steadiness paid dividends during last year's run to the National Championship



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish senior captain Erik Condra splits the Nebraska-Omaha defense during Notre Dame's 5-0 home win last Friday.

game, and it will again in Detroit this weekend in an event that Jackson said was just as hard to win as the NCAA championship.

"In hockey, it's a big deal to go to Detroit and play at the CCHA championships," he said. "Our conference championships have a lot of meaning."

It's that approach, as well as a heavy dose of consistency,

that are the reason Notre Dame is favored to claim the CCHA Championship this weekend.

A big difference from one year ago.

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

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

Thang heals quickly, returns in time for tournament run

Junior missed six weeks, scored goal in first game back

By DAN MURPHY
Senior Staff Writer

The hit was ugly.

Midway through the third period of Notre Dame's Feb. 6 game at Ohio State, Irish junior Ryan Thang went down. Thang was racing an Ohio State defender to a loose puck along the boards in his defensive zone, and when he got there, Thang's skate got caught and his knee bent inward with all of 192 pounds on top of it.

"I really should've wrecked my knee," Thang said. "I guess somehow I have strong ligaments so I was lucky."

Instead, Thang was diagnosed with a severe high ankle sprain. A week and a half later the Notre Dame training staff noticed something wasn't quite right.

His left tibia, or shin bone, had slid forwards and up underneath the knee and was pushing outwards on his knee cap. Because it had been over a week since the injury, the muscles around Thang's knee had started to compensate and had a strong hold on the misplaced bone.

"It wasn't fun," Thang said. "For about a week straight we really had to fidget with it."

Fidgeting with it involved a team of trainers manually pushing the bone back into place. Each day the bone would slip back and they



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish junior wing Ryan Thang flicks a shot toward the Nebraska-Omaha net during Notre Dame's 5-0 win over the Mavericks last Friday in the CCHA quarterfinals.

would repeat the process. Thang considered himself lucky.

"A knee injury would have kept me out until next season. So I've got to give credit to our strength coach," he said.

Five weeks after the hit, Thang was back on the ice for the CCHA playoffs and a second-round matchup against Nebraska-Omaha over the weekend.

It took the junior from Edina, Minn., less than a period to get back into the swing of things.

With three minutes remain-

ing in the opening stanza, Thang ripped one of his trademark wrist shots past Mavericks goalie Jerad Kaufmann to give Notre Dame a 4-0 lead.

"He always has the potential to score that goal that wins you a game," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "He had a ton of key goals in the playoffs last year."

Thang had two key goals to go along with his five assists during Notre Dame's run to the national title game last spring. He helped spark a 7-3 win over New Hampshire and

added a clutch shorthanded goal in the 5-4 overtime upset of Michigan in the semifinals.

Thang had 38 goals through his first two years with the Irish, and 11 of them were game winners. He missed seven games with the injury this season but still managed to rack up 10 goals.

Despite picking up the early goal in his return last Friday, Thang looked a step slow throughout the weekend. Jackson said that his alternate captain just needed to get himself back into game shape after a few weeks off,

but Thang admitted the leg wasn't quite at full strength.

"It's still not where I want it to be, but it's playoff time and you can play through just about anything," Thang said. "Once you get out in the game, you don't really notice it as much."

Thang said that he didn't think he would be quite ready to go yet if there wasn't a conference title on the line.

"Every day I get a little bit faster. It's just going to take some time. At first I had to get a feel for it, but once you're going you're going," he said.

Jackson said that in Saturday night's 1-0 win, Thang and his linemates looked a little out of sync as Thang worked himself back into the mix.

"That line before he was hurt had been playing extremely well," Jackson said. "It will take a little time for them to get used to each other again."

Whatever Thang is missing for the time being on the ice, he makes up for in the locker room. He has emerged as one of the vocal leaders of the team this season and is a big asset off of the ice.

"He adds a sense of maturity and leadership to our locker room," Jackson said. "There are positives on and off the ice with Ryan being back."

Jackson gave the team a day off this Tuesday to keep them at the peak of their physical and mental game. Thang said that the break left him feeling fresh and ready to go for this weekend's games.

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Mr. Consistent.

Goaltender Jordan Pearce enjoys record-setting career after spending two seasons on the bench

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

Ask Jordan Pearce about rewriting the Irish hockey record books, and he'll smile, brush it off, and say the next goaltender in line will top his eye-popping career numbers.

Ask him about his astronomical grade-point average and otherwise impressive accomplishments off the ice, and he'll sound the same, saying academics have always been a top priority.

Even ask him about his obvious snubbing by the CCHA's coaches, who only chose him as an honorable mention to the all-conference team. He'll laugh again, sing the praises of the first- and second-team choices, and tell you he's just happy to be playing in Detroit tonight.

"He always stays at an even keel, and it really helps him," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "Humble and quiet — great goalies are generally that way. They're unassuming."

From backing up All-American David Brown for two years to leading the Irish to another CCHA semifinal appearance, Pearce has done it all with the same levelheaded demeanor that has helped him enjoy so much success.

"He doesn't have to talk or have people talk about him, he just does it with his numbers and the wins," junior defenseman Kyle Lawson said. "He lets his play speak for itself, and I think there's a lot to be said about that. He's somebody who doesn't need to go out and boast about himself or have that cockiness about him."

"You can say what you want, but Jordan Pearce is going to be Jordan Pearce, no matter what happens."

And what exactly does that mean?

"He comes to work every day with the same attitude, the same demeanor," Jackson said. "He works hard and competes hard every day, and he doesn't complain. He just shows that level of humility and yet strength in character and mental toughness that you hope every goaltender can develop."

Man on fire

Nothing is more important in tournament hockey than hot goaltending, or so the old saying goes.

So with four shutouts in his last five games — including two in Notre Dame's CCHA quarterfinal sweep of Nebraska-Omaha last weekend — is there anyone on the planet hotter than Pearce right now?

"No," senior captain Erik Condra said. "He doesn't get enough credit. When playoffs hit, your goaltender needs to be your best player, and he definitely was over the weekend. He stepped it up, and he was unbelievable."

That's been a familiar story over the past two years for

Pearce, who, after riding the pine for two seasons, earned the starting gig as a junior. To say he ran with it would be an understatement.

Pearce's career goals-against average (1.97), save percentage (.919) and winning percentage (.680) are all tops in the program's history, and he set the career wins record (57) in Saturday's 1-0 victory, when he also tied Brown's career shutout tally with 12.

This season, he leads the nation in wins (28), goals-against average (1.68) and shutouts (8).

"So much of it has to do with consistency," Jackson said. "He does it every night, and he doesn't have bad games. He'll occasionally give up a soft goal — very seldom though — and even if he does, he comes back and plays well. He doesn't get rattled by it."

In four years as his coach, Jackson hasn't found a way to break Pearce's focus — even when he deliberately tries to do so.

"I wish he had a little bit more flair to him because he'd get more recognition," Jackson said. "I try to pump his tires as much as I can because I think he deserves to be recognized as one of the top players in the country."

But as Lawson said, Pearce is Pearce. He'll almost admit that he enjoys the personal accolades — "It's always nice to get those," he said — but he quickly qualified that statement by saying that individual honors aren't his primary focus.

"To me, it's more important to be there playing on Friday night than it is to receive your awards on Thursday," Pearce said.

As for the school records — well, he doesn't need those, either.

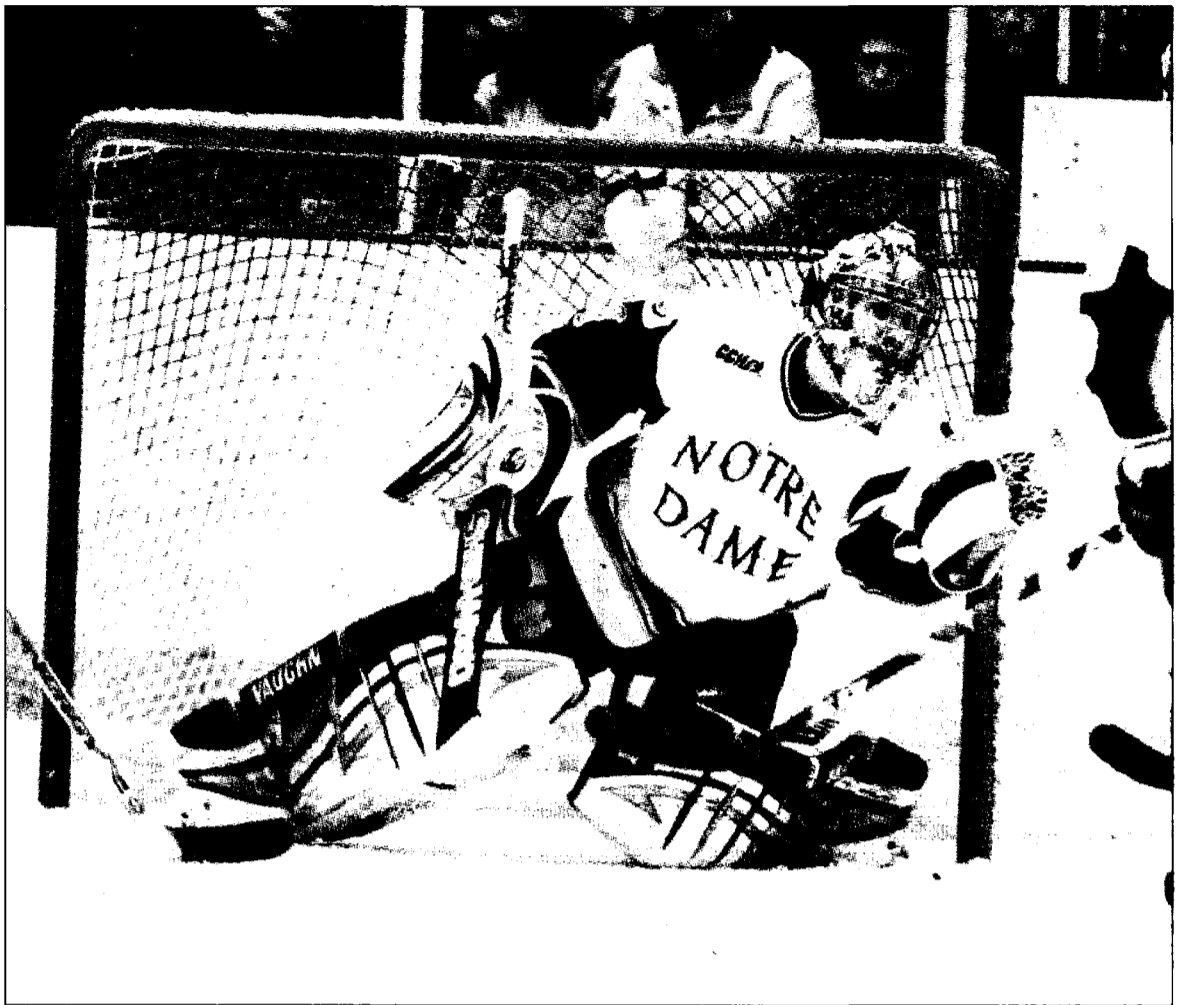
"Only having two years to play here, it's nice to be making all these records," Pearce said. "But with the coaching staff and the way this program is going, I'm sure that the next goalie in line will probably just keep on breaking all the records that I set."

Learning from the best

Even if that's the case, though, it will be with Pearce's help.

"I didn't understand it my first couple years, but now I know exactly what he was going through being behind somebody who's that good," junior backup goaltender Tom O'Brien said. "Just watching him, you learn so much about how to handle every situation you can imagine. He learned from the best, and I have the opportunity to learn from the best."

With Pearce's departure at



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish senior goaltender Jordan Pearce snags a save during Notre Dame's 5-0 victory over Nebraska-Omaha last Friday in the CCHA quarterfinals at the Joyce Center.

the end of this season, O'Brien will battle sophomore frontrunner Brad Phillips, who missed the entire season after preseason knee surgery, to become heir to the Irish goaltending throne.

