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Weekend Transpo route 'popular'

New bus schedule transports an average of 150 students per weekend, will continue through May

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

After a recent review of the Transpo weekend bus system, student government officials said the initiative has been a "popular" and much-appreciated service for students since it began operations Dec. 4.

Student body president Grant Schmidt said he is pleased with the ongoing value Transpo has provided to members of the Notre Dame community by enabling Notre Dame students to travel to popular off-campus establishments for free.

"Overall I think that this has been a great collaboration with Transpo and essentially, the city of South Bend," Schmidt said. "It's been a convenient way for students to go off campus and a safe means of them getting home."

On the first Friday Transpo was available, 496 Notre Dame students used the service. Since the second weekend of operation, the number of riders has consistently totaled roughly 150 students on

see TRANSPO/page 6



MEGAN SMITH/The Observer

The Transpo bus route has had "high rider numbers," student body president Grant Schmidt said, since its December launch. Schmidt said he hopes the service is continued next year.

NDSP investigates assault case on campus

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) is investigating a sexual assault reported Tuesday.

According to an e-mail sent to the student body Thursday, the assault took place in a campus residence hall on Feb. 28.

The reported assault was committed by an acquaintance, NDSP said in the e-mail.

NDSP is required by federal law to report sexual assaults occurring on campus.

The most recent prior sexual assault was reported on Jan. 23. A student reported being assaulted around 2 a.m. on the northwest side of campus. The victim was approached from behind and then assaulted.

Information about sexual assault prevention and resources for survivors of sexual assault is available from NDSP at ndsp.nd.edu and at the Office of Student Affairs Web site at osa.nd.edu/health-safety/assault/

College of Engineering opens Wireless Institute



Photo courtesy of wireless.nd.edu

Notre Dame's College of Engineering launched the Wireless Institute to work on closing the "spectrum gap."

By LILY HOUGH
News Writer

Your smart phone, laptop and various other wireless devices all have one thing in common — they are vying for frequencies in an already congested wireless radio spectrum.

While a slower Internet connection may frustrate students, a team of Notre Dame faculty sees it as an exciting research opportuni-

ty. "Today, people want the Internet in the palm of their hand," said Dr. J. Nicolas Laneman, associate professor of electrical engineering. "Mobile wireless devices are keeping them increasingly connected, but they are generating so much traffic that they are clogging up today's networks. Eventually users are going to be very frustrated when they can't access

see WIRELESS/page 6

RAs selected for 2010-11

Resident assistants hope to build 'camaraderie' within the campus dorms

By KATLYN SMITH
News Writer

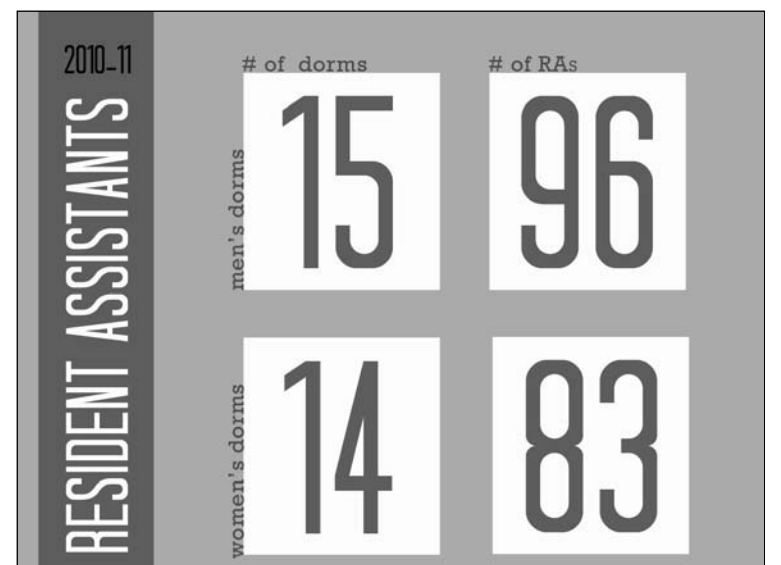
While most rising seniors are finalizing plans to live off campus or preparing for room picks, a select few will be fulfilling the role of resident assistant (RA) in the dorms.

Michael Daly is one of several juniors who learned last week that he had been selected as an RA for 2010-11. Daly acknowledged the value of being an RA his senior year.

"As a senior, you really know about the ups and downs and the challenges that you are going to encounter," Daly said. "I think it's really important to have someone who has been through those experiences, to be a foundation and source of counsel for students."

Christopher Harvan, who was selected to be a Dillon RA, said he was drawn to the position because of the close relationship between RAs and residents.

"I applied because such a significant part of Notre Dame



ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

is living in the dorm. So specifically in Dillon, there's a big emphasis on camaraderie in the dorm and it starts with the RA staff, and it trickles down to all students," Harvan said. "I wanted to be able to provide that camaraderie and let incoming freshmen have a positive experience in the dorm."

Fr. Paul Doyle, rector of Dillon Hall, received 20 applications for nine RA spots. According to Doyle, the dorm typically receives 15 to 16 applications.

Doyle cited a desire to develop community as a reason for the high numbers.

see RA/page 8

INSIDE COLUMN

Take a break

With Spring Break nearly upon us, I think it's time that we all take a good second look and enjoy the second half of that glorious phrase Break. Mmm, drink it in.

Matthew Robison

As college students, we get caught up in all we have going on, stress about it, then stress about stressed we are. Thankfully, the University gives us a break midway through the semester, and we all need to take advantage.

Sports Wire Editor

Now, don't get me wrong, I have great respect for everyone performing service this break with programs like Appalachia. That is an admirable way to spend your free time. For those choosing to spend this holiday in sunnier locations with an abundance of delicious beverages, let me just say to you that I am jealous.

I'm headed home to take a break. While I may do the obligatory visit to friends at local state schools, hang out with friends from high school, and maybe take a day to enjoy my hometown the way I once did in high school, I plan on ridding my body of as much stress as possible. Eat, sleep, read, sleep, travel at my convenience, and, oh yeah, sleep.

I'm not pretending to be a stress relief expert, but I definitely believe it's healthy for all of us to just sit down and relax. Don't even let yourself think about school unless absolutely necessary.

I realize that many students here are overachievers by nature, and there is an element of our over-scheduled, overworked lives that we enjoy. But for this week, let's put all that aside and recognize that we are in college. We have only a few years, or months for some of us, before we have actual responsibility: full-time employment, families, houses, cars, the whole lot. Many of us have dreamed about "starting our lives" for a long time. The truth is, life has already begun for all of us, so enjoy it while you can. Spring Break is the perfect opportunity to do so.

Unless there are pressing issues that keep you from doing so, I suggest we all take at least one day during break to sleep without setting an alarm clock, take a walk without rushing to class while worrying about if the teacher is going to give a quiz on last night's reading, or watch TV without trying to pound out a paper at the same time.

Although I'm only a freshman and have not experienced the stress that comes with higher level courses, job interviews, GREs, MCATs and LSATs, I know one thing: stress is contagious.

So for your own sake and for the sake of the people you are around, Spring Break is almost here, enjoy it.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

In the March 3 Letter to the Editor in the Viewpoint section, the article titled "Be aware of the R-word" was written by Megan Aldrup, junior, Holy Cross Hall. Additionally, the article titled "Basilica Wedding Madness" was written by Katherine Pierret, alumna, Class of 2009. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOUR SPRING BREAK PLANS?



Ana Quijano
senior Lyons

"I'm going to D.C. to visit friends from home."



Blake Choplin
senior off-campus

"Studying for the MCAT."



Daniel Quinlan
junior St. Edward's

"Just going home to St. Louis to hang with family."



Jackie Mirandola
senior Howard

"I'm playing with a baby raccoon in Mexico."



Kyle Hagelskamp
senior Howard

"I'm going to play with a pregnant donkey in Mexico."



Pat Mikes
freshman Fisher

"Going to Ft. Lauderdale with some friends for a week."

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



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

The Notre Dame basketball team celebrates in the Purcell Pavilion after beating Connecticut 58-50 Wednesday. With the Senior Day victory, the Irish kept their NCAA Tournament hopes alive.

IN BRIEF

Two Fire Station Open Houses will be held at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. today at the Notre Dame Fire Station. The Open House will celebrate the 130th anniversary of the oldest university fire department in the nation. Notre Dame faculty and staff are invited to attend.

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

A lecture titled "A Structural Description of the High Reynolds Number Turbulent Boundary Layer: Possible Implications on Flow Control and Environmental Processes" will begin at 3:30 p.m. The lecture will be held in 126 DeBartolo Hall today.

"The White Ribbon" will be shown in the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The film will be shown at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. today. Tickets will cost \$6 for adults, \$5 for faculty and staff, \$4 for senior citizens and \$3 for students. To order tickets, call 574-631-2800.

A children's theatre production of "Strega Nona" will be presented at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. tomorrow. The production will be held in the Decio Mainstage Theatre in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. To order tickets, please call, 574-631-2800.

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

OFFBEAT

Woman pleads 'not guilty' to tossing coffee on officer

BROOKLINE, Mass. — A Rhode Island woman pleaded not guilty in Massachusetts to charges she threw a hot cup of coffee on a parking enforcement officer. Krystle Charley was arraigned Wednesday in Brookline District Court on charges including assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Police said the 23-year-old resident of North Smithfield, R.I., tossed her coffee at 64-year-old Claire MacPherson in Brookline as MacPherson

was writing out a \$25 ticket for an expired meter on Tuesday. MacPherson was not hurt.

Charley's friend, Vicky Curry, who witnessed the tossing, said it was MacPherson who was yelling at Charley.

Man faces charges for three incidents in three hours

LANCASTER, Pa. — A central Pennsylvania man faces charges for three separate incidents involving police in a span of three hours. Manheim Township police said 49-year-old Mark E. Blaylock was charged with theft of

services after allegedly refusing to pay a \$69 cab fare around 11 a.m. About an hour later he was charged with public drunkenness after police said he was found lying on a road near his house.

Another hour after that, authorities said Blaylock called 911 to request police assistance. Investigators said he was cited for reporting a medical emergency without good cause because he told officers he needed them to fill a prescription.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 35 LOW 22	HIGH 27 LOW 17	HIGH 42 LOW 27	HIGH 45 LOW 30	HIGH 43 LOW 40	HIGH 50 LOW 35

Atlanta 50 / 29 Boston 38 / 29 Chicago 38 / 23 Denver 54 / 28 Houston 65 / 44 Los Angeles 61 / 50 Minneapolis 78 / 58 New York 41 / 30 Philadelphia 41 / 39 Phoenix 74 / 52 Seattle 52 / 40 St. Louis 46 / 26 Tampa 59 / 41 Washington 43 / 32

Saint Mary's women to take alternative trip

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Instead of taking time out to rest and relax during Spring Break, several Saint Mary's students will be spending the week helping others.

The College offers an Alternative Spring Break experience each year designed to give students a chance to learn about social issues while participating in service.

Carrie Call, director of the Office for Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE), said 12 students plan on attending this year. Call said 12 is both the ideal and suggested limit for attendance.

"Students will be involved in learning about a variety of social issues, especially those related to women, while also engaging in hands-on service," Call said.

Alternative Spring Break is a program coordinated by OCSE in conjunction with the Indianapolis Peace Institute (IPI). Saint Mary's alumna Kate Williams is responsible for the program this year.

The trip will provide students an opportunity to participate in service projects while on break.

According to the Saint Mary's Web site, participants will have a chance to learn about a variety of issues involving women. The Web site said the 2010 Alternative Spring Break trip will focus on domestic and sexual

violence against women, human trafficking, women's health issues and women in the criminal justice field.

Additionally, the Web site said, "Local leaders, representatives from agencies within Indianapolis and clients and those affected by the issues will provide information, insight and inspiration."

The trip will also provide students an opportunity for spiritual reflection, the Web site said.

"Students are always seeking new ways to help and to learn. This gives a great opportunity for both and it's not too far away," Call said. "The OCSE is committed to offering as many options as possible for students to discover their passions and interests. Plus, the Indianapolis Peace Institute is a fabulous organization."

The Web site said students will reside in a restored home owned by IPI.

According to the Web site, "this special house allows for building community through preparing and eating meals together as well as facilitating discussion and reflection."

The program will run from March 6-12, the Web site said.

"It's a different way to spend your break time — one that helps others while enriching your own life," Call said.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Students plan for Spring Break

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Spring Break holds different meanings for different Notre Dame students. Some view it as an opportunity to jet off to tropical locales, while others use it to participate in service projects — and some simply jump at the chance to return home for a week of relaxation after midterms.

For senior Michelle Hackner, Spring Break is a chance to spend some quality time with her friends before the real world sends them all to different places.

Hackner and 10 of her friends are renting two condos in Isla Verde, Puerto Rico for the week. She said she has been looking forward to the trip since they planned it before the beginning of winter break.

"This is my last chance to really spend time with my friends before we're all separated next year," Hackner said. "I'm just really excited to get away from the stress of our last semester and just relax."

Once she arrives in Puerto Rico, Hackner said her top priorities are unpacking, finding out where the beach and bars are, and buying plenty of Pop Tarts to eat for breakfast.

Senior Michelle Perone will join Hackner in Puerto Rico.

She said she is also looking forward to spending time with her friends, as well as for the chance to spend time on the beach swimming and tanning.

"I'm really excited to just lay out and tan, but the weather forecast says it's supposed to rain a lot next week," Perone said. "I hope it doesn't rain. If it does, I'll be outraged."

Some students are counting on a more low-key spring break than Hackner and Perone are sure to have.

Junior George Pinchok is going home to Philadelphia after classes end tomorrow, but he plans on returning to Notre Dame early so he can take advantage of the relative quiet on campus to get a head start on his class work.

"I'm coming back here early to have some time to myself," Pinchok said. "I'm excited to be back early because then I'll have motivation from being home and I'll use the time wisely."

Freshman Patty Walsh will also be returning home for Spring Break.

"I'm going back home to Chicago," Walsh said. "I'm going to see some friends and get a lot of sleep. That's basically all I've got planned right now."

Sophomore James Baffa's Spring Break will likely not be as low-key as Walsh's or Pinchok's. He will be traveling to Tennessee with the

men's crew team.

"It's a training trip so we'll just go there and practice two or three times a day, every day," Baffa said.

Other students plan on immersing themselves in service over the weeklong break.

Junior Katie Halloran will be participating in Notre Dame's Appalachia Program and traveling to West Virginia to work at Community Development Outreach Ministries (CDOM) in West Virginia.

Halloran said she has wanted to sign up for Appalachia since freshman year, but had never gotten the chance to do so before.

"I've always seen the little fliers around campus," Halloran said. "It's always attracted me and I'm running out of semesters so I thought I should take advantage of the opportunity."

Although she will not be spending her week relaxing in the tropics or at home, Halloran said she does not regret choosing a more strenuous spring break activity.

"Service is part of my Christian identity," Halloran said. "I'll have plenty of chances to go to tropical places, but after I graduate, it won't be as easy to find service opportunities as it is at Notre Dame."

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu


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STUDENT SENATE

Senate passes 4 resolutions

Proposals accepted with nearly unanimous votes Wednesday

By SCOTT ENGLERT
News Writer

The Student Senate discussed and passed four resolutions — including one that requests DeBartolo classrooms remain open at night and another changing the scheduling for State of the Student Union addresses — during its meeting Wednesday night.

The first resolution, “A Resolution Requesting DeBartolo Hall Classrooms Be Opened Nightly For Group Study Space,” was proposed by Austin Holler, chairman of the Committee on Academic Affairs.

Student body president Grant Schmidt was among the many supporters of the resolution, which was passed unanimously. He said extra study space is an expressed need of the student body.

“[I want] to emphasize the fact that people have been asking about this and it’s not just random,” Schmidt said.

In a unanimous vote, the Student Senate passed the resolution.

Kevin Kimberly, chairman of the Committee on Oversight, proposed an idea originating from sophomore Grace Concealman, a member of the Financial Management Board.

The proposal calls for the establishment of The Shirt Charity Endowment, which will enable interest to be collected on 50 percent of funds collected for The Shirt Charity. The current funds



Student Senate president Grant Schmidt speaks during a Senate meeting in this file photo. TOM LA/The Observer

do not allow for interest, however making it into an endowment would help to earn more money into the account.

Schmidt said he thought the idea was “genius.”

Senate passed the resolution with an unanimous vote.

The next resolution, “A Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body Revising the Schedule of State of the Student Union Addresses,” was also proposed by Kimberly.

The resolution calls for the State of the Student Union to be made by the student body president’s election, by the last Senate meeting of the semester, by the last Senate meeting of

November and by the last Senate meeting of his or her term.

Kimberly said a changing of the deadlines is needed.

“The way it is now, there is not much to work on,” Kimberly said.

With the exception of one abstention, the Student Senate voted unanimously to pass the resolution.

The fourth and final resolution, “A Resolution Calling for the Retention of the Late Night Transpo Service,” was proposed by Jeff Lakusta, chairman of the Committee on University Affairs.

Lakusta was clear in stating the purpose of the resolution.

“Hundreds of students are riding it every weekend,” Lakusta said. “Given that success we want to encourage student affairs to continue supporting this service.”

Senate voted nearly unanimously to pass this resolution as well.

Contact Scott Englert at senglert@nd.edu

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SGA plans for end of this academic year

By MEGHAN PRICE
News Writer

In preparation for their upcoming term as leaders of Saint Mary’s Student Government Association (SGA) beginning April 1, juniors Rachael Chesley and Laura Smith attended Wednesday’s meeting.

Chesley and Smith were voted in as SGA president and vice president, respectively, for the 2010-11 academic year during the election Feb. 26.

SGA has started to prepare for the end of the 2009-10 term and will meet only three more times before the newly elected officers are sworn in on April 1.

Chesley and Smith were shadowing the current president and vice president in preparation for their terms in office. They will continue to observe until they are sworn in to office and, after elections for the other offices this week, the new class officers will also be attending the SGA meetings.

