

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 44 : ISSUE 104

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Basketball fans mad for tourney

By MEGAN DOYLE and SAM STRYKER
News Writers

As March Madness approaches and the Irish anticipate their tournament experience, some Notre Dame students will forfeit sunny afternoons at the beach for the lights of Madison Square Garden over their Spring Break.

The No. 4 Notre Dame men's basketball team begins its quest for a championship in the Big East Conference tournament tonight as they square off against Cincinnati at 7 p.m. in New York. The quarterfinal game marks the next step in the team's journey to a championship season.

If the team wins tonight, the Irish will play again in a semifinal game at 9 p.m. Friday evening.

Sophomore Mickey Gardella said he could not remember the last time he missed the Big East tournament.

"My dad and I go every year," he said. "I have been an ND fan my whole life so we always try to go to some of those games ... but we see other teams play as well."

Gardella, a New Jersey native, will travel home for spring break Friday. If Notre Dame wins Thursday evening, he will join the Leprechaun Legion at 9 p.m. Friday to cheer on the team in the semifinals.

The Notre Dame contingent in New York is typically smaller than at a home game in the Purcell Pavilion, Gardella said.



"It's not the atmosphere of a home game here but it is still a high level of basketball," he said. "Usually we are outnumbered in terms of fans ... but it is still a great experience."

Notre Dame students from the surrounding area and members of the band typically join the stands to support the team as they play for the Big East title.

"We had a great finish to the year, and we are very hot right now," he said. "But we don't know what will happen."

The depth of the Big East Conference could help the team handle the heat of NCAA tournament competition, Gardella said.

"I think that would help us against a team like BYU or San Diego State that has not played the



MAGGIE O'BRIEN/The Observer

Students cheer on the Irish at the men's basketball game vs. Gonzaga on Dec. 11. Notre Dame won the game 83-79.

see FANS/page 3

SGA Association discusses printing access

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

After debate, Saint Mary's Student Government Association (SGA) passed a motion Wednesday to install a printer in Holy Cross Hall before the current administration ends its term April 1.

Student body president Rachael Chesley said she will work to implement this project in coming weeks with student body vice president Laura Smith and Residence Hall Association (RHA) president Marianne Jones.

"We will work on setting a max print limit, a time limit and developing an overall control plan for the printer," Chesley said.

Chesley and Jones met with Coordinator of Student Computing Kathy Hausmann to gather information about

see SGA/page 4

UN group, businesses, to meet at ND

The UN Global Compact Principles

Businesses should:

- 1 Defend human rights;
- 2 Work for fair labor;
- 3 Protect the environment;
- 4 And fight corruption.

BRANDON KEELEAN/The Observer

By ADAM LLORENS
News Writer

Government representatives and top business executives will meet on campus with the United Nations Global Compact Foundation next week to discuss their

goals to end extreme poverty around the world.

The Mendoza College of Business will host the conference from March 20 to 22. The United Nations Global Compact began in 2000 and established 10 principles for the betterment of humanity.

Business professor Fr. Oliver Williams is one of the directors of this conference.

"The United Nations founded the compact in 2000," Williams said. "The compact is made of 10 principles for companies to abide by and incorporate into their daily practice."

Companies join the Global Compact and promise to protect human rights, labor rights, environmental issues and anti-corruption practices. The Development Goals specifically outline 10 goals to significantly relieve poverty by 2015.

To sign onto the Compact, the president of a company must write a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations indicating an interest in joining and promising to write a report each year indicating how the company is progressing in implementing the

see UN/page 5

Habitat auctions historic window

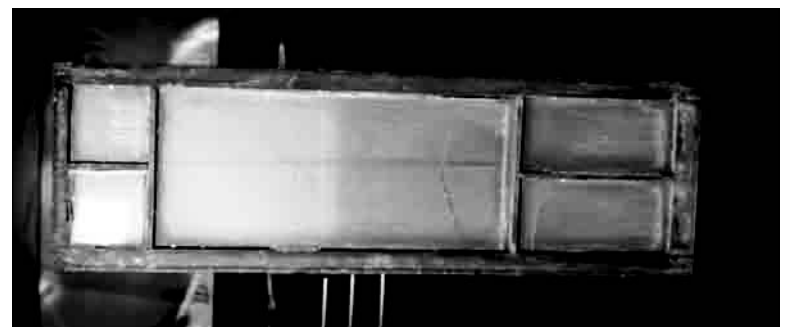


Photo courtesy of Lou Pierce

A former Main Building window is being auctioned off by Habitat for Humanity to raise funds for various building projects.

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

Notre Dame fans can now purchase a window from the Main Building to add to their collection of University memorabilia.

One of several windows

removed from the Main Building in 1997 will be included in an auction hosted by the St. Joseph County chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

Jim Williams, executive director of the local Habitat chapter, said current bids for the win-

see WINDOW/page 4

THE OBSERVER

P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Douglas Farmer

MANAGING EDITOR

Madeline Buckley

BUSINESS MANAGER

Patrick Sala

ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Sam Werner

ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Laura Myers

NEWS EDITOR: Laura McCrystal

VIEWPOINT EDITOR: Michelle Maitz

SPORTS EDITOR: Douglas Farmer

SCENE EDITOR: Jordan Gamble

SAINT MARY'S EDITOR: Ashley Charnley

PHOTO EDITOR: Dan Jacobs

GRAPHICS EDITOR: Blair Chemidlin

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Lillian Civantos

AD DESIGN MANAGER: Amanda Jonovski

CONTROLLER: Jeff Liptak

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR: Joseph Choi

OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO

(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 obsrvad@nd.edu

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

(574) 631-4542 dfarmer1@nd.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 mbuckley@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS

(574) 631-4324 swerner@nd.edu, lmyers2@nd.edu

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.nd@gmail.com

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 obsviewpoint@gmail.com

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 observersports@gmail.com

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 jgamble@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

acharn01@saintmarys.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@gmail.com

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS

(574) 631-8839

THE OBSERVER ONLINE
www.ndsmcobserver.com

POLICIES

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame du Lac and Saint Mary's College. Editorial content, including advertisements, is not governed by policies of the administration of either institution. The Observer reserves the right to refuse advertisements based on content.

The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Douglas Farmer.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$130 for one academic year; \$75 for one semester.

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

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

The Observer is a member of the Associated Press. All reproduction rights are reserved.

TODAY'S STAFF

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| News | Sports |
| Megan Doyle | Andrew Owens |
| John Cameron | Cory Bernard |
| Tori Roeck | Mike Todisco |
| Graphics | Scene |
| Brandon Keelean | Mary Claire |
| Photo | O'Donnell |
| Suzanna Pratt | Viewpoint |
| | Meghan |
| | Thomassen |

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE OLD CARTOON?



Adriana Luna
senior
Welsh Family

"Peanuts."



Andrew Diaz
junior
Keough

"Rugrats."



Christian Estrada
freshman
Dillon

"Tom and Jerry."



David Riehm
senior
Stanford

"Captain Planet."



Michael Korczynski
fifth-year senior
Dillon

"Darkwing Duck."



Tamara Jones
sophomore
Ryan

"CatDog."

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



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Sophomore Katie Bodie leads the Modern Stations of the Cross Wednesday in Sorin Chapel. Sophomore Class Council sponsored the ceremony, which recounted the Passion of Christ, for Ash Wednesday.

OFFBEAT

Fugitive comes out of hiding for wife's lasagna

ROME — He avoided Italian police for a decade on the run, but couldn't resist his wife's lasagna. Police say Giancarlo Sabatini went into hiding in 2000, shortly after being given a 3-year, 8-month prison sentence in a cocaine trafficking case.

Acting on a tip, police staked out the homes of Sabatini's wife and daughter Tuesday in Rocca Priora, a town near Rome. When they spied the daughter leaving her mother's house and furtively dashing toward her home bearing a tray of lasagna, police, suspecting a secret guest, burst in and arrest-

ed Sabatini.

Many Italians prepare lasagna with meat sauce for lunch on the last Tuesday of Carnival. Police say Sabatini came from his hideout in Belgium to celebrate the last day before Lent with his family.

Swedish robber caught because of urine left behind

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — A Swedish bank robber forgot to cover his tracks and left three bottles of urine behind after hiding inside a bank vault in Copenhagen for three days. The 27-year-old man and his accomplice used the bottles to relieve themselves after sneaking into the vault on a Friday in

May and remaining there until the bank opened again the following Monday.

While inside, the robbers emptied 140 safety deposit boxes of at least \$500,000 in cash and jewelry. But Prosecutor Frederik Larsen said Wednesday they forgot to take the urine when they left "so we were able to get their DNA samples from the bottles."

The evidence helped prosecutors win a 21-month prison sentence for the Swede on Tuesday. His accomplice is still at large and the loot hasn't been recovered.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A Hospitality Lunch, hosted by the Stone Soup Community and sponsored by the Center for Social Concerns, will be held today in Geddes Hall at 11:45 a.m. A \$5 donation is suggested.

The Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering is sponsoring a seminar today titled "Acoustic Metamaterial: Recent Advances and Applications" that will be held in 138 DeBartolo Hall at 3:30 p.m. The speaker is Dr. Hsin-Haou Huang of Purdue University.

Today, the women's lacrosse team will take on Ohio State at Arlotta Stadium at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for students.

The Math for Everyone lecture series, hosted by the Department of Mathematics, continues today with "Probability in Lookup and Scream." Christopher Swanson of Ashland University will be leading the talk at 5 p.m. in 117 Hayes-Healy Center.

The keynote address of the Greed Conference titled "Excess, Greed and the World they Created" will take place tonight in the Notre Dame Conference Center in McKenna Hall at 6 p.m. James Surowiecki, economist for The New Yorker and author of The Wisdom of Crowds will be giving the address.

The film "On the Bowery" will be shown tonight in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 6:30 p.m. The film earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary in 1957. Tickets are \$3 for students.

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

| | TODAY | TONIGHT | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| LOCAL WEATHER | | | | | | |
| | HIGH 35 LOW 33 | HIGH 33 LOW 28 | HIGH 44 LOW 34 | HIGH 42 LOW 29 | HIGH 36 LOW 29 | HIGH 39 LOW 28 |

STUDENT SENATE

Group discusses senator turnover

By MEL FLANAGAN
News Writer

With student government turnover approaching on April 1, Student Senate discussed ways of improving the senator transition workshop for incoming senators at Wednesday's meeting.

Oversight Committee Chair Paige Becker said the student government constitution requires this transitional workshop to take place when old senators step down and new senators take over the positions.

"It's supposed to provide some background for incoming senators on Senate," she said. "For example, the role of senators, parliamentary procedures, time constraints, commitments."

Many current senators said the training should emphasize the importance of communication with other dorm leaders. Farley senator Leslie Tatlow said the workshop leaders should recommend the senators meet with their hall presidents regularly.

Knott senator Alex Kasparie proposed holding a few joint meetings a semester with both Senate and Hall Presidents' Council.

"I know it's a large group of people, but I think it could be constructive for the whole stu-

dent body," he said. "It would really help facilitate cooperation."

Similarly, Pasquerilla East senator Julie Doherty said an event for the incoming senators to meet and get to know each other would greatly reduce any discomfort felt at the first few meetings.

Besides attending weekly Senate meetings, senators are also expected to serve on two committees, such as the Academic Affairs or Social Concerns Committee.

Chair of Academic Affairs Committee AJ McGauley said the workshop should stress that senators are required to not only attend the committee meetings but also to be involved.