"He (Pearce) works hard in the weight room, works hard on the ice and is a good leader in the locker room," Phillips said. "He's a good goalie to follow after and look up to ... I just want to follow in his footsteps, and hopefully I can do the same thing."

And it's not only in games that Pearce makes some of the spectacular saves to which his teammates have become accustomed.

"Even in practice he's unconscious," O'Brien said. "I can't beat him in any [scrimmage] games, it's unbelievable."

It might not have always been that way for Pearce, who said it took him a year or so to deal with his role as a backup. Once he came to the realization that when Brown graduated, it would be his job to lose, his view on the situation changed.

"It was a long two years being behind David Brown, but I learned to adapt and I learned that by kind of putting and moping around, you don't get anything accomplished and you're not making yourself better," Pearce said. "I tried to change my attitude, get better every day and be a better teammate, and that helped me a lot in practice and I improved."

Though Pearce learned a lot from Brown about handling

the pressure of being the go-to guy in net for the Irish, Jackson said there aren't many comparisons to be made between the two.

"Jordan's a bigger man, he's as athletic as David, and he's learned to be better in the situations that was he was weak at when he first started," Jackson said. "It's really his competitiveness that mirrors David Brown's competitiveness. And his demeanor is probably better than David Brown's, as far as his ability to react to adversity. He has the tendency to be able to respond better."

What's next?

Even if the NHL doesn't come calling, Pearce's future is bright.

With a 3.816 grade point average and a spot in Notre Dame's Academic Honors Program, the anthropology and pre-med double major has already begun to interview for medical school.

"I wanted to pursue med school so that option would be there if I wanted to go that route," Pearce said. "We'll see if the hockey offers come my way. I'd love to go play hockey, and you only get one chance to go pursue a dream to play professional hockey. If the opportunity comes, I'd be excited to play."

Growing up in Anchorage, Alaska, Pearce's parents instilled in him a staunch commitment to academics, and that has stuck with him at Notre Dame, he said.

"You always have to have that safety net," Pearce said. "Academics was always the

top priority in my life. I've learned over the years that you don't have to sacrifice your athletic performance or your attitude just to accomplish good things in the academic world. You can do both, you just have to be dedicated and know how to manage your time."

Easier said than done, but Pearce has got it under control. But that's no surprise to those who know him.

"The kid's probably smarter than all of us, and he's the No. 1 goalie here at Notre Dame," Lawson said.

"The kid's got as full a plate as you can get here, and he just goes about his business quietly. I'm just glad I don't have his schedule."

As for that rock-solid demeanor — well, that might be an important quality to have as a doctor. And as it turns out, it works for a goaltender as well.

"From where I was with him as a freshman or sophomore, wondering how hard he was going to compete or how hard he would work, he's a kid who has probably made the biggest turnaround from my perspective of him," Jackson said. "I had him wrong. I didn't know how hard he really wanted it, and I watch him now and he competes as hard as any goalie I've ever coached."

"It's just his nature, and that demeanor is what makes him even better. That low-key [attitude] that I was looking at as a negative was actually a positive, because it's a great trait in a goalie to be emotionally under control."

"You can say what you want, but Jordan Pearce is going to be Jordan Pearce."

Kyle Lawson
Irish junior

"Just watching him, you learn so much about how to handle every situation you can imagine. He learned from the best, and I have the opportunity to learn from the best."

Tom O'Brien
Irish junior

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

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Irish to take on Northern Michigan in Detroit

Notre Dame swept red-hot Wildcats in four-game season series

By DAN MURPHY
Senior Staff Writer

Irish coach Jeff Jackson compared winning the CCHA championship to his version of a Stanley Cup.

"It's a big event for our conference," he said. "I'm always surprised in basketball the conference championships don't mean much. Our conference championship has a lot of meaning."

No. 1 Notre Dame (29-5-3, 21-4-3-3 CCHA) will take on Northern Michigan in a semifinal matchup at 4:35 p.m. on Friday to try to move one step closer to that treasured CCHA tournament title.

Northern Michigan, which finished in sixth place in the regular season standings, upset

Miami (Ohio) in dramatic fashion last weekend to make the semifinals for the second straight year. After dropping the first game in the best of three series, the Wildcats (16-16-5, 11-12-5-3) needed overtime to keep their postseason alive Saturday night and force a Game 3. On Sunday they completed the upset on the road with an impressive 3-1 victory.

"Let's face facts, we're playing maybe the hottest team in the country right now," Jackson said. "To win two games down in Miami is quite an accomplishment."

"Let's face facts, we're playing maybe the hottest team in the country right now."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

Northern Michigan is 14-4 in the second half of the season. Two of their four losses came in the Joyce Center last month. The Irish offense exploded to finish a four-game season sweep over

the Wildcats by hanging 14 goals on them in two games — eight of them on the power play. Notre Dame poured in nine goals the first night and five more in the Saturday contest.



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish sophomore center Ben Ryan tries to squeeze past Northern Michigan defenseman Derek May during Notre Dame's 5-2 home win over the Wildcats on Feb. 14.

"That weekend was probably a little bit of a fluke for them or for us. It was Friday the 13th and that game was just wacky," Jackson said.

In his nine games since then, Northern Michigan junior goalie Brian Stewart has only given up 19 goals. Stewart caught fire against Miami last weekend leading his team to victory with a 41-save performance in the third game.

"At this time of the year everyone we are going to face will have a good goaltender, but Stewart has been a big reason why they have done so well," Jackson said.

Notre Dame was able to put up four quick goals on Stewart in its 9-5 win last month and will take a similar strategy this weekend.

"Stewart is a really big guy and when he's hot, he's hot. If we get to him early I think that can be our best bet to try and frustrate him," junior wing

Ryan Thang said. "Usually in these games whoever has the better goalie ends up winning the game."

If that's the case, the Irish can have plenty of confidence heading into the weekend. Senior netminder Jordan Pearce has held opponents to one goal in his past five games.

Pearce pitched back-to-back shutouts last weekend in the team's series with Nebraska-Omaha.

"I feel pretty confident out there and I'm seeing the puck pretty well," Pearce said. "It's very much a team effort, though."

Pearce is one of the nominees for the CCHA Player of the Year award which will be given out this weekend. He said that he expected Friday's contest to be much lower scoring than the last times the two teams met.

"We kind of took it to them here. We were 4-0 against them this year but I think the fifth is going to be a little harder to

get," he said.

Notre Dame will have a little extra motivation in Detroit this weekend after losing in the semifinals last season and then falling to Northern Michigan in the consolation match the following day.

"We kind of embarrassed ourselves up there last year," Thang said. "I told a couple of guys at the end of practice not to forget about that."

If Notre Dame does get past the Wildcats they will take on the winner of the Michigan-Alaska game at 7:35 p.m. Saturday.

No. 3 Michigan (28-10-0, 20-8-0-0) is the second seed in the tournament and has handed Notre Dame one of its two losses in the second half of the season. Alaska (17-14-6, 13-10-5-3) has also been playing well, led by first-team all-conference goaltender Chad Johnson. Johnson is also up for the CCHA Player of the Year award.

"I would like to play Michigan because it's always a heated battle against them, but both teams are playing really well right now so it should be an interesting tournament," Thang said.

"I would like to play Michigan because it's always a heated battle against them, but both teams are playing really well right now so it should be an interesting tournament."

Ryan Thang
Irish junior

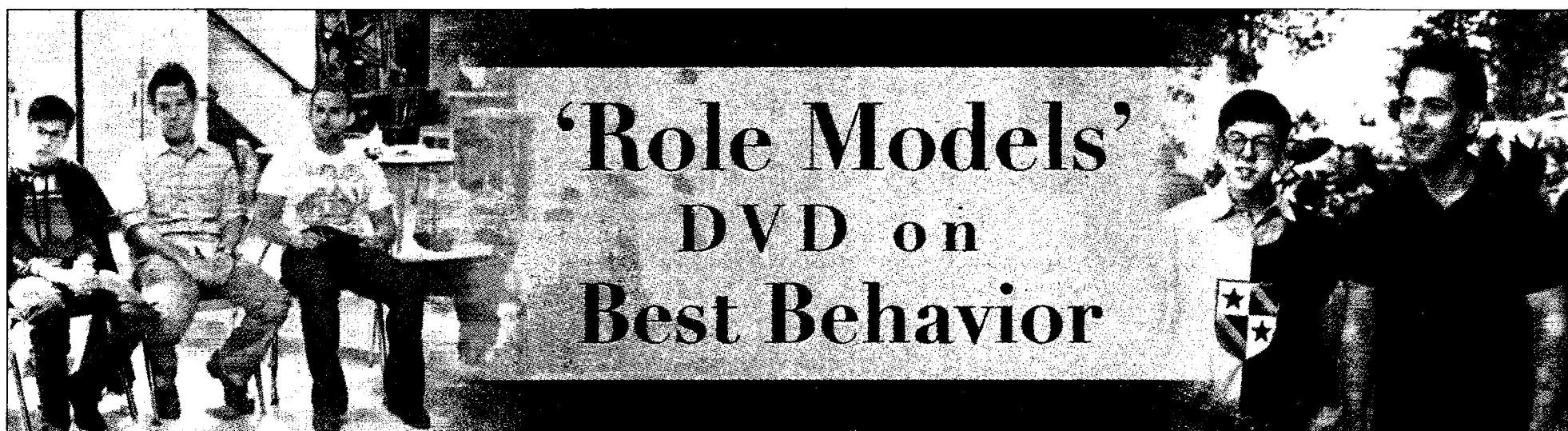


WU YUE/The Observer

Irish senior center Christian Hanson sends a shot toward the Nebraska-Omaha net during last Friday's 5-0 Notre Dame win.

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Can't make it to Detroit for the games?
Check out The Casual Observer at
observersportsblog.wordpress.com
for live updates throughout the weekend as
Matt Gamber, Dan Murphy and Sam Werner
cover all the action from Joe Louis Arena.



ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

'Role Models' DVD on Best Behavior

By CAITLIN FERRARO
Scene Writer

"Role Models" showcases the comedic talents of relative newcomers Christopher Mintz-Plasse (also known as McLovin') as Augie and the outrageous Bobb'e J. Thompson as Ronnie, while simultaneously reminding us that Sean William Scott can play more than just Stifler ("American Pie"). Scott's womanizing, hard-partying character Wheeler is suspiciously similar. The film also stars Paul Rudd as the highly pessimistic Danny. Rudd also co-wrote the film.

The basic premise of "Role Models" is that two grown men, Danny and Wheeler, are forced to participate in the

Sturdy Wings mentoring program for children. After the two energy drink representatives crash their Minotaur truck into a statue, they are forced into the program, rather than go to jail. Danny is paired with Augie, a teenager obsessed with LAIRE (a live action role playing game), while Wheeler's "little" is a young foul-mouth, over-sexed Ronnie. They might just be the worst mentors ever, and madness ensues. The characters begin to learn to put aside their selfish, sarcastic ways to help the two oddball kids.

The supporting cast includes the very funny Elizabeth Banks as Danny's ex-girlfriend Beth and the wacky recovering drug addict program director Gayle Sweeny portrayed by Jane Lynch. Also hilarious is Ken Jeong as the arrogant King Argotron, King of Cacedonia in the LAIRE world. One might recognize Jeong, a real life doctor, from his portrayal of the strange Dr. Kuni in "Knocked Up."

"Role Models" is a great comedy, and the recently released unrated DVD did not disappoint. There are a plethora of great DVD extras. While

the countless deleted scenes and alternate outtakes were wisely left off the theatrical movie's release, the other bonus features are great.

The bloopers are hilarious, and it seems the cast genuinely had a great time making the comedy. In a segment called "In Character & Off Script," three different characters are featured in hysterical improvised moments presenting a Sturdy Wings salute to Martin Gary, the overzealous five-time mentor, and Kuzzick and Davith of Glencracken, two hilarious LAIRE players. The actors were merely allowed to improvise rants that their characters would have. The abundance of improvisation in the film is discussed in the segment called "On The Set of Role Models," as is the R-rated nature of the film. The film certainly warrants the R rating as everyone notes that director/co-screenwriter David Wain never shies from dirty jokes and profanity. The bonus features also include commentary by Wain.