“The year is coming to a close very quickly and our term in office is almost over,” current SGA president and senior Jenny Hoffman said. “It’s time to think of what final things you would like to accomplish for the student body.”

Some of the suggestions made by the SGA members included vending machines in the Student Center and new vacuums in the dorms.

Hoffman also said she and the current SGA vice president and junior, Megan Griffin, were attempting to initiate a Saint Mary’s heritage course.

The course would be one credit and would teach students about the origins and founding values of the College.

One of the final things SGA has done for the students of Saint Mary’s College is to help fund one of the bigger events on campus — Dance Marathon.

Kelly Deranek, Saint Mary’s senior, presented a proposal asking for funding for Dance Marathon. The event is in its fifth year at the College and raises money for the Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

“The event’s goal is to celebrate the hard work Dance Marathon has done all year to raise money for the hospital,” Deranek said. “It promotes awareness of the hospital but the Marathon night is all about fun.”

The board members for the event have already begun fundraising, but because all the money has been donated to the hospital, they still needed funding for the event, Deranek said.

The marathon is 12 hours of dancing with live entertainment and a DJ. It also includes food, games, last minute donations and a counting of how much money was raised.

Dance marathon will be held in Angela Athletic Facility from 8 p.m. March 26 to 8 a.m. March 27. The event is for Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame and Holy Cross students. Deranek said they are expecting around 550 people, which is the largest attendance the event has ever had.

Contact Meghan Price at mprice02@saintmarys.edu

Boy Scouts set to hold dinner to mark 100th anniversary

Reunion celebrates, recognizes past accomplishments of troops, reunites local Eagle Scouts at Joyce Center

By CAITLYN KALSCHUR
News Writer

The LaSalle Council, the local chapter of the Boy Scouts America, will host a special 100th anniversary dinner and Eagle Scout reunion in the Joyce Center at 6:30 p.m. tonight.

Aside from recognizing the accomplishment of Boy Scouts of America being an active, contributing organization to society for the last 100 years, tonight’s event will also serve to reunite and honor Eagle Scouts in the area.

In boy scouting, the lifetime honor of Eagle Scout is the highest honor one can accomplish and is

only achieved by about 3 percent of scouts.

“We’re giving them the opportunity to come back and celebrate,” said Patrick Bridges, Scout Executive and CEO of LaSalle Council Boy Scouts. “We’re thanking them for their service to others in scouting and for what they’ve gone on to do. We also want to help them reconnect and get involved in Boy Scouts again whether it be financially, as a leader or in any other way that can fit into their lifestyle.”

Bridges said the group is struggling to find leadership.

“Boy Scouts has changed more in the last few years than it has in the last 20,” Bridges said. “The

future looks bright but it’s getting challenging to find adult leaders. We need to continue to work to get more adult leaders and need to connect more with places like Notre Dame.”

Bridges said Notre Dame was picked to host the event for two reasons.

“Notre Dame has a lot of the same values that scouting has: God, country and serving others,” he said. “Also, the guest speaker is Chris Zorich, so we thought that Notre Dame would be a good fit.”

Zorich, a former Notre Dame and NFL football player and philanthropist, was chosen to speak based on his experiences, Bridges said.

“We feel that his life and what he stands for will resonate with the Boy Scouts and volunteers and remind them of the Boy Scout values,” he said. “The volunteers and Eagle Scouts are excited to hear him say a few words to us.”

As the founder of the Christopher Zorich Foundation to help disadvantaged families, Zorich embodies the importance and value of service to others, which is a central part of Boy Scouts, Bridges said.

Boy Scouts has worked with over 100 million boys in the last 100 years and research indicates that involvement in Boy Scouts yields positive results in such areas as honesty and sportsman-

ship, Bridges said.

“People think of Boy Scouts as an outdoor or recreational program, when really that’s just the vehicle through which we help youth reach their full potential and instill in them values and morals according to scouting law,” Bridges said.

Bridges also encourages Notre Dame students to get involved by calling (800) 822-3867 or visiting the Boy Scouts website at www.lasallecouncilbsa.org

“Students can even walk over to our headquarters right next door,” Bridges said.

Contact Caitlyn Kalschur at ckalsche@nd.edu

TEXT “IRISH” TO 47464

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel calls off raid over Facebook slip

JERUSALEM — Israel's military has "unfriended" one of its own — after a combat soldier potentially updated Israel's enemies on Facebook.

The military said Wednesday that a planned raid on a West Bank village was called off after the soldier disclosed its details online. The military said the soldier posted the time and location of the raid on his Facebook page, saying that troops were planning on "cleaning up" the village.

Fellow soldiers reported the leak to military authorities, who canceled the raid, fearing that the information may have reached hostile groups and put troops at risk.

The soldier was court-martialed and sentenced to 10 days in prison. He was also removed from his battalion and combat postings.

Huge wave kills 2 on cruise ship

BARCELONA, Spain — A 26-foot wave smashed into a cruise ship carrying nearly 2,000 people in the Mediterranean on Wednesday, smashing glass windshields and killing two passengers, according to officials and news reports.

Another six people suffered light injuries, the Greek coast guard said in a statement. The victims were identified as a German and an Italian man.

The ship asked for permission to dock in Barcelona and arrived at the Spanish port shortly after 9 p.m. (2200 GMT), the Spanish news agency Europa Press said.

NATIONAL NEWS

Air traffic workers suspended

NEW YORK — As planes waited to take off from Kennedy Airport, the jargon-packed radio chatter between controllers and pilots was interrupted by a young boy's voice: "JetBlue 171, cleared for takeoff."

An air traffic controller who brought his son to work let the youngster read a few routine messages to pilots — and then brought in another child the next day — in an incident that amused pilots but not the Federal Aviation Administration.

Authorities suspended the controller and a supervisor Wednesday after a recording of the radio calls was posted on the Internet, then reported by a Boston television station.

Scientists pleased with orbiter results

PASADENA, Calif. — Scientists are impressed with the flood of data beamed back by NASA's most advanced Mars orbiter.

The space agency said Wednesday the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter has sent back 100 terabits of information since 2006. That's equal to about 3 million songs in MP3 format.

Launched from Florida in 2005, the reconnaissance orbiter reached Mars in March 2006. It is the most powerful probe ever sent to the Red Planet.

Project scientist Rich Zurek of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory says he is blown away by the quality of the images and other tidbits that give scientists a deeper understanding of the planet.

Last year, the reconnaissance orbiter suffered several computer resets that temporarily halted science operations. It has since returned to normal.

LOCAL NEWS

Gov. names health commissioner

INDIANAPOLIS — A retired Eli Lilly medical director and former family physician is the state's new health commissioner.

Gov. Mitch Daniels announced Wednesday that Dr. Gregory N. Larkin will replace current commissioner Dr. Judy Monroe beginning April 1.

Monroe will leave her state position March 8 to become a deputy director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and head a new CDC office.

Larkin was Eli Lilly's global medical director and health care liaison. He managed five domestic health care clinics and the company's employee and retiree health plan during his 22-year career.

VENEZUELA

Chavez denies ties with rebels

Venezuelan President lashes out at Spain's accusations of link with ETA, FARC

Associated Press

CARACAS — President Hugo Chavez lashed out at Spain's prime minister Wednesday for asking Venezuela to respond to a Spanish judge's accusation that his government collaborated with Basque separatists and Colombian rebels.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero on Monday demanded an explanation from Venezuela after Judge Eloy Velasco announced that an investigation turned up evidence Chavez's government facilitated collaboration between the Basque group ETA and Colombia's leftist rebels — and the two groups planned to assassinate Colombia's president.

The following day, Spain's foreign minister said that he had spoken with Chavez and Venezuela's foreign minister and that both denied the allegations but promised an investigation.

But on Wednesday Chavez warned that diplomatic relations between the two countries could be hurt if Spanish officials insist on seeking answers from Venezuela.

"We don't have anything to explain," Chavez said during a televised speech. "Relations will depend on the Spanish government's attitude."

Chavez denied his socialist government maintains ties with ETA or the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which are classified as terrorist organizations by the European Union and the United States.

"This is a government that does not, and will not, support terrorist groups," Chavez said.

ETA has been waging a violent campaign since the late 1960s to create an independent Basque homeland in northern Spain and southwestern France. The FARC has been battling since 1964 to topple successive Colombian govern-



Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez holds up a vaccine in Caracas Wednesday. Chavez lashed out at Spain's accusations that his government collaborated with separatist militants.

ments and establish a Marxist-style state.

Velasco indicted six members of ETA, most of them exiled in Latin America, and seven members of the FARC for a variety of alleged crimes, including plotting to kill former Colombian President Andres Pastrana and Colombia's current president, Alvaro Uribe.

Velasco said the investigation that began in 2008 turned up evidence of "Venezuelan governmental cooperation" in the collaboration between the two groups. ETA members have received training or taught in FARC rebel camps, and FARC members traveled to Spain to try to kill Pastrana and Uribe, with help from ETA, Velasco wrote.

Velasco identified suspected ETA member Arturo Cubillas Fontan as a key figure in links between ETA and the FARC. The man lives in Venezuela, has held a job in the Chavez government and may still have one, the judge wrote.

The probe is based largely on e-mails that were in a computer used by a FARC leader named Raul Reyes, who died in a Colombian military raid on a FARC camp in Ecuador in March 2008.

Chavez noted one of his predecessors as president, Carlos Andres Perez, and former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez signed agreements in 1989 allowing several Basque separatists to take up residence in Venezuela after

peace talks between Spain's government and ETA representatives broke down.

"These people came here and they became Venezuelans," Chavez said.

Chavez did not address the judge's allegation that Cubillas Fontan has worked for his administration.

Spanish Attorney Daniel Portero, who closely follows ETA's activities, told The Associated Press that he expects Spain's judiciary to run into difficult obstacles as it attempts to bring exiled members of the Basque separatist group to justice.

"It's very complicated," Portero said, noting Spain's government doesn't want to spoil warm relations with Venezuela.

First lady tours Miss. schools to tout health

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — First lady Michelle Obama visited Jackson on Wednesday and watched children play on swings and a jungle gym at a school whose programs have been lauded for fighting obesity by keeping kids active.

It was the first of her two stops in Mississippi, which ranks No. 1 in childhood and adult obesity, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The first lady's visit was part of her recently announced Let's Move! campaign to promote healthy habits at schools.

Maggie Benson White, who was putting up a poster outside Pecan Park Elementary School to welcome Mrs. Obama, said she hoped that the first lady's visit would inspire healthy eating habits in her community and at inner-city schools.

"Our children are not eating properly. We have a lot of parents who don't know how to serve nutritious meals. If we could teach them to let McDonald's go, it would have a big impact," said White, who is president of the West Park Neighborhood Association, where Pecan Park Elementary is located.

The first lady's campaign on obesity has four parts: helping parents make

better food choices, serving healthier food in school vending machines and lunch lines, making healthy food more available and affordable, and encouraging children to exercise more.

Obama said she realized it's hard for some schools across the country to make such changes immediately because budgets are tight. She said the Child Nutrition Act that is up for reauthorization includes \$10 billion over 10 years to help with those issues.

Later at Brinkley Middle School, she got a rock star reception as about 1,000 people, including hundreds of students cheered loudly when she was announced at a rally.

Transpo

continued from page 1

roughly 150 students on Fridays and Saturdays, with the only major decreases occurring on the weekends of midterms and finals.

The high rider numbers have led to a certain amount of foot traffic at pick-up locations near the local restaurants and bars Transpo serves, Schmidt said.

"All of the establishments on the Transpo route seem to have a heavy amount of traffic, especially during late-night hours when demand is high for a cab," he said.

Schmidt said the Transpo system came from a student government concern about safety of students traveling to off-campus venues. After the

Jan. 17 assault of three Notre Dame students who were waiting for the Transpo bus, Schmidt said student government has taken additional measures to ensure the continued safety of students using Transpo.

"The day after that happened, I talked to Transpo about how to address future incidents," he said. "Student government also printed maps on cards with the Transpo route and times on it. It was one initial way to inform students of where they should be and at what time."

Schmidt said the incident was "extremely unfortunate" but pointed out it was the only violent altercation that has occurred in relation to Transpo.

Ryan Brellenthin, student government chief of staff, said

the incident was regrettable but overall, Transpo has been a "phenomenal" service over the past few months.

"From the beginning, Transpo has been all about safety of students when they are off campus," Brellenthin said. "The incident was isolated and I think people would be hard-pressed to say that Transpo caused the incident."

As a result, student government has taken steps to ensure University students are never waiting around for the bus and thereby exposing themselves to potentially dangerous activity.

"Overall, the bus has been extremely efficient," Schmidt said. "The times on the route are approximate but if the bus is ever ahead of schedule, the driver waits until it gets back on schedule, so that way, the bus is never early."

Student body vice president Cynthia Weber said the Transpo system has not only achieved the goals student government put forth, but has also benefited the South Bend community, where relations between the University and the city have been strained at times in the past.

"Transpo has proved to be a service to the student body. It's both a convenient measure and a safety measure," she said. "It's also created bridges to the rest of the community by encouraging students to go out in South Bend."

Brellenthin said he thinks the success of the weekend Transpo service has alerted students to the Transpo system as a whole, which allows Notre Dame students to ride to areas like the University Park Mall free of charge.

"It has brought a greater awareness to the Transpo system as a whole, which Notre Dame has had a relationship with for many years," he said. "This particular route is an extension of the relationship."

Overall, student government is pleased with the success of Transpo. Schmidt said he thinks the initiative has been "popular" with the student body and he hopes it will continue next year.

The bus will stop running when the academic year concludes in May. Student body president-elect and vice president-elect, Catherine Soler and Andrew Bell, will decide whether or not the service will continue to be offered for the 2010-11 academic year.

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden3@nd.edu

Wireless

continued from page 1

their data and services."

What this explosive demand requires is innovative technology and spectrum regulation that provides more spectrum and allows service providers to squeeze more data into their spectrum allocations, Laneman said. But there are no simple solutions.

"We can draw many analogies between spectrum gridlock and rush hour traffic. Providing more spectrum is like adding another lane to a major highway," Laneman said. "If we add another lane,

traffic will flow more freely. But a lot of people will complain if the wider highway infringes on their land or adds additional noise to their neighborhood."

Laneman said a balance must be found.

"Such cooperation can be difficult to realize when everyone acts in what they perceive to be their own best interests rather than working toward a collective goal," Laneman said.

Viewing such challenges as opportunities, the College of Engineering recently announced the launch of the Wireless Institute at the University of Notre Dame, which according to its Web

site is "an internationally pre-eminent center of research, education, technology transfer and outreach activities that develops wireless communication and networking technologies, applications and economic and policy studies of great value to society."

Laneman will serve as director of the Institute, along with Christian Poellabauer, assistant professor of computer science and engineering, and Barry Keating and Jesse H. Jones, professors of finance.

"We are proud that Notre Dame is able to help us launch this initiative amid the economic difficulties experienced by many universities," Laneman said. "The faculty

are really excited, and we're working on getting the students excited, too."

The first focal point laid out on the institute's Web site is to develop technologies that unlock and make better use of spectrum. And while technological research and innovation are key components of the institute's goals, it puts equal stress on taking a multidisciplinary approach to the issues so that students from all areas of study can get involved, Laneman said.

Laneman and Keating are offering an undergraduate seminar course this semester to expose a broader set of students to the relevant issues.

"Students can just read the

newspaper to realize that there's so much more going on here than technology research and development," Laneman said. "There are significant economic, legal, security and public policy issues. At a more basic level, there's the question of what's best for society when it comes to allocating spectrum for universal broadband access, public safety and national security along with commercial wireless services. As a values-based community with an emphasis on research, Notre Dame is an ideal place for new initiatives in this space."

Contact Lily Hough at lough1@nd.edu



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IN BRIEF

Tropicana Casino purchase approved

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — New Jersey on Wednesday ended its conservatorship of Tropicana Casino and Resort after 27 months and gave final approval of its sale to billionaire Carl Icahn.

The state Casino Control Commission also gave Icahn interim casino authorization, allowing his company to take over operations. He bought it out of bankruptcy last year for \$200 million.

The approval gives Icahn a stronger grip on a quickly expanding empire of casinos he's bought relatively cheap out of bankruptcy.

In January, he received regulatory approval to take control of nine Tropicana Entertainment LLC casinos in Nevada, Indiana, Louisiana and Mississippi as they emerged from a separate bankruptcy.

He's reorganizing them into a publicly traded company and plans to put them eventually under the same umbrella as the Atlantic City landmark.

This year, he also bought the unfinished Fontainebleau Las Vegas casino resort on the strip. On top of all that, last December, he bought the first-lien debt in Trump Entertainment Resort's three Atlantic City casinos. Now, he and banker Andy Beal are slugging it out against a group that includes Donald Trump to become the owners when that company emerges from bankruptcy.

RealNetworks to end sales of DVD copier

SAN FRANCISCO — RealNetworks Inc. has settled lawsuits with six movie studios that sought to stop it from selling technology that let consumers copy DVDs to their computers.

Under the settlement terms, which were announced Wednesday, RealNetworks can't sell its RealDVD product or other similar technology, the company said.

Walt Disney Co., Sony Corp. and others sued RealNetworks in 2008, arguing RealDVD is an illegal pirating tool that would stop consumers from buying movies on DVD that they could cheaply rent, copy and return.

RealNetworks will also withdraw an appeal it filed after a judge barred the company from selling RealDVD in August.

The company will pay \$4.5 million to the studios for litigation costs and refund purchases of about 2,700 customers who bought the product.

Drivers say Toyota fixes don't work

15 customers complain that cars still speeding by themselves following repairs

Associated Press

DETROIT — At least 15 Toyota drivers have complained to U.S. safety officials that their cars sped up by themselves even after being fixed under recalls for sticky gas pedals or floor mat problems, according to an Associated Press analysis.

The development raises questions about whether Toyota's repairs will bring an end to the cases of wild, uncontrolled acceleration or if there may be electronic causes behind the complaints that have dogged the automaker.

Although the allegations were unverified by the agency, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Wednesday it was contacting people who have complained about acceleration problems even after repairs were done under two large recalls. The agency wants to hear from others who have had similar troubles, it said.