"As senators on the committee, you are the bulk of the working force," Cavanaugh senator Tegan Chapman said.

Chapman said while there are other people on the committees, it is important for the incoming senators to realize a large part of the effort is their responsibility.

"[Non-senators] don't feel they have to step up and do work," she said. "But it's part of your job, you got elected to do that."

Contact Mel Flanagan at
mflanag3@nd.edu

SMC reps discuss women in science

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
News Writer

Young women should study biology, chemistry and engineering to increase the female presence in the science field, four Saint Mary's representatives said on local television Friday.

The women appeared on "Economic Outlook," a program on the local public television station WNIT.

The show featured Dr. Nancy Nekvasil, chair and professor of the Department of Biology, and Dr. Toni Barstis, professor of chemistry and director of the College's dual degree engineering program. Erin Heck, a 2008 graduate, and senior Tara Hill also appeared on the program.

The show addressed women's power to help the nation regain its competitive edge in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

"About one third of the U.S. students intending to major in engineering switch majors," said Phil D'Amico, host of "Economic Outlook" and a member of St. Joseph County's Chamber of Commerce.

The majority of students who make this switch are not women, D'Amico said, but the panel agreed students should begin education in science courses at a young age to foster interest.

Barstis said sixth to eighth grade is a crucial time to influence children, but she said

conversation about STEM classes and careers with children should start even earlier.

"Everyone's a scientist if they're curious," Barstis said.

Nekvasil said STEM classes sometimes are resisted in elementary schools.

"Through no fault of their own, elementary education teachers are not terribly comfortable doing science," Nekvasil said. "There have been many studies done that show they're pretty comfortable with English and history, so they spend their day doing that."

Students are not exposed to STEM curriculum because it does not receive enough attention in the classroom, Nekvasil said.

"Science gets pushed to the end of the day and then maybe 10 minutes and maybe not every day of the week," she said.

Teachers need to better engage students by supporting interest in the science and using hands-on lesson plans, she said.

Saint Mary's has dedicated nearly 150 years to educating women in the science field, Nekvasil said, and the College encourages students to push themselves in the STEM fields.

"The Department of Chemistry/Physics and the Department of Biology welcome young women to enter and complete our programs," Nekvasil said. "We promise small classes, individual attention, opportunities for

research, opportunities to learn lab skills and opportunities to grow into confident young women. The more women we graduate in biology, chemistry, engineering and math, the more we are contributing to STEM careers in the world."

With the help of Saint Mary's curriculum and teachers, Hill said she realized the vast possibilities for careers in the STEM field as she began working toward her biology major.

Hill said she originally feared she would be restricted to careers in either education or medicine by choosing to study science. After her experience in Saint Mary's classrooms and study abroad, Hill discovered her passion for public health.

Other students should realize the opportunities available in the sciences, Hill said, and outreach programs such as those provided by Saint Mary's can be a mechanism for educating younger women.

Among these outreach programs was Hypatia Day at Saint Mary's Feb. 26, when middle school girls attended science classes and labs on campus.

Saint Mary's will host "Celebrating the Education of Women in Science" Day on March 24 to emphasize the way women can be involved in the field.

"[Science] is not hocus-pocus and it's not just for men," Nekvasil said.

Contact Caitlin Housley at
chousl01@saintmarys.edu



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND LETTERS

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 teaching and research faculty for outstanding teaching.

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

JoAnn DellaNeva
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
104 O'Shaughnessy Hall

Deadline
Monday, March 28, 2011

Fans

continued from page 1

schedule we have," he said.

Junior Andrew Fessler said his pilgrimage to Madison Square Garden for the Big East tournament is also an annual tradition.

"I used to go a lot when I was younger," he said. "I've been going to one or two games a year for as long as I can remember."

Fessler said the Notre Dame basketball team would enter the tournament with a different vibe this year than in seasons past.

"I've always been a big Notre Dame fan and expected them to do well, even though they haven't always been good," he said. "The difference is this year everyone expects them to do well, not just me."

This particular tournament is special for Fighting Irish fans because of high expectations for the team this year, Fessler said.

"It is really important to the fans because they have never done that well in the Big East tournament, so this year is exciting," he said.

Fessler said the performance of the basketball team in the Big East tournament will dictate how well the Fighting Irish play in the NCAA championship.

"It's always important because we're going against other top ranked teams," he said. "It really impacts who we play in the tournament."

The team's success during the regular season should attract a larger fan base to Madison Square Garden, Fessler said.

"Usually the teams that had more fans were from the area, like Syracuse or Saint Johns. They are obviously closer for a fan commute," he said. "Most of the schools are closer than Notre Dame, but Notre Dame has a national fan base that other Big East teams don't have."

After the Big East tournament comes to a close Saturday evening, Notre Dame will turn its attention to the NCAA tournament. The March Madness first round schedule will be determined March 12, and tournament games begin March 15.

Sophomore Lauren Rasch said though she will not be attending the Big East tournament, she is excited to watch the competition over her Spring Break.

"I'd like to [watch some games]. I'll be with my dad. He is an alum so he is excited to watch the games with me," she said.

Rasch said she is more excited for this year's tournament because of how successful the Fighting Irish have been in the regular season.

"I guess we're fair-weather fans," she said.

Notre Dame needs to do well in the competitive Big East tournament in order to set the tone for the rest of the championship season, Rasch said.

"We need to do well so that we will continue having momentum," she said. "We're the number two seed, so hopefully we will do well and meet and exceed expectations, and continue."

Rasch said she has high expectations for the Fighting Irish this spring, both in the Big East tournament and the NCAA championship.

"I think we will do well. I think we expect them to win some games," she said. "It would be really exciting to win the whole thing."

Rasch said the Notre Dame student body seems more excited for the basketball team than in years past.

"I'll walk into [LaFortune Student Center] and there will be games on and there will be a big group crowded around cheering," she said. "[There are] a lot of Leprechaun Legion T-shirts around."

Contact Megan Doyle at
mdoyle11@nd.edu and Sam Stryker at sstryk01@nd.edu

SGA

continued from page 1

installing a printer in the building. Printers existed in the dorms in previous years.

According to Chesley, SGA will be single-handedly responsible for the funding of installation and maintenance of dorm printers. Information Technology (IT) will not support this initiative, although SGA received a green light to continue with the project.

"In our discussion at the last meeting [with Hausmann], we were told that they will not share a budget with us," Chesley said. "We will pay for the paper and toner. [IT] will not pay for it. They will help with installation but that's it."

SGA began pursuing this initiative at the beginning of the semester. Although the entire board welcomed the idea of dorm printers, the group debated about the lack of a print limit, the responsibility of SGA in maintaining the printers and the cost factor.

"The print limit is set up on the administrative network," Chesley said. "Since the printer will not be connected to this network, students will be able to print free of charge."

Several board members expressed concern over the possibility that students will exploit the lack of print limit. Chesley, Smith and Jones said they are looking at solutions to prevent students from taking advantage of unlimited printing.

Another concern was SGA's responsibility for maintaining the printer.

Student Activities Board president Allie Courtney said the manpower required to take care of the printer is a critical factor in the decision.

"It's very difficult to maintain a printer, as we've seen with the

printer in the student center, and we need to really think about if we have the necessary manpower or not to handle this printer."

The board also discussed projected costs.

For the remainder of the year, the estimated cost of buying and maintaining a printer in one dorm is \$3,460, the group said. This cost covers the price of the printer (with scanning and copying capabilities), two toners and three packages of paper.

The estimated cost was provided by Hausmann based on previous use of printers in the dorms.

After a vote, SGA approved senior class president Kelly Lyons' motion to install a printer in Holy Cross Hall before the end of the current administration. This decision does not ensure that the following administration will continue to support and pursue the dorm printer initiative.

SGA also hosted a visit by interior designer Laura Connell during the meeting. Connell, working closely with the SGA LeMans Hall basement project committee, brought fabric samples and a design board that depicts the plan for the renovation of the hall.

"The plan is to create a group area where everybody can just hang out," Connell said. "It's not a study space, but a place to relax after a long day. You don't want it to feel like a basement."

The renovation plan includes a kitchen area with a booth setup, a gaming area with two tables with backgammon and checkerboard games built into them, a movie area and a "chill zone" which will have bean bags and two chase lounges, Connell said. All of the furniture is custom designed and made-to-order. The ship date for the furniture is April 5.

Contact Megan Loney at mloney01@saintmarys.edu

Architect speaks on city design

By ALLISON FACHETTI
News Writer

Leaving the planet in better shape for future generations through good city planning should be a goal for both architects and citizens, said visiting architect Dhru A. Thadani Wednesday.

Thadani, a Bombay native, discussed the five crises Americans face in city planning today and the lessons he learned about urbanism from living in India during a lecture at Bond Hall.

"Urbanism is a perspective solution to the crisis we face today," he said.

Thadani drew on his experiences working around the globe to support his points.

"When you work in the city, you really need to think beyond defining the little elements of the building, but the space you are making ... being an architect not just of the building, but of the city," Thadani said.

He described the problems of population growth, the post peak oil era, climate change, public health and housing supply and demand. He compared working with climate change to "fighting a sumo-wrestler."

"America is addicted to oil," Thadani said. "Most other countries in the world including India are experiencing the same thing."

Large homes are a problem for levels of supply and demand in the housing market, Thadani said. The market does not meet the demand for single household homes, but the supply of large homes will exceed its demand for the

next 40 years.

"We are building the wrong type of product," he said.

While these challenges can cripple good urban design, Thadani said city planners can learn from mistakes made in cities around the globe, such as his native Bombay. He said life in the city has declined in the past 35 years but was once a strong model for urbanism.

"This collection of buildings were designed to look like London, so when someone was arriving, they would feel like they were coming to a place that was familiar and civilized," Thadani said. "It was an amazing place to grow up."

While American cities such as Washington, D.C., improved in recent years, Bombay's architecture took backwards steps, Thadani said.

"D.C. has made all the right steps, taken the advice of planners ... Bombay has done the reverse, it has pretty much destroyed the beautiful British city," he said.

Bombay is now a model for how not to plan a city, Thadani said. Bombay built "skywalks," or bridged walkways above the street, and fences to prevent pedestrians from crossing the street.

Thadani said architects need to remember streets are made for people and should be accessible to them.

"It is really ludicrous to send pedestrians up flights of stairs to walk across," he said.

"Pedestrians need to be on the street level, that is where they belong."

Thadani also said architects must remember that "small is

beautiful."

Many cities, including Bombay, are embracing high rises, he said, but these areas will never be home to someone who is used to living in a low-rise building. According to Thadani, the key in building cities is through incremental growth.

Thadani said urban planning should also be more conscious of the environment in its efforts to go green.

Everyone wants to go green, he said, but in some ways these efforts do not help the environment. Building maintenance, such as cleaning, should be sustainable as well as the overall building design.

"Covering a building in green fluffy stuff doesn't make it green," he said. "I predict architects will build buildings that look like vegetables."

Building codes are another challenge to good city planning, Thadani said. Examples of well-designed neighborhoods like Washington, D.C., or Georgetown would not comply with many building codes if being built today.

"Most good urbanism all over the world is illegal," he said.

The last lesson Thadani presented was creating beauty in architecture. He said taxpayers deserve beautiful infrastructure, such as the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, since that property belongs to everybody.

"You can't forget about beauty," Thadani said. "It is not only beautiful plans and buildings, but also beauty in infrastructure."

Contact Allison Fachetti at afachett@nd.edu

Window

continued from page 1

dow have escalated to \$500 as of Tuesday. The auction will close at 6 p.m. on Friday.