The best segment of the bonus features had to be the section entitled "Game On: Creating a Role Playing World," in which the actors and crew discuss creating their own role-playing game. It is absolutely hilarious witnessing how they adapted Live Action Role

Playing, a real thing, into the film's version LAIRE. The clips show King Argotron being trained by a professional choreographer even though the characters use fake, almost cardboard like swords. Rudd comments how hysterical it is that the choreographer used to work on "The Bourne Ultimatum," suggesting the transition "is like going from Harvard to Kindergarten."

This film is absolutely hysterical and Rudd, Scott, Mintz-Plasse and Thompson are great.

One particularly funny scene involves Danny exploding in anger in a coffee shop. He bitterly yells at the barista under the names of the cup sizes: "No, venti is twenty. Large is large. In fact, tall is large and grande is Spanish for large. Venti is the only one that doesn't mean large. It's also the only one that's Italian. Congratulations, you're stupid in three languages." Classic.

The unrated DVD of "Role Models" is a worthwhile buy. Not only does it include both the theatrical and unrated versions of the film, it also contains tons of hilarious extra features.

The bloopers are hilarious, and it seems the cast genuinely had a great time making the comedy.

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Role Models DVD

Director: David Wain

Starring: Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Bobb'e J. Thompson, Sean William Scott, Paul Rudd, Elizabeth Banks

DVD Extras: Bloopers, Deleted Scenes, "In Character & Off Script," "On The Set of Role Models," "Game On: Creating a Role Playing World."



Dining Hall Dish

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Assistant Scene Editor

St. Patrick's Day has come and gone, but I'm sure much of the Notre Dame student body is still recovering. What do you need after a long day and night of celebrating our Irish heritage? Some good food. Hopefully these recipes might help settle your stomach.

This week's recipes:

Chicken and Blue Cheese Pita

This recipe has plenty of good strong flavors to it. Don't be afraid to layer on that blue cheese, it's what makes it sing. You can try adding other vegetables, like

red onion, to your taste as well.

1. Pick up a chicken breast and cut it up. (You can also use the chicken from the Mexican bar if you want to skip the cutting; the sauce that is going to be added later is likely strong enough to overwhelm any marinade or seasoning.)

2. Pick up lettuce, diced tomatoes and as many pitas as necessary.

3. Fill a bowl with a dab of ranch dressing, a good amount of hot sauce and blue cheese. (If you aren't a blue cheese fan, cheddar is a good substitute.)

4. Heat the bowl in the microwave until the cheese melts and you can mix it into a sauce.

5. Toss the chicken, tomatoes and lettuce with the sauce.

Stuff mixture into pitas.

Ants on a Log

For me, these are a vivid memory of Girl Scouts. More specifically, the hiking trip where our leader gave the chaperoning moms the wrong trail markers to follow and by the time we got back from wandering lost in a field, the only thing we had time to eat before the park closed were these tasty bites. So whether you've just survived a hike with a passel of Brownies or a long day in class, these will make you feel better.

1. Pick up celery sticks, peanut butter and raisins.

2. Spread peanut butter onto the celery.

3. Stick raisins into peanut butter in a line — like ants on a log! Release your inner child.

Quick Tip

Remember to mix up not only your meal, but your drink too. Alice Ciciora submitted this drink mixture, which she named Grapealadeite. Simply mix lemonade with a little bit of grape juice and Sprite.

Have your own dining hall recipe? We would love to feature it! E-mail mfordice@nd.edu.

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, March 20, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NCAA Baseball Division 1 Top 25

team	record	points
1 North Carolina	14-2	755
2 Texas	14-2	726
3 Georgia	15-2	649
4 Arizona St.	14-2	638
5 LSU	13-4	629
6 Cal St. Fullerton	13-3	618
7 Miami (Fla.)	14-3	608
8 Texas A&M	13-4	566
9 Georgia Tech	12-1	556
10 Coastal Carolina	15-1	428
11 Oklahoma St.	13-4	423
12 Rice	10-5	410
13 UC Irvine	10-5	317
14 Virginia	15-0	279
15 Arkansas	12-3	278
16 Oklahoma	17-4	261
17 Baylor	10-4	243
18 TCU	10-4	218
19 Clemson	11-4	186
20 Mississippi	11-4	171
21 Pepperdine	11-5	163
22 UC Riverside	14-3	107
23 Cal Poly	11-4	95
24 Florida St.	9-6	89
25 Florida	9-7	62

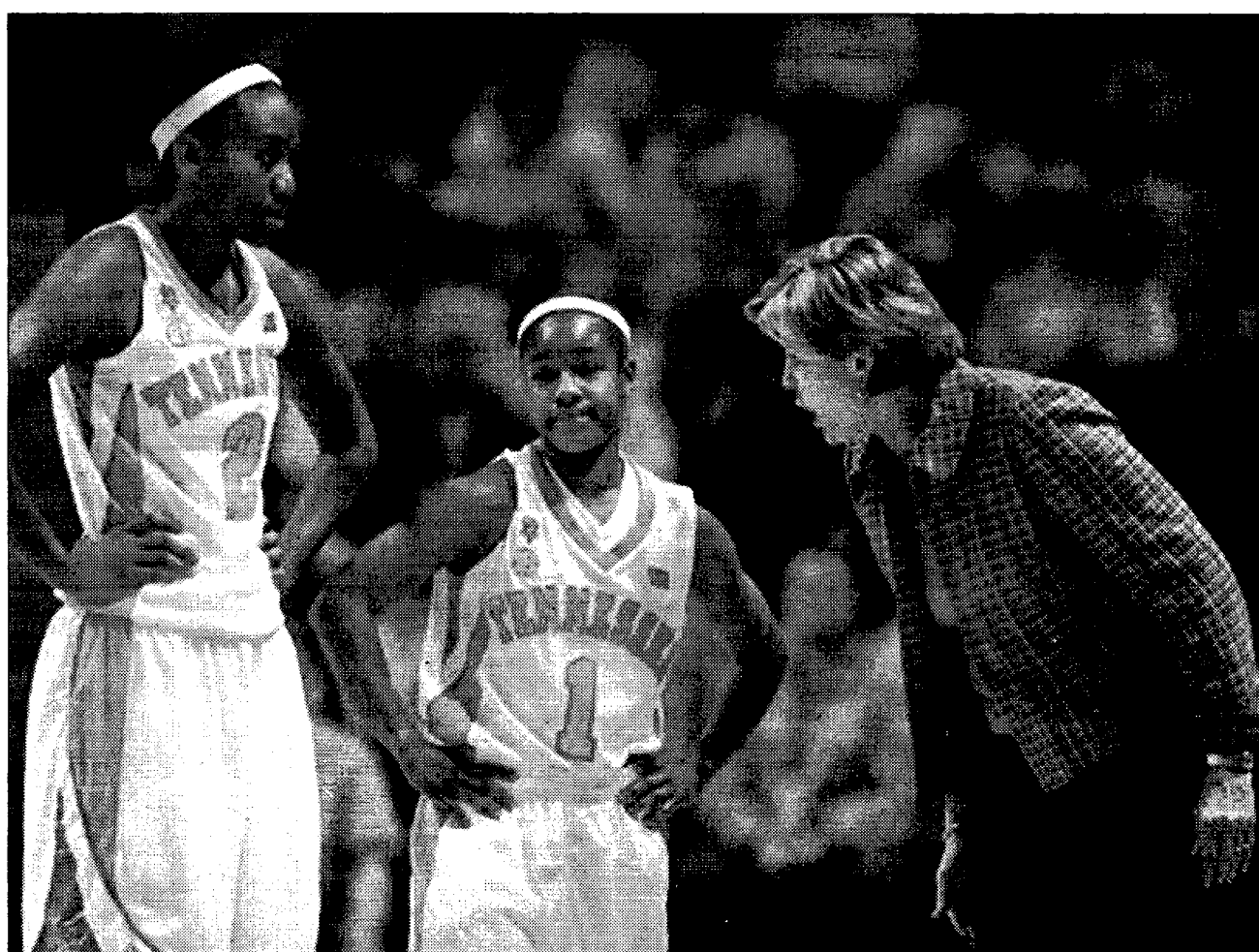
NCAA Softball Division 1 Top 20

team	record	points
1 Florida	27-2	497
2 Alabama	23-2	472
3 Washington	24-3	461
4 Stanford	24-1	436
5 UCLA	24-3	432
6 Tennessee	23-3	392
7 California	21-4	355
8 Michigan	20-7	350
9 Georgia	16-4	326
10 Oklahoma	23-8	319
11 Arizona St.	25-5	310
12 Northwestern	13-7	285
12 Missouri	22-3	256
14 Ohio St.	20-3	234
15 Arizona	26-7	228
16 Louisville	22-3	191
17 Massachusetts	11-6	154
18 North Carolina	21-7	140
19 La.-Lafayette	15-5	105
20 LSU	25-6	92

NCAA Men's Indoor Track Division 1 Top 15

team	points
1 Oregon	168
2 Arkansas	149
3 Florida St.	101
4 Texas A&M	95
5 Nebraska	91
6 LSU	84
7 Florida	76
8 Texas	75
9 Oklahoma	68
10 Texas Tech	67
11 Minnesota	62
12 Arizona St.	60
13 Georgia	59
14 UCLA	59
15 Baylor	57

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Tennessee coach Pat Summitt talks to Briana Brewer (1) and Alex Fuller (2) during an NCAA basketball game against Mississippi State on Feb. 22 in Knoxville, Tenn. The Lady Vols won 82-68.

Young Lady Vols begin to mature

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Pat Summitt says her freshmen-laden squad has finally started to get it: You can't win just because Tennessee is on the front of your jersey.

And the light may have come on just in time as the young Lady Volunteers begin the trek to keep the program's unblemished streak of reaching the regional semifinals alive.

Now all Summitt has to do is keep the light on.

"I think it finally, hopefully, might have sunk in for them, in terms of what they have to do to be successful," Summitt said. "You just don't show up

and play."

Things seemed to click for the Lady Vols (22-10) when they watched their first NCAA selection show on Monday night, drawing a No. 5 seed and No. 12 Ball State as the first round opponent.

They were treated to a broadcast that included clips of other teams' success against them and talk of Tennessee's "off season."

Since then Summitt has been fairly pleased with her players' attitudes and focus in practice. But with seven freshmen, two sophomores and only one senior, she knows there's still plenty that could go

wrong.

"I could sit here and drive myself nuts about how are we going to respond and who's going to show up. I think the thing for our coaches right now that is so important is that we bring a calmness and direct approach to how we want to do things," she said.

The Hall of Fame coach with eight national titles on her resume — including the last two — has been reminding the Lady Vols to take everything one possession at a time, one opponent at a time.

Because of its inconsistent play, Tennessee has not been able to handle the

best effort it always gets from every team it plays.

"It's even magnified when you go into the tournament because it's a one and done, you win or go home," Summitt said.

The coach also doesn't want her players thinking a Final Four bid is impossible. Tennessee took 10 losses into the 1997 NCAA tournament and ended up winning the whole thing.

Summitt said she plans on showing a highlight video called "Cinderella" produced for fans after that season was over to the Lady Vols on their bus ride to the first and second round site in Bowling Green, Ky.

IN BRIEF

Stallworth hits and kills pedestrian with car

MIAMI — Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte Stallworth was driving drunk when he struck and killed a pedestrian, according to published and broadcast reports Thursday.

WSVN-TV reported Thursday that unnamed sources with knowledge of the investigation said Stallworth's blood-alcohol level was between .08 and .16. The legal limit is .08. The Miami Herald also cited an unnamed source as saying that Stallworth's blood-alcohol level was above the legal limit.