"If Toyota owners are still experiencing sudden acceleration incidents after taking their cars to the dealership, we want to know about it," agency administrator David Strickland said in a statement.

The new complaints raised eyebrows in Congress, which has held three hearings on the recalls in the past week and is investigating Toyota's safety problems.

"I am deeply concerned that NHTSA has received this many reports of possible sudden unanticipated acceleration even after these vehicles have received Toyota's recommended fix," said Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, who serves on one of the committees investigating Toyota.

"It's critical that we get to the bottom of this problem as quickly as possible."

Toyota spokesman Brian Lyons said Wednesday the company was investigating the complaints, though it remains confident in its recall fixes. Teams of engineers are being mobilized to



Stewart Stogel of Mt. Vernon, N.Y., speaks about the problems with his 2009 Toyota Camry while sitting in a parking lot in New Rochelle, N.Y., Wednesday.

check into the complaints, he said.

Toyota has recalled more than 8 million vehicles worldwide since October to fix floor mats that can snag gas pedals or faulty gas pedal assemblies that can stick.

NHTSA says 52 people have been killed in crashes linked to Toyota's acceleration problems. Toyota has blamed mechanical causes or drivers pressing the wrong pedal. However, some question whether the electronic throttle system or a software glitch may be at fault, rather than a mechanical issue involving pedals. Toyota says it is looking into electronics as a possible cause.

In the meantime, complaints keep coming in from

drivers who say the fix has not solved the problem, including at least 15 filed with NHTSA in the last two weeks, according to an AP analysis of the agency database.

The owner of a 2009 Camry, Stewart Stogel, of Mount Vernon, N.Y., told the AP he narrowly missed driving over an embankment and hitting a wall when the mid-size sedan accelerated on its own last Saturday — five days after being serviced as part of the recall.

Stogel, who has not filed a complaint with NHTSA, said the incident occurred near his home after a dealership trimmed the gas pedal and installed new brake control software as part of the floor mat recall.

"At first the brakes didn't

engage at all," said the 49-year-old freelance journalist. "Just as I approached Terrace Avenue, the wheels were able to get some traction, and all of the sudden the engine did disengage."

Stogel said the car had accelerated two previous times before the recall fix, and both times he took it to dealerships to be checked. In one case it was inspected by a Toyota corporate technician who could find nothing wrong, he said.

After the latest incident, Stogel called his dealer, who told him to return with the car so Toyota engineers could inspect it. He did so on Wednesday and was given a loaner car. He also left a message with Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. President Jim Lentz.

Bob Lutz, GM's 'ultimate car guy,' to retire

Associated Press

DETROIT — Bob Lutz, the long-time auto industry executive who led nearly a complete overhaul of General Motors' lineup, will retire May 1.

"My work here is done," the 78-year-old executive said in an e-mail to The Associated Press from the Geneva Motor Show on Wednesday.

Lutz, GM's vice chairman and a former U.S. Marine aviator who once crashed his personal helicopter at a Michigan airport, has been responsible for overhauling design at GM and has held senior positions at three other automakers during his career.

However, Lutz's role at GM diminished during his last year with the automaker. He originally planned to

retire at the end of 2009, but changed his mind after then-CEO Fritz Henderson asked him to lead the GM's marketing efforts as the company exited bankruptcy protection.

But Henderson was ousted from the company in December. His successor, Ed Whitacre, took away Lutz's marketing duties and made him a "special adviser" — an ambiguous position that left him with no one reporting to him. Whitacre said he wanted Lutz to help him learn the ropes at GM.

Long a fan of flashy race cars, Lutz has called the Chevrolet Volt, the gas-electric sedan that can go up to 40 miles on battery-power alone, his proudest achievement.

Lutz is also credited with leading

crosstown rival Chrysler Group LLC to success in the 1990s and spent time at Ford Motor Co. and Germany's BMW AG. He rejoined GM in 2001.

At the Detroit auto show in January, Lutz said he supported opening more factories to produce hot-selling products. That was how Chrysler gained market share in the 1990s, he said. But GM executives ruled that possibility out earlier this week.

Still, Lutz said Wednesday he would be leaving GM happy with the way the company was running.

"The whole organization, top to bottom, now has absolute product superiority as the highest objective which enables all others," he said in an e-mail. "So, I can retire in peace."

ND MBA students take first in case contest

Special to The Observer

A team of MBA students from the University of Notre Dame took first place in the Ninth Annual Leeds Net Impact Case Competition. The two-day event, held Feb. 19 and 20 at the University of Colorado, brought together the top-rated business schools and future industry leaders. The competition is the premier case format competition built around businesses facing sustainability challenges.

The Notre Dame team included Rachel Reiter, Jeff O'Connor, William O'Brien and Jonathan Phillips, all one-year MBA students graduating in May.

The University of Alabama Manderson Graduate School of Business took second place while the University of Alberta School of Business took third.

Sixty-one MBA teams from 39 business schools entered the Leeds event. The case involved analyzing opportunities in renewable energy; more specifically, how to address issues of profitability for Xcel in the areas of increasing renewable energy and energy conservation.

Round one of the competition involved submitting a PowerPoint presentation in early December. Twenty teams then advanced to the February semifinal in Boulder, with five teams competing in the final event. The top three teams earned cash prizes, with Notre Dame taking home \$6,000.

Xcel Energy, a Minneapolis-based public utility with more than \$9 billion in annual revenues and customers in eight states, sponsored the competition.

Participants of the competition are affiliated with Net Impact, an international MBA nonprofit association committed to creating a community of business leaders who advance practices of corporate social responsibility, social entrepreneurship, nonprofit management, international development and environmental sustainability.

The Notre Dame MBA at the Mendoza College of Business enrolls approximately 340 students annually in its one-year and two-year programs. The program is designed to sharpen students' analytical and problem-solving skills, enhance their leadership ability and increase emphasis on ethical decision making. Students have the opportunity to study the complexities of global business through international immersions in Asia, Latin America and other locations.

RA

continued from page 1

"I tend to think people who apply get the picture that Christian community is worth building and fostering," Doyle said.

During the decision-making process, Doyle said he and his current hall staff cast nine rounds of ballots.

"In between ballots, there are a lot of conversations," Doyle said. "We took about four or five hours to get to the nine."

Sr. Mary Donnelly, rector of Pangborn Hall, notified her

RA candidates of her decisions via email last Wednesday.

RAs have a variety of roles, Donnelly said.

"We look at RAs and all of hall staff as a ministry of presence," she said. "The RAs in particular are role models, they're disciplinarians, they're leaders in their section, and they have the responsibility of helping to shepherd and helping the freshmen find their way."

Emily Wurtenberger, one of five Pangborn RAs for next year, hopes to promote respect among residents.

"It's the little things like talking too loudly out in the

halls when its study days," Wurtenberger said. "No. 2, we've never had a dorm trip to the zoo and I really would like to do that."

Fr. Peter McCormick, rector of Keough Hall, strived to bring together a diverse range of students for his RA team.

"When you build an RA staff, you look to build a team," McCormick said. "If I were to use a basketball analogy, you wouldn't just have all point guards or just all centers, but you have a variety of different personalities that will work together well."

McCormick said he looks forward to working with students he met during his first

year as Keough's rector.

"The biggest way that they've changed is certainly in maturity like all people [that] grow and develop but also in their love and appreciation for Notre Dame and Keough Hall," McCormick said. "I think if you were to ask all of them, they would say that their greatest desire to be an RA is to give back to a community that has given so much to them."

The Office of Residence Life and Housing will inform all RA applicants of their status on March 15.

Contact Katlyn Smith at ksmith33@nd.edu

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Fired R.I. teachers will back reforms

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A district superintendent who fired all the teachers from one of the state's most troubled schools said Wednesday she's willing to negotiate with its teachers' union after it publicly pledged to support reforms.

Central Falls Superintendent Frances Gallo said an offer made late Tuesday by the Central Falls Teachers' Union gives her hope the issue could be resolved without mass firings. The offer includes support for a longer school day and providing before- and after-school tutoring for students.

The Central Falls school board voted last week to fire 93 teachers and staff from the city's high school after the end of the school year. No more than half the staff could be hired back under federal rules.

Gallo said she wanted the union to start participating in talks aimed at improving the school that also include other parties, such as parents. She said if the plans conflict with language in the teachers' contracts, the union and school officials could then negotiate.

The teachers' union president, Jane Sessums, said she was cautiously optimistic both sides could talk. Her union is appealing the firings to the school district's board of trustees and has filed a complaint with the state Labor Relations Board, saying



Central Falls teachers' union president, Jane Sessums, left, speaks while union official James Parisi listens during a press conference before a committee meeting in Central Falls, R.I., on Feb. 23.

the firings are unfair.

"We have from the very beginning said that as long as we're back at the table, that's where we want to be," Sessums said.

State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Deborah Gist earlier ordered Gallo to choose from one of four reform options, including mass firings, to improve the high school. Only 7 percent of 11th-

graders tested this fall were proficient in math, while 33 percent of the high school students tested proficient this fall in writing and just 55 percent were proficient in reading. Less than half of students graduate from Central Falls in four years, state statistics show.

Gist earlier said the process is not a negotiation, but she also indicated that Gallo could approach her with another

plan.

"I'm pleased that the teachers have reached out and that Dr. Gallo is going to work with them in the planning process," Gist said in a written statement. "Our focus is on how we can ensure that the children of Central Falls receive an excellent education, and that is always going to be improved when all of the adults are working together."

Charges dropped against Calif. police officers

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, California — Four police officers who were present during the violent videotaped arrest of an unarmed Vietnamese college student will not face criminal charges, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Santa Clara County District Attorney Dolores Carr said there was insufficient evidence to prosecute the officers on charges they used excessive force when trying to arrest Phuong Ho, a student at California State

University, San Jose. Ho is from Ho Chi Minh City.

The Sept. 3 arrest has angered the San Jose's large Vietnamese-American community, which was already upset over the fatal police shooting of a mentally ill Vietnamese man in May.

The incident began when police received an emergency call that a man was out of control and waving a knife at his roommate. Carr said when officers arrived at the home, Ho was uncooperative and unwilling to follow orders, and when officers tried to restrain Ho, he

twisted away.

Carr noted that Ho's actions may have been a result of miscommunication with the officers about whether they had permission to go into his room.

"Nevertheless, at that point, the situation changed from an investigation by police of a man who had threatened violence against his roommates to an increasingly unsuccessful attempt by police to gain control over a physically resistant subject," Carr said.

She said one officer used a "control hold" to get Ho to the

ground but he repeatedly refused to comply with orders to turn over to be handcuffed.

"Force was used intermittently for the purpose of gaining his compliance," Carr said.

Much of the incident was caught on cell phone video taken by one of Ho's roommates. The grainy recording shows one of the officers striking Ho repeatedly with a baton and another officer using a stun gun to try to subdue him. Two other officers are at the scene later to try to help handcuff Ho, but did not use weapons.

Four social workers face fraud charges

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Four social workers were convicted Wednesday of fraud for submitting phony paperwork for visits they never made to a disabled teenage girl who weighed only 42 pounds and was covered in maggot-infested sores when she was found dead in her home.

A federal jury in Philadelphia convicted the employees of now-defunct MultiEthnic Behavioral Health Inc. of defrauding the city of millions of dollars by not visiting the family of Danieal Kelly, 14, and other needy households, then creating paperwork that claimed they did.

Kelly, who had cerebral palsy, weighed less than half her expected weight when she was found dead in 2006, an expert witness for the prosecution testified.

Company co-founders Mickal Kamuvaka, 60, and Solomon Manamela, 52, and former caseworkers Julius Juma Murray, 52, and Miriam Coulebaly, 41, were all convicted of conspiracy, lying to federal agents and multiple counts of health care fraud and wire fraud.

"Danieal Kelly paid the ultimate price for these defendants' fraud, and we hope that this is some measure of justice for her and the other children who were the victims, really, of this fraud," Assistant U.S. Attorney Bea Witzleben said.

Kamuvaka still faces trial on a state charge of involuntary manslaughter in Kelly's death. Murray, the caseworker assigned to the family, also faces an involuntary manslaughter trial and is being held pending trial this month on federal immigration charges.

Defense attorneys for Kamuvaka and Manamela argued that they were victims of "renegade" employees. Kamuvaka's attorney, William Cannon, said his client was "very disappointed" by the verdict. Manamela's attorney, Paul J. Hetznecker, acknowledged "significant" mismanagement but said his client was dedicated to social work.

Manamela, whose attorney argued that it was possible for his client to have made the required visits to Kelly's home but still to have missed evidence of her condition, declined to comment. Coulebaly, who had no direct role in the Kelly case, also declined to comment on the verdict.

Kelly's mother, Andrea, is serving 20 to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to third-degree murder.

The four are scheduled for sentencing in June. Prosecutors said sentencing guidelines indicate Kamuvaka could be sentenced to about nine to 11 years or more in prison, while Manamela could get a term of eight to 10 years. Coulebaly could face about six or seven years and Murray four or five years in prison, prosecutors said.



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Antiheroism

Not one word of "The Ballad of Billy the Kid" is true.

He was born not in Wheeling, W. Va., but rather in the Irish heart of New York City. He neither started with a bank in Colorado nor robbed his way from Utah to Oklahoma — for he was a ranch hand and some-time horse rustler, not a bank robber.

And he was never ordered to be strung up by a judge for what he had done, as the law shot him in the chest in the dark.

He may never have travelled heavy, but he did not ride alone: he was a member of the Regulators, a deputized posse who aimed to avenge the murder of their employer, New Mexican rancher John Tunstall. And while he soon put many older guns to shame, he did in fact have a sweetheart — Paulita Maxwell, who may well have served as the unwilling bait for his ambush by Sheriff Pat Garrett. In the end, the ballad is wrong even about the home he finally found: his Boot Hill grave bears the name "William H. Bonney" — the alias that would, in time, grow to mean more than "Henry McCarty" ever did.

"Every verse in this song is a lie," admits Billy Joel. "You have to imagine it's a Western movie, with the credits rolling across the screen: 'Randolph Scott. Lee Van Cleef. Clint Eastwood.'" It is not a novel thing, of course, for a musician to alter — or invent — the details of his protagonist's life for romantic effect: Rossini's William Tell and Lennon's Bungalow Bill come immediately to mind. But the Kid's life — his real life — was already wildly romantic by any reasonable standard.

What is revealing, therefore, is the form that Joel's invention takes: out of nothing, he weaves the story of a colossal anti-hero, a boy driven to rage against the gods of his world and, in his defiance unto death, become at last a man. It is the

story of one who struggles against all odds to become what each of us has it within himself to be — if only we could, like him, cast off the chains of law and order.

There is an element of the ridiculous in all of this, of course: it is only possible to identify with Billy as we do because the story that Joel has woven is maximally generic — an archetypal bank robber robbing archetypal banks and fighting archetypal lawmen. But it is worth asking why it is this particular archetype that inspires us: his fictional Kid is an outlaw who steals from the banks to whom ordinary men and women have trusted their money — and when their elected officers of the law do their duty and try to stop him, he shoots them dead. He is a thief and a murderer, differentiated from other thieves and murderers only by the magnitude of his crimes.

And yet, when that posse finally captured Billy, the cowboy and the rancher came pouring in like the sea to watch him die — in awe of his contempt for the world they had built. And their reaction is not foreign to us: when the judge at last orders Billy hung by the neck until dead, I can feel only outrage at the injustice of it — and when he is buried in his Boot Hill grave, only sorrow.

It is no great insight to suggest that each of us sees himself in this Kid — that each of us feels Billy's death as his own. The same is true, I think, of Billy's eventual rebirth in Oyster Bay, Long Island: the boy with a six-pack in his hand is every one of us, most of all Joel himself — his protests to the contrary irrelevant. "By the way, 'Billy' in this case is not me, myself and I," he insists. "He still tends bar in Oyster Bay." Which is, of course, the first real lie in all of this.

It is no mystery that each of us sees himself in the Kid — and, for that matter, in any of the great American antiheroes: these men are the real heirs to our ideals — to the land of the free and the home of the brave. Our nation was born in the

spirit of Billy the Kid — in our revolt against King and Country, in our theft of his property and our murder of his officers of the law. It is better to die, we proclaimed, than to live unfree.