"This window would fit perfectly in an Irish pub, and for an alumni or a big fan it would be a great piece," Williams said.

The proceeds from the auction will benefit both the Notre Dame Habitat for Humanity club and the Habitat clubs of several local high schools.

Notre Dame's Habitat chapter will use its portion of the proceeds to fund its current construction project, and Williams said it is fitting that the windows from the Main Building should contribute to a University project.

"The Notre Dame student chapter was looking for some funding for their build, so the timing could be really good on this," Williams said.

Habitat received the windows from a former Pella Windows and Doors plant in South Bend. Pella originally used the windows as templates to construct replacement windows for the building.

Habitat bought the plant in May 2010, Williams said, and now uses the space as a ReStore location. ReStore is the building materials warehouse operated nationwide for Habitat chapters. The window is currently on display at ReStore alongside a bidding sheet. Bids can be made in person or over the phone with ReStore.

Deborah Olmstead, co-president of the Notre Dame Habitat chapter, said the club was doing its part in promoting the auction.

"Our club is reaching out to our alumni and donors to inform them of this fantastic opportunity to own a piece of Notre Dame History," Olmstead said. "Selling a physical part of the Main Building means a lot to us, especially since many members of our club now know what installing a window entails."

Local high school chapters will use proceeds from the auction and their other fundraising efforts to finance their signature "Rock the House" build in the South Bend area.

Williams contacted the University to verify that the windows were used in the main building and to get the University's permission to sell one of the windows.

Charles Lamb, assistant director of University Archives, verified the authenticity of the windows.

The exact age of the windows has yet to be determined. Lamb said the window was in use as early as 1966 but might be much older.

The window could possibly be as old as 1879 when the Main Building was rebuilt after a fire.

Habitat for Humanity is working to determine the window's exact age. Williams is in contact with University Architect Doug Marsh, and he said they hope to have a definite answer before the bidding closes on Friday.

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers8@nd.edu

MIDWEST BLACK MAN'S



THINK TANK

"CHANGING YOUR COLLAR"

March 26—27, 2011

Speakers



Take Off:
Mr. Myron Rolle
Rhodes Scholar
NFL Athlete
Tennessee Titans
Philanthropist



Cruising Altitude:
Mr. Kenny Harris, P.E.
County Engineer
Maricopa County
Department of Public Works
Phoenix, Arizona



Landing:
Rev. Dr. James L. Byrd
Retired Psychology Professor
Presiding Elder of the A.M.E. Church
Twenty-eight years devoted to public ministry

Schedule

Saturday • 10:00 a.m.
Debartolo Hall • 141

Mr. Myron Rolle
Mr. Kenny Harris
Rev. Dr. James L. Byrd

12:30 p.m.

Complimentary Lunch

3:00 p.m.

Individual Sessions with
Notre Dame Career Counselors

Sunday • 8:45 a.m.
Busara Roadtrip

Jim Crow Museum of Racist
Memorabilia

Adults\$20

Students\$10

Includes Transportation & Lunch

For More Information Contact:
G. David Moss (574) 631-5550



Wisconsin GOP cuts collective bargaining

Republicans bypass Democrats, approve proposal limiting public workers' rights

Associated Press

MADISON — The Wisconsin Senate succeeded in voting Wednesday to strip nearly all collective bargaining rights from public workers, after Republicans outmaneuvered the chamber's missing Democrats and approved an explosive proposal that has rocked the state and unions nationwide.

"You are cowards!" spectators in the Senate gallery screamed as lawmakers voted. Within hours, a crowd of a few hundred protesters inside the Capitol had grown to several thousand, more than had been in the building at any point during weeks of protests.

"The whole world is watching!" they shouted as they pressed up against the heavily guarded entrance to the Senate chamber.

All 14 Senate Democrats fled to Illinois nearly three weeks ago, preventing the chamber from having enough members present to consider Gov. Scott Walker's "budget-repair bill" — a proposal introduced to plug a \$137 million budget shortfall.

The Senate requires a quorum to take up any measures that spends money. But Republicans on Wednesday took all the spending measures out of the legislation and a special committee of lawmakers from both the Senate and Assembly approved the revised bill a short time later.

The unexpected yet surprisingly simple procedural move ended a stalemate that had threatened to drag on indefinitely. Until Wednesday's stunning vote, it appeared the standoff would persist until Democrats returned to Madison from their self-imposed exile.

"In 30 minutes, 18 state senators undid 50 years of civil rights in Wisconsin. Their disrespect for the people of Wisconsin and their rights is an outrage that will never be forgotten," said Democratic Senate Minority Leader Mark

Miller. "Tonight, 18 Senate Republicans conspired to take government away from the people."

The state Assembly previously approved the original proposal and was set to consider the new measure on Thursday. Miller said in an interview with The Associated Press there is nothing Democrats can do now to stop the bill: "It's a done deal."

The lone Democrat present on the special committee, Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, shouted that the meeting was a violation of the state's open meetings law. The Senate's chief clerk said hours later the meeting was properly held.

Senate convened within minutes of the committee meeting and passed the measure 18-1 without discussion or debate. Republican Sen. Dale Schultz cast the lone no vote.

"The jig is now up," Barca said. "The fraud on the people of Wisconsin is now clear."

Walker had repeatedly argued that collective bargaining was a budget issue, because his proposed changes would give local governments the flexibility to confront budget cuts needed to close the state's \$3.6 billion deficit. He has said that without the changes, he may have needed to lay off 1,500 state workers and make other cuts to balance the budget.

Walker said Wednesday night that Democrats had three weeks to debate the bill and were offered repeated opportunities to come back, but refused.

"I applaud the Legislature's action today to stand up to the status quo and take a step in the right direction to balance the budget and reform government," Walker said in the statement.

The measure approved Wednesday forbids most government workers from collectively bargaining for wage increases beyond the rate of inflation. It also requires public workers to pay more toward their pensions and



Opponents of Gov. Scott Walker's budget-repair bill demonstrate at the Wisconsin State Capitol Wednesday.

double their health insurance contribution, a combination equivalent to an 8 percent pay cut for the average worker.

Police and firefighters are exempt.

Walker's proposal touched off a national debate over union rights for public employees and prompted tens of thousands of demonstrators to converge on Wisconsin's capital city for weeks of protests.

Wednesday's drama unfolded less than four hours after Walker met with GOP senators in a closed-door meeting. He emerged from the meeting saying senators were "firm" in their support of the bill.

For weeks, Democrats had offered concessions on issues other than the bargaining rights and they spent much of Wednesday again calling on Walker and Republicans to compromise.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald said earlier that Republicans had been discussing concessions offered by Walker, including allowing public workers to bargain over their salaries without a wage limit. Several GOP sena-

tors facing recall efforts had also publicly called for a compromise.

"The people of Wisconsin elected us to come to Madison and do a job," Fitzgerald said in a statement after the vote. "Just because the Senate Democrats won't do theirs, doesn't mean we won't do ours."

Union leaders weren't happy with Walker's offer, and were furious at the Senate's move to push the measure forward with a quick vote. Phil Neuenfeldt, president of the Wisconsin state AFL-CIO, said after Wednesday's vote that Republicans exercised a "nuclear option."

"Scott Walker and the Republicans' ideological war on the middle class and working families is now indisputable," Neuenfeldt said.

While talks had been going on sporadically behind the scenes, Republicans in the Senate also had publicly tried to ratchet up pressure on Democrats to return. They had agreed earlier Wednesday to start fining Democrats \$100 for each day legislative session day they miss.

U.N.

continued from page 1

Principles, Williams said.

The company must address the specific goals, which include abolishing of child labor, eliminating discrimination and using environmentally friendly technology.

"If globalization in the world's economy is going to continue, it must be done in a fair manner," Williams said.

The problem that the U.N. was noticing was that many businesses based in multinational countries were producing the majority of their products in developing nations.

After they drafted the compact, Williams wrote to the organization to offer his help in spreading awareness about the cause. The United Nations responded and asked Williams to host a conference at Notre Dame for both United Nations and business leaders.

"In 2002, we hosted the first conference here with a number of companies attending," Williams said. "Since the first conference, over 6,000 businesses have signed onto the compact."

Four years ago, the United Nations contacted Williams again and asked if he would be on the board of directors for the UN Global Compact Foundation. Williams and his colleagues have since funded the development of the compact in third world countries.

"Companies need to practice better ethical standards, and consumers need to be aware of where their company makes its products and process by which they do so," Williams said. "This is one of the major points which will be touched upon at this conference."

A number of prominent companies will visit campus at the upcoming conference, including Coca-Cola, Microsoft, Nestlé and Levi Strauss.

In addition to raising awareness of company malpractice such as sweat shops, the conference will look at businesses' role as humanitarians who are able to use some of their power to jumpstart impoverished nations.

The United Nations' decision to hold the conference at Notre Dame is another cause for hope, Williams said.

"Notre Dame strives to teach both the hearts and minds of students so they will be able to use their talents to help others," Williams said. "The United Nations finds our values congruent with their own."

The Mendoza College of Business has already implemented some of the values and deals to be discussed at the conference in its educational program.

"We require all of our undergraduate and MBA students to take an ethics course, which takes a closer look at some of the complicated problems going on in the business world," Williams said. "We believe the purpose of business is to produce both financial and human value."

Contact Adam Llorens at allorems@nd.edu

INSIDE COLUMN

What are you fighting for?

All right, we're guilty. Sometimes we whine about working at The Observer; it often goes hand-in-hand with our griping about the weather and the weird things that go along with Notre Dame. But sometimes we get the opportunity to be a part of something, even indirectly, that reminds us why we're so lucky to be a part of this University.

**Allan Joseph
Chris Allen**

*Assistant
Sports
Editors*

Over the past two months, we have had the good fortune of organizing the Observer's coverage of Bengal Bouts. It's been a lot of work — there's no denying that. In getting to know the boxers and going inside the boxing club to learn about the motivations and backgrounds of the various fighters, however, we have been inspired.

It's evident that this club is not one that sees the support of the Holy Cross missions as a fortunate byproduct of their fights. Everything they do is imbued with a sense of purpose, a sense of being a part of something greater than oneself, and a sense of fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves.

These boxers take to heart their motto: "Strong bodies fight, so that weak bodies may be nourished." Most telling were the interviews with each one of the captains that formed the basis of our feature stories in last Friday's paper. The captains spoke to our writers with smiles on their faces and joy in their expressions that transcended boxing — they were telling in words the stories of the Holy Cross missions that they set out to tell every time they step between the ropes and box.

For none of the captains is the boxing club just a hobby — it is a way of life. Each one of the captains who had been to Bangladesh to visit the mission called it a transformative experience and they meant it. Senior Mike Doran said it best; "A win in the ring is awesome, but there's no better feeling than sending over a check for \$150,000 that you know is going to change kids' lives."

The Bouts exemplify Notre Dame. They are truly a representation of what this University is about — using our own personal talents to make the world a better place. To bring about this change through boxing — truly one of the most physically demanding sports in the world — makes their work all the more amazing. The series of "What Are You Fighting For?" promotional videos put out by Notre Dame are taken literally in Bengal Bouts — it begs any spectator to consider whether they are in fact putting their own talents to best use.

We have been privileged to cover Bengal Bouts over the past month, and to see firsthand the dedication it takes to fight for something you believe in. To the men and women who contribute to the mission of Bengal Bouts, from the co-presidents on down, thank you for what you do. Thank you for giving this whole Notre Dame community a model of compassion to aspire to.