The Miami Beach Police Department refused to confirm the reports. Ed Griffith, spokesman for Miami-Dade County prosecutor Katherine Fernandez Rundle, would say only that the investigation is focusing on whether alcohol was a factor in the death of 59-year-old Mario Reyes.

Miguel Tejada may avoid prison time

WASHINGTON — A federal prosecutor on Thursday recommended that All-Star shortstop Miguel Tejada get probation and no prison time for misleading Congress about the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

U.S. attorney Jeffrey Taylor said in a memo to Federal Magistrate Judge Alan Kay that Tejada deserves that reduced sentence because he has admitted wrongdoing, accepted responsibility and has no criminal record. Tejada is to be sentenced March 26.

Tejada is the 2002 American League MVP with the Oakland Athletics and a five-time All-Star now plays for the Houston Astros.

Taylor also cited Tejada's disadvantaged childhood in the Dominican Republic and his dedication to become a distinguished major league player who gives back to the community where he was raised.

Brodeur to pay alimony until 2020

TRENTON, N.J. — Days after breaking the NHL victory record, Devils goalie Martin Brodeur was dealt an alimony setback by a New Jersey appeals court.

The court ruled that Brodeur must pay his former wife \$500,000 a year until 2020, the year his youngest child will graduate from high school.

The ruling Thursday came after Brodeur appealed a lower court ruling that awarded Melanie DuBois permanent alimony.

Brodeur had asked that he only be required to pay alimony until he retires, which he estimated to be in 2012. DuBois asked for alimony payments until 2024, when their youngest child is anticipated to graduate from college.

"Here, the parties always agreed that (the) plaintiff would serve as the full-time caretaker of the children," the court wrote.

around the dial

NCAA Basketball
Dayton vs. West Virginia
3:00 p.m., CBS

NBA
Boston Celtics vs. San Antonio Spurs
8:30 p.m., NBA TV

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish face tough teams in Texas

By ALEX WEST
Sports Writer

The Irish return to the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational in Austin, Texas, for the third consecutive year, ready to compete against several top opponents. According to their coach, however, their toughest competition will come from themselves.

The field of 17 teams will match the Irish up against some of the top competition in the country. The competing teams include Duke, ranked No. 9, and top-ranked Arizona.

After last week's disappointing 12th place finish at the LSU Cleveland Classic, the Irish hope to improve their performance in the three-day tournament this weekend.

Coach Susan Holt thinks that last week's tournament was, to some extent, a wake up call.

"We didn't get beat last week, we just beat ourselves," Holt said. "We look great [at practice]. We need to continue to play loose when it matters."

Senior captain Lisa Maunu, along with junior Annie Brophy,

sophomores So-Hyun Park and Katie Conway and freshman Becca Huffer have the confidence of their coach to put last week's disappointing performance behind them.

"I just want them to play well and put up the numbers they're capable of shooting," Holt said. Last year, the Irish finished fifth out of 18 teams at the Rawls Invitational.

Huffer led the team at last week's LSU Classic, finishing tied for 16th at one over par.

The University of Texas Golf Club will be a tougher challenge than last weeks course at the LSU Cleveland Classic. The course is a par-72 and teams will play from 6,324 yards in the three-day event.

Historically, the Irish have not fared well at University of Texas Golf Club, where the Rawls Invitational is held.

"The course has gotten the best of us in the past," Holt said. "We haven't put three rounds of solid golf together the last three times."

Contact Alex West at awest@hcc-nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame ready to face pair of SEC foes

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

After a break in its schedule with six days off for the first time since the Indoor National Championships, Notre Dame will make up for the period of rest with two games this weekend, including a trip to Tennessee. The Irish host Vanderbilt Friday at 2 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion, and travel to Knoxville to face Tennessee on Sunday.

The Irish have moved up to the No. 2 ranking in the ITA Top 25, only behind indoor national champion Northwestern.

"We are really excited about our number two ranking," said senior Kelcy Tefft. "But we know we have a lot of season left and still a lot to prove."

Beyond the accolades of the ranking, a tangible benefit does come with the number two slot.

"It allows us to host NCAA regionals, which is very beneficial," Tefft said. "But we want much more than that."

The Irish get this ambition largely from following Tefft, who along with with freshmen Kristy Frilling, is ranked No. 3 in the doubles rankings.

"We have learned a lot about each other's games over the last few months," Tefft said of the duo. "Hopefully we can continue to win matches the rest of the season for our team."

The Irish first put these rankings on the line Friday against Vanderbilt.

"Vanderbilt is always solid," Tefft said. "They beat us last year so we are looking for revenge." On Sunday, the Irish face No. 12 Tennessee.

"We will probably face the Volunteers outside, which will present a little more of a challenge for us," Tefft said.

Fortunately for the Irish, rising rankings and outdoors experience will aid the team when the Big East tournament comes along, and even more so upon the beginning of the NCAA Tournament.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

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A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to be cast away.

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March 21, 2009

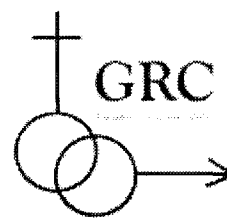
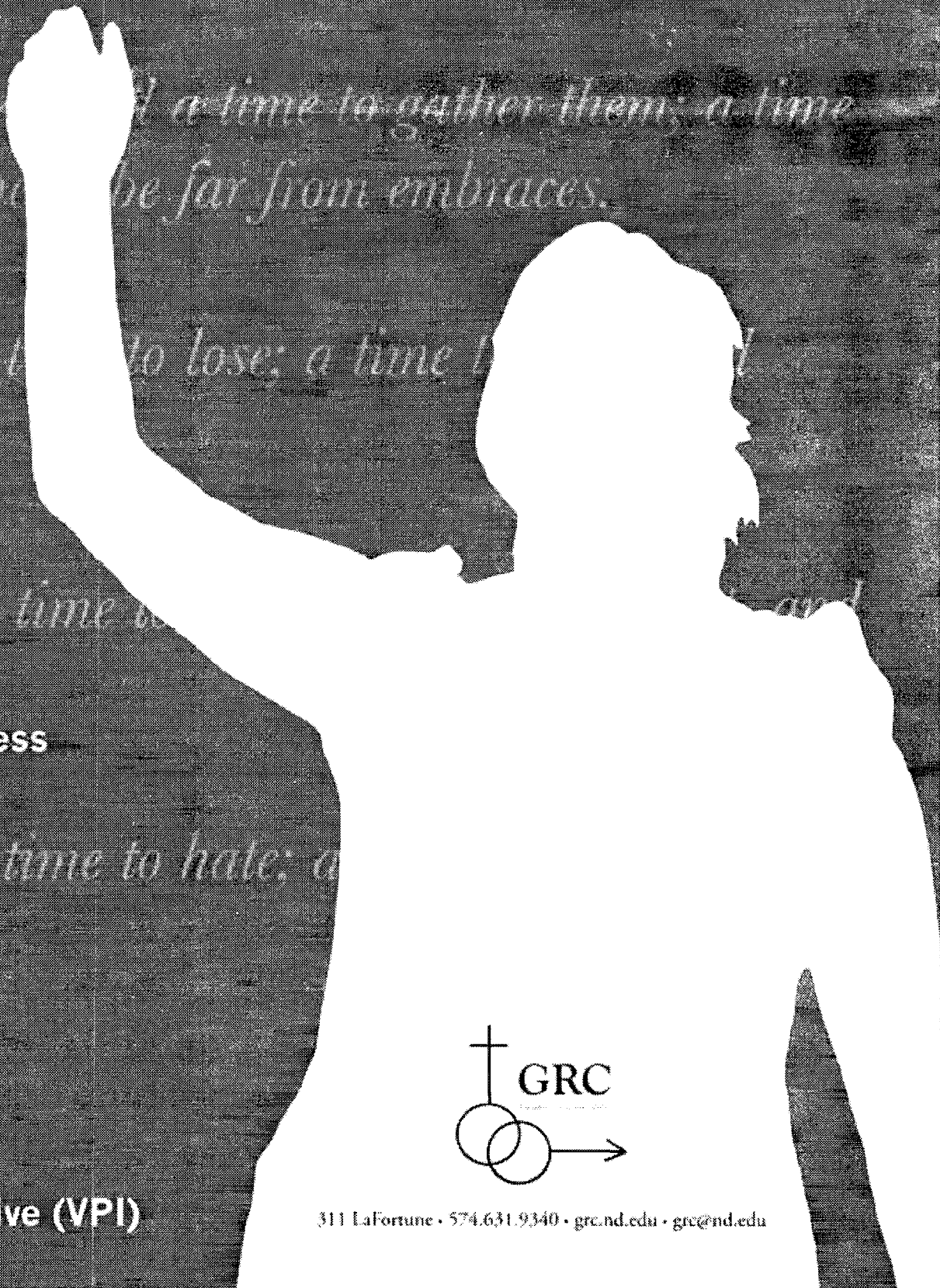
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MEN'S GOLF

Georgia tourney boasts elite field



Observer File Photo

Junior Doug Fortner tees off in the Irish Invitational last April. Fortner leads the Irish into the Annual Schenkel E-Z-Go Invite.

Golfers return from spring break only to leave again

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

After a grueling, 4,000 mile spring break road-trip, Notre Dame returns to the links today at the 30th Annual Schenkel E - Z - G o Invitational in Statesboro, Ga., one of the premier collegiate tournaments of the season.

The elite field features six teams ranked in the top 25 among the 18 squads sparring at the 6,910-yard, par 72 Forest Heights Country Club.

The Irish are coming off consecutive top-five finishes at the Border Olympics in Laredo, Texas, and the Palmas del Mar Intercollegiate in Humacao, Puerto Rico, both last week. Junior Doug Fortner's fourth place finish in Puerto Rico propelled the team to a second-place finish, the best of the season for Notre Dame.

Despite 4,000 miles of travel and three plane changes, the Irish put together a solid team effort to claw out a fourth-place finish in Texas.

Notre Dame head coach Jim Kubinski, whose team features no seniors and only four juniors, points to the maturation of the younger members of the team as the key factor in the spring season's early success.

"We started to gain momentum at the end of the fall season," Kubinski said. "Our results may not have seemed a clear indicator, but I started seeing things from our players, individually, that I hadn't seen from them as college players. Our first two events over spring break are just a continuation. We're improving with each event, regardless of scores."

This year's Schenkel Invitational marks the Irish's second trip to Statesboro for the venerable tournament, and Kubinski stated that it's one of the events he will look

forward to every year. "The Schenkel [Invitational] ... is one of the oldest tournaments in college golf. It's just a great event in so many ways," Kubinski said. "The hospitality and warm, friendly nature of all those involved in it is pretty special."

The tournament field will not be so welcoming. The Schenkel Invitational annually draws one of the toughest pools in collegiate golf, and this year is no different.

No. 9 Florida, No. 14 North Carolina State, No. 15 Tennessee, No. 16 South Carolina and No. 18 LSU will all compete for a shot at the tournament title, with the Gamecocks looking to defend last year's win.

The event begins Friday morning, with 54 holes played over the three days of the tournament.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Belles host nonconference foe 'Cats

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will face tough competition in its final nonconference match of the season, facing Indiana Wesleyan at home Saturday.

The Belles head into the match with a 4-4 record after playing eight matches in Orlando, Fla., over spring break. Saint Mary's closed the trip with a strong performance in a 9-0 win over Lincoln.

"I have seen that our team is

improving every week and every match," head coach Dale Campbell said. "The girls work hard to win their matches, and work hard in general. They really want to have success in the conference this season."


Sophomore Jillian Hurley has paced the Belles at singles, holding a 4-4 record at No. 1. Junior Camille Gebert holds a 6-2 record at No. 2, and sophomore Jessica Kosinski stands at 4-4. At No. 1 doubles Hurley and Gebert have recorded four wins and four losses.

"We are focusing on getting

ready for the conference season, but we are also excited for our non-conference home opener," Campbell said. "To face Wesleyan we want to start off strong with our double play, and play determinedly and aggressively as a team."