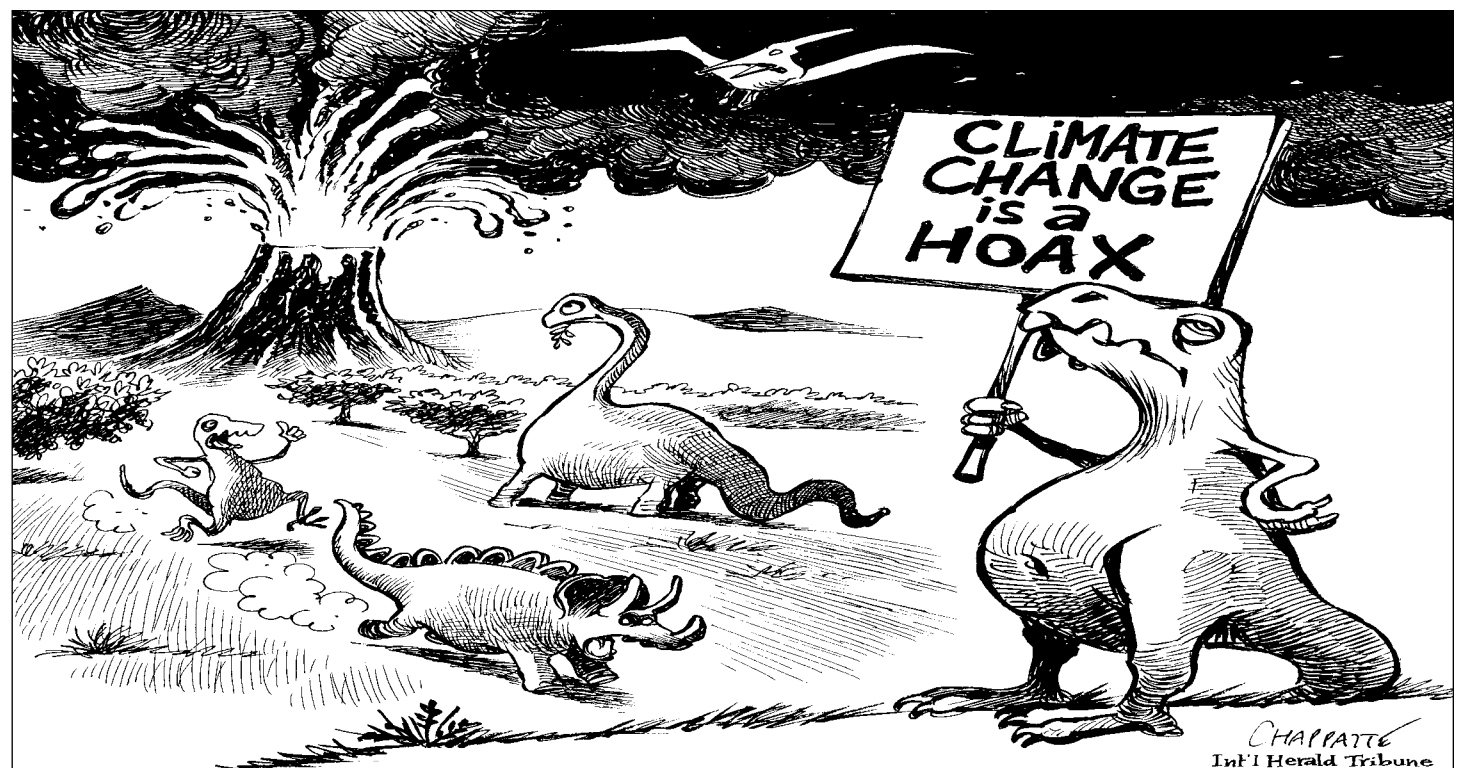
And yet, it turned out that to defend our freedoms, it was necessary to sacrifice them, one by one. This has been increasingly obvious ever since our Civil War, even if it has never been an easy thing to admit to ourselves: the power of government, corporation, and union over us grows without apparent limit. The libertarians claim that this loss of freedom is, in fact, due to a vast conspiracy — that it was done without our knowledge or consent. Which is, of course, the second real lie in all of this: we gave up our freedoms willingly, even eagerly, as did the citizens of an earlier Roman Republic. The hard truth is that men, then and now, are cowards — that they will always sacrifice their freedoms, one after another, for security. That modernity — whether in the Empire of the Romans or in our own — will always, in the end, collapse under its own weight.

I do not say this with censure: what is a man's freedom, after all, next to his wife and children and home? I do not know that he is wrong to sacrifice the former to protect the latter. But I can appreciate the tragedy of it — and so can all of us, I think, deep down. This is why we glorify our antiheroes: they have the courage to be what we do not — free. And this freedom is a dream from which we are anxious not to wake: it is who we are — or, at any rate, who we desperately want to be. In this sense, "The Ballad of Billy the Kid" is true after all.

Daniel John Sportiello is in his second year of the Ph.D. program in philosophy. Listen to his radio show on WVFI every Sunday at 4 p.m. He can be reached at dsportie@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In love, one and one are one."

Jean-Paul Sartre
French author & philosopher

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"All of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon — instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today."

Dale Carnegie
American writer & lecturer

Carry your prayer with you wherever you go

Listen up, all of you who are packing your suitcases for wherever you're going next week ... or maybe wherever you're going later today! Oops, did you forget to put your Bible in there? OK, let's think about this. You're headed out on Spring Break, which probably means a) a sweet vacation; b) an inspiring service trip; or c) time at home with the family. No matter what your week's agenda holds, here's a suggestion to make it even better. Treat yourself to a few minutes of prayer each day. Really.

Kate Barrett

FaithPoint

So let's say that a few weeks ago you decided to give up a favorite indulgence for Lent, like chocolate, pizza, beer or watching "Chuck" on TV. You may have even specified to yourself, "No desserts ... except on Spring Break," or "No caramel lattes ... except during break week." If you're cutting yourself a little slack on the sacrifices this week, why not try adding a new luxury? Try even just a few moments a day of quiet prayer. After all, the season

of Lent did not develop in the Church as "40 Days in Which Christians Give up Stuff They Like to Make Themselves Miserable." We're supposed to use this time to grow closer to God; to seek the ways in which we can prepare our hearts, growing more open to God's love, to renew the promises of our baptism. Is a Lent without your favorite snacks doing that for you? In all likelihood, you'll have a little more time on your hands than usual during this Spring Break week. Even if you didn't even specifically think "prayer" back when you established your Plan for Lent 2010, now's your chance. Add a little extra prayer every day over break, and who knows? It might stick.

Bring something, a little something, with you wherever you go next week. Whether you're headed off on a service project, out to a sunny beach, or home to hang out with family and friends, we all need a little time for private prayer. Even if you are on an organized service trip that includes Mass or other prayers, have you found some way to pray each day, just for you yourself alone?

Back to putting that Bible in your suit-

case. If yours is big and heavy, like mine; or if you have reason to believe that your Bible may face hazardous conditions while traveling (those airline luggage guys THROW your bags, you know); or if you're headed someplace with lots of sand and water, you may want to consider some other options. Do you still have the Notre Dame prayer book you received as a freshman? Bring that. Or you can pick up free "Little Black Books" of daily prayer for Lent at CoMo. "Living with Christ," another free option from Campus Ministry, contains all the Scripture readings for daily and Sunday Mass as well as a variety of other prayers and articles. Both of these, as well as other no-cost Lent resources available at CoMo, have the advantage of extreme portability, and quite frankly, none of them is of heirloom quality, so you won't mind so much having to mash it into your bag.

Are you bringing your laptop, Blackberry or iPhone with you this week? You can even access prayer websites if you'll have an internet connection. Try ndprayercast.org or pray.nd.edu for two options that will keep you from feeling

homesick while you're away from the Dome. Other good sites include sacred-space.ie or the "3-minute retreat" at loyolapress.com. For a quick daily suggestion that you can even receive via email, check out bustedhalo.com and click on their really cool Lent calendar called Fast Pray Give.

No matter which you choose, pick some kind of prayer you'll use, make any book you bring portable enough that it won't end up on your bed or desk instead of in your suitcase when you're fighting to get the zipper closed, and then do it. Spend a few minutes listening and conversing with God, reading and praying with His words; enter those websites into your wireless device; find a quiet spot and enjoy a week of days that might just help transform your journey to Easter joy.

This week's FaithPoint was written by Kate Barrett, director of the Emmaus program in Campus Ministry. She can be reached at kbarrett@nd.edu

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

Gail's legacy

A visit to ND is always bittersweet for alumni, but this week I experienced a return to campus both more sorrowful and more glorious than usual as we laid to rest my former teacher, mentor and friend Dr. Gail Walton.

Timothy P. Green

Guest Column

The funeral Mass on Tuesday was a testament to Gail's legacy — the packed pews resounded with the voices of hundreds in attendance. I have never heard the Basilica echo so loudly with such fervent singing of the psalms, hymns, and chants of the liturgy.

The Observer has recently featured testimony from Brian MacMichael and Laura Hoffman — and a beautifully-written article on the funeral by Sarah Mervosh — all of which show Gail's lasting influence upon this school and her students.

There is one group of students who deserve special commendation for their courage and poise — the members of the Liturgical Choir, under assistant director Andrew McShane, who led the sorrowful congregation in prayer and song as we said goodbye to our friend. Their performance was outstanding and beautiful — not merely in technical proficiency, but in the deep emotions which could be heard and felt behind every note.

It was one of the bravest things I have ever seen. Imagine the football team scheduled to play shortly after their coach died — and then going on to play one of the strongest, most perfect games you've ever

seen. That's what it was like to hear the choir sing so well amid their evident sorrow.

There has been much talk lately of the state of the religious identity of Notre Dame. Gail was one of its unsung architects; the music she and her choirs made for so many masses and occasions each year were among the many invisible supports helping to hold together the school's Catholic character.

Speaking with fellow choir alums this week, several mentioned they have found it hard to explain what it was like to sing with the Liturgical Choir under Gail and why it has had such a lasting influence on our lives. Perhaps if you've ever been on a sports team with a great coach who truly demanded the best of his players but also earned their complete trust; or if you've been in one of those classes where the teacher challenged you every day but also made you want to do your best; or if you've lived in a dorm at ND where the rector was tough on you but always had your back — then you might know something of the same feeling.

As Notre Dame's greatest teachers have always done, Gail taught her choir students to strive for excellence in a humble, Christian spirit. Their task is not to perform for themselves, but to serve God and others — to make the liturgy an experience that helps people to pray. They work long hours to make beautiful music, all for the greater glory of God and in service to their neighbors. In her own quiet but strong faith Gail taught her students to love this work as a

ministry, and to embrace the beauty of the Church's liturgy, and learn of its rich tradition of sacred music.

There's a classic film by the great Spanish surrealist director Luis Buñuel in which the main characters are continually attempting to sit down for dinner, but are never able to eat it, and the meal always remains untouched. A satire of bourgeois manners and social veneers, the film and the plight of its characters reminds me of my own life as a young Catholic who really only skimmed the surface of his faith for much of my life. My time with the choir opened up an entire new world — the rich banquet of the Catholic traditions of liturgy and sacred music — and propelled me into a deeper journey into the devotional and intellectual richness of the faith, which I had left untouched for too long.

I end with an entreaty to the entire Notre Dame community, and especially to the students. The richness of the Church's great tradition of worship and music is all around you at Notre Dame. Come and experience it, and support all the great choirs and everyone on campus who works so hard, even in times of mourning, to bring a bit of the beauty and goodness they have experienced to others.

Hop out of bed just a bit earlier on Sunday to get to the 10 a.m. Mass and hear the choir sing. Or, in the evening, stop by the Basilica to encounter God in the stillness of the meditative evening service of Vespers. There's no better way to calm down and prepare for the demands of the coming week than to pray and sing in a

candlelit chapel on a quiet Sunday evening.

Better still: make plans to stay on campus for Holy Week at least once during your time at Notre Dame to experience the great liturgies of the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the glorious Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. It is the high point of the liturgical year and the culmination of many hours of extra rehearsals. People come from all over to hear the special music sung only for this occasion. I once met a seminarian from Rome at the evening service of Tenebrae on Holy Thursday. He told me, "They don't even do it this well at St. Peter's."

Gail Walton was a vessel of God's grace to all who knew her. Come and experience the fruits of her labor in the fine group of young people singing in the choir — in them the richness of the Church's liturgy and the living tradition of transcendent music are preserved and celebrated. It doesn't matter if you're Catholic or non-Catholic, religious or non-religious. The human heart knows beauty.

Come and see — a rich banquet has been prepared. This courageous group of students will show you the best of what Notre Dame is all about. And they will help you to pray, as their director always taught them to do.

Timothy Green is a Notre Dame graduate of the Class of 1998 and the ACE Class of 2000.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Power and the 'R' word

It wasn't long ago that saying something sucks would garner disapproving looks and perhaps a stern talking-to. Despite the fact that "sucks" refers to what many would consider a deviant sex act, it has become a common part of our vocabulary. It's widespread usage in our vernacular has rendered the word largely inoffensive and powerless.

Etymologically, the word "retarded" is synonymous with "hindered," "delayed" or "underdeveloped." Thus, when people say, "Parietals are retarded," they are, in effect, stating that the rationale behind said policy is underdeveloped. This is a perfectly legitimate usage of the word (and arguably an accurate assessment of the situation).

When a word becomes taboo, it only

becomes more powerful. To remove the power of the word, one must remove its stigma. If we embrace the word and use it where it is etymologically appropriate, it will cease to offend, and its stigma will disappear. As such, I hereby pledge to step up my efforts to remove the power of the "R" word by using it as often as I can. Because why would we want to give a word we don't like more power? That just strikes me as an underdeveloped line of reasoning. I'd even call it retarded.

Pete Reimers
staff
Hesburgh Libraries
Mar. 3

Do Spring
right this year.
Be green.

Please recycle
The Observer.

OSCAR PROMISE

EXCITEMENT
ENTERTAINMENT
&
GLAMOUR

By BRANDY CERNE
Scene Writer

For those students not traveling to a warm beach or exotic location for Spring Break — yes, some people actually go, gasp, home — the highlight of break may just be the 82nd Academy Awards. Airing on ABC at 8 p.m. on March 7, this year's show promises all the glamour, glitz, and prestige of before, but also a new sense of fun and levity. This is thanks to producers Adam Shankman ("Hairspray" director, "So You Think You Can Dance" judge) and Bill Mechanic (chairman and CEO, Pandemonium Films), who vow to lighten up the show that sometimes takes itself too seriously.

Co-hosts Steve Martin and Alex Baldwin should also assure some quality comedy at the Oscars this year. Both will bring a comfortable stage presence: Martin has previous experience hosting the Academy Awards, and Baldwin is always a hit when he hosts "Saturday Night Live" — which he has done 14 times. The potential for the comedic interactions between the two hosts is one of the biggest reasons to tune into the awards show.

But let's get to the most important part of the Oscars (well, to some people): the awards. Most of the winners should be quite obvious, as they have been picking up every award in sight for the past few months. This is especially apparent in the Supporting Actor and

Supporting Actress categories.

Christopher Waltz ("Inglorious Basterds") will rightfully win for his turn as a cunning Nazi who spoke an impressive four languages in the film. For Supporting Actress, comedienne Mo'Nique is a shoo-in for her portrayal of an abusive mother in "Precious." What adds to the impressiveness of her performance is that before this role, Mo'Nique was mostly known as the host of several trashy reality shows.

The Best Actor award will likely go to Jeff Bridges ("Crazy Heart") as the Academy will want to honor a respected actor who has never won, despite being nominated five times.

So, why tune in if all the winners have basically already been chosen?

Well, there is still debate about who will take home the Best Actress prize. It is a tight race between Sandra Bullock ("The Blind Side") and Meryl Streep ("Julie and Julia"). Both actresses have managed to stand out in films that received only so-so reviews (despite "The Blind Side's" Oscar nomination for Best Picture).

Bullock stretched her acting chops by taking on a role much different than her usual romantic-comedy leads, which many

voters will want to reward her for. On the other hand, Streep disappeared into her portrayal of legendary chef Julia Child, and she just so happens to be the most-nominated actor in Academy Award history.

Another close call is for Best Picture and Best Director, between "Avatar" and "The Hurt Locker," and their respective directors, James Cameron and Kathryn Bigelow. One is a little-known but much-acclaimed film about a bomb disposal unit in Iraq, and the other — well, let's just say basically everyone has seen it.

If Cameron wins Best Director, it even further establishes his claim that he is "King of the World." If Bigelow wins, it would be the first Best Director win for a female, which is a huge

accomplishment. Adding to the stakes is the fact that Cameron and Bigelow actually used to be married.

If awards and competition aren't really your thing, then watch for the endless amounts of Hollywood A-list sightings. Steve Carell, Tina Fey, Sacha Baron Cohen, Kristen Stewart and Miley Cyrus have all been scheduled to present, even if some of them do not deserve to be anywhere near an awards show celebrating acting ability (I'm talking to you, Stewart and Cyrus). Past winners are also sure to walk the red carpet in beautiful couture gowns.

The Academy Awards on Sunday are a must-see for any film-lover or pop-culture addict. Unless you are lying on the beach in Florida, of course, and then you are totally excused.

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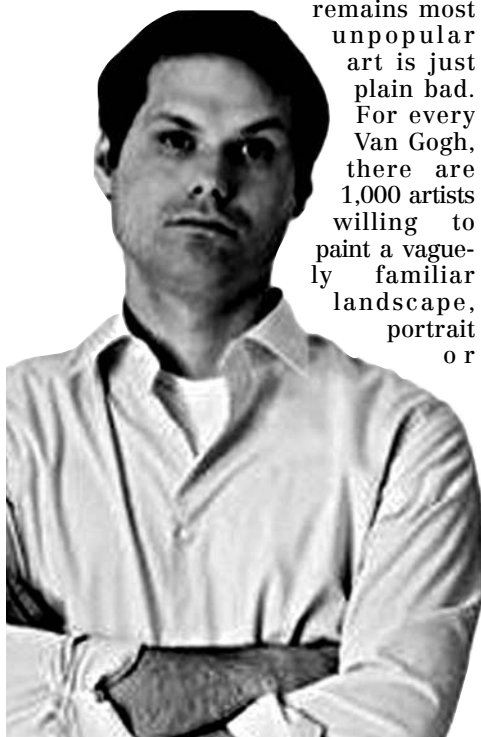


Michael & Michael Are Cancelled.

By NICK ANDERSON
Assistant Scene Editor

One of the fall back defenses to being unpopular is the tale of the misunderstood genius. Luminaries such as El Greco, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Alfred Wegener were widely unappreciated before their respective deaths but are well-respected today. While it's a great, if fantastical, comfort for those struggling to make it, the simple fact

remains most unpopular art is just plain bad. For every Van Gogh, there are 1,000 artists willing to paint a vaguely familiar landscape, portrait



ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

still life.

With that in mind, after months of speculation, it was announced yesterday that Comedy Central's "Michael and Michael Have Issues" was canceled. The short-lived series was the latest vehicle for the perpetually comedic minds of Michael Ian Black and Michael Showalter. It is also the latest piece of theirs canceled before its third season.

Both comedians cut their teeth in their mid-20s on the MTV show "The State." Back when MTV was still playing music videos, "The State" was the best sketch comedy on the air, bridging the gap between Saturday Night Live's fall from grace and HBO's equally uproarious "Mr. Show." Never truly appreciated in its time, "The State" found a cult following and, 15 years later, a long-awaited DVD release. Rumors of a full-length film have been persistent, but so far unfounded. Many of the show's alumni have gone on to successful Hollywood or standup careers, including Robert Ben Garant, Thomas Lennon and Ken Marino. None are exactly household names, but most are recognizable character actors. Black and Showalter ended up in the same situation as their costars.