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

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu and Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

Deficit and debt

In the past few weeks, coverage of the ongoing labor dispute between Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and the state's public sector employee unions has dominated the headlines and editorial sections of newspapers, talk shows and websites throughout the country. At issue in this contentious debate is the right of Wisconsin's state workers to collectively bargain for wages and benefits.

Ryan Williams

freethoughts

Gov. Walker, backed by Republican majorities in both houses of the state legislature, has proposed eliminating this right and is asking state workers to contribute a greater percentage of the health and pension benefits. On the other hand, Democrats and union members, while accepting the increased contribution requirements, have vehemently opposed the effort to strip state workers of their collective bargaining rights. They have staged massive overnight demonstrations in the state capitol building and even, in the case of the Democratic members of the state senate, fled to Illinois to deny the legislature the ability to vote on the proposed bill. Republicans argue that collective bargaining for public sector employees is an inherently flawed policy — they contest that, while private sector unions are acceptable because they seek to bargain for a greater share of the profits of their own labor, public sector workers create no profits, and so are merely trying to grab an ever larger slice of taxpayer dollars (ironically, a position shared by the great liberal icon Franklin Delano Roosevelt). Democrats see Gov. Walker's bill as merely the opening skirmish in a strategic war to whittle away the rights of all workers, public and private, to unionize.

In spite of these conflicting viewpoints, the real driving force behind this debate is not a philosophical divide over the role of public sector unions, but rather the need to confront the stark reality that Wisconsin faces a massive budget deficit that voters have made clear they want to see addressed. Gov. Walker reasons that elimi-

nating the collective bargaining rights of state workers will make it more difficult for them to obtain future pension and benefit deals like the ones that contributed to the state's present fiscal crisis, thus helping to stabilize the long term finances of Wisconsin.

In searching for creative solutions to solve his state's budget problems, Walker is joined by his counterparts in statehouses across the nation, from New York to California, Illinois to Texas, who all face similarly desperate fiscal situations as they witness the recession's continuing negative impact on tax revenues. Many of these governors should be commended for trying to responsibly trim down the size of state government by cutting wasteful spending. Others have taken a far more severe and harmful approach to reducing deficits, and are endangering the future of the children of their states.

Texas, a state that already ranks 49th in SAT verbal scores and 46th in SAT math scores, recently saw its governor, Rick Perry, propose to cut \$2 billion more from his education budget. A similar slash-and-burn mentality has taken hold on Capitol Hill, where enthusiastic new Republican legislators in the House of Representatives have sought to enact tens of billions of dollars of spending cuts, to such worthy programs as food safety inspection, Pell grants, food stamps and foreign aid.

Efforts like these and those playing out in state capitals across the country aren't addressing the true underlying causes of this nation's fiscal crisis, because they focus solely on cutting non-defense, non-mandatory discretionary spending, which constitutes only about 19 percent of the federal budget (and a moderately higher share of state spending, but mostly because of the lack of defense spending in states). What's more, they are consuming valuable political capital that ought to be expended fighting for reform of that spending which is truly driving up the deficit — entitlements and defense spending. In 2010, entitlement spending constituted 55 percent of the federal budget, and nearly 45 percent of many state budgets. These numbers are expected to grow sig-

nificantly, as more aging baby boomers become eligible for social security and Medicare, and as a result of the 2009 health care law which expanded Medicaid eligibility to 133 percent of the poverty line, beginning in 2014. Spending of this magnitude is entirely unsustainable, and Congress and state governments must be willing to take unpopular action in order to restore a sense of balance to these bloated disbursements.

Everything has to be on the table when it comes to solving this predicament, including raising the retirement age, instituting means-based testing, and reducing the cost of living adjustment. Similarly, when it comes to defense spending, it is time for the United States to listen to reason. Currently, U.S. defense expenditures account for 40 percent of total global military expenditures, six times more than the next largest budget, that of the People's Republic of China.

Do we really need to be spending \$10 billion on ballistic missile defenses that in 20 years haven't ever worked once? How about \$2 billion dollars annually for a fanciful space laser program? Do we really need to maintain military bases in Germany or Portugal? Surely it is a sad reflection on the state of our nation when government is willing to cut education spending before programs like these.

Our nation faces a massive fiscal crisis that is going to affect our nation's economy for years to come. Our leaders in federal and state government are going to have to make many tough choices about how and where to best allocate spending. Instead of wasting valuable time and energy fighting battles over collective bargaining and education spending, they should be focused on fixing those programs that are true driving forces behind the deficit. Let's hope they can acknowledge this fact and begin working to restore some common sense to our spending habits.

Ryan Williams is a sophomore. He can be reached at twilli15@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Homer Simpson effect

A few months ago, I found myself at a casino with some of my friends from high school, breathing in that unique casino smell of body odor, cigarettes and shattered dreams. Upon finding that the only open seats for blackjack were located next to a chain-smoking man with an exciting variety of prison tattoos and more poker chips than teeth, my friends and I decided to wait it out and watch some TV instead. Playing at that moment was a commercial in which men leapt through their TVs trying to grab three dimensional beer cans, causing a nearby man to casually remark, "That's just plain offensive."

Although I hadn't really thought about it before, nowadays it truly is hard to turn on the television without seeing a commercial or show in which a man is doing something blatantly stupid. Most popular sitcoms, including classics like "The Simpsons," seem to revolve around a rock-headed man who is consistently saved from his self-destructive antics by his wife or significant other. It's reached the point where I'm confident that an alien tasked with finding out all they could about men using only TV as a reference would come away with the impression that we're a

breed of primitive, persistently intoxicated mammals who only take occasional breaks from their daily routine of drinking, fighting, and making bad decisions in order to sleep and watch sports. Some might find this alarming, but my response is "So what?"

I know that there are some "enlightened" men who like to sit around cross-legged listening to indie music, comparing their berets and complaining about "discriminatory gender portrayal," but to these do-gooders I would suggest getting a sense of humor. Quite frankly, watching men behave poorly on television is hilarious, even if the joke is at our expense. Life is more fun if you can learn to laugh at yourself, and so rather than get mad when men do stupid things on TV, I'll continue to chuckle and tune in next week, because a world without funny beer commercials is not a world in which I want to live.

Dan Brombach
freshman
Siegfried Hall
Mar. 9

OBSERVER POLL

What are your plans for Spring Break?
I'm going home
Somewhere warm and sunny with friends
Going on a service trip
Other
Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com.

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I do not want people to be agreeable, as it saves me the trouble of liking them."

Jane Austen
English novelist

Zits, Mel Gibson and Ash Wednesday

What do your first teenage zit, Mel Gibson in Braveheart and Ash Wednesday have in common?

Sometime between the ages of 9 and 13, deep inside of us, our bodies begin to change. The changes begin, not on the surface of our skin, but deep within our bloodstream and hormones and glands. (I am talking science without a license here, invoking freedom of the press and my Program of Liberal Studies degree to talk authoritatively about matters well beyond my understanding). Yet, of course, as is obvious to us as we look back at our high school yearbook photos, at some point the outer surface of our bodies gives way to the biological and chemical forces swirling within, and then zits happen! How can a filmmaker convince the viewer of William Wallace's passion for Scotland's independence from England, a passion that smolders deep inside of Wallace, and will explode forth on the field of battle?

The problem, of course, is that Wallace's energy, his spirit, is invisible here, lost to the naked eye. Yet nothing is more real, more important to the movie, more driving in Wallace's life and Scotland's future. Thank God for facepaint! Smear Wallace's face in the colors of Scotland, and we create not only one of the iconic big-screen images of the last 20 years, but a visible sign of the deep, invisible forces at work within his heart.

Which brings us to Ash Wednesday. The

point about marking our foreheads is now obvious. The interesting question about Ash Wednesday is not why we annually mark ourselves with ashes. Human beings mark the outer surfaces of their bodies with marks that signify interior realities all the time, both involuntarily through natural biological processes, and voluntarily with everything from tattoos to designer clothes.

The interesting question is: why ashes? What mysterious reality about ourselves, utterly true but also deeply interior, invisible and always just out of reach, do we wish to mark by pressing ash to our foreheads? In our Scriptures, it is Abraham who first confesses the seemingly devastating truth about humanity: "Forgive me Lord, for I am nothing but dust and ashes." It is a confession of his origin, recounted in Genesis 2:7: "Then the Lord God formed a human being from the dust of the ground." Abraham is manufactured from the dirt of the earth, the same dirt where, elsewhere in Genesis, God condemns the slithering path of the serpent who tempted Eve. It is a humble origin, to say the least.

Abraham's confession is, perhaps, an instructive first Ash Wednesday, an outer acknowledgment of what he knows in his heart to be true — that his life is, at some level, ash, and that his dusty beginning will also be his dusty end. To mark our origin and destiny as dust is a courageous acceptance of what is real and, ultimately, beyond our control — "we are dust and to dust we shall return." And yet, we must

say more. We must note that Abraham's humble confession is only half the truth, for the very same Genesis 2:7, which notes that God formed the first human being from a heap of ash, continues, "... and then God breathed into the human being's nostrils the breath of life, and the being became a living being." Not mere dust and ashes, but rather, as St. Paul writes, "Within these earthen vessels, we contain a treasure." And the treasure is nothing less than God's spirit.

Abraham, indeed, seems keen to the point, for immediately after acknowledging his humble origin, he begins to negotiate with God about the future of Sodom. In a truly startling scene for any God-fearing reader, Abraham reminds God, who is about to wipe out the city, that He has claimed to be a just and compassionate deity, and wonders to the face of his Creator, "Will not the Just Judge of the World do what is right?"

What kind of creature is this, who in one breath acknowledges his most humble and ephemeral nature, and in the next breath, dares to remind his own Maker of the right way to conduct His affairs? Could it be that in the exterior acknowledgement of this profound truth about ourselves — that we are mere dust and ash — a still deeper identity is revealed? That into this dust and ash, God has breathed God's own divine spirit, and, as a result, we have become nothing less than co-adjudicators with God, called to negotiate and work, with God in building a kingdom of justice

and mercy?

No wonder Isaiah will later bristle at the Israelites' attempt to reduce their ashing to mere self-effacement: "Thus says the Lord: Is this the manner of fasting I wish? That a man bow his head like a reed and lie in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call this a fast? This, rather, is the fasting I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, setting free the oppressed, sheltering the homeless and clothing the naked when you see them."

By now, Wednesday's ashes have faded from our brows. Like the pimply signs of our adolescence, our Ash Wednesday marks eventually give way to a deeper identity. We do not, after all, return merely to dust. On the other end of Lent awaits the Resurrection, and the unleashing of the Spirit within us at Pentecost. Our deepest identity, Ash Wednesday reminds us, is that we are vessels of the Spirit.

Before the ashes, upon our brows splashed the water and oil of our baptism, which set us free from sin and death. Not ultimately bound by the ephemeral nature of dust and ash, our lives in Christ are destined for, in the last word of William Wallace: freedom.

Fr. Lou DelFra is the director of Bible studies for Campus Ministry and pastoral director of the ACE program. He can be reached at delfra.2@nd.edu

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

The implications of Lenten conversion

The Christian gospel is perceived as paradoxical, almost unrealistic, because it proposes a way of life which is not governed by the virtues so highly prized by our technocratic society: success, efficiency, immediate gratification and control.

The Christian gospel is not about success

(gaze briefly at a crucifix for verification) it is highly inefficient, frequently delays gratification and encourages us to relinquish our obsession with control to One whom we cannot see.