The Belles will face the No. 14 Wildcats (1-0), at 2:00 p.m. at the Saint Mary's tennis courts or the Eck Pavilion at Notre Dame depending on the weather.

Contact Nathaniel Lee at nlee5@nd.edu



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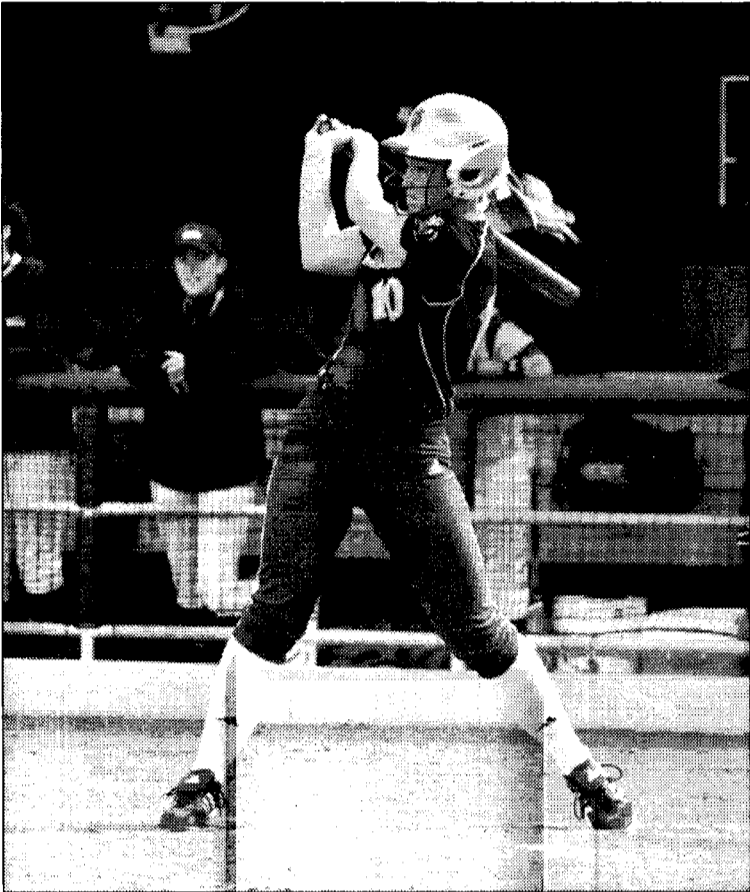
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ND SOFTBALL

ND will play two with Saint John's



Observer File Photo

Christine Lux takes a swing in a game last season. Lux and the Irish open the conference season this weekend.

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will play their first conference games of the season Sunday, playing a doubleheader against St. John's at Melissa Cook Stadium.

The Irish are coming off two strong wins against the University of Toledo, which coach Deanna Gumpf said they hope to build on against the Red Storm.

"It's important to carry our level of play forward and keep our momentum going," Gumpf said. "They expected to win yesterday and they played like it."

The Red Storm enters with a record of 8-9, with quality wins against Georgetown, Bucknell and the University of Wisconsin.

"St. John's is a good team, and they have a strong pitching staff who keeps them in the ball games," Gumpf said.

While Notre Dame appears to be a stronger team heading into the matchup, Gumpf said the team would not be looking past the Red Storm.

"We try to treat every game the same, no matter if we are playing the number one team in the country or the worst team

in the country," Gumpf said. "We try to keep the focus on what we can do to win the ball game."

By switching up their practice routine, the girls are staying relaxed and focused in preparation for Sunday's games.

"Today we are hitting to stay loose and in a rhythm," Gumpf said. "The next few days we will work on more game-like situations."

In all areas of the game, Gumpf believes her team is very prepared.

"Our pitchers have the ability to keep us in any and all ball games, our defense has the ability to play clean, errorless ball, and our hitters have the ability to hit for power and manufacture runs," Gumpf said.

This doubleheader against St. John's begins the team's conference play and is the first step towards a possible Big East Championship.

"I think our team is confident and believes we can win the Big East title," Gumpf said. "They know we have prepared by playing five of the top ten teams in the country and beating one of them."

Contact Molly Sammon at
msammon@nd.edu

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish move on in Classic

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

The No. 25 Irish were able to advance Thursday at the Blue Gray Classic, defeating Mississippi State by a score of 4-2 in Montgomery, Ala. Notre Dame will now face Boise State today at 2:30 p.m.

"The field is very diverse geographically," head coach Bobby Bayliss said. "We opened with Mississippi State who beat No. 20 Auburn last week. There are no easy matches and we will be challenged every match we play."

The No. 21 ranked doubles team of senior Brett Helgeson and sophomore Tyler Davis were able to defeat junior Christopher Doerr and sophomore Tanner Stump by a score of 8-5 to earn the Irish's only doubles win against the Bulldogs to start the match Thursday. Sophomore Stephen Havens and freshman Casey Watt lost a hard-fought battle against freshmen Louis Cant and Artem Illyushin by a score of 9-8.

Watt is coming off of a strong showing at the Pacific Coast

Doubles tournament with senior Santiago Montoya.

"Because of a couple of minor injuries we were not able to play all of our regular combinations, but Santiago Montoya and Casey Watt reached the consolation finals and looked pretty good together," Bayliss said. "They brought interesting chemistry to the table — Santi's touch and feel at the net coupled with Casey's ability to dominate on serve returns and from the back of the court."

Sophomore Matt Johnson and freshman Niall Fitzgerald fell to sophomore Antonio Lastre and senior Ryan Farlow at No. 3 doubles.

However, the Irish were able to turn things around and earn the victory with their singles lineup. No. 21 Helgeson was able to defeat Farlow 6-4, 6-0 at No. 1 singles for the Irish's first singles point of the match.

Watt was able to earn his second victory of the day defeating Lastre in three sets at third singles, and sophomore Dan Stahl was able to defeat Cant in straight sets by a score of 7-5, 6-3.

Sophomore David Anderson fell to Doerr 7-5, 6-3 at No. 5 singles, while Fitzgerald was able to come through with a victory at the sixth singles position by a score 7-6, 6-1 over Stump.

After Montoya and Watt's success over spring break the Irish are still trying to tighten things up in the doubles lineup.

"We will be trying, as the season moves forward, to shore up a few things in our doubles," Bayliss said. "As play moves outdoors, things like first serve percentage, depth on the first volley and holding serve consistently become more important. Easy points are harder to get and consistency becomes imperative. You have to work harder to win points and be able to use the elements to assist you tactically and strategically. We are in very good shape and have won the majority of our long matches, but we need to keep pushing to maintain that edge."

The Irish will face Boise State today with first serve at 2:30 p.m.

Contact Kate Grabarek at
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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Team risks streak against Cal

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

In the midst of a five game homestand and a six game winning streak, Notre Dame hopes to keep its success going Sunday against California at the Loftus Center.

The No. 11 Irish, fresh off of a dominating victory over Big East opponent Rutgers, are 7-1 on the season, with their only loss coming to No. 1 Northwestern.

"Our defense has been improving and helping out a lot on offense," head coach Tracy Coyne said. "We have been stopping opposing offenses and especially causing turnovers that lead to offensive opportunities."

The Golden Bears journey to South Bend with a 4-5 record, although the team has performed better on the road (2-1) than at home (2-4). California has never beaten Notre Dame in

five all-time meetings between the two schools.

Senior Sam Price leads the Golden Bears offensively with 26 points on 15 goals and 11 assists. Junior midfielder Alex Tickner has 17 goals for California, but has yet to record an assist this season.

Goalkeeper Morgan Dyson and the Golden Bears defense have allowed opponents to an average of 10.83 goals per game.

Under Coyne's direction, the team is well on their way to their long-term goal of a Big East championship, and a solid run in the National Championship tournament. Already this season senior attack Jillian Byers has set the all-time scoring record, while another record, this time for assists in a game, was matched by attack

Gina Scioscia, who tallied six against the Scarlet Knights on St. Patrick's Day.

Last year, the Irish turned in an impressive performance against California, defeating the Golden Bears in the Rose Bowl after tough losses to Oregon and Stanford on their spring break road trip.

This season, the team turned in an outstanding 4-0 mark during the break, and now look to build on that success as they continue Big East play next week.

"We felt really good about how we performed on the spring break trip, especially since our goal was to go undefeated despite playing four games in 11 days," stated Coyne. "We feel good as a team right now, people are really settling into their roles effectively."

Contact Nathaniel Lee at
nlee5@nd.edu

"Our goal was to go undefeated despite playing four games in eleven days."

Tracy Coyne
Irish coach

"Our defense has been improving and helping out a lot on offense."

Tracy Coyne
Irish coach



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NCAA

Maryland upsets Cal to face Memphis next

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Maryland didn't force a lot of turnovers, didn't block a bunch of shots, didn't even create a lot of mistakes.

What the Terps did to California was much more subtle: They disrupted the Bears' rhythm.

It might not sound like much, but against a streak-shooting team like Cal it can make all the difference.

Grievis Vasquez provided the offense with 27 points and Maryland used its press to shut down the nation's best 3-point shooting team, rolling to an 84-71 victory over Cal in the first round of the West Regional on Thursday.

"I don't truthfully know if Maryland did anything different than other (teams) did, but they got us out of our rhythm a little bit," Cal coach Mike Montgomery said. "Maybe that's a consequence of their press, but we never seemed to get in any sort of rhythm. It's very difficult for us to compete against a good team without shooting the ball well."

Tenth-seeded Maryland (21-13) knew what it was up against. Cal was the nation's best-shooting team from 3-point range during the regular season, hitting 43 percent. When the Bears won, it was because they shot well from the perimeter. When they lost, it was because the opponent had kept their shooters from getting hot.

Using its press to disrupt Cal's offensive flow, the Terps rarely gave the Bears a good look from the perimeter and shored up some early interior defensive breakdowns to win a battle of guard-oriented teams. Vasquez controlled the offense, Dave Neal added 15 points and Eric Hayes had 14 to help Maryland advance past the first round in its ninth straight NCAA appearance.

The Terps will face No. 2 seed Memphis on Saturday.

"We came into the game knowing we were going to pressure them the whole game," Neal said. "We knew they would have a tough time with it."

After finishing ninth in the Pac-10 last year, Cal (22-11) put together an impressive run in its first season under Montgomery — a former coach at rival Stanford — to get into the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2006. Montgomery took advantage of an athletic, undersized team by spreading the floor to set up his perimeter shooters, who knocked them down more often than not.

Against Maryland, they didn't.

Off the mark from the start, Cal never found a rhythm and shot 7-for-24 from 3-point range, its fourth-lowest percentage from beyond the arc this season. Theo Robertson led the Bears with 22 points and Jerome Randle had 14, but took just three shots in the second half.

"They did a good job of mixing it up," said Cal guard Patrick Christopher, who was 0-for-7 from 3-point range. "They had a couple of different presses. It just kind of messed us up offensively."

Maryland figured to be a good matchup for the Bears. The Terps, like Cal, are undersized and like to get out in the open floor when they can.

The problem for Cal was Maryland's pressure.

The Terps like to run a full-court press off made shots and Cal was shaky against it early. But turnovers weren't what hurt the Bears — they had just 14. Cal just couldn't get comfortable.

Randle misfired on the first 3-pointer of the game and the Bears kept missing, finishing 3-for-13 in the first half. Christopher and Robertson hit consecutive 3s early in the second half to keep Cal close, but the misses started again and

Maryland pulled away.

"If we're not shooting the ball well, we struggle, which was clearly the case tonight," Montgomery said.

The game's marquee matchup was supposed to be between Vasquez and Randle.

They lived up to the billing — at least in the first half.

Vasquez was his usual crafty self, tossing in off-balanced jumpers against good defense and flipping up quick shots over taller defenders inside. The "Venezuelan Sensation" had 11 points at halftime, helping

Maryland to a three-point lead despite hitting 12-of-32 from the floor.