Following "The State," both Showalter and Black went on to star in their most successful enterprise to date, the 2001 movie "Wet Hot American Summer." The movie again found

a cult audience — noticing a theme? The smart meta-commentary on 1980s teen comedies was directed by David Wain, a frequent collaborator with the Michaels. Again, it was a classic example of a film being critically acclaimed but ignored at the box office.

Four years later, Black, Showalter and Wain, with the support of Comedy Central, embarked on a promising partnership. Comedy Central, still searching for success in the vein of Chappelle's Show, was airing pilots from any promising comedians they could find. From this cavalier dissemination of money sprung the creative pinnacle of

Black, Showalter and Wain's career: "Stella." It was a magnificent



cent mixture of satire, wit, absurdity and dumb humor, often featuring famous guest stars and fake mustaches. The show lasted one short, 10-episode season but inspired a sold-out nationwide tour. Perhaps most insultingly, "Mind of Mencia" replaced the show.

Showalter and Black left television for a while but returned last year, again on Comedy Central. Their show, "Michael and Michael Have Issues," was a hybrid sketch show and sitcom about its two title characters, both loosely based on their own personalities, trying to make a sketch show. (They say write what you know.)

The duo lost some of its sensibility with Wain's departure, and the show dragged at times, but its glimpses of comedic gold showed promise. Seven episodes in, Comedy Central halted production, finally canceling the show months later. A DVD release with strong sales is expected, but not strong enough to ultimately bring the show back.

While consistently funny, Black and Showalter have a remarkable record of turning out failed products. Make no mistake, both make excessively comfortable livings, but it's hard to not feel bad for two intelligent comedians putting out excellent material only to see it canceled, especially in a world where "Two and a Half Men" is the top-rated comedy on TV. So please, whatever their next efforts, be it on stage, screen, or TV, buy a ticket or tune in and support the Michaels.

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TOP 5 MOVIES OF 2009

By SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

1. "The White Ribbon"

Michael Haneke ("Cache," "The Piano Teacher") creates a simple tale chronicling the strange atrocities committed in a seemingly quaint, innocent German town before World War I. A trip into the heart of darkness, "White Ribbon" is an inquiry into a certain kind of evil bred by a society left stagnant by its own strict moral code and Protestant teachings — the same society that no less than two decades later would commit atrocities that would kill millions of people. One of the most intriguing character and cultural studies ever made, "White Ribbon" succeeds for its insight into a society and culture where facades bottle up the inescapable human capacity for evil, only to unleash it in the worst of ways. This is the year's best film and the first since "There Will Be Blood" deserving of

One of the most intriguing character and cultural studies ever made, "White Ribbon" succeeds for its insight into a society and culture where facades bottle up the inescapable human capacity for evil.

being called a masterpiece.

2. "Antichrist"

Costars Charlotte Gainsbourg and Willem Dafoe give their entire selves and then some unto director Lars von Trier's bare-as-bones, uncompromisingly bleak view of human nature. The self-proclaimed "best director in the world" admitted to having suffered from chronic depression during the filming of the movie, and the film undoubtedly benefits from it, as it crosses into rare territory of being truly affecting art. Art that at once will horrify his audience, abandon it, but ultimately, attest to the true visceral power of film and its ability to not only unnerve but leave permanent scars.

3. "Inglorious Basterds"

The most fun I had at the movies this year, Quentin Tarantino's history-bending, tongue-in-cheek World War II flick about a band of bloodthirsty Jewish

Americans known only as "The Basterds" is pitch-perfect. It loses some of its gusto towards its harrowing end, and it often borders on offensive, but Tarantino and his cast — led by sure-fire Oscar winner Christopher Waltz and a brilliant Brad Pitt — "might just make this his masterpiece." Or, since we're speaking about Tarantino, just another masterpiece to put on his ever-growing mantel.

4. "Up in the Air"

What makes "Up in the Air" a deserving candidate for Best Picture is not only George Clooney's unassumingly great performance or Jason Reitman's "breath of fresh air" directing, but also the fact that the movie turns out to be something that we don't expect it to be. It's truly a movie for this time. A moving story made for all of us as we move through the recession, and in many ways, life itself.

5. "The Hurt Locker"

Director Kathryn Bigelow's muscle-

flexing, full-throttle portrayal of a special unit of bomb disarming soldiers in Iraq, "The Hurt Locker" stands as a king among men in the small but growing group of Iraqi War films.

"The Hurt Locker" is a beautiful marriage of a bare bones portrayal of human nature when the line between life and death is so thin and momentary.

What's different here is that the movie is neither action-driven, nor overly story driven, and it avoids the thus far unsuccessful pitfall of trying to pass itself off as a psychological analysis of soldiers in the heat of the current war. Instead, "The Hurt Locker" is a beautiful marriage of a bare bones portrayal of human nature when the line between life and death is so thin and momentary, and a classic tension-ridden portrayal of the heat of combat.

Films that just missed the cut: "The Prophet," "Goodbye Solo," "A Serious Man," "Hunger," "The Cove"

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10 reasons to love heath ledger



By MARY CLAIRE O'DONNELL
Scene Writer

"It's a story for every guy who has ever tried, for every girl who has ever hoped, and anyone who has ever been taken completely by surprise."

The "it" is "Ten Things I Hate About You," the witty comedy that served as the breakout hit for young stars Heath Ledger ("Brokeback Mountain") and Julia Stiles ("The Bourne Ultimatum") and launched them into stardom.

The hilarious movie is a modern day adaptation of Shakespeare's classic play, "Twelfth Night." It is the story of Kat (Stiles) and Bianca Stratford, sisters who could not be more different and who live with their excessively over-protective father. His house rule: Bianca can't date until Kat does. Bianca, the pretty, popular younger sister, has multiple guys knocking at her door, while Kat, the feminist anti-conformist, scares them all away with her acerbic tongue.

What follows is undoubtedly a solid 90-minute chick flick, but not a formulaic, overly cheesy one. The script is clever and quick, seamlessly

intertwining lines from Shakespeare with modern jokes and references. It takes an old story and proves with its modern application that The Bard and his themes are timeless.

The actors help advance the movie without allowing it to sink into the mindless stereotypes generally found in teen comedies. Although the cast was relatively unknown in 1999 at the movie's release, they brought their characters to life and helped launch their own careers.

Such stars include Ledger, Stiles, Joseph Gordon-Levitt ("(500) Days of Summer"), David Krumholtz ("Numb3rs"), and Larry Miller ("Kiss Kiss Bang Bang").

Stiles plays her character flawlessly. She nails the feminazi, driven personality of Kat, all the while making her escapades as a drunk girl and her growing affection for Patrick Verona (Ledger) believable, not just the creation of a director trying to use clichés to appeal to a teenage audience. Shining in her role, Stiles is a breath of fresh air among the usual teenage heroine who flip-flops and generally ends up abandoning her principles for the boy.

Verona is the resident

bad boy of Padua High School, around whom rumors abound because of his dark clothing and mysterious accent. Ledger sparkles in his role and is the best part of the movie, from his superb acting to his brilliant smile. He portrays his mysterious yet soft personality perfectly.

The character of Patrick is multifaceted. A senior in high school, he frequents a local bar to play pool and drink beer, but he also hands out advice on love, telling Cameron (Gordon-Levitt), "don't let anyone, ever, make you feel like you don't deserve what you want."

The movie allows Ledger to display his true acting skills. He illustrates that he can play a variety of roles and complex characters. His bad boy persona as Patrick captivates the interests of his female audience, while his boyish good looks and adorable smile melt their hearts. Even as Patrick accepts money to pursue and date Kat, it is impossible not to fall for him because Ledger allows every aspect of Patrick's personality to shine through. It also does not hurt that movie showcases Ledger wearing leather pants and later singing in a beautifully romantic scene.

This zippy comedy is one of the best chick flicks out there, pleasing to both males and females. It is appropriate for any occasion, from a pick-me-up film to a quiet Saturday night in, and it never grows old, especially now that a 10th anniversary edition is available with extra behind-the-scenes footage. Also, it is a fitting remembrance of Ledger in his youth, just over two years and one month after his sudden and untimely death.

Just be sure not to confuse this movie with the TV show on ABC Family bearing the same name and very loosely based off the movie. It is a poor substitute, though Larry Miller still shines in his hilarious role as the overbearing father.

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MLB

Upton signs six-year deal to stay with Arizona

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Justin Upton has lived with high expectations virtually since the day he picked up a baseball bat.

Now at 22, with two full major league seasons already behind him, he says he welcomes the challenge of living up to the \$51.25 million, six-year contract he signed on Wednesday with the Arizona Diamondbacks, the second-largest deal in franchise history.

With his parents Manny and Yvonne looking on proudly at a news conference, the outfielder said he understands the responsibility that comes with this big a contract at such a young age.

"I do kind of put that pressure on myself," he said. "I want to be great, that's the thing. If you want to be great, then you set your goals higher."

Upton earned his first All-Star berth last season, when he hit .300 with 26 homers and 86 RBIs.

His statistics are compared favorably with those of some of the game's greats at the same age. His OPS (on-base percent-

age plus slugging percentage) of .836 compares with the early numbers of Al Kaline, Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams, Ken Griffey Jr. and Alex Rodriguez.

"There's a lot to live up to," he said, "and I think I'm ready for that."

He gets a \$1.25 million signing bonus, half on April 15 and the rest on July 15. He receives salaries of \$500,000 this year, \$4.25 million in 2011, \$6.75 million in 2012, \$9.75 million in 2013, \$14.25 million in 2014 and \$14.5 million in 2015.

"We view him as a core player, one of our key pieces," general manager Josh Byrnes said, "and as we view the next six years the kind of guy we want to build around."

The only bigger contract in Diamondbacks' history was the \$52.4 million, four-year deal Randy Johnson signed in 1999.

"This is something you dream about. For it to come true, it really hasn't sunk in yet," Upton said. "My parents have definitely been a special part of my life to get me to this point. It's definitely a special day. I'm glad they could be here. I know

they're as happy as I am."

Upton has had the pressure of high expectations for years, following the path of his older brother B.J., who was the No. 2 draft pick overall in 2002. Justin was one better, chosen No. 1 by Arizona in the 2005 draft.

He played less than two years in the minors before being called up by the Diamondbacks one in 2007 one month shy of his 20th birthday.

Manager A.J. Hinch was newly hired director of player personnel when Upton first was signed in January 2006.

"We know him very well. We have a great relationship. To be able to have him as a centerpiece of our organization is a great advantage," Hinch said. "He's already had productive seasons and he's still got a lot of room to grow, which is exciting to see and also scary for the National League."

While he has a quick, even picturesque, swing, his form in the outfield is a work in progress. Upton had played only eight games in right field in the minors before being

installed there at the major league level in 2007.

Byrnes compared his outfield issues with "a young Vlad Guerrero," with the speed and talent to get to balls but not necessarily the finesse that comes from learning the position well.

Byrnes said that teams in markets like Arizona's have to make a move to keep their young talent as long as possible.

"We generally need to go early to deal with free agency, and we've done that in a number of cases," Byrnes said. "Their might be more risk because you're going early and you're going longer, but I think the reward justifies those types of moves."

The general manager noted that Brandon Webb would not be under contract and Dan Haren would be entering his final year had the team not signed them early. Webb is in the final year of his contract.

However, sometimes contracts can backfire. Outfielder Chris Young's performance at the plate was dismal in the wake of

the \$28 million, five-year contract he signed in 2008, although he did improve after a stint with Triple-A Reno last season.

Upton said he considered going year by year in arbitration and eventual free agency before choosing security.

"They made a comfortable deal with the years. That's something that definitely factored in," he said. "I was comfortable with their proposal and the direction that they're going."

Upton's father said he didn't sleep to well the past few nights knowing the agreement was close. Plainly proud of both sons, he said he has to work on Justin not being so hard on himself during times of adversity.

"Sometimes I have to be the sounding board to make sure he's not beating himself up," Manny Upton said.

Justin Upton said he hasn't been sleeping too well lately, either.

"But now that it's over with everyone's happy," he said. "That's all that matters."

NFL

Broncos extend qualifying offers to Dumervil, Marshall

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — The Denver Broncos are doing everything they can to keep Pro Bowl pass rusher Elvis Dumervil in blue and orange.

Brandon Marshall, not so much.

On Wednesday, the Broncos slapped a first- and third-round tender on Dumervil, who led the league in sacks last season. Other teams would have to surrender those two levels of picks in the upcoming draft if they signed the restricted free agent who stands to make \$3.168 million next season with the Broncos.

Marshall, who began and ended last season in coach Josh McDaniels' dog house but in between posted his third straight 100-catch season, received a first-round qualifying offer — which would make it easier to facilitate a trade.

Marshall would get a 14.7 percent raise next season to \$2.521 million if he's still in Denver.

The source of his discontent last summer was twofold: he

was angry with the team's medical staff for misdiagnosing a hip injury that required surgery, and he wasn't happy with his undervalued contract.

A fourth-round draft pick in 2006, Marshall argued he should be compensated like other elite wide receivers.

He set an NFL record by catching 21 passes for 200 yards and two touchdowns in a loss to Indianapolis, but just a few weeks later he showed up 20 minutes late for treatment on a pulled hamstring and was benched for the season finale.

Quarterback Kyle Orton (\$2.261 million) and guard Kris Kuper (\$2.521 million) also received first-round tender offers, and tight end Tony Scheffler (\$1.759 million) was given a second-round tender.

All five players would have been unrestricted free agents if the owners hadn't opted out of the collective bargaining agreement with the players in 2008. Among the ramifications for the upcoming season are no salary cap or floor and players have to have six years of service instead of four to

reach unrestricted free agency.

Late last season, Orton said it was a shame that players in his situation would have to wait to cash in on the free agent market because of the uncapped year that's coming in 2010, the result of a breakdown in the collective bargaining agreement between players and owners.

"It's a bad thing for the 275 players that are in that position with me," Orton said on Dec. 30. "Free agency has always been something for the players. It's always been a great thing. If you get one crack at free agency as a player, that's what you dream of."

Along with Marshall, Scheffler was benched for the season finale against Kansas City, for his attitude.

After the Broncos lost their last game, finishing 8-8 again after a 6-2 start under McDaniels, Scheffler sounded as though he'd played his last game for the Broncos.

"If they want to go in a different direction, you kind of start with this game and I wasn't involved in it," he said.



Broncos receiver Brandon Marshall, right, attempts to break out of a tackle in the Pro Bowl on Jan. 31.

Scheffler was among several holdover starters who were drafted by Mike Shanahan but who saw their roles greatly reduced under McDaniels.

"That's something you've got to deal with," Scheffler said in January. "That's why there's

32 teams."

On Wednesday, general manager Brian Xanders said the five players "are high-quality football players, and we look forward to their contributions during the 2010 season and beyond."

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 204 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

WANTED

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gradrentals.viewwork.com

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PERSONAL

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

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So long, faithful readers! My years of toiling in obscurity are through. I'd like to leave all of you with a thought that has motivated me throughout my life — Remember, you are born in this world only knowing how to **** and complain. *Never* feel like you cannot do something. MAB.

AROUND THE NATION

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

page 15

NCAA Men's Baseball USA Today Coaches' Poll

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

NCAA Men's Basketball USA Today Coaches' Poll

team	previous
1 Syracuse	4
2 Kansas	1
3 Kentucky	2
4 Duke	5
5 Kansas State	6
6 Purdue	3
7 Ohio State	9
8 West Virginia	7
9 Villanova	8
10 New Mexico	12
11 Butler	10
12 Michigan State	14
13 Tennessee	17
14 Gonzaga	15
15 BYU	11
16 Temple	18
17 Wisconsin	19
18 Pittsburgh	16
19 Vanderbilt	20
20 Georgetown	13
21 UTEP	25
22 Baylor	NR
23 Maryland	NR
24 Texas A&M	23
25 Texas	21

NCAA Men's Lacrosse USILA Top 10

team	points
1 Syracuse	200
2 Virginia	187
3 NOTRE DAME	174
4 North Carolina	165
5 Johns Hopkins	158
6 Princeton	156
7 Cornell	139
8 Duke	121
9 Loyola (Md.)	113
10 Hofstra	112

NBA



Chinese basketball fans are curious about Yao Ming's plans for his baby. Yao and his wife are currently in the United States, and if the baby were to be born here, she would be American, something some fans do not want.

Chinese ask about Yao's baby plans

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese basketball fans want to know — will Yao Ming's baby be an American?

The Houston Rockets center, who is sidelined this season with a broken left foot, recently returned to the United States with wife Ye Li. That prompted speculation among his followers that the baby girl due this summer could be born in America.

Yao's personal life is closely followed by his many fans at home, from his 2007 Shanghai wedding to the former basketball player to reports last month the couple is expecting a baby girl in

July.

Yao said before the Rockets' game on Wednesday night that where the baby is born is a "private" matter.

"We just need some space," he said. "It's just between me and my wife."

He said he appreciated the positive feedback shown by his fans.

"We're excited about a new member of the family," he said. "We appreciate everyone who has given us good wishes. I really want to say thanks for that. It's a good thing for us."

Yao's baby would be an American citizen if born in the U.S. She also could claim Chinese citizenship

as the child of Chinese nationals. However, Chinese law does not recognize dual citizenship.

A few say it would be a betrayal of China, not to mention the Chinese basketball team could be denied a future basketball star. But most say they support Yao and don't care which country claims the baby.

"Yao Ming is an individual, not a political tool," said one comment on popular basketball Web site Hoop China. "He has the right to choose where his child is born and what kinds of medical care and education will be available to her. His child's citizenship has nothing to do with

loyalty."

"Only an idiot would pass up American citizenship," said another fan on online portal sina.com, underscoring the common belief in China that life overseas is preferable.

Yao and his camp have been tightlipped on the pregnancy and have not issued any public statements on the matter. It was not clear if Yao and his wife were indeed planning to have the baby in the U.S. or how they would handle any citizenship issues.

A number of Chinese celebrities have been criticized for becoming naturalized citizens of other countries.