If unlearning ingrained habits and replacing them with new ways of thinking, feeling and doing is central to our faith "journey," my purpose is to point out three pitfalls of modern Christian living, which, in my limited experience, can have debilitating effects.

The first unconverted tendency is to think that we "earn our salvation." This may find its roots in our American work ethic, as though our salvation is a commodity we can, with the right effort, acquire; it is as though we can somehow wow God by our behavior. Unfortunately, Pelagianism is not a new idea. Salvation is not something we can earn or achieve.

It is a grace, which means gift. Our task is simply to receive it that way. I am not suggesting we say, "I accept Jesus as my Savior," and think our work is done. Obviously, this gift, offered by God in Christ, requires an active response of assimilation to him who gave himself for us, indicated through how we live, behave, and choose.

But it is imperative to remember that the initiative is on God's side. God has to do most of the work; in fact, in Christ, he has already done so. Our task is to rely upon his grace as we muddle toward his Kingdom for which we pray, and, by our baptism, have also implicated. When we put the emphasis on our strengths and abilities, we are bound to fall into one of two dead ends: Focus on personal accomplishment, like the self-righteous and judgemental Pharisees caricatured in the Gospel, or forget we are bound for failure without His help when we put all the pressure on ourselves.

This leads to one of the most challenging

aspects of the spiritual life: discouragement. Discouragement itself creates a vicious cycle of failed attempts and dejection, which can lead to despair. We cannot, and must not, try to earn our salvation. Christ did that once for all. We must learn to humbly rely upon God's help so we transform through grace into the image of Christ, his Son.

The second pitfall is the tendency to think that religion is a private affair between "me and Jesus." This ingrained tendency of thought undoubtedly has its remote origins in the rugged individualism which is part of American culture. While religious faith is and should be quite personal, it is never private. That is, our experience of Christian faith is mediated through a community of faith. This is why there is RCIA; it involves the whole parish or university community, not simply Fr. Smith instructing Mr. or Ms. Jackson. That is why very frequently Catholic children's first penance is experienced as a communal celebration: there are, in a certain sense, no "private" sins. While perhaps unknown to anyone else in the community, my sins nonetheless have an impact on the community — if I am less of a person because of my sins, the whole community suffers because I am an integral part of that community.

Understanding our Christian faith as a social or even organic phenomenon is crucial. Our experience of Jesus is, in fact, mediated through sacraments — public and discrete rituals of the Church which bring us into contact with Jesus himself. That meeting place with Jesus is always within community; grace and requires a human or created agent. On a very practical level, we desperately need one another: for support and for a shared sense of what is true and good.

In fact, Christian hope envisions an eternal life with God which is intrinsically social — it will not be "me gazing at Jesus," but all of those who love God in communion with one another in Christ. Heaven is innately social. Perhaps an apt metaphor for hell is precisely the opposite: if original sin is fundamentally self-love, in hell we get exactly what we've always wanted — ourselves (and only ourselves) for all eternity: a grim prospect.

The third pitfall is to want to be perfect "right now." Rooted in our desire for immedi-

acy (we are, after all, the culture of the microwave, the Internet, the iPad, and the drive-thru) and our hatred of ambiguity, we want to be and feel perfect right away. This is an occupation hazard, especially for recent converts and persons returning from a retreat experience. They have seen the mountain-top, and they want to stay there. Unfortunately, life almost never works that way. The first symptoms of spiritual aridity begin to "feel" less religious, less "spiritual." And after an attempt to become "Mother Teresa" or "John Paul II" overnight, they become disillusioned and discouraged. It is best to look at our spiritual life more as a continuum than "freeze-dried" moments of grace or sin. Spiritual life is about growth, so baby steps are more reliable than blind leaps. St. Thomas Aquinas observed that it is better to limp along the right road than to run headlong down the wrong road. And he was wise.

Realistic expectations about ourselves, and others, are essential as we seek to live in this world of ambiguity, complexity, and imperfection. In fact, we need to redefine spiritual life from being searching for immediate perfection to "learning to be imperfect well." That is why the image of the Church as a pilgrim is so apposite: we may not yet have arrived, but we are certainly on our way.

These are three significant challenges which face us as we await the fullness of God's Kingdom, begun in Christ, but yet unfulfilled. As we learn to live here as members of his Kingdom, sharing in the truth he has revealed to us about ourselves, rather than accommodating the Gospel to our own limited and fallen imagination, we will, even if unawares, engage in evangelization. I am not talking about the "in your face" techniques of overly argumentative people who are more annoying than effective. By evangelization I mean the calm, steady and stable behavior of a people who know they have found the Truth — and love him.

Michael Heintz is the director of Divinity in the theology department. He can be reached at michael.w.heintz.4@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Zahm

If you ever want to see your precious moose again, you will wire 50,000 flex points to my account at the National Bank of the Maldives, Account Number: 43.665-110.718.

More De Grasta for us Knott Men.

P.S. In no way shape or form is the above account number the latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates of your estranged moose.

Nick Civetta
Senior
off campus
Mar. 9

Know
where the
moose is?
Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

Who are you running for?: Holy Half 2011

By TROY MATHEW
Scene Writer

Looking for substantial exercise, a great way to support the community or possible lakeside entertainment from a Mariachi band? Look no further than Notre Dame's 2011 Holy Half Marathon. Its flyers advertise this year's race as "bigger, better and holier" than ever.

"We've added a lot of improvements over last year. We're trying to build this year's race up as more of an event," Holy Half co-director Gabby Tate said in an interview with the Observer.

USA Track and Field will certify the 2011 Holy Half's 13.1-mile route for accuracy in order to avoid an unforeseen mishap that occurred in the previous year's race.

"Last year, there was some construction on campus we didn't get notice of, so the route ended up being shorter than planned," Tate said.

Changes have been added in order to make the Holy Half a more memorable and special experience for the runner as well.

"Last year I think we made some sacrifices at the expense of the participants, so that's something we're trying to avoid for this year's race," Tate said.

Runners will receive a performance T-shirt instead of a regular T-shirt, along with coupons and promotions from the race's sponsors, which are still being determined. Runners may also enjoy a unique form of race-time entertainment.

"We're trying to get a Mariachi band to perform around the lakes for runners, which I think will be really fun. We're also working on getting things like water bottles and bumper stickers for the runners," Tate said.

Entertainment can be found in the lively student-runner crowd as well. Hyped as a costume contest, the race spurs students to get creative in their attire. A group of Waldos, a man in a Scooby Doo costume and a ghost, complete with a sheet over his head, were among last year's costumed participants.

Also in the theme of improvement, Tate hopes to heighten community involvement in this year's Holy Half. The previous four races donated proceeds to the Broadmoor Improvement Association, a cause devoted to rebuilding New Orleans after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. The 2011 race has a more local philanthropic focus.

"The three charities the race will support are St. Adalbert School, Michiana Down Syndrome and South Bend's Center for the Homeless. Each charity will be manning a water station, so they really have a lot of involvement in the race," Tate said.

Race participants will also have a unique method of donation.

"The theme of this year's race is 'Who are you running for?' and runners will get to pick which specific charity their money goes toward," Tate said.

Representatives from each charity will

be present at the race to answer any questions, fostering a highly interactive donation experience. For Tate, the social service aspect of the race is truly evocative of the Notre Dame community.

"I feel like [the Holy Half] represents what Notre Dame stands for. This is a big athletics school, and everyone is involved with that, so it has that aspect, but it also deals with social concerns which a lot of the students here find important," Tate said.

As a four-year runner and three-year co-director, Tate traces her interest for directing the event back to her experience as a freshman.

"When I ran [the Holy Half] my freshman year, I just thought it was a really important and fun event," she said. "That really inspired me to take on more responsibility with the race. [Co-director] Sean Kickham and I have been involved ever since."

The race will take place April 10 at 10 a.m. Participants can sign up for either the half marathon or 10K race. Runners can register on the day of the race starting at 8 a.m., or by visiting nd.edu/~holy-half/

Contact Troy Mathew at tmathew2@nd.edu



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Finishing the 13.1 miles of a half marathon can be a momentous and exciting accomplishment — or pure torture for the unprepared. Follow these tips to ensure your stride across the finish line is a triumphant one rather than an agonizing crawl.

Troy Mathew

Scene Writer

Create a shameless playlist

A good playlist is essential to maintain focus and energy throughout the race. Keep in mind, however, that "good" is relative. Don't be self-conscious about your race-day music choices. If Miley or similar sickeningly-sweet pop music gets you amped, crank it up. The purpose of the playlist is to keep you motivated and block out the clomping feet and gasping lungs surrounding you during the race, not to show off your Indie music cred. The running playlist can be considered a judgment-free zone — unless of course your playlist contains Nickelback. In that case, I will judge you heavily.

Invest in looking legit

We've all seen the jeans-wearing gym goers, and we all know the disdain they garner. These unfortunate, and endearingly clueless, patrons of the gym give us a valuable lesson: avoid looking like a joke. Invest in nice running shoes and clothes. Not only will you look the part of a half-marathoner, but your quality gear will last you through the extensive training process and beyond. Plus, buying

fancy new gear will spur you to go out training more often to show it off.

Stick to your routine

Everyone develops a routine through his or her training, and whether it's a pre-race burrito or an intensive stretching regime, you need to stick to what works for you. While a substantial meal rich in carbohydrates a few hours before the race is generally a good idea, there's no one-

will help you develop a consistent running pace that you will be able to maintain come race day. Running the race itself with a friend or two will keep you inspired as well and help you to regulate your pace. However, if you feel your friend is the proverbial dead weight, you have my permission to guiltlessly leave him or her in the dust.

The taper

Arguably the most important part of a training routine, the taper is the period of time a week or two before the race where workouts gradually lighten and physical activity greatly decreases. This period of time allows your muscles to fully heal from the strain of running and conserves valuable energy for the big day.

Dress for anything

The Holy Half takes place smack-dab in the middle of spring, meaning the volatile weather can range from blizzard conditions to balmy humidity. Last year's race was ideal running weather: dry and around 40 degrees. However, the unpredictable conditions do not guarantee the same will be true for this year's race. When in doubt, under dress. The temperature will feel much warmer once you start running, and shedding layers of clothing during the race is not always a possibility.



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

size-fits-all, race-day routine. With that in mind, don't get too caught up in what information your frantic Google search brings. Develop your own system and stick to what works for your body.

Find a Friend

To the ultra-competitive Notre Dame student, a place at the back of the pack can be a source of much chagrin. Take advantage of this quality by training with a group. The group process will not only motivate you to stick to your training, but it

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

Contact Troy Mathew at tmathew2@nd.edu

Holy Half:
A How-To
Guide

Culture

tantrum

the poetry of pop music

There is no way to avoid pop music. It's your ringtone. It's on your iPod when you walk to class. It pumps into your bathroom while you shower. It plays constantly at Waddicks, Sbarro and in your earbuds while you study. It has become ubiquitous within the undergraduate lifestyle.

But pop songs, specifically those songs that are undeniably "popular" regardless of musical merit or your opinion, have a very detailed role within our collegiate society. Their purpose, far and wide, is to create a common touchstone of community that can be recognized and shared within any context, and the only way that happens is if the lyrics are good enough to be remembered.

Yesterday at my breakfast and coffee



Stephanie DePrez

Scene Writer

meeting with chums at Waddicks, one of my friends expressed deep consternation about the fact that Katy Perry's song "Last Friday Night" is not as popular as, say, "Firework." She was upset because, in her opinion, the lyrics of "Last Friday Night" are far more interesting.