Randle, the smallest player on the court at 5-foot-10, was the third-best 3-point shooter in the country during the regular season. The Terps extended their defense to stop him, so Randle went around them, using a lightning-quick crossover to get in the lane for a variety of scoop shots and layups.

Maryland paid more attention to Randle in the second half, keeping Cal's leading scorer from darting inside while stay-

ing with him on the perimeter. Randle took one shot in the first 12 minutes and finished 2-for-3 from the floor in the second half.

Vasquez never let up, slithering his way through Maryland's defense.

He took the ball from Randle and scored on a layup to cap a 12-2 spurt that put the Terps up 63-53, then scored on a three-point play after Adrian Bowie tracked down his own missed free throw and flipped a pass over his shoulder— while on top of a Cal defender.

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Big East

continued from page 28

series now is going to be a big series, and you always want to get off to a good start."

On paper, this weekend's match-up appears fairly even. Both squads score 6.5 runs per game and have a team ERA right near 4.3 runs per game.

The difference could lie in the teams' ability to play consistent defense. The Pirates have made 32 errors through just 14 games, compared to 17 errors in 17 games for the Irish.

Both teams have gotten on a nice roll early in the season.

Notre Dame, picked by the Big East's coaches to finish third in the conference's preseason poll, has won eight of its last nine games. Seton Hall, picked ninth, has won six of its last seven.

The Irish swept a pair of non-conference games this week, beating Ball State 5-4 Tuesday and Valparaiso 10-4 Wednesday in front of the home crowd.

"It gave us some good

momentum going into this weekend," Schrage said. "Tuesday was a big day, and with the home opener, we had a great crowd. Any nerves we had, I think we got those out of the way."

Schrage has continued to fiddle with his lineup, and has used 16 different batting orders in 17 games.

Sophomore left fielder Golden Tate has established himself as a fixture at the top of the lineup, however, and has a .368 batting average to show for it thus far. Tate is the key component in getting

the offense going early — and when the Irish score first, they are 9-1 the season.

The Pirates are more of a station-to-station team than the Irish, but when Seton Hall runs, it does so effec-

tively. The Pirates have been successful on 18 of their 21 stolen base attempts this year. But Irish sophomore catcher Cameron McConnell has thrown out eight would-be base stealers this year, after he and former fellow backstop Sean Gaston combined to throw out just six a year ago.

"[Two wins this week] gave us some good momentum going into this weekend."

Dave Schrage
Irish coach

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

NBA

Pierce, Celtics clinch Atlantic title

BOSTON —The only All-Star healthy enough to play made the difference.

Paul Pierce scored 36 points without Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen to share the load, Dwyane Wade missed his first game of the season, and the Boston Celtics clinched the Atlantic Division title with a 112-108 overtime victory over the Miami Heat on Wednesday night.

"It almost came down to that we had Paul and they didn't have Wade," Boston coach Doc Rivers said.

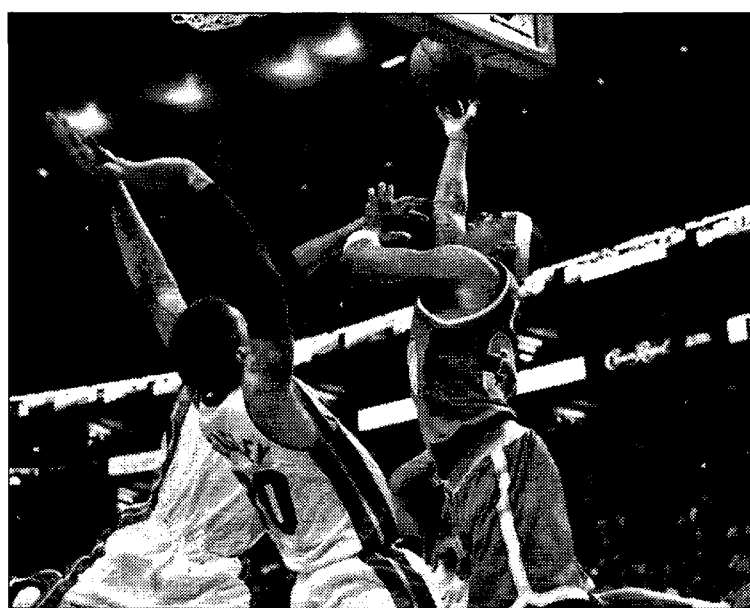
Wade missed the game with a right hip flexor, and the Heat missed his NBA-best 29.9-point scoring average.

"We're a team, the Miami Heat, with or without D-Wade," said Michael Beasley, who led Miami with 21 points off the bench. "Obviously, he's a big part of our team and a majority of the scoring. But when he's out, when he's not playing, somebody's got to step up and a couple of guys did."

The Celtics could use Garnett's presence after he sat out his 13th straight game with a strained right knee.

"We miss his leadership out on the floor, his verbal leadership," Rivers said. "He's the one guy that holds everybody accountable defensively."

Leon Powe, Tony Allen and Brian Scalabrine also are sidelined, and Allen hyperextended his elbow Tuesday night in



Celtics guard Paul Pierce drives to the rim against Heat forward Michael Beasley in Boston's 112-108 win Thursday.

a loss at Chicago. Glen Davis started at forward in place of Powe after missing the previous four games with a sprained right ankle.

The Celtics hope to get all their players back for the playoffs and a run at defending their NBA championship.

The division title "really doesn't mean anything to the Boston Celtics," Pierce said. "They don't put that banner up. Maybe in other arenas they put that banner up, but here it really doesn't mean a thing."

Boston improved to 51-18.

Second-place Philadelphia can win no more than 51 and the Celtics have won the season series with the 76ers.

Rajon Rondo had 27 for Boston. Miami, in its third overtime game in its last five, got 19 points from Mario Chalmers and 17 from Jermaine O'Neal.

The Heat did not say how long Wade would be sidelined, but he was not ruled out of games Friday night at New Jersey and Sunday against Detroit.

The close game "showed that even without D-Wade we're still going to fight," Chalmers said. "We're a good team."

With the score tied at 100 after regulation, Eddie House and Pierce hit 3-pointers and Rondo sank a layup for a 108-100 lead as Miami went cold from the field.

Then Chalmers made a 3-pointer and, after Kendrick Perkins hit a free throw, Chalmers sank another 3-pointer, making it 109-106 with 44 seconds left.

"Mario did a fantastic job," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said, "basically doing the things that Dwyane normally does."

But House hit one free throw and Pierce sank two before Beasley's basket ended the scoring. Boston went 3-for-6 in overtime while Miami was just 3-or-13.

"We know that we are injured," Pierce said after Boston's second win in six games, "but just to get back on the winning mind-frame is big for us."

With all their injuries, the Celtics relied on Pierce even more than they usually do.

Pierce went 14-for-23 from the field and had 12 points in the first quarter.

"He was scoring on every one of our matchups," Spoelstra said.

In its previous four games, Miami beat Chicago in double overtime, Boston in regulation and Utah in triple overtime before losing at Philadelphia on Sunday.

Boston had a chance to win in regulation Wednesday, but Pierce's 18-footer from the left missed as the buzzer sounded.

The lead changed hands 11 times in the fourth quarter when the biggest edge was just three points by Miami.

Boston led 34-21 after one quarter, but Miami opened the second period with a 10-2 run that cut the margin to 36-31.

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Day One

continued from page 28

believes his players will have to keep their nerves intact if they hope to claim a title.

"There's tension because it's a big, upscale event and our kids were a little bit nervous," Bednarski said. "Coming as the No. 1 in the polls didn't help to build our confidence because for some of them it's the first or second time being in such a big event, so they don't know how to handle the leader position."

Despite the big stage, the men still turned in an impressive performance against a much more experienced field of competition.

Leading the way for the Irish in the sabre was sophomore Avery Zuck, who notched 10 wins on the day and finished in sixth place for the individual sabre rankings. Teammate Barron Nydam finished in 13th with seven victories after losing to Zuck 3-5.

As part of the NCAA regulations, each fencer is matched up against a teammate to start the day.

"The first bout against teammates is a mental hustle because they are friends and suddenly they have to fence against each other," Bednarski said. "I think that it is something that maybe in

the future should be removed from the competition when the formula will be changed, but at this moment it exists."

In the epee division senior Karol Koska and sophomore Greg Schoolcraft each turned in five victories, but the strongest performance of the day came from freshman Olympian and San Francisco native Gerek Meinhardt, who posted a 13-1 mark in the foil. Meinhardt topped teammate Enzo Castellani and last year's foil champion Andras Horanyi of Ohio State to finish in first place on the foil leader board.

"He's leading the group at this moment, and I do hope that he will be in the final tomorrow if everything will go according to our plan," Bednarski said. "But at this moment his first duty is to get to the final. He's the leader, but everybody is attacking."

With the women's team facing off on Saturday, the men still have one more day to overtake their rivals on the strip when round five gets underway at 9:30 a.m.

"Simply, the fencers have to just be calmer and not overexcited in the bouting," Bednarski said. "I believe it will be good experience for them in the future, and let's hope this good future starts tomorrow."

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Stitt, Maxwell and Miller go to NCAA's

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

Junior diver Natalie Stitt and sophomore Samantha Maxwell began competing Thursday at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships at Texas A&M, which runs through Sunday.

Stitt, Big East Diver of the Year, placed sixth at her NCAA Zone diving championship last week to earn a berth at the NCAA championship finals, joining sophomore teammates Amywren Miller, who will compete in the 50 free, and Maxwell, who earned a spot in the 200 breast.

Miller swam the 50 free Thursday in the preliminaries in 22.47, placing her at 26th overall. She was unable to advance to the finals, and ended her sophomore season with a strong performance in a tough field.

"Twenty-sixth in the country is good; this meet is so selective and elite that just making it is an enormous honor," head coach Brian Barnes said. "We had higher goals, but the 50 is such a tight event that the slightest things can throw a time or position off."

Miller expressed similar sentiments on her performance.

"Based on my performance in the Big East, it was a huge honor just to make it to NCAA's again, so I just wanted to have fun while trying my best," Miller said. "Today there were things I thought I could have done better, but

my time was faster than at this meet last year, so I can't complain."

Stitt also performed for the Irish Thursday, earning a score of 245.30 in her 1-meter dive, enough to place 32nd in the national, but also short of the finals. Today she will compete in the 3-meter event.

"I was a little intimidated since there are a ton of amazing divers here, even Olympians," Stitt said. "Today I got some nerves out, and tomorrow I just need to have confidence in my dives. Seeing all these great girls makes you want to be like them, so I will have to keep working hard to build on my momentum from this season to the next."

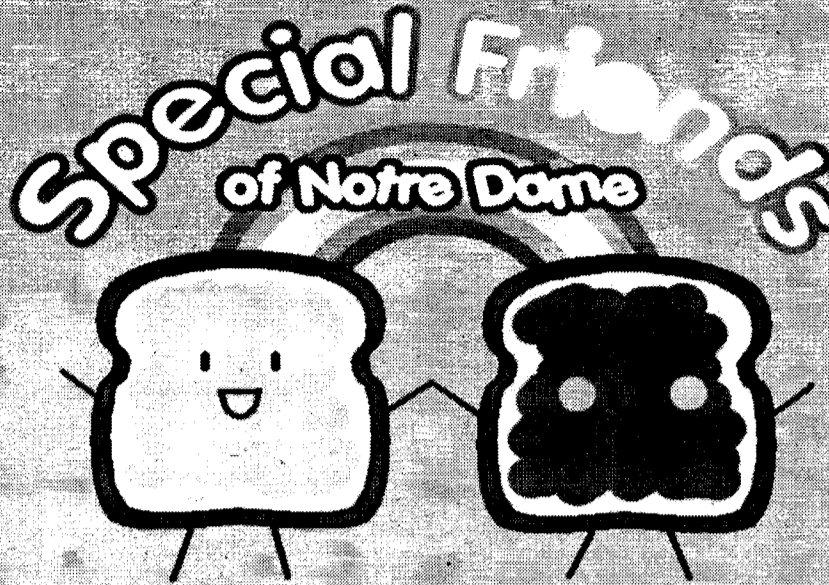
Barnes also seemed impressed with Stitt's first dive at the national collegiate level.