IN BRIEF

Beasley unsure of his World Cup status

AMSTERDAM — DaMarcus Beasley says more than a solid performance in the American attack Wednesday is needed for him to earn a spot on the U.S. World Cup roster.

Beasley entered in the 34th minute of a 2-1 loss to the Netherlands after Stuart Holden injured a shin. Beasley's long free kick was headed in by U.S. captain Carlos Bocanegra for the American goal in the 88th minute.

"It feels good to be back," Beasley said after his first match with the national team since his blunder led to a Brazilian goal in the Confederations Cup last June 18. "I need more games, and then I will try make things difficult for the coach."

After scoring twice in five games in December for Glasgow Rangers, Beasley was sidelined for two months with a thigh injury. The first match back for the 27-year-old midfielder was Feb. 14.

Giants' Tim Lincecum struggles in debut

PEORIA, Ariz. — Tim Lincecum has struggled in his spring debut for the San Francisco Giants, allowing three runs in one inning of an 8-7, 10-inning victory over the Seattle Mariners on Wednesday.

The two-time Cy Young Award winner was expected to throw two innings. He worked only the 29-pitch first and gave up two run-scoring hits.

The Giants went up 3-0 in the top of the first. In the bottom half, Ichiro Suzuki reached on an error by first baseman Aubrey Huff. Lincecum then walked successive hitters before Ken Griffey Jr. hit a sacrifice fly to right.

Jose Lopez and Casey Kotchman followed with run-scoring singles to right to tie it.

Conor Gillaspie hit a base-loaded single to left in the 10th.

Ponikarovsky misses game because of visa

PITTSBURGH — Newly acquired forward Alex Ponikarovsky won't play for the Pittsburgh Penguins against the Rangers in New York on Thursday night because he lacks a U.S. work visa.

Because Ponikarovsky became a Canadian citizen while playing for the Toronto Maple Leafs, the process for obtaining the work visa should take only a couple of days. A native of the Ukraine, he could play for Pittsburgh during Saturday's home game against Dallas.

The visa is required when a citizen of another country accepts employment in the United States.

The Penguins acquired Ponikarovsky from the Maple Leafs on Tuesday night for prospect Luca Caputi and defenseman Martin Skoula, who was subsequently traded to New Jersey for a fifth-round draft pick.

around the dial

NCAA Men's Basketball
Penn State at Michigan State
7 p.m., ESPN

NHL
Penguins at Rangers
7 p.m., Versus

MLB

New glove design to protect hands



AP
A pair of XProTeX batting gloves are displayed before a spring training game between the Mets and Braves on Wednesday.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Omir Santos tried on his new batting gloves, said to slow the impact of a harmful fastball down to the mere annoyance of a junkball, and voiced excitement.

"I think it's going to help," the New York Mets catcher said. "It sounds like it's going to work."

The latest high-tech protective product in a sport that's slow to accept innovation, the batting gloves are manufactured by the startup company XProTeX, which hired former All-Star Reggie Smith to go around spring training trying to persuade big leaguers to switch.

Bob Watson, Major League Baseball's vice president of on-field operations, said his department already has given its approval, which is necessary for all on-field gear.

"We looked at the data. No, I didn't put it on and take a fastball," said Watson, a former All-Star himself. "Now, is this going to stop all major injuries? That I can't tell you, but according to the data, it should cut down on broken bones and severe injuries coming from pitched balls."

XProTeX was formed by X Bats president Jack Kasarjian, whose company is known for supplying maple bats to major leaguers and — at about \$100 each — to youth ballplayers. After consulting the former president of the motocross equipment company SixSixOne, Kasarjian developed an impact-absorbing material called Advanced Impact Composite.

The model that was taken to spring training is the 14th generation.

"Essentially it will reduce the impact by over 60 percent, so a 100 mph fastball will be reduced to that of a 39 mph fastball, which is the difference between in a cast and being a little bit sore," he said. "It's really an area where players are very vulnerable. Their hands are their most important tool in baseball. If your hands are injured, you can't hold the ball, catch a ball, hold a bat, hit a ball."

Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon examined the gloves this week and thought back to Sept. 7, when Rays slugger Carlos Pena was hit by a CC Sabathia pitch, breaking two fingers and ending his season. Pena had an AL-leading 39 homers at the time along with 100 RBIs.

"Carlos would have hit 45 home runs last year if that glove actually works," Maddon said. "Most of the time, changes like that move at a glacier pace. Guys don't want to be the first one to try it. Somebody's going to try it and going to get hit and they're not going to break their hand or wrist, and all of a sudden everybody's going to want it. Or conversely, if somebody's not wearing it, and they do get hit and get broken, he's going to want it."

Protection does come at a price.

A quick check online shows batting glove prices for previous models run from about \$5-\$50.

XProTeX's top-of-the-line Raykr retails for \$80. It is made specifically for right-handed or left-handed batters, and has AIC protection on the outside of the hand and wrist, and the inner wrist. A step down is the \$50 Hammr, which has less protection, and then there is the \$35 Dinger, a symmetric model that protects the wrist only. There also are pads for catcher's mitts and baserunners (to prevent their fingers from being hyper-extended).

Smith says players have responded positively when he shows them the equipment.

"It's exceeded our expectations," he said. "It's the difference of being injured or being a little sore so they get to stay on the field."

But even if the gloves fit, that doesn't necessarily mean players wear them.

Kasarjian says the large equipment corporations are obstacles.

"The agents have been steering players toward these bigger companies because the companies are offering the players who are up and coming in the agents' stables deals in return for delivering the major leaguers," he said. "We're kind of bucking the culture, but we're getting people's attention really quickly. Everybody is now seeing one or two players on their team and they're asking for them."

Rawlings S100 helmet, touted as being able to withstand pitches up to 100 mph, is mandatory in the minor leaguers starting this year. The Mets' David Wright tried it for two games when he returned from the disabled list after getting beamed by a 94 mph Matt Cain fastball, then decided it was too bulky and went back to his regular helmet.

PGA

Nicklaus: Tiger will play Masters

Associated Press

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Jack Nicklaus is going to appear at next month's Masters. He thinks Tiger Woods will as well.

Nicklaus said Wednesday that "it would surprise me" if Woods did not return to competitive golf in time for the Masters, a tournament the embattled world No. 1 has won four times in his career.

"I suspect he'll play something before Augusta," Nicklaus said behind the 18th green at PGA National, where the Honda Classic opens on Thursday. "Your guess is as good as mine. I'd be very surprised if he doesn't play something before Augusta."

Nicklaus has been reluctant to comment much about Woods since the saga involving revelations of infidelity began late last year, saying more than once that someone else's private life isn't any of his business. He reiterated that belief again Wednesday after finishing his Pro-Am round at the South Florida course he redesigned.

A person with knowledge of Woods' schedule told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Woods returned to his home near Orlando, Fla. over the weekend after a week of family counseling and resumed practicing for the first time in nearly four months.

Like many, Nicklaus seemed to take that as a sign that Woods could be back sooner than later. The Masters begins April 8.

"It would surprise me if he

didn't," Nicklaus said. "I can't imagine in 100 years he's going to miss this. None of you guys do either. But I don't know. I don't know. I've been very noncommittal about anything as it's not my business. But as it relates to him playing golf, my guess is as a golfer he's going to want to try to play Augusta if he's got his other things in order."

Earlier this year, Nicklaus said 2010 would be "a big year" for Woods if he wanted to get closer to Nicklaus' record of 18 major championships. Three

of this year's majors will be on courses where Woods has been dominant before, Augusta National, Pebble Beach and St. Andrews.

Of Woods' 14 majors, half have come on those three courses. Woods has never missed a Masters or a U.S. Open since 1995.

Nicklaus is going back to the Masters, a tournament he won six times, as an honorary starter this year. He agreed to take on the role last year, and will join Arnold Palmer for the opening shot of the tournament. In time, he expects Gary Player to join them.

The honorary start is something Nicklaus never saw as a player, and he spent several minutes Wednesday talking about that after finishing the

round he played with Dan Marino, Drew Brees and saxophonist Kenny G. (For what it's worth, Nicklaus said he broke 80, after closing birdie-birdie.)

Then the questions turned to Woods.

"I didn't think I was going to have anything else," Nicklaus said.

Woods was photographed hitting balls at Isleworth on Feb. 18. One day later, he ended nearly three months of silence by speaking to a small group of associates, a statement that got worldwide attention.

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

Nicklaus was asked if Woods' presence would make the Champions Dinner, a pre-Masters tradition, different than normal.

The only man with more major championships than Woods didn't hesitate to answer.

"No. It's the Champions Dinner," Nicklaus said. "His personal life is his personal life. As a golfer, he's a sensational golfer. He's a great athlete. He'll figure out his own problems. But as a golfer, he'll come back and get his game in shape and play. That's what he does."

"As it relates to him playing golf, my guess is as a golfer he's going to want to try to play Augusta if he's got his other things in order."

Jack Nicklaus
former PGA golfer

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MLB

Royals face tough choice at 2B

Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — A dilemma as old as baseball is facing the offensively starved, defensively challenged Kansas City Royals.

Should offense be sacrificed for improved defense?

The question mark for the Royals is at second base, where Albert Callaspo in 155 games had a whopping 17 errors last season, tying for the major league lead among second basemen. His fielding percentage of .973 was the absolute worst. Some of his miscues — such as letting routine grounders skip under his glove into center field — were comical.

But the laughter stopped when Callaspo put down his glove and picked up his bat. Adding valuable heft to an offense burdened with one of the worst on-base percentages in the majors, he hit .300 and supplied plenty of pop. His 41 doubles, 11 home runs and 73 RBIs were second only to first baseman Billy Butler for the team's best power numbers.

But, oh, that defense. With Butler still learning the nuances of first base and shortstop Yuniesky Betancourt also subject to turning a routine play into high drama, tightening up the infield defense has been one of Kansas City's top goals.

Enter Chris Getz, picked up by the Royals in a trade after hitting .261 last year with the Chicago White Sox. Without doubt, the slick-fielding Getz brings hope for better defense: In 107 games last year, he committed only seven

errors and made some outstanding plays.

Getz has clearly been given the inside track at second, though Callaspo is determined to keep his job. He lost no time reminding everybody what he brings to the party, belting a home run in the first intrasquad game of the spring.

Manager Trey Hillman insists he has several options. Besides second, Callaspo might also see some time at third. But second is his best position. Sorting out what to do with Getz, Callaspo and outfielder/DH Jose Guillen could be key to Kansas City making any significant improvement from last year's last-place tie in the AL Central.

"Alberto had a great year last year offensively," said Getz, who also has speed on his resume. "He's working hard. I've just got to go out there and perform. I can't worry about what he's doing or approach anything differently. Just play it the way I've always played. Just execute the little things, play good defense, handle the bat, run the bases, and hopefully at the end of the day they'll want me at the position."

Another obvious option is moving Callaspo to designated hitter. But that might not be easy because Guillen, a career outfielder, was put there this spring when the Royals revamped their outfield.

Callaspo has no intentions of giving up anything without a fight, especially his job a second.

"I'm just going to try to do whatever they want. I'm going

to be healthy and do everything they need from me," he said. "Let's see where they're going to use me."

What has Hillman told him? "He hasn't told me nothing," Callaspo said.

Does he think he'll get a fair shot?

"We'll see. We'll see who's going to start," he said. "I'm going to try."

In the end, it might be Guillen who should worry. His status as a power hitter who is guaranteed \$12 million in the third year of a \$36 million contract will no doubt buttress his argument to be the full-time DH.

But it may not be the final argument.

"If we just go on recent history, his bat needs to be in the lineup. He was our second-most productive guy last year," Hillman said. "Alberto really doesn't have much preference of what position he plays. We've got him prioritized at second, at third and possibly at DH. We'll see where it goes. We'll get his bat in there."

While Callaspo's options are varied, Getz knows exactly what he has to do.

"Be a steady, solid infielder, make the plays that I'm supposed to make every single time, be very consistent on the double plays," he said. "You never want as an infielder to focus on making the spectacular plays. That stuff just happens. The plays you're supposed to make, you've got to make."

"That way, pitchers like having you out there and the manager likes having you out there."

NBA

Arenas shrugs off sentencing nerves

Associated Press

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

This time, though, he was simply changing into a T-shirt with the PETA logo, not removing his Washington Wizards jersey to toss into the crowd on the way to the locker room after a game.

Suspended by the NBA for the rest of the season for bringing guns to the locker room, he was giving away used fur coats to women in need on behalf of one of the few groups still proud to be associated with him: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

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

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

Asked if he was nervous, Arenas shrugged.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arenas' sentence could determine whether the Wizards will attempt to void the remainder of his contract, something the players' union would almost certainly oppose. Still, team president Ernie Grunfeld has indicated an Arenas appearance in a Wizards uniform could happen

again, saying last month: "He's part of the organization. If he wants to play, he's going to play here."

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

"You've got to remember: I've been hurt for two years before this, and so I did all my stir-crazy moments then," he said. "So now it's like 'I'm used to this, I'm used to this time off.' Just play with the kids, be a father."

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It's just like anything. When something happens, everyone flees away," Arenas said. "So I already knew all that was going to happen. But PETA, they stayed behind me, they stayed with the cause, and that's the reason I came."

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NHL

Olympic hero Miller returns to NHL duties

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Once Ryan Miller finally got home to Buffalo early Wednesday, he tossed his Olympic silver medal "somewhere" on his dresser. And when he got to the rink for practice, the goalie was thinking about playoffs, not a podium.

The surroundings were familiar and so was Miller's routine. He stepped on the ice, skated to his customary place on the Sabres logo at center and launched his usual stretching regimen.

Fun time is over for Miller. As enjoyable as it was becoming an Olympic star at the Vancouver Games, Miller's back to his regular job with the Sabres and focused on securing a playoff berth during the regular season's final six weeks.

"There's no time to really sit and reflect. Certainly, I am happy with my performance," Miller said. "I guess it's sinking in a little bit. But you come back, and you've got to get to work."

Though Miller was intent on resuming his routine, the definition of normal for him might have changed. Miller played a leading role in the U.S.' better-than-expected silver-medal performance, a run that ended with a 3-2 overtime loss to Canada in the gold medal game Sunday.

Between interviews with Ryan Seacrest and shown on NBC celebrating at the closing ceremonies, Miller — his unshaven beard, gangly body and shrug-of-the-shoulders demeanor — was selected the tournament MVP by posting a 5-1 record while allowing only eight goals.

"Heh, heh, I don't know how

it's changed too much. I've been playing goalie for a while now," Miller said, regarding his growing public persona. "It's just more people are aware of things, I guess. That's kind of what the Olympics brings out: More people are paying attention."

The attention people are paying Miller was evident before Buffalo's game at Pittsburgh on Tuesday night, when Miller was introduced as the backup and received a standing ovation from the packed house of Penguins fans.

"You don't always step into a visiting rink expecting something positive," Miller said. "It was a little surreal."

It was much of the same on Wednesday night, when Buffalo hosted the Washington Capitals. Making his first start since the Olympics, Miller received a 45-second standing ovation as he was the last of seven local Vancouver Games' medalists honored by the Sabres.

Several fans brought U.S. flags and many more chanted "USA! USA!" as Miller acknowledged the cheers with several waves from the goal crease.

Miller-mania was already apparent during the pre-game practice, which is open to the public. A larger than usual crowd of about 100 were on

hand to catch a glimpse of Miller.

"He took a country by storm and proved what he could do," said Matt Bradley, who got a seat directly behind the Sabres bench.

In Buffalo, Miller is regarded as the key to the Sabres' chances of making a deep playoff run this season. Already mentioned as a Vezina Trophy candidate, Miller ranks second in the NHL in goals-against average (2.16) and save percentage (93).

With a 30-15-7 record, Miller has accounted for all but three of Buffalo's victories this season. The Sabres (33-20-9) are fifth in the Eastern Conference, but have been slumping, going 1-6-2 in their past nine games following a 3-1 loss to Washington.

Miller picked up where he left off in Vancouver by making 37 saves against the Capitals, but ultimately it wasn't enough.

In a bid to shake up the team and bolster its offense, general manager Darcy Regier made two trades before the NHL trading deadline on Wednesday. In the more significant deal, Buffalo acquired forward Raffi Torres from Columbus in exchange for a second-round draft pick and sparingly used defenseman Nathan Paetsch.

With 19 goals this season, Torres immediately becomes

"The Olympics ... it's about great performances. You have to put up great performance after great performance, and I thought [Miller] just kept doing it and gave that team a chance to be on the podium."

Lindy Ruff
Team Canada coach



AP
Sabres goalie Ryan Miller gloves a shot by a teammate during practice in Buffalo, N.Y., Wednesday.

Buffalo's leading scorer. An eight-year NHL veteran who also played with Edmonton and the Islanders, he has 177 points (98 goals, 79 assists) in 418 career games.

The Sabres also dealt forward Clarke MacArthur to Atlanta in exchange for third- and fourth-round draft picks.

Trades aside, Regier discussed how key Miller is to Buffalo.

"He's certainly the backbone,"

he said.

Coach Lindy Ruff, who was a Team Canada assistant, became an even bigger fan of Miller after his performance at Vancouver.

"The Olympics, when you tear it all down, it's about great performances," Ruff said. "You have to put up great performance after great performance, and I thought Ryan just kept doing it and gave that team a chance to be on the podium."

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles look for strong start in Sunshine State

By KEVIN BALDWIN
Sports Writer

As Spring Break draws closer, the Belles are preparing for a demanding week of games under the Florida sunshine. Saint Mary's hopes to follow up a successful 2009 performance, in which they went 22-12 on the year in their season opening tournaments.

The team remains optimistic following a disappointing conclusion to their last season. The Belles started out very strong, standing at 22-4 at one point before fatigue set in and they struggled unsuccessfully to add another win to the record.

"Our expectations are high. We had a great season last year and sort of ran out of gas at the end, so we have been doing a lot of drills and exercises focused on finishing and coming back from being behind in games. I think our mental approach is going to be more focused on this for the season," Belles coach Erin Sullivan said.

Sullivan hopes that the team's performance in the tournament will provide a good chance to evaluate their abilities in various aspects of the game.