"There's a stranger in my bed/There's a pounding my head/Glitter all over the room/Pink flamingos in the pool/I smell like a minibar/DJ's passed out in the yard" are just a smattering of the lyrics my friend so passionately defended as she read them in declamatory fashion from her BlackBerry.

My other friend decided to step up to defend a song he felt was far superior, "Like a G6" by ... do we even care? "Poppin bottles in the ice, like a blizzard/When we drink we do it right gettin slizzard/Sippin' sizzurp in my ride, like Three 6/Now I'm feelin' so fly like a G6."

His argument seemed to center on the fact that "G6" remains focused on a singular topic, whereas "Last Friday Night" is far too busy, lyrically.

I sat in not-so-silent awe, watching two

of my friends share stalwart opinions as they debated the poetic merit of Perry vs. Far East Movement. The music major in me had passed incredulity and ended somewhere around mild mental engagement. This is pop music, I was thinking. Who on earth cares about the lyrics of pop music, as long as you can sing along?

This brings me to the tantrum of the day, specifically the purpose of pop music and its necessary position within our 18- to 22-year-old society. A pop song provides an isolated event that, at any given moment, can surround us with memory and community. We hear a song and think of where we first heard it, when we memorized the lyrics to it and who we were with when we were dancing to it last weekend. It causes immediate recall and emotional association, which in most cases brings up a positive correlation.

The second attribute of this banal beast is that popular music can play alongside our lives in literal soundtrack fashion. Apart from the moments we are in class, we can surround ourselves with music

every second we are not asleep. When those waking moments happen in the public sphere, we are going to hear pop music and develop a relationship with it whether we want to or not.

So how does a pop song succeed in worming its way into our ears 24/7? I think all a pop song needs is a good musical hook and a dance beat. Au contraire, mes amis. As I found out, if you can't sing along to it — and enjoy singing along to it — it's going to fail.

I come from a camp that considers pop songs to contain the mindless dribble of half-announced hipster-pop slang. But apparently, I'm wrong. People listen to lyrics and care about them, no matter how bad they sound during a dry-run recitation. As displayed by the conversation I witnessed yesterday, lyrics matter.

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

Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu

Lupe falters on 'LOSERS'

By CHRIS COLLUM

Scene Writer

After over three years of silence following his critically acclaimed sophomore album "Lupe Fiasco's The Cool" — a loose concept album following the inner-city exploits of a character named "The Cool" — Lupe Fiasco returns this week with "Lasers."

But in those three intervening years, Lupe has hardly been sitting still.

He fought (and lost) a not-so-private battle of wills with his label, Atlantic, over contractual issues that resulted in the delaying of "Lasers" and the scrapping of his three-album "LupE.N.D." concept. Lupe also had an original song featured on the "Twilight: New Moon" soundtrack — one of the few hip-hop artists on the soundtrack.

These events, not surprisingly, baffled some of his longtime fans who still thought of Lupe as an "underground" rapper not embroiled in major label shenanigans and blockbuster movie soundtracks. Naturally, anticipation was high for "Lasers," with many fans fearing a contract-fulfilling corporate byproduct. Unfortunately, a large portion of "Lasers" fits that description quite well.

However, Lupe apparently still thinks of himself as a less mainstream musician as well — Atlantic Records thinks otherwise. In

an interview with the entertainment website Boxden.com last week, he went on the record about "Lasers."

"One thing I try to stress about [Lasers] is, I love and hate this album," Lupe said. "I listen to it and I'll like some of the songs. But when I think about what it took to actually get the record together ... I hate this album. A lot of the songs that are on the album, I'm kinda neutral to ... I know the sneaky business deal that went down behind this song, or the artist or singer or songwriter who wrote this hook and didn't want to give me this song in the first place."

It is not often that an artist comes out so publicly against his or her own album before it is even released. Needless to say, this is far from a glowing recommendation for "Lasers."

On the opener, "Letting Go," Lupe echoes these sentiments, sounding frustrated, even caged as he raps "My self-portrait / Shows a man that the wealth tortured / Self-absorbed with his own self" in the opening bars before repeating "I'm getting out of control" in the hook.

This kind of back-against-the-wall desperation fits very well given Lupe's recent struggles, and it seems like it would be a natural progression for someone cast so abruptly out of the underground into the limelight.

However, it's hard for Lupe to try capture that sort of lightning in a bottle when paired with artists like Trey Songz over beats that he didn't even choose. For any other mid-level hip-hop star, this album would work perfectly well, but for Lupe it just sounds awkward.

Tense political verses have no place coupled with a Skylar Green hook, such as in second single "Words I Never Said." That track is saved by some of Lupe's best rapping to date (see: one-liners such as "And this ain't Jersey Shore / Homie it's the news), but just seems strange. The lyrics of the hook seem unrelated to the rest of the song.

There is still room for some classic Lupe on "Lasers" though. "Till I Get There" sounds like a throwback to his debut album. "All Black Everything" shows the same kind of social consciousness we have come to expect from Lupe.

Even on songs that Lupe has come out against, saying that he was practically forced into recording over the track, he still kills it usually. Smash hit Modest Mouse-sampling of the first single, "The Show Goes On," is a stellar effort, and album closer "Never Forget You," while certainly different for Lupe, is great as well, featuring a beautiful chorus from John Legend.

But then there are the painful-to-listen-to tracks, such as "State Run Radio," which

might have the most irritating hook heard in quite a while, or "Break the Chain," a spacey number that just drags on and on.

Beyond that, there are about half a dozen so-so tracks that would shine on most other emcee's albums, but coming from Lupe sound forced and somewhat distant.

Blaming Lupe for any of this seems unfair though, given his statements about "Lasers." Let's just hope that next time around he's working by his own rules, so that maybe we can get the instant classic he still has in him.

Contact Chris Collum at ccollum@nd.edu

'Lasers' Lupe Fiasco

Label: Atlantic Records
Best Tracks: "The Show Goes On," "Till I Get There," "Words Never Said"



NCAA BASKETBALL

Tourney format presents seeding challenges

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — NCAA selection committee chairman Gene Smith hopes he's seen the last of this week's complications.

The Ohio State athletic director is already dealing with a scandal in his own football program and a delayed arrival in Indianapolis. Two committee members are also dealing with what Smith calls "significant" personal issues he didn't specify and Wednesday's news conference had technical difficulties.

And Smith's committee hasn't even gotten to the hard part yet — selecting the first 68-team field in NCAA tournament history.

"This committee is very close, very cohesive and we're supported very well by the NCAA staff," Smith said. "I'm ready to roll."

This will not be just another typical selection weekend for

Smith and the other nine committee members.

They'll spend the next five days holed up in an Indianapolis hotel trying to find the 37 best at-large teams — three more than previous years — and then seed all 68 properly.

Nobody's perfect, and it's never easy, but this year's selection process could be more challenging and face more scrutiny.

Why? The new format has created added some different debates to the regular mix of who is in and who is out.

Some believe the Big East should get a record 11 bids, raising concerns about whether the expanded field has simply become a way to get more teams from the six power conferences into the field.

Plus, Smith's committee will likely face criticism about which teams play in next week's four opening-round

games in Dayton, Ohio. Two games will feature the bottom four seeds in the tourney while the other two will feature the last four at-large teams.

The NCAA has dubbed this group the First Four, though those eight teams probably will not feel the same way. Smith has already prepared some answers.

"We will go through one through 68 and we're very confident that the 35th, 36th, 37th slots that the at-large teams going to Dayton will be excited to go," he said. "Every single year we evaluate what we did the previous year. Anything that we feel we need to modify based on that experience we'll modify."

Smith is getting pretty good at adapting on the fly.

On Tuesday night, he attended a hastily called news conference to announce Buckeyes coach Jim Tressel had been suspended for two games and fined \$250,000 for

violating NCAA rules. Tressel, school officials said, waited more than nine months before notifying school compliance officials about his players' involvement in selling signed memorabilia in exchange for money and tattoos.

After that news conference, Smith drove from Columbus, Ohio, to Indy for the selection marathon.

Then, Wednesday morning, while Smith was making his opening statement to reporters, things went awry.

"We're excited to select the 37 at-large teams coupled with the 31 automatic qualifiers," he said, before the phone line went dead.

Two or three minutes later, Smith was back explaining what had happened and what he would and would not discuss.

"Sorry we had some technical difficulties, we had to move to a different room," he said. "I know there may be people out there who may

want to ask questions about the Ohio State University case. Please, I ask that you be respectful. I'm here today as chair of the men's basketball committee. Those questions are reserved for later days."

Bear in mind, too, that the Buckeyes men's basketball team is currently ranked No. 1 and could wind up the tourney's top overall seed. Smith will need to leave the room when Ohio State is discussed, per committee rules.

But even without that, it will be complicated enough trying to sift through all the data and this week's conference tournaments to devise a 68-team bracket everyone likes.

"Really, there's 5,000 games played throughout the season," he said. "You might be able to have an impact in your first (tourney) game, maybe your second game. The reality is that most teams that will be advantaged by the tournament are those who come through and win it."

NCAA BASKETBALL

Slighted Walker carries slumping Huskies to big win

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kemba Walker keeps getting slighted by his Big East brethren — and he keeps making everybody he faces pay for it.

Walker scored 28 points in another stellar performance Wednesday, leading the 21st-ranked Huskies past No. 22 Georgetown 79-62 and into the conference tournament quarterfinals.

Many consider Walker a favorite for national player of the year honors, yet he wasn't even a unanimous first-team All-Big East selection — at least one opposing coach left him off his ballot. And when the conference announced its player of the year Tuesday, it was Notre Dame star Ben Hansbrough who stepped up to the microphone and accepted the award.

"I think someone took a vacation and didn't tell us and has been gone five months. That's one theory of mine," replied UConn coach Jim Calhoun, when asked how Walker could be overlooked among the five best players in the league.

"Whether we have a player of the year or not," Calhoun continued, "I think he's the best player in the country, and that

should be more important."

UConn had been struggling coming into New York City, losing four of its last five regular-season games. But with Walker putting together two masterful performances and the Huskies getting some inspired inside play for the first time in weeks, they appear capable of becoming the first team to reach championship Saturday after starting off on Tuesday.

Walker had 26 points, seven rebounds and five assists in their opener against DePaul. He only had 11 points at half-time Wednesday, but dominated the final 20 minutes, eclipsing Richard Hamilton for fourth on the school's single-season scoring list in the process. The league's second-leading scorer has 748 points this season — with at least a couple games still to go.

"We're coming to play it all," said Walker, who also had six rebounds and three assists against Georgetown. "Right now we're in a great situation. Pittsburgh beat us at Pittsburgh, and we want to redeem ourselves, so we're not going to let no fatigue beat us."

Yes, the Huskies get top-seeded Pitt next.

The last three times the two teams met in the Big East tour-

namment, they were playing for the conference championship — including 2004, the last time the Huskies won the title.

"I would hope after these two wins and coming in we have a little momentum going, and we know who we're facing," Calhoun said. "We have a great opportunity to beat a terrific, terrific basketball team in Madison Square Garden. What's better than that?"

Jason Clark had 23 points and Austin Freeman scored 20 to lead the Hoyas (21-10), but the backcourt duo combined to go 2 for 13 from beyond the 3-point arc. They also got virtually no production from Julian Vaughn in the post. He was scoreless in 12 minutes.

"We're still a confident team," Freeman said. "We just need to get back on track."

It would help if the Hoyas get Chris Wright back for the NCAA tournament.