"Natalie is a very good diver, and she is experiencing this level for the first time," Barnes said. "She will gain experience from today and I think perform better on the three."

Maxwell will take to the pool for the 200 breast on Saturday as the last Irish swimmer at the competition.

"Coming out for a second time should really help me have a good feel for the competition," stated Maxwell. "We have been building up to this all season, so my goal is just to set a good time to build upon and come back here again next season."

Contact Nathaniel Lee at nlee5@nd.edu



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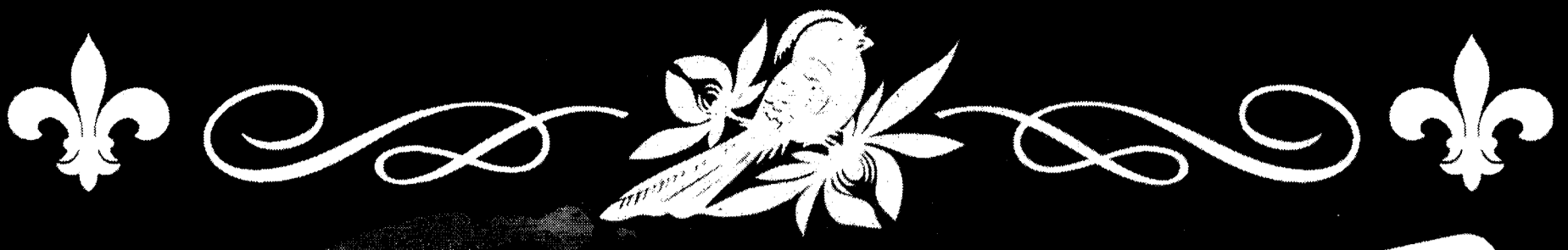
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NCAA

continued from page 28

guards that can shoot the 3 and handle the ball."

Junior guard Katie Ohm leads the team in 3-point percentage, hitting 39.3 percent of her 3s. Irish sophomore forward Becca Brzuszewski said getting down the court in a hurry will help the 3-point defense.

"Getting back in transition [is important] because they can stop and pop from the 3-point line," she said.

That transition defense will be needed to clog passing lanes and stop Fox and junior guard Brittany McCoy, both of whom have more than 100 assists.

"You really got to find them in transition. They get a lot looking for each other,"

McGraw said. "We haven't completed our game plan yet, but we hope to put some pressure defensively on them so we can hopefully take away some of the passing lanes."

The Irish are playing at home, an unnatural phenomenon when playing in a high-stakes tournament game. But the players aren't worried — in fact, they like it.

"The normality of it is going to be kind of nice," Novosel said.

Brzuszewski said playing at home wouldn't create a laid-back atmosphere. Instead, it intensifies the need to win.

"That's why you go out there and want to win so bad, because you don't want to lose at home," she said.

Championing that attitude, McGraw said, is senior guard Lindsay Schrader, who's ramped up her intensity after the conference tournament.

"She came in and you watched her for about 10 min of our first practice and you knew that she was ready for the NCAA tournament," McGraw said. "She's trying to elevate the underclassmen."

The players said McGraw told them after practice Tuesday that they practiced like a No. 7 seed. On Wednesday, she upped her analysis of their performance to a No. 3 or No. 4 seed.

"Everyone's here for a common goal, and it's an exciting atmosphere," Novosel said.

Brzuszewski concisely related what Notre Dame needs to do to win.

"Defend the 3-point line, execute on offense and crash the boards, because I think we can win the battle of the boards," she said.

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Jackson

continued from page 28

"We tried to get a good shot, just anybody that was open," Jackson said. "We had seven seconds left and I felt like I could beat [my man]. And it happened and I'm still shocked right now."

Jackson said he practices similar shots against Irish teammates like forwards Zach Hillesland and Luke Harangody. "In terms of his athletic skill set, he's more of like a corner-back than a point guard," Hillesland said of the 5-foot-11 Jackson. "... He jumped at the same time as the other guy did, he just hung longer than him, hung longer and was able to get a shot off."

Jackson's shot fell through the basket with 2.1 seconds left, just enough time for New Mexico to get off a desperation shot. As the buzzer sounded, Lobos guard Tony Danridge sent the ball off the backboard and rattling around the rim. "The fact that we're on our home court and we just hit a big shot with two seconds to go, if he had hit that one, that would have broken all of our

hearts," Irish guard Kyle McAlarney said.

After the ball dropped to the floor, though, the Irish swarmed the court and Jackson donned the Notre Dame Leprechaun's hat.

Jackson's heroics were only necessary after New Mexico came back from a 12-point second-half deficit. Harangody, who finished with a game-high 26 points, made a layup on Notre Dame's first possession after intermission to give the Irish a comfortable 36-24 lead. But New Mexico chipped away and took its first lead of the game on a 3-pointer by guard Chad Toppert with 11:03 remaining.

"I never thought we could [pull] away from them," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "They're just too good a team, and they're too good offensively. But I give our guys a lotta credit." The Lobos eventually built a 66-60 lead with 2:08 left but the Irish ran off eight straight points to take a two-point advantage. McAlarney hit a runner then Harangody notched six points with a layup and four free throws.

McAlarney said his team was in a situation similar to its first-round contest against UAB, when the Irish trailed by five

points in the second half. "Like against UAB, you get into the huddle and it goes through your mind that if we lose, we're done," the senior said. "And then, really it hits you when you're in there and you look at the score. That kind of increases your focus and pisses you off a little bit, to be honest."

Throughout much of the first half against New Mexico, the Irish looked as though they might cruise to victory. After Hillesland drained a pair of free throws with 12:21 left in the period, Notre Dame led 22-8. The Irish led comfortably until halftime, when they took a 34-24 edge into the locker room. Brey compared Jackson's game-winner to the shot former BYU great Danny Ainge made to beat Notre Dame in the 1981 NCAA Tournament.

"We finally got the Danny Ainge play back 25 years later," the coach said with a laugh. "It's been a while to get that one back."

Jackson, for his part, said he had never heard of the play, even from former Notre Dame coach Digger Phelps. "I try to hide away from Digger sometimes," Jackson said.

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Vermont

continued from page 28

weeks. Despite the wins, Corrigan said he was unhappy with his team's offensive efficiency. During the week, he said the team has been focusing on the little things necessary to put the ball in the net.

"We're cutting back on what we're doing so that we can do some things very well and then build off of that," Corrigan said.

One of the things the Irish have been doing well on offense is spreading the ball around. Coming into this weekend, 14 different players have tallied goals, and another five have notched points on the season.

On the defensive side of the ball, senior goalie Scott Rodgers has been rock solid between the pipes, allowing only 7.43 goals per game. The New York native was named Great Western Lacrosse League player of the week.

"We always count on Scott to play well," Corrigan said. "If we play good team defense, and do what we should do there, then I think Scott will continue to do

his part, and do it well."

Notre Dame will be facing an entirely new foe this weekend in the Catamounts, a squad the Irish have not played since 1985. Despite the unfamiliarity, Corrigan said that he feels confident after attending Vermont's game last Sunday against Penn State.

"At this point, I feel pretty comfortable with what we know about them," he said.

The Catamounts are used to playing at a slightly slower pace than the Irish, averaging only 7.8 goals per game, but giving up only 8.6.

"I'm sure part of the dynamic of this game will be them wanting to control the tempo a little bit," Corrigan said. "But they also pressure you defensively, so it'll be an interesting thing to see if we can play with poise in the face of the pressure."

Leading the Catamounts on offense are senior attack Andrew Kelleher, freshman attack Geoff Worley and sopho-

more attack Derek Lichtfuss. The trio has combined for 45 points so far this season.

"They're a team that's very strong at both ends of the field," Corrigan said.

The game against Vermont begins a brutal stretch of three games in 10 days for the Irish.

After the Catamounts, Notre Dame will take on conference foe Bellarmine Wednesday and Villanova next Saturday. Corrigan said he would play it by ear as far as managing his team's schedule.

"We'll see where we are on Sunday coming out of this game," he said. "And then we'll juggle our schedule and our workload accordingly."

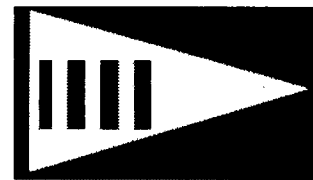
One thing he said he wasn't worried about, though, was team fatigue.

"Our guys are certainly conditioned well enough to handle three games in ten days."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

"Our guys are certainly conditioned well enough to handle three games in ten days."

Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach



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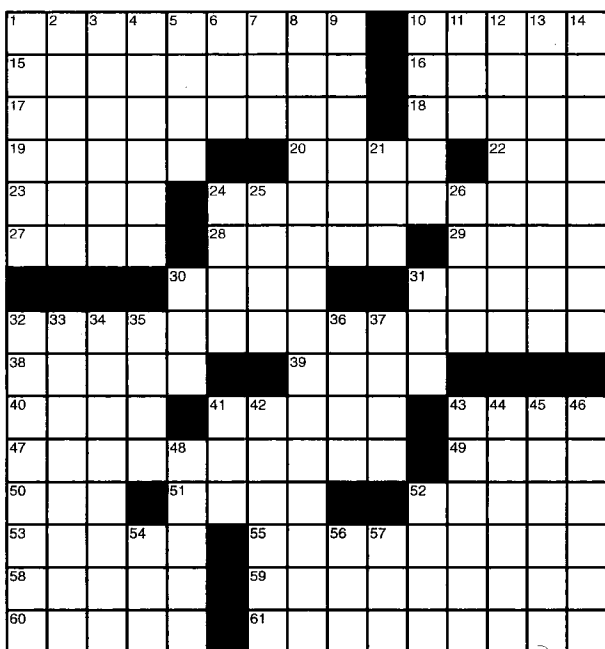
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 - 17 Wave measurement
 - 18 Unusually high 17-Across
 - 19 Closest to nil
 - 20 Potential sucker
 - 22 Wretched
 - 23 Gallimaufry
 - 24 One getting pinned?
 - 27 Even's counterpart
 - 28 It's hard to penetrate
 - 29 "Desperate Housewives" housewife
 - 30 "Point taken"
 - 31 Out-of-the-way spots
 - 32 Big draw of early Broadway
 - 38 Putters
 - 39 Ray in pictures
 - 40 Dispensary stock, for short
 - 41 Cat's-eye alternative
 - 43 Furry sci-fi figure
 - 47 Self-starter's equipment?
 - 49 Something that's picked up
 - 50 Field of field workers; Abbr.
 - 51 Small dabbler
 - 52 Grinder in an Italian restaurant
 - 53 Indication of a job well done
 - 55 Getting ready to make one's move?
 - 58 Crane, e.g.
 - 59 Command
 - 60 Act unprofessionally
 - 61 Merrie Melodies regular
- Down**
- 1 Peace
 - 2 Thick-skinned fruit
 - 3 Debilitate
 - 4 "The Simpsons" bully
 - 5 Set down
 - 6 Choosing method
 - 7 19th of 24
 - 8 Locale of Krypton in the Superman saga
 - 9 Feigned
 - 10 Madrid's ____ del Prado
 - 11 Useful piece of code, briefly
 - 12 Series kickoff
 - 13 1955 A.L. batting champ
 - 14 Gratuitous
 - 21 Part of N.Y.C.: Abbr.
 - 24 Boughpot
 - 25 City liberated during the Battle of Kursk
 - 26 Hollow
 - 30 Hypotheticals
 - 31 ____ Worm (1980s light-up toy)
 - 32 Victoria Falls forms part of its border