"Our strengths are always in hitting and solid defense. I am very confident our aggressive batting will help us score a lot of runs

and keep us in ball games," Sullivan said. "Our hitters also bring confidence to our defense as they give us a cushion to play around with."

With a veteran cast of mostly sophomores and upperclassmen, the team has a great deal of depth and experience that will be crucial in leading them on the field.

"Every member of my team is a role player. The starting pitcher is as important as the bench player who picks up on a runner stealing or the grip that gives away the pitcher's change-up," Sullivan said.

Seniors Ashley Peterson, Maureen Healy and Sara Montelongo lead the team by example, always giving a strong showing at the plate as well as on the field and can be counted on to make some clutch plays next week.

"My lone junior, Hayley Bojorquez, had six outfield assists last year and not only has continued to look great defensively, she has made a couple of adjustments at the plate that will really make her a more solid hitter," Sullivan said.

"I'm very excited for our team this year."

Contact Kevin Baldwin at
kbaldwi2@nd.edu

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Team to play first outdoor matches

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

No. 3 Notre Dame hopes to continue both its seven-match win streak and its upward climb in the rankings by beating each of the three teams it will play over Spring Break.

The Irish (10-1) have improved on their pre-season ranking by 14 spots.

Before they leave South Bend, the Irish will host Indiana Friday in their sixth straight home match.

The Hoosiers (10-2) fell out of the rankings last week and are unranked for the first time this season. Despite falling in the rankings, the Hoosiers boast a three-match win streak that includes a victory over No. 11 Tennessee.

"We're both in the state, and we usually have the best two teams in the state," Louderback said. "We have always played good matches against each other."

Notre Dame will then travel to Puerto Rico, where it will play matches against William & Mary and No. 8 Duke for its first outdoor matches of the 2010 season.

"Southern teams are tough to play early because they've been outside and we

haven't been," Louderback said.

This change will be an important predictor of Notre Dame's ability to prepare itself for the hot weather and outside conditions they will be facing for the rest of the season.

"It's so different when you have sun and wind, the ball doesn't travel as quickly.

"It's so different when you have sun and wind, the ball doesn't travel as quickly."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach

The courts tend to be a little slower," Louderback said. "It gives us a week of training in 80-degree weather which is what we'll experience in the NCAAs."

The Irish will play William & Mary (5-6) Tuesday. Though the Tribe have struggled this season, Louderback cites their age and experience as big factors that make them a legitimate opponent for the Irish.

"We haven't played them in a while, but they have some older kids and they've got experience," Louderback said. "Their results have been up and down."

Before returning home, the Irish will play their third match of the break against the Blue Devils. Though Duke (10-2) still presents a considerable threat to Notre Dame's almost perfect season, the Blue Devils are

coming off of a crucial loss to No. 6 Florida.

"Duke is the team that won the NCAAs last year, and they could win it again this year," Louderback said. "They're one of the teams capable of winning the whole thing. It's going to be a big match up, and it will be a good test for us outdoors."

To prepare for the upcoming matches, the Irish took a two-day break from practicing to recuperate from last week's busy schedule. The players were back on the courts Wednesday, working on different areas of their game to prepare for the competition ahead.

"We worked again on our doubles, and it's something we need to get better at to be able to win down the road," Louderback said. "We've done well, but I think we can do better."

The status of injured senior Kali Krisik is still up in the air. Krisik is hoping to be able to play by the Indiana game, but will have to wait and see if her health will allow it. Until then, junior Kristen Rafael will assume her position in both doubles and singles play.

"Rafael played very well, she did a great job stepping in even when we didn't have a chance to have her practice with anyone," Louderback said.

The Irish welcome Indiana Friday to the Eck Tennis Pavilion at 3 p.m.

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

ND TRACK & FIELD

Teams host Alex Wilson Invitational



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish junior Erica Watson holds off a Butler runner in the 5,000-meter run at the Meyo Invitational on Feb. 6 at the Loftus Center.

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

The Irish men's and women's teams will host the Alex Wilson Invitational this weekend, two weeks removed from the men's victory at the Big East indoor championships — its fourth in eight seasons.

Notre Dame won either the indoor or outdoor title in each of those eight seasons.

"The Big East meet was a great measure of the hard work we've been putting in, but we can't rest on our laurels," senior Daniel Clark said. "We went right back to work and are hoping to get some guys qualified for Nationals this weekend."

Clark finished third in the men's mile last weekend with a time of 4:10.71.

Clark and the Irish realize this weekend provides a new challenge for the team, he said.

"In order to have a successful weekend we need go out and compete and take our performances up another notch," Clark said.

The Alex Wilson Invitational is unique in that it is the last chance to earn a spot at the

NCAAs.

"It attracts many of the best athletes in the country, so the competition will be stiff," Clark said. "A lot of our guys are right on the cusp of making the national meet, so the challenge is we are not only racing to win a race but also to move up into the top sixteen on the descending order list."

The event at the Loftus Sports Center is named in honor of former Irish track athlete and coach Alex Wilson. He competed in the 1928 and 1932 Summer Olympics and proceeded to coach the Notre Dame team for several successful decades.

The team will not take anything they have achieved up to this point for granted.

"As our last home meet of the year, we definitely won't be leaving anything left on the track as we hope to extend our indoor season for one more week," Clark said.

Clark and the Irish are familiar with success, and they expect that trend to continue this weekend at home.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

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ND SOFTBALL

Irish take win streak to Calif.

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's seven-game win streak will be tested on a lengthy, nine-game spring break trip to California.

"Each team we play presents a different challenge for our team," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "As long as we play our best softball, and play it consistently, we will be prepared for each team throughout the week."

The Irish (8-4) went undefeated in their last two weekend tournaments.

"Our bats are hot and we are coming off of a weekend where we played good, consistent softball," Gumpf said.

This weekend, the Irish will participate in the UC Riverside Aten Construction Tournament in Riverside, Calif. They are scheduled to play Ohio State, East Tennessee State and UC Riverside in the tournament.

The toughest of these teams looks to be the No. 14 Buckeyes, who have already raked in 10 wins this season

and are climbing the NCAA rankings.

"[Ohio State] did not lose much from their squad in 2009, and they have continued to pick up this season where they left off last year," Irish assistant coach Kris Ganeff said. "They have been hitting the ball extremely well during this first three weeks of the season and hitting with power."

After the UC Riverside tournament, the Irish will play Cal State Northridge Wednesday in Northridge, Calif., before traveling to Long Beach for the Long Beach State Invitational, where they will play Buffalo, San Diego, UNLV, Long Beach State and Purdue.

"Although it seems like many games in a short span, it's pretty typical," Gumpf said. "As long as we are in a good rhythm, it shouldn't be a struggle at all."

To prepare for the competition this weekend, the Irish have been working on all facets of their game in live-game situations.

"Our hitters need to see as much live pitching as possible, and our pitchers need to see as many live hitters as possible," Ganeff said. "Game situations are vital. Our goal is to never have anything happen in a game that the team hasn't already seen in practice."

Both Gumpf and Ganeff cited one big disadvantage going into the two tournaments. As the recent weather has inhibited the Irish from playing outside, the defense is having difficulty dealing with switching from practicing on turf to playing on dirt.

"It is a difficult transition," Ganeff said. "I think it does put our defense at a disadvantage, but thus far we have done a pretty good job and kept our errors at a minimum."

In terms of the rest of the season, the Irish are using these early, non-conference games to prepare themselves for the conference games that will come later in the season.

"I do think it is important that we go out to California and have a strong showing because it is going to show where everyone in the conference really stands as we head into the Big East Season," Ganeff said.

Contact Molly Sammon at
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ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

No. 20 Dartmouth comes to new field

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

Coming off an impressive scoring display in a 15-10 victory over Duquesne Saturday, the No. 8 Irish will look to continue their winning ways in a home matchup Sunday against No. 20 Dartmouth.

The Big Green (0-1) will be the toughest collegiate opponent Notre Dame (2-0) has faced this season.

Irish coach Tracy Coyne stressed the importance of this non-conference, out-of-region game in the grand scheme of their season.

"This is a really important early season matchup for us," Coyne said. "In order to get a high seed in the NCAA Tournament, we need to beat teams out of our region, and Dartmouth is a nationally ranked opponent."

Coyne had high praise for the Big Green, but said she felt confident in Notre Dame's ability to knock off the visitors.

"Dartmouth is a fundamentally sound team," Coyne said. "They have 11 returning starters and certain style of play that we have to prepare for."

In order to prepare for such a formidable foe, the Irish will

develop their own scheme to attack Dartmouth's game plan.

Several improvements must be made, however, to beat a stronger opponent.

"I was disappointed we gave up 10 goals [against Duquesne]," Coyne said. "We need to work on defensive shifts, defensive transition and keeping hard pressure on the ball."

Coyne also said the Irish need to keep pressure on the ball during high-pressure rides, making sure the opposing offense does not get an easy outlet pass. The importance of transition defense is magnified by the fast-paced style of Notre Dame, especially against the fundamentally sound Big Green, Coyne said.

The Irish have a medley of scorers that can put one in the back of the net at any point in the action. Nine different players scored goals Saturday, and eight of Notre Dame's 15 goals Saturday were assisted by five different passers.

Junior midfielder Kailene Abt had four goals against Duquesne and sophomore attack Maggie Tamasis had four assists.

The Irish will host Dartmouth Saturday at noon in the new Arlotta Stadium.

Contact Matthew Robison at
mrobison@nd.edu

The Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism

The Department of Art, Art History and Design is pleased to announce its annual competition for the Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism. Current Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit essays on any topic in the history of art or art criticism for consideration in the competition. Essays must deal with the visual arts. They may have been written in conjunction with a course taken at the University, but need not have been.

Rules governing the competition are available in the Art Department Office, 306 Riley Hall.

Two copies of the submission must be delivered to the Art Department Office by 4:00 PM, Thursday, March 18th to be eligible.

A student may only submit ONE entry.

Errors

continued from page 24

with the team outdoors this week to help simulate actual playing conditions.

“Right now I think our infielders in general have been having a good week of practice,” Schrage said. “I think from that standpoint we need to get better. The biggest thing over the weekend was we really struggled with balls in the air. That’s been our focus this week.”

Notre Dame will take on Harvard (0-0), Kansas State (6-2) and Stetson (3-5) in the two-day tournament before heading to Edinburg, Texas, for a two-game series against Texas-Pan American (4-1). The Irish will play five games in five days, including a double-header Saturday, but Schrage said his team can only approach the road trip one game at a time.

“Right now we’re only worried about Harvard,” Schrage said. “We’re staying with our approach of just focusing on the game ahead. Once we start looking too far in advance and trying to figure out wins and losses, that’ll kill you. Right now we’ve got a lot of things to work on before we play Harvard this week.”

In addition to defense, Notre

Dame will look to improve an offense that struggled to plate runners last weekend. Unable to score early, the Irish fell behind and failed to mount a comeback.

Schrage said a lack of plate discipline was the ultimate cause of his team’s offensive struggles. Irish hitting instructor and assistant coach Scott Lawler has been working with the hitters in practice

in an effort to guide players back to the basics.

“Coach Lawler talked to them yesterday about our approach,” Schrage said. “We hit some home runs early in the season and sometimes the team gets the tendency thinking they need to hit home runs to score

runs. When that happens, you get a lot of fly outs.”

Based on the results in practice, Schrage said Lawler’s advice has been met with success.

“We got back to the process of taking the pitch up the middle, hitting everything back up the middle, moving runners, hitting behind runners, hitting and running,” Schrage said. “When we do that we’re a very, very good offensive club.”

The Irish will face Harvard Saturday at 11 a.m., Kansas State Saturday at 3 p.m. and Stetson Sunday at 4 p.m.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

“We hit some home runs early in the season and sometimes the team gets the tendency thinking they need to hit home runs to score runs. When that happens, you get a lot of fly outs.”

Dave Schrage
Irish coach



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish freshman Kyle Palmieri skates to defend a Michigan player during Notre Dame’s 5-3 win over the Wolverines on Feb. 27. The Irish will face Ohio State in the CCHA Tournament this weekend.

CCHA

continued from page 24

they met so long ago should help the Irish.

“You have to [forget about the regular season],” he said. “That is why I think playing a team we haven’t faced since the very beginning of the season will benefit us. It’ll be more a fresh mindset.”

Along with that fresh mindset, Jackson said he hopes the playoffs bring the Irish a new style.

“We’re going to have to be a different team going into the playoffs,” Jackson said. “We’re going to have to play really good defensively, get good goaltending and make

sure we do a good job with the puck.”

The good goaltending will start with freshman goaltender Mike Johnson, who has anchored the Irish defense with 12 consecutive starts since January 15, and Lawson will lead the defense, as he has for the past four years, with a disciplined approach.

“This time of year, you can say what you want, but it’s just everyone is going to show up and put their best effort on the ice,” Lawson said.

“Whoever is going to have the discipline to come out and best execute their system, that’ll be huge.”

Lawson has moved up to fourth in Notre Dame history in games played with 159 in

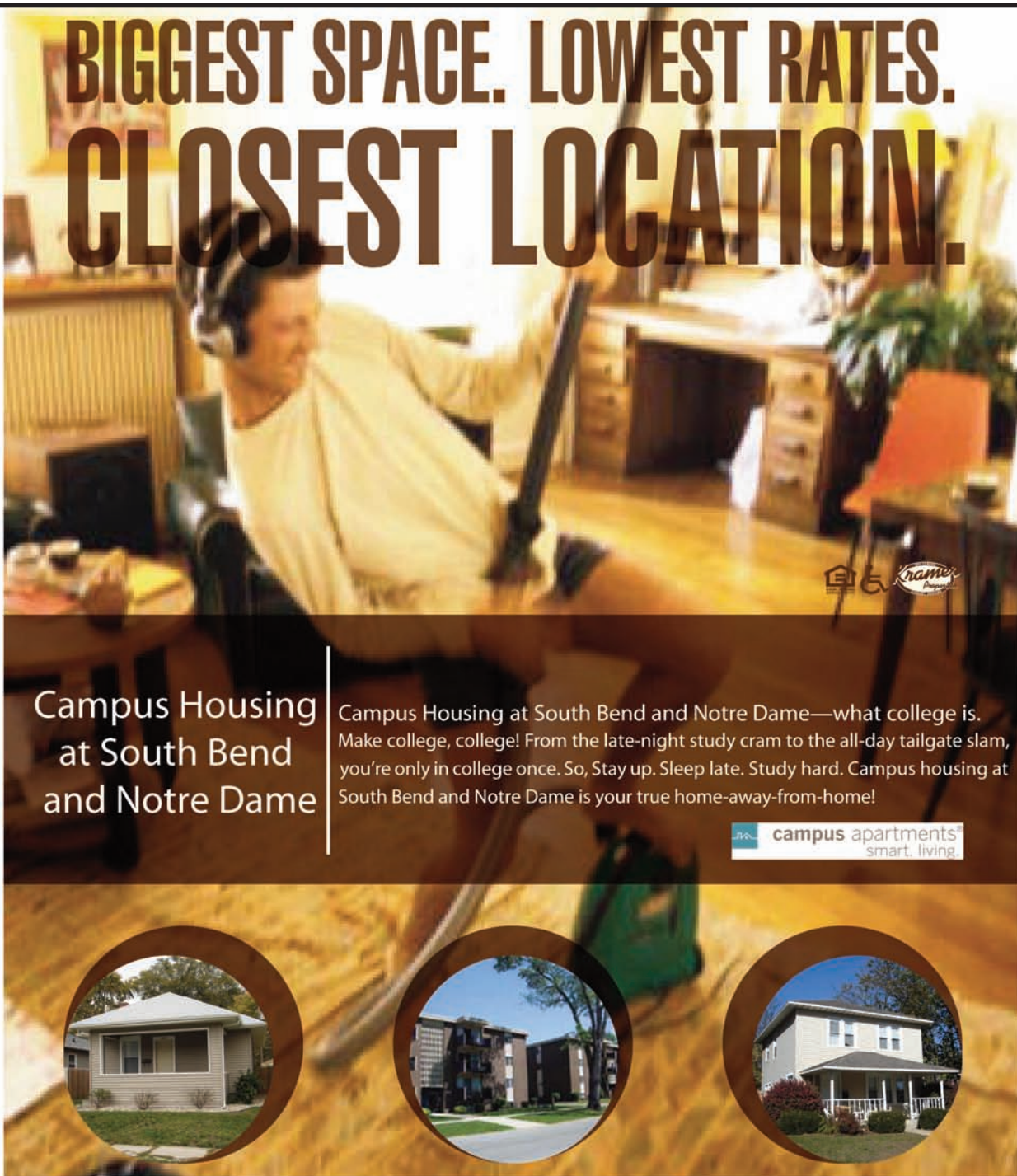
his career, and while he knows any weekend could hold the last games of his college career, Lawson said he wouldn’t put it past this Irish team to make a run.

“It’s almost a relief in a sense with the type of year that we’ve had,” he said. “Obviously the year didn’t go completely the way we wanted it to, but it’s not over yet. Now we have a chance to make a run and make something special happen.”

Lawson and the Irish will try to start a special run Friday at Ohio State at 7:05 p.m. The Saturday and Sunday games — Sunday only if necessary — will also be at 7:05 p.m.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

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Seniors

continued from page 24

and attempting no foul shots. In the second half, however, Jackson scored 20 points and the Irish shot 61 percent from field goal range.

"I didn't want to go out that way," Jackson said.

The Irish (20-10, 9-8 Big East) have now won three straight games, all without the help of senior forward Luke Harangody, who has a bone bruise in his knee that is taking some time to heal.

With the loss, Connecticut fell to 17-13 (7-10). Junior forward Carleton Scott had a double-double, scoring 12 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. He blocked three shots, and Brey said he altered about five more.

"I want him to alter shots," Brey said. "I told him I don't care if you goaltend two or three."

Huskies freshman guard Kemba Walker scored 15 points, but senior forward Stanley Robinson had only six points in 35 minutes and senior guard Jerome Dyson shot 2-of-14 from the field.