The senior guard spent another afternoon on the bench dressed in a suit, with a brace on his broken left hand. He was hurt Feb. 23 at Cincinnati, and coach John Thompson III has been hoping that Wright will be available for the rest of the postseason.

"We miss Chris, absolutely, 100 percent, both ends of the



UConn's Kemba Walker, left, celebrates with teammate Shabazz Napier during the Huskies' win over Georgetown Wednesday.

court, in every way," Thompson said. "The group that's playing now, that played to today, has to be better."

The teams were tied 15-all midway through the first half,

before Roscoe Smith scored his only basket to start a 22-7 spurt for UConn. By the time Jeremy Lamb hit a 3-pointer with 3:36 left, the Huskies had pulled ahead 37-22.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

FOR RENT

Future ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, TEACHERS, LAWYERS, BARDS, AMERICAN IDOLS and other studios Bohemians. Write your next soliloquy at one of our off campus homes. Check out: www.IrishDwellings.com to find your home for summer and/or fall semester 2011-2012 and beyond. \$200 credit to first month rent if lease signed before spring break.

NOTICES

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY?

Don't go it alone.

Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-7819. For more information, visit ND's website at: <http://pregnancysupport@nd.edu>

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

PERSONAL

SPRING BREAK SPECIAL-
Taxi to airport or Amtrak.
Group rates as low as \$6ea.
574-360-6480

WANTED

Earn Extra Money

Students needed ASAP.

Earn up to \$150 per day being a Mystery Shopper.

No Experience Required.

Call 1-888-534-5008

A black cat crossing your path signifies that the animal is going somewhere.

I have had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it.

I intend to live forever, or die trying.

I must confess, I was born at a very early age.

I remember the first time I had sex - I kept the receipt.

I worked my way up from nothing to a state of extreme poverty.

I've got the brain of a four year old. I'll bet he was glad to be rid of it.

NBA

Jackson sympathizes with Heat

Associated Press

MIAMI — It has come to this: Even Phil Jackson is offering a sympathetic word to the reeling Miami Heat.

The coach of the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers has taken plenty of jabs at the Heat in recent months, over everything from how this roster was put together, Erik Spoelstra's job security, and this week the already-infamous episode dubbed "Crygate."

So on Wednesday, with the Heat in a five-game losing streak, Jackson stood on their home floor and had ample opportunity to poke Miami again.

He went the other way instead.

"From what I've heard, this team feels like they're being looked at to lose, or they've been hoped at to lose," Jackson said before the Lakers practiced for their Thursday game in Miami. "I know locally that can't stand true, but nationally, if that's the case, it's a burden to carry. And then those games that are dramatic become bigger than they really should be."

That certainly seems to be the case around Miami these days.

Not even two weeks ago, the Heat were in a virtual tie with Boston for the top spot in the Eastern Conference. Miami hasn't won since, falling to third in the East, 4½ games behind the Celtics and two games behind the Chicago Bulls. Even the No. 3 seed in the East playoffs isn't exactly assured, with Orlando starting play Wednesday three games

behind the Heat.

It's a freefall, and the Heat know that when they lose games, most of the NBA is thrilled. So Wednesday's practice wasn't about licking wounds, Spoelstra said. The Heat needed to simply get back to work.

"Less talk, more action," Spoelstra said.

Oh, there was plenty of talking as well.

Miami lost to Portland 105-96 on Tuesday night, after which Wade suggested he'd like to see rotation changes and Bosh insisted he would be demanding the ball more often down low. And on Wednesday, those themes hadn't changed much: Spoelstra took the rare step of immediately watching Tuesday's game in his office afterward, and Bosh was planning to chat with Wade and James.

"We're all in this together, but at the end of the day, we know what people are going to be looking at," Bosh said. "And we know who's going to get the finger pointed at them first. And rightfully so — we asked for this, coming together, and we knew that coming into the situation. We take the responsibility of it. It is what it is, no matter what we say, no matter what we do."

Lakers forward Lamar Odom said the Heat plight is one of the biggest stories in sports right now. Considering who was offering opinions on the Heat a few miles away on Wednesday, he may be right.

Tiger Woods — with his own winless drought to deal with — weighed in on the state of the Heat from nearby Doral, where

he'll play in this week's World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship.

"They are trying to jell and obviously they are adding pieces," Woods said. "I mean, as soon as they become more cohesive, they add (Mike) Bibby, so it's going to take a little time. They have 18, 19 games left in the season, somewhere around there. They have plenty of time to turn it around and get rolling for the playoffs."

The Lakers head into Thursday as the league's hottest team, winners of eight straight.

But even the champs have had their issues at times this season, mild ones anyway, with a four-game slide and a pair of three-game losing streaks on their resume.

That last three-game slump ended with the embarrassing pre-All-Star-break loss in Cleveland. The Lakers haven't lost since, with five of their eight victories since the break ended coming by double digits.

"The difference between us is that we all know what our roles are," Lakers guard Kobe Bryant said. "They're still trying to figure that out."

Clearly, that's the case. Bibby was added essentially in place of Carlos Arroyo at point guard. James Jones, Eddie House and Zydrunas Ilgauskas have largely fallen out of the rotation at times, and Miami's bench is struggling — getting outscored 41-8 by the Trail Blazers and a stunning 149-51 in the last four games.

"One thing for sure about this team, we won't go down without a fight," Ilgauskas said. "And we'll keep on fighting."

NBA

Rose leads Bulls to win over Bobcats



Charlotte guard D.J. Augustin is defended by Chicago point guard Derrick Rose during the 101-84 Bulls win Wednesday.

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Derrick Rose and Kyle Korver scored 20 points apiece and the Chicago Bulls pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat the Charlotte Bobcats 101-84 on Wednesday night, a victory dimmed by Carlos Boozer's leg injury.

Korver had 12 points in the final period and Joakim Noah added 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Bulls, who won for the 11th time in 13 games and expanded their hold on second place in the Eastern Conference to 2½ games over slumping Miami.

Boozer limped off late in the game after his left leg bent awkwardly on a flagrant foul by Kwame Brown and didn't return.

Gerald Henderson had 20 points and eight assists for the Bobcats, who played again without Stephen Jackson and Tyrus Thomas in their sixth straight loss.

The Bobcats, the only sub-.500 team to beat Chicago more than once this season, faded late before Brown's foul sapped a joyous mood for the Bulls.

Boozer, who had 10 points and seven rebounds despite early foul trouble, was going in for a layup as Chicago led by 17 points when

Brown swiped and hit him across the chest. Boozer grabbed his leg as soon as he tumbled to the floor before limping slowly to the bench.

After being examined, it was determined he was unable to take the free throws and was helped to the locker room.

Charlotte knows all about injuries as its season begins to slip away.

The Bobcats played a third straight game without their top scorer Jackson (hamstring), and 24th without sixth man Thomas (knee surgery), despite coach Paul Silas declaring both ready to play a day earlier.

Backup center Joel Przybilla was then scratched before the game because of increased pain in his surgically repaired right knee. And with guard Matt Carroll (ankle) sidelined, Charlotte had 10 healthy bodies.

Still, the Bulls took a while before they wore down Charlotte.

With former Bulls star and Bobcats owner Michael Jordan sitting courtside, Henderson did a decent impersonation of his boss on a twisting reverse layup along the baseline in a third quarter that saw Charlotte take a 68-67 lead on another hoop by Henderson.

Don't Settle for Ordinary,

When You Can Have *Extraordinary!*



Photo by Peter Thurin Photography



Photo by Vicky Darnell



Photo by Peter Thurin Photography

Fabulous Wedding Receptions

Palais Royale
South Bend's
Premier Event Facility

www.PalaisRoyale.org

The Morris
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ★ SOUTH BEND, IN

www.MorrisCenter.org

574-235-5612

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, Monday, March 21st to be eligible.

A student may only submit ONE entry.

WOMEN'S ROWING

Irish to compete in Tenn.

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

After several months off, the Irish are eager for the return of warmer weather and warmer waters. Notre Dame will get both Sunday when it travels to Oak Ridge, Tenn. to take on Alabama and Minnesota.

The Crimson Tide possesses the advantage of climate, as they rowed outdoors in the colder months when lakes and rivers are frozen further north. The Golden Gophers also present a difficult challenge, having already defeated the Irish in a few races at the Head of the Rock Regatta in October.

Irish coach Martin Stone said his squad is looking forward to facing Minnesota again.

"I think they're pretty solid," he said of the Golden Gophers. "They got us pretty good up at the Head of the Rock so we'll be interested to see how they race."

Though forced inside for much of the offseason between the fall and spring seasons, the Irish delivered on some goals from 2010. Stone said the individual fitness aspect of winter workouts has yielded some impressive results.

"I think we've accomplished a lot of [our] goals," Stone said. "We're still doing testing this week. We've had some personal bests and people are working hard. I feel pretty good."

According to Stone, boats have yet to be finalized because his staff does not yet have adequate racing experience on which to determine groupings. He said the lineups in Tennessee will almost



TOM YOUNG/The Observer
The women's rowing team, pictured above, will travel to Tennessee over break to compete against Alabama and Minnesota.

certainly not be the same throughout the season.

"We're just kind of subjectively putting people in boats based on how we think they'll race," he said. "I imagine things will change, though. We've been a long time out of the water and we still need to see how people perform."

The Irish will bring a few proven commodities to Oak Ridge this weekend. Senior tri-captains Emily Crosby, Stephanie Gretsche and Carol Ann Michel all participated as members of the varsity eight boat in the fall. Stone said his squad can look to the entire senior class as models of success.

"As a whole, our senior class has done a wonderful job this year of doing everything the right

way," Stone said. "Emily, Stephanie and Carol Ann really just epitomize what the whole senior class has done for this program."

The seniors will be expected to lead their team in their quest for the same goals the Irish have always had.

"In terms of performance-type goals, every year you are expected first to compete for you conference title, and then the national title," Stone said. "I think it's understood here."

Notre Dame will remain in Oak Ridge over Spring Break to train and will face Buffalo on Saturday before heading home. Sunday's action begins at 11 a.m.

Contact Cory Bernard at
cbernard@nd.edu

WOMEN'S GOLF

Team to travel to Hawaii over break for tourney

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The No. 21 Irish travel to a warmer climate this Spring Break, as they head to Kaneohe, Hawaii for the Dr. Donnis Thompson Invitational.

After a 10th-place finish at the Central District Invitational Feb. 22, Notre Dame is looking for a stronger performance this time around.

In the time since the Central District Invitational, the Irish have been able to work on their game in spite of the weather in Notre Dame's state-of-the-art indoor facilities.

Senior captain Katie Conway said that the team did not go on a training trip over the winter, but they kept in prime form in spite of that.

"We have one of the best facilities in the country," Conway said. "The facility has six hitting bays and a putting green with eight holes cut surrounded by synthetic rough and different lies for additional short game practice."

"We can really practice every shot imaginable from

right around the green, and new renovations that were recently completed added a few more different lies with a variety of synthetic grasses used."

Conway said the South Bend winter does not affect the team's performance.

"We may not be able to play outside," Conway said, "but our facility certainly allows us to stay in top form during the rough South Bend winters."

The Irish hope their indoor facilities will allow them to compete against their opponents in Hawaii. The field of 19 teams includes a number of top-notch, warm-weather squads in No. 9 Arizona, No. 11

Vanderbilt and No. 16 Arizona State.

Notre Dame faces an entirely new set of competition, as no other team that played in the first event, the Central District Tournament, will also play in the Dr. Donnis Thompson Invitational.

The Irish tee off on the Kaneohe Klipper course Monday.