Puzzle by Doug Peterson

- 33 "No smoking" symbol, e.g.
- 34 Poe poem about a knight's lifelong quest
- 35 Exploit
- 36 Disrespectful
- 37 Expressions of praise
- 41 Bolted things down
- 42 Balsamic vinegar source
- 43 Composition of some chains
- 44 Ad-lib
- 45 Thick
- 46 Big-enough catch
- 48 Browser setting?
- 52 Very serious
- 54 Clinic worker
- 56 Person in the fourth grade: Abbr.
- 57 "The Wonder Years" teen who loved Winnie

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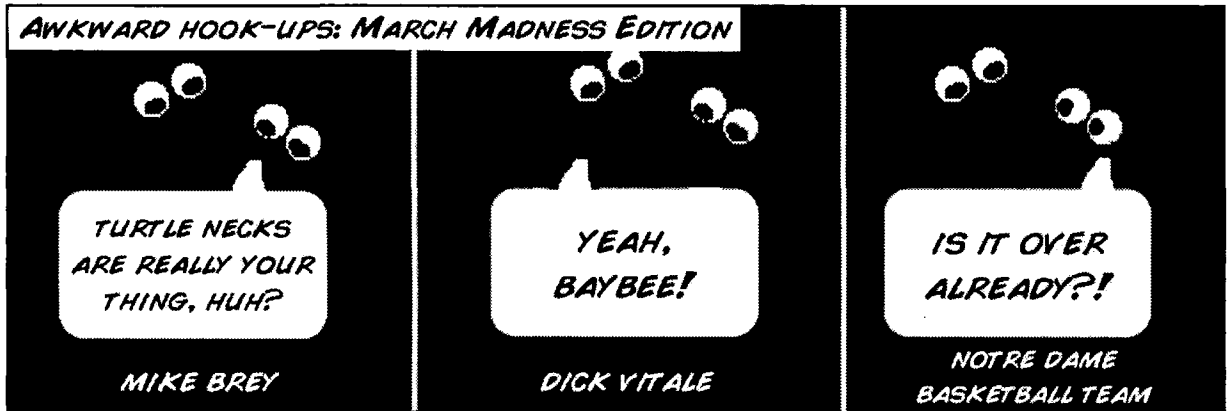
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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't spare any expense when it comes to what you really want. You can budget elsewhere. You can make a great impression by doing a first-class job in both your personal and professional life. 5 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do things you enjoy instead of taking on what others request you to do. You will meet people who interest you and who make better friends and companions. Physical activity may not be your first choice but it will get you moving and stimulate your senses. 2 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's time to reevaluate your situation and do something about it. If your relationships are dragging you down, discuss the problems you are experiencing and, if you do not get any cooperation, it is probably time to move on. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be shy when there is so much to be done. A change at work will be to your benefit in the end, so don't make a fuss. Getting involved with someone unusual will give you a new lease on life. 4 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take care of responsibilities and you will be praised for your ability to get things done. Once you put your duties behind you, you can enjoy a pastime that will allow you to feel free and easy about your life and your future. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A personal message can be sent if you are prompt and focused on getting what you want. Honesty and sincerity will be what count in the end. Love is in the picture and a social evening will pay off emotionally. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you mix business with pleasure or share your thoughts, you may be taken advantage of or used for someone else's benefit. Focus quietly on your work until you are in a position to take a piece of the action. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be very secretive about your plans. If someone gets wind of what you are doing, he or she will steal your ideas and run with them. Protect your interests and your future. 2 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have to draw the line between thrill-seeking and experiencing a little adventure. Don't take a risk or you may end up in a very uncertain position. Travel can be interesting but is not necessary this time around. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't rely on what you are told. Dishonesty is prevalent. Do your own research and you will avoid an unsavory situation. It's best not to take on a partner if you can get a job done on your own. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do not overdo it in any way. You'll be tempted to overspend, overindulge and make unrealistic promises. Back off before you let your emotions take over and lead you into difficult situations. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't get dragged into something you aren't ready to deal with yet. You don't want to be put in a position where you have to make a decision you are not prepared to make. Someone isn't likely to be honest with you. 3 stars

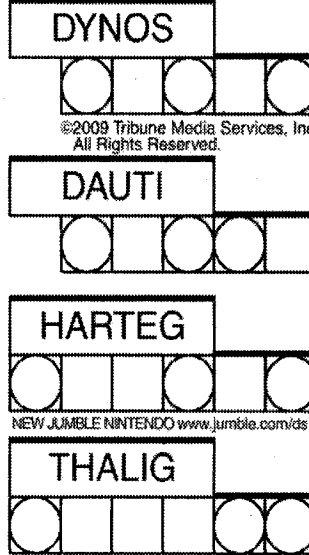
Birthday Baby: You are strong, steadfast and attracted to the unusual. You are compassionate and work for reform. You are a strong leader.

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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



A: A [grid] [grid] [grid] [grid]

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BARON HABIT ENTIRE FEEBLE
Answer: When the boxer lost the fight, he didn't get up — BEFORE TEN

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



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

THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Familiar setting for Irish in first round against Minnesota

By **BILL BRINK**
Sports Writer

Struggles on defense have been a malaise that afflicted Notre Dame all season. But Irish coach Muffet McGraw may have a solution.

"Something new, we're going to actually try to guard them this time," she said glibly. "We've been working

on that for a couple days."

She jests, but according to her players, who are preparing for No. 7-seed Notre Dame's matchup against No. 10-seed Minnesota in the first round of the NCAA Tournament at the Joyce Center Sunday, she's not joking about defensive improvements.

"Every little thing, if we don't box out, if we don't do

the approach right, or contain the ball, then we have to run for it," freshman guard Natalie Novosel said.

The Irish (22-8) and the Gophers (19-11) have met once before in the NCAA Tournament, in 1994. As a seven seed. The Gophers were the No. 10 seed. At the Joyce Center. In the first round. Eerie. But Minnesota won, 81-76.

The Gophers lost four of their last five games, but that doesn't alleviate McGraw's worries. Minnesota's dual-threat offense will present a challenge to Notre Dame's defense, McGraw said.

"You play zone, maybe they get some threes," McGraw said. "You play man-to-man and they get isolation on the block."

Senior guard Emily Fox

leads the Gophers in scoring, averaging 12.8 points per game. Junior forward Ashley Ellis-Milan averages 11.9 points and 7.3 rebounds per game.

"They have a great inside-outside game," McGraw said. "They have a post player who's very hard to guard and they've got three or four

see NCAA/page 26

MEN'S BASKETBALL

VIC-TORY!

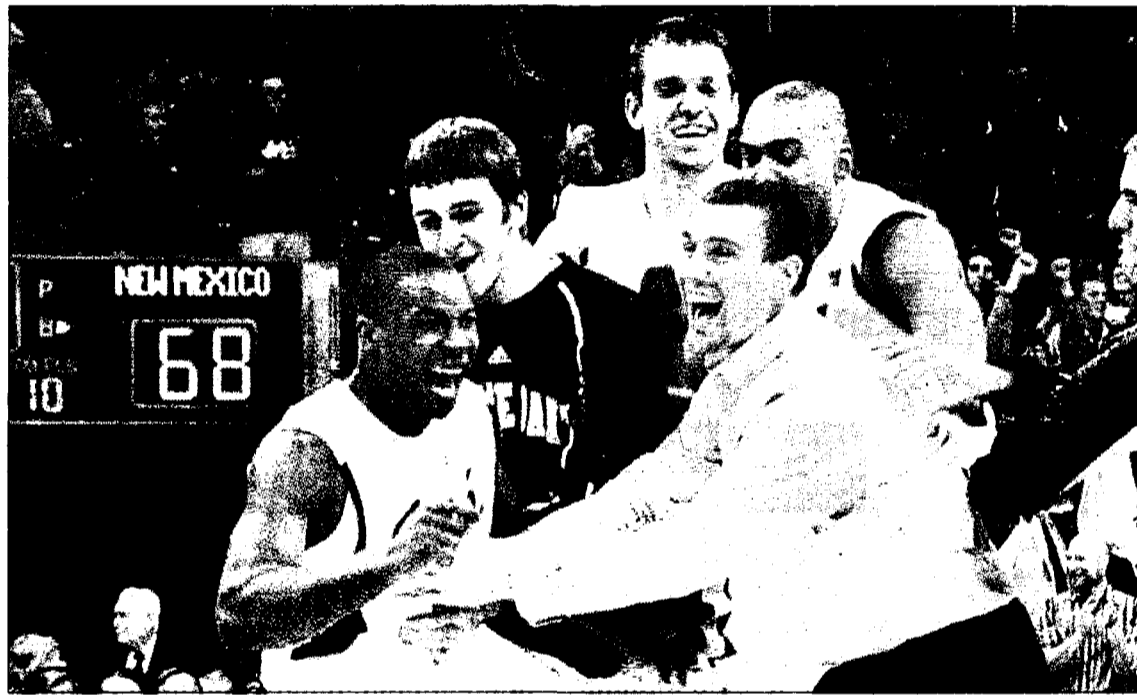
Jackson's layup leads ND over New Mexico

By **FRAN TOLAN**
Senior Staff Writer

In what may have been Notre Dame's final home game of the season, Irish point guard Tory Jackson gave fans a play they won't soon forget.

After catching an inbounds pass with 7.9 seconds left, Jackson took the ball coast-to-coast for a contested layup in traffic to give the Irish a 70-68 win over New Mexico Thursday in the second round of the NIT. New Mexico guard Dairese Gary drained two free throws to tie the game, but with a single streak upcourt, Jackson eliminated the need for overtime.

see JACKSON/page 26



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Notre Dame players mob point guard Tory Jackson after the Irish's 70-68 win over New Mexico at the Joyce Center on Thursday. The Irish advanced to the NIT quarterfinals with the win.

FENCING

Fencers third at NCAA's

By **CHRIS MASOUD**
Sports Writer

With day one of the NCAA Fencing Championship in the books, the Irish find themselves staring down a tough road to their first fencing title since 2005.

Racking up 47 points through four rounds, Notre Dame still trails national champion Ohio State by nine and regular season favorite Penn State by 14.

The talented fighters have shown maturity well beyond their years all season, but head coach Janusz Bednarski

see DAY ONE/page 24

MEN'S LACROSSE

Laxers look for sixth straight win

By **SAM WERNER**
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame will head to the Lone Star State for the first time ever this weekend, taking on Vermont in the Patriot Cup in Dallas on Saturday.

A win would propel No. 3 Notre Dame (5-0) to a 6-0 start for just the second time in program history. The last time the Irish won their first six was 1993, when then fifth-year coach Kevin Corrigan got his team off to an 8-0 start. Corrigan, now in his 21st season, has said that rankings don't matter as much this early in the season, but that racking up wins is certainly



TOM LA/The Observer

Senior midfielder Davey Melera guards a Dartmouth player in Notre Dame's 19-7 win over the Big Green on Feb. 28.

important.

The Irish have certainly been adding quality wins over the past few weeks, defeating

then-No. 3 North Carolina and Bucknell over the past two

see VERMONT/page 26

BASEBALL

Big East season to begin with Pirates

By **MATT GAMBER**
Sports Editor

Notre Dame will host Seton Hall at 5:05 p.m. today in the first of a three-game set that will open Big East play for both teams.

The Irish (12-5) will send sophomore Cole Johnson (1-0, 2.25 ERA) to the mound as they try to extend their season-best win streak to six against the Pirates (8-6) and junior right-hander Sean Black (2-1, 3.43).

Irish sophomore Brian Dupra (2-2, 7.48) will take on Seton Hall's Keith Cantwell (2-0, 4.10) in Saturday's Game 2, and Sunday's contest will feature Notre Dame junior Eric Maust (2-0, 3.30) and Joe DiRocco (1-1, 2.36).

Both weekend games are set to begin at 1:05 p.m.

"You've got to protect your home turf and win your games at home if you want to win the league," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "Every

see BIG EAST/page 23

Check out the Irish Insider previewing CCHA Championship weekend



ALLISON AMBROSE | The Observer