Notre Dame struggled to find good shots early in the game. Connecticut's size made penetrating the paint difficult. The score stayed close early, but a

9-0 Huskies run gave Connecticut a 13-6 lead and forced Notre Dame to take a timeout with 10:46 left in the half.

Notre Dame battled back, and four quick points from junior forward Tim Abromaitis, a big dunk and a transition layup, cut the lead to 18-14 with 7:28 remaining.

The scoring remained limited in the rest of the half: Connecticut led 20-14 with 5:44 remaining in the half and no one scored until Scott hit a 3-pointer with 2:44 left to cut the lead to three. Notre Dame was 0-for-8 from 3-point range until this point.

"Offensively we were into, 'Burn it to single digits, back screen for Tory.'"

Mike Brey
Irish coach

Then Jackson took over.

Notre Dame took the lead in the first two minutes on a reverse layup from Jackson and Scott's second 3. A

pull-up jumper from Jackson uncorked the Purcell Pavilion noise and forced a Connecticut timeout. Jackson scored 11 points in the first 10 minutes of the second half, while Connecticut scored only six points in that span, and Notre Dame led 37-26 with 9:54 remaining.

"I love it," Scott said of Jackson's explosion. "We see him in practice, we know he's capable."

Jackson said he felt he had

to step up, specifically because Walker was guarding him.

"I had a young guy guarding me, so I had to take advantage of it," he said. "I felt like I had to use my power drive on him."

The Irish held the ball for a long time to slow the game down in the second half, Brey said.

"Offensively we were into, 'Burn it to single digits, ball screen for Tory,'" he said.

Notre Dame led 43-32 with 5:58 remaining after senior guard Ben Hansbrough's two free throws, his first points of the game. Jackson's layup with 2:13 left put Notre Dame ahead by 12, but Dyson and Walker cut the lead to six with 54 seconds remaining.

That was as close as they would get.

Brey said the team has made a good push towards NCAA Tournament consideration, both because of its play and because of the strength of the conference.

"We should have the most teams in the Tournament," he said. "I think we've got nine or 10. We certainly have a very powerful resume now."

Note:

Brey said Harangody will be re-evaluated in the next few days and his status for the game at Marquette Saturday could change. He said the chances were slim, but he wanted to leave the door open because there has been improvement.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Trip

continued from page 24

Loyola (Md.) in the Face-Off Classic. Notre Dame and Loyola (2-0) join a top-notch field at the Classic, featuring No. 6 Maryland against No. 9 Duke and No. 7 Princeton against No. 5 Johns Hopkins. Notre Dame and Loyola are the last of the three top-10 matchups Saturday.

"[Loyola is] a very skilled team that is playing very good lacrosse right now," Corrigan said. "They have a little bit of a chip on their shoulder — they didn't get into the [NCAA] Tournament

last year and feel like they are one of the top teams."

The Irish will then travel to Philadelphia to face Drexel before finishing their trip in Houston against Fairfield.

"It's a great week for our team," Corrigan said. "It's three very good games, and it's tough to play three games in seven days like that."

Despite the busy week on the field, Corrigan said the players still relish spring break.

"They are just like any other students. They can get ground down over the first

eight weeks of school, and then they have midterms to deal with," he said. "No question the break comes at a good time and it will be good for the guys."

Corrigan said he does not expect the Irish to let their minds completely vegetate, but instead to take a slight rest.

"It will be nice, for the first 10 days our guys can really

focus on lacrosse," Corrigan said. "They don't have work to do. They don't have classes."

"No question the break comes at a good time and it will be good for the guys."

Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach

Without the classes, senior goaltender Scott Rodgers, named a candidate for the 2010 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award, senior attack Neal Hicks and the rest of the Irish

will be expected to properly prepare for Loyola.

"We're just worried about Loyola on Saturday right now. We'll take them as they come," Corrigan said. "It's very boring but if you approach it in any other way, that is when you run into trouble."

Notre Dame meets Loyola Saturday at 4 p.m., Drexel Tuesday at 4 p.m. and Fairfield on March 13 at 1 p.m. (CDT).

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

Schrader

continued from page 24

scoring with 11.2 points per game.

The Irish will look to rebound quickly from their loss to Connecticut and build some momentum heading into the NCAA Tournament.

The Irish will tip-off on Saturday at noon against either Pittsburgh or Louisville in Hartford, Conn.

If the Irish can defeat the Panthers or Cardinals, they'll play a rematch against St. John's on Saturday in the quarterfinals at noon.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu



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UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

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Invites Nominations for the

Sheedy Award

Each year, the Sheedy Award, named for a former dean of the College of Arts and Letters, honors **one** member of the Arts and Letters faculty for outstanding teaching.

Both students and faculty are invited to submit nomination letters for this year's award to:

Stuart Greene
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
104 O'Shaughnessy Hall

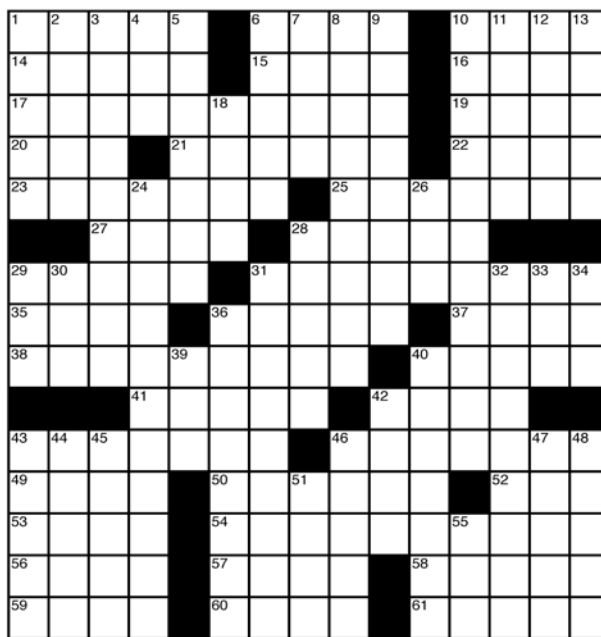
Deadline
Monday, April 15, 2010

Please recycle The Observer.

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Lounging sites in lounges
 - 6 Chocolat au ____
 - 10 Pump, in a way
 - 14 Hatch at a hearing
 - 15 The Mountain of Fire, to 23-Acrosses
 - 16 "Come ____ these yellow sands, / And then take hands": Ariel in "The Tempest"
 - 17 Scalding castle weapon
 - 19 Gas brand that's also an Italian pronoun
 - 20 Former Saturn
 - 21 En ____ (on tiptoe)
 - 22 Prefinal game
 - 23 Person of olden times
 - 25 Like stocks and reference books
 - 27 About
 - 28 Four-bagger
 - 29 Spinal parts
 - 31 Airs
 - 35 It's not Occidental
 - 36 Coarse-woven cloth
 - 37 Influence
 - 38 Not direct at all, as gossip
 - 40 Follows
 - 41 Square, maybe
 - 42 Source of many a bead
 - 43 Like a crucifix
 - 46 Not normal, as a gene
 - 49 A gun, slangily
 - 50 Chooses
 - 52 Follower of harvard. or yale.
 - 53 ____-food industry
- Down**
- 1 Queen of Spain's Juan Carlos I
 - 2 Acrylic fiber
 - 3 The last Holy Roman emperor
 - 4 Marksman's skill
 - 5 Some marksmen
 - 6 Kosher
 - 7 Lots
 - 8 Approved, in a way
 - 9 Having star potential
 - 10 Resigned response to tragedy
 - 11 Emasculate, say
 - 12 Response to "Who's there?"
 - 13 Animal-like
 - 18 What the "poor dog" had in "Old Mother Hubbard"
 - 24 A pharaoh vis-à-vis Horus, in Egyptian myth
 - 26 Advent mo.
 - 28 Size two. sav
 - 54 What 17-Across and 10- and 24-Down all conceal
 - 56 ____-Aryan
 - 57 "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs" playwright
 - 58 ____ a time
 - 59 Foreshadowing
 - 60 Villain
 - 61 Bathhouse wear



Puzzle by Raymond C. Young

- 29 "What's up wit ____?"
- 30 Suffix with freak
- 31 Talking silly
- 32 It may help close the deal
- 33 Wee bit
- 34 M.O.
- 36 "Star Wars" droid, informally
- 39 Passbook abbr.
- 40 Real somebody
- 42 Not go for a drive?
- 43 1894 opera set in Egypt
- 44 59-Acrosses, in Italian
- 45 Head of government?
- 46 Lonette of "The Cotton Club" and "Malcolm X"
- 47 Mitchell of Apollo 14
- 48 Common nickname for a cowpoke
- 51 Hwy. planner
- 55 Suffix with mescal

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

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Biel, 28; Julie Bowen, 40; Jackie Joyner-Kersey, 48; Herschel Walker, 48

Happy Birthday: Partnerships will be important this year. Your ability to speak from the heart will put you in a key position. This is a year of great opportunity if you follow through. Changes at home will affect the way you proceed in your professional life. A move or change of scenery will help you establish your future achievements. Your numbers are 3, 10, 12, 22, 28, 37, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Dig deep and find out all you can about anyone with whom you want to partner. The amount of time and effort you put in will be recognized and rewarded. Take action instead of waiting for someone else. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Offer a helping hand. An unusual approach to the way you do things will generate interest in you, personally and professionally. Love is in the stars but don't get involved with someone who is not available. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Getting involved in a group or with an organization will not be in your best interest and can lead to a costly venture. Put your efforts into your own creative ideas. Meddling will be a waste of value time. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change of scenery will do you good. A romantic adventure will open your mind and heart to new possibilities. Make sure you have taken care of unfinished business that you have with someone else. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Use your imagination coupled with your intuition when dealing with investments, renovations or any financial changes. Expect someone to put pressure on you regarding a change at work. Travel if it will help you close a deal. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Love is on the rise and a unique situation can bring about sudden changes to your lifestyle or living arrangements. Take another look at an old idea and you will figure out a way to make it successful. Entertain at home. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take one of your talents to the next level. Present what you have to offer with determination and confidence. An opportunity to make a difference to someone in need will strengthen your reputation and help you gain recognition. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do not take no for an answer and you will discover how easy it is to get others to do things for you. Love is in the stars and an interesting conversation will enable you to pose a question you have been reluctant to ask in the past. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful what you say and do. If you have been holding back or refusing to be upfront and honest, someone will force you to confess, leaving you in a vulnerable position. Don't make promises you don't plan to keep. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep life simple. Don't travel or attend events that may pose a threat to your well-being. Emotional upset can be expected. Before responding to the information you receive, take time to contemplate. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There is money to be made if you expand an idea you have, turning it into a service that is in demand. Take care of legal and financial matters so that nothing stands in your way. Preparation will be the key to your success. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can manipulate any situation you face with your charm and ability to make everyone feel important. A love relationship will be under the spotlight and can lead to a new and very different lifestyle. Confidence and drive will help you get your way. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive and insightful. You look for the unusual, you think big and you enjoy taking others by surprise.

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

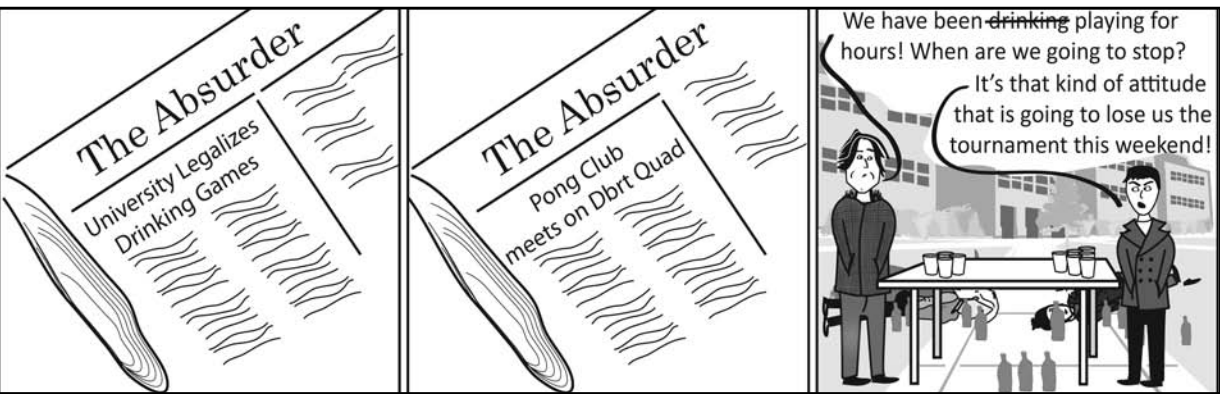
SCHAD & FREUDE

WILL GUAPPONE & BRI KRAFCIK



T.I.N.D.

DAN POHLMAN



JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

CHENE

GISEE

DYGOTS

GLOONB

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PANDA DRONE AROUSE FROSTY
Answer: What the sailors were given to clean the back of the ship — A "STERN" ORDER

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Closing statement

Jackson stars in huge Senior Night victory

By **BILL BRINK**
Sports Writer

When it was over, Tory Jackson grabbed a microphone and verbalized his performance to the Purcell Pavilion the only way possible — he screamed at the top of his lungs.

Jackson smiled his way through a second half filled with reverse layups and forced turnovers and drove the Irish to a 58-50 win over Connecticut Wednesday.

"Isn't it fitting that Tory Jackson would not let us lose on Senior Night?" Irish coach Mike Brey said.

Jackson scored 22 points and had four steals. Points weren't cheap in this game: The first half ended with Connecticut ahead 20-17. Notre Dame trailed by three despite shooting 23.5 percent in the first half, making 1-of-11 3-pointers

see SENIORS/page 22



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Senior guard Tory Jackson reacts after sinking a layup late in Notre Dame's 58-50 win over Connecticut on Senior Night Wednesday. Jackson scored 20 of his 22 points in the second half.

BASEBALL

Basics will be focus in Florida

By **CHRIS MASOUD**
Sports Writer

Like much of the student body, the Irish will flee the South Bend cold for warmer temperatures in Florida. But Irish coach Dave Schrage said he is more interested in seeing his players master their fundamentals than work on their tans in the two-day Stetson Bright House Invitational in Deland, Fla.

"The two biggest things are playing better defense, one, and the second thing is to get our starting pitchers to go deeper into games," Schrage said. "We're into the third week in, and we have to start getting them into the seventh inning."

Defense plagued Notre Dame (4-2) during the Big Ten/Big East Challenge last weekend, as the Irish fielders committed 13 errors. Schrage said he worked

see ERRORS/page 21

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

No. 6 Irish enter Big East tournament as No. 5 seed

By **JARED JEDICK**
Sports Writer

The No. 6 Irish will head to the Big East Championship this weekend after earning the No. 5 seed and a first-round bye. Notre Dame will face the winner of No. 12-seed Pittsburgh and No. 13-seed Louisville on Saturday.

Notre Dame (25-4, 12-4) just missed earning a second-round bye as well. Its confer-

ence record matched that of No. 4-seed St. John's, but the Irish lost the head-to-head matchup, 76-7, on Feb. 16.

The Irish are also seeded behind national No. 1 Connecticut (30-0, 16-0), No. 7 West Virginia (26-4, 13-3) and No. 12 Georgetown (25-5, 13-3).

The Irish fell to Connecticut for the second time Monday in a 76-51 home loss. If both were to advance, Notre Dame would end up facing the

Huskies in the semifinals of the conference tournament.

But first the Irish will await the winner of the first round match-up between Pittsburgh (16-13, 6-11) and Louisville (13-16, 6-11).

Each team presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities for the Irish.

Freshman guard Skylar Diggins enjoyed one of her best games of the season against Pittsburgh on Feb. 6 in an 86-76 Irish win. She

posted career highs with 23 points and 10 rebounds.

Notre Dame also outscored the Panthers in the paint, 46-34, as well as out-rebounding them, 38-32.

Louisville, on the other hand, gave the Irish problems early in the game when the two teams played on Jan 19. The Irish fell behind by as many as 12 points in the first half against the Cardinals.

The Irish rebounded in the second half, though, using an

eight-minute run with 20 turnovers and no Louisville field goals to secure the 78-60 win.

Back in the lineup is senior forward Lindsay Schrader, whose weeklong absence after a sprained ankle coincided with Notre Dame losses to St. John's and Georgetown.

Schrader leads the team with 6.9 rebounds per game and is third on the team in

see SCHRADER/page 22

MEN'S LACROSSE

ND to meet top teams on trip

By **DOUGLAS FARMER**
Sports Writer

While their classmates travel hundreds of miles in pursuit of warm weather, the No. 3 Irish will travel thousands of miles — 3,727 to be exact — in pursuit of stiff competition. If things go according to plan, they'll find both top competition and fun during their Caribbean Spring Break.

"It's always a good trip in terms of team bonding," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "We spend a lot of time together ... It's a busy week."

No. 3 Notre Dame (2-0) will begin its spring break slate Saturday with a game in Baltimore against No. 10

see TRIP/page 22



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish senior midfielder Grant Krebs works upfield against a Maryland defender in Notre Dame's 7-3 loss on May 10, 2009.

HOCKEY

'Fresh start' for team at conference tournament

By **DOUGLAS FARMER**
Sports Writer

The buzz words have finally changed.

For the past two months the Irish (13-1-5-8, 9-12-7-2 CCHA) have spoken of "momentum" and "talent in the locker room," but, no matter what the week's catchphrase was, the weekend held a disappointment of some order — disheartening losses or another injury to the already depleted lineup.

Heading into the first round of the CCHA playoffs at Ohio State (12-16-6, 10-12-6-4) this weekend, Irish

coach Jeff Jackson and senior alternate captain Kyle Lawson both spoke of a "fresh start" in the "second season."

"Our team is capable of doing big things," Jackson said. "It's just a matter of them believing it right now. I think going into this second season, it is important for us to recognize that it is a fresh start."

Notre Dame last met the Buckeyes on Halloween weekend. The Irish won the first game of the two-game series 3-1, and fell in a shootout the second night. Jackson said facing a team

see CCHA/page 21