Contact Laura Coletti at
lcoletti@nd.edu

"We may not be able to play outside but our facility certainly allows us to stay in top form during the rough South Bend winters."

Katie Conway
senior captain

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish face off against No. 11 Kentucky Wildcats

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

Fresh off the program's biggest victory in nearly a decade, the No. 25 Irish hope to carry that momentum into their matches next week at the U.S. National Junior Team exhibition match and a critical road trip to Lexington, Ky.

Notre Dame (10-7) defeated No. 6 Illinois, 5-2 Tuesday evening, after failing to put together a complete match against a top opponent earlier in the season.

"It was a big win for us," Irish associate head coach Ryan Sachire said.

Prior to the match, Sachire identified two key components to winning at the highest level in tennis, and said those factors will determine their success next week as well.

"The first is you have to play well enough to put yourself in position to win," he said. "And the second is having the mental toughness to finish."

There is no drop off in the talent of the opponents the Irish will face next week. The team will travel to Boca Raton, Fla. Tuesday for the U.S. National Junior Team exhibition match.

The contest will not count toward the team's overall record, but the Irish still want to continue the strong play they have put forth in recent weeks.

"Our plan is to play the starters," Sachire said. "We don't know the format yet — we don't have to adhere to the typical format. We'll be taking 11 or 12 guys and want to get them all matches, but if there is a limited number, the starters will play. If we can get everyone to play, we will."

From Boca Raton, Notre Dame will travel to Kentucky for a Thursday match against the No. 11 Wildcats.

"They're a really good team," Sachire said. "They're at the same level as Texas A&M and Illinois, two teams we've seen this season. We just need to play the way we're capable of playing."

With the Big East championships now less than two months away, Sachire hopes to see the team play with some consistency the rest of the way.

"The same keys apply the rest of the year," he said. "We need to perform well at all seven available positions where points are available."

Contact Andrew Owens at
aowens2@nd.edu



Brigid's Irish Pub

*Located 2 miles from Notre Dame,
On US 31 one block North of Cleveland Road.
574-272-5220

Every Wednesday &
Thursday
Night

6:00PM – 8:30PM

Presented by the Waterford Estates Lodge.
No Cover Charge

Live Performances By:
**Denny Glander
(Piano)**



Hotel rooms still available for graduation weekend
at a great rate!
Call 574-272-5220 to make reservations.



Visit Brigid's
and present a
Notre Dame
Student or Staff
ID and receive
a 10% discount
on all food.

Text :
IRISHPUB to
72727, to
receive free
updates on live
entertainment
and specials,
as well as a
chance to win
a \$50 gift
certificate.

Chiang

continued from page 16

dives; we just need to make small changes in technique.”

Villaflor said the team gains confidence from improving their individual dives. He stressed the importance of displaying mental toughness in any high-pressure meet.

“After Big East we went to the basics to fix anything, all the minor stuff we could change. We’ve been doing each of our weak dives that haven’t been going as well,” Villaflor said. “[Improving] increases your confidence. Your mental state is really important and how you actually finish up. All four of us [men] have really been helping out during practice, whether giving out little tips or whatever.”

Notre Dame’s zone consists of talented squads from several schools, mainly within the Big East and the Big Ten.

“Our zone is one of the most competitive in the country, so there will be a lot of talented divers at OSU,” Grossman said. “Overall it will be a tough meet, as we have competed against these divers at past invitational and championship meets.”

The men’s squad is excited to compete against an elite Purdue diver with whom they have previously crossed paths in junior David Boudia.

“We’re competing with some of the best teams in the country. Purdue is really good and Indiana and OSU have one of the best teams we’ve seen. They have an Olympian at Purdue that we’ve seen a few times,” Villaflor said. “We’re all friends with each other, so it’s really great competi-

tion at zones.”

Villaflor has made an effort to make practice enjoyable by lightening the mood in the locker room, recognizing that the seniors are not guaranteed competition beyond this weekend.

“We range from some guys who are more serious to others who are more lighthearted. Personally, I’ve been trying to keep it really lighthearted. I try not to build up the pressure,” Villaflor said. “It’s difficult because this could be the seniors’ last two days of diving this weekend. You want to enjoy your potentially last couple days of the season.”

The Irish divers will begin fighting for a trip to the NCAA meet when they travel to Columbus Friday.

Contact Megan Golden
mgolden@saintmarys.edu

FENCING

Irish head to NCAA regionals

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

An undefeated regular season comes to a head this weekend for Notre Dame, as both the men’s and women’s squads each send a group to Detroit, Mich., for the NCAA regionals at Wayne State University.

The event serves as a qualifier for the NCAA championships, which will take place the following weekend at Ohio State in Columbus, Ohio.

Each Irish team sends 12 athletes, four in each discipline, to the regional championships. The coaching staff expects each fencer to qualify.

“It is our expectation and our hope to advance 12 fencers for each team,” Irish assistant coach Marek Stepien said. “This tournament features the top fencers in the east region of the NCAA.”

Though each athlete will compete as an individual, each fencer will play a role in team play as Notre Dame fights for a national championship. Each team is ranked No. 1 heading into regional play, and a national championship is within sight.

That, however, is no reason to be overconfident going into the postseason, Stepien said.

“The fencers have to be very careful,” he said.

“Fencing is a very psychological sport. Being No. 1 does not mean that we do not have to respect our opponent.”

Months of hard training and focus will be tested during the two bookend weekends of spring break, as both Irish teams look to continue a tremendously successful season. According to Stepien, however, this is the result of Notre Dame’s work ethic.

“They all focus and train very hard,” Stepien said. “They want a championship.”

The NCAA regionals competition begins Saturday at Wayne State.

Contact Conor Kelly
ckelly7@nd.edu



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior pitcher Brian Dupra prepares to deliver a pitch in an 8-6 loss to Rutgers on April 10, 2010.

Aoki

continued from page 16

mates over the break.

“It’s really great. Just as the average student enjoys the break from schoolwork and the academic element, it gives the players a chance to get away,” Aoki said. “Also, it gives us a chance to experience, hopefully, some nice weather which we don’t see a lot of in South Bend.”

The Irish are coming off a weekend at the Winthrop Invitational in Rock Hill, S.C. during which the team went 1-3 against foes Winthrop and Manhattan. For the second straight weekend, the Notre Dame offense failed to find the firepower it possessed during the season’s opening weekend. Though freshman first baseman Trey Mancini’s .323 batting average to go along with five extra-base hits — including two homeruns — has been a bright spot, the team’s batting average has dipped to .242 on the season. Aoki said the team is working hard in practice to get back on track at the plate.

“I think you have to stay pretty optimistic. The guys have been working hard at it, trying to make a few adjustments here and there,” he said. “Obviously, the at-bats were pretty good against Purdue and Penn State the first weekend. Then the next weekend against Seattle we struggled. It’s very much a work in progress.”

One constant for the Irish thus far has been the pitching of weekend starters Brian Dupra, Cole Johnson and Todd Miller — all sen-

iors. Each member of the trio carries a sub-4.00 earned-run average into the upcoming weekend. As a group, the staff has displayed phenomenal control, walking just six batters in more than 60 innings of work, something Aoki said the staff has learned with experience.

“I think it’s just that they are older guys who understand the importance of throwing strikes,” he said.

The slate of games will be a test for the Irish, highlighted by a game with ranked Coastal Carolina March 12. The Chanticleers (7-4) are coming off a dream season for the program in which the team went 55-10 before falling to eventual champion South Carolina in the NCAA Super Regional. Aoki said the stretch features a strong overall level of competition.

“The level of competition is pretty darn good. First you have UAB, which is a team that’s on a long winning streak. Coastal Carolina is a team that’s fresh off playing in a super regional last year and they started the season with a ranking in the teens. Kent State is a team with a bunch of solid players, and UTSA just gave [No. 12] Texas all they could handle in a game [Tuesday night],” he said. “I’d say it’s a pretty good level of competition.”

The team first takes the field at 11 a.m. Saturday against UAB, before facing Coastal Carolina later that day at 2:30 p.m. The Invitational wraps up with a matchup against Kent State at 11 a.m. Sunday.

Contact Chris Allen at
callen10@nd.edu

Contest

continued from page 16

regular season contest, a home defeat at the hands of Western Michigan, 2-0, Feb. 26, which prevented the Irish from capturing the CCHA regular season championship. Though the Irish have moved on from the loss, they are still looking to use lessons from it for this series.

"At home against a team like Western Michigan — they had a lot on the line just like we did. That's playoff hockey, and we're going to have to be prepared for games where the visiting goaltender is playing extremely well," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "We're going to have to avoid frustration and certainly play more disciplined."

Though penalties taken is one thing the Irish hope to improve, one constant lately has been strong goaltending, with both sophomore Mike Johnson and freshman Steven Summerhays playing well in recent weeks. Johnson will continue to be the No. 1 netminder, with Summerhays another viable option.

"Mike's the guy I've looked towards as being the more experienced guy in this situation," Jackson said. "But Steven certainly played well enough in the last six weeks that, if necessary, he'll be in there. It depends on if it's a two or three game series."

The Irish and Lakers have met up once before in a series this season, with Notre Dame picking up a pair of 4-2 victories Oct. 14 and 15. But with those games five

months behind the team, much has changed on both squads. In particular, a new goaltender has revitalized the Lakers.

"Ever since they put the freshman [Kevin] Kapalka in goal, midseason or so, they've been a pretty good hockey team," Jackson said. "They've had good success defensively. He's definitely made a difference for their team."

While the length between games will change things from the first two contests the teams played against each other, there is one more factor: It's the playoffs.

"It's do or die. It happens at every level, once you get to the playoffs, guys get to a new gear, and it's just a lot more intense and a lot more physical," Johnson said. "The speed's faster. It's more fun to play in the playoffs, just because of all those factors."

Regardless of the series result, the games will mark the last time the Irish hockey team will play on Joyce Center ice since joining Division I in 1968. Notre Dame will move into the brand new Compton Family Center next season.

Though the memories will be bittersweet, the Irish are focused solely on winning the games at hand.

"I think it's going to be a tough weekend," Johnson said. "But hopefully we can have some success if we do the right things and stick to our game plan."

Notre Dame takes on Lake Superior State at 7:35 p.m. Friday, 7:05 p.m. Saturday and, if necessary, 7:05 p.m. Sunday at the Joyce Center.

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles to begin season with Florida tourney

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

With Belles coach Erin Sullivan leading the way, the team is ready to begin its season with a Spring Break tournament in Fort Myers, Fla.

Since becoming head coach at Saint Mary's, Sullivan has helped her teams clinch five consecutive seasons with 20 or more wins.

But she won't let it go to her head.

"I'm just making sure to focus on the small successes we have and not worry about anyone else," Sullivan said. "We cannot control what our opponents do ... we only control what we do."

With 10 games scheduled through five days of the break, the team will face a range of opponents.

"I'm not worried about any team in particular," Sullivan said. "These games are all important to us as they give great feedback on how prepared we are at this stage of our season."

Junior Kate Mitchell said she is eager to start the season.

"The good thing about our tournament in Florida is that we don't really know much about our opponents," Mitchell said. "It's beneficial because we learn to make adjustments within the moment."

Senior captain Hayley Bojorquez said her team's ability to make last-minute adjustments against the opponents

would be crucial to the team's success this season.

"I think our biggest problem is we fall short," Bojorquez said. "We wait a little too long to make key adjustments. Every time we play in our season, we play double headers. In the past we have struggled to make adjustments right away and instead wait until the second time around to get it right."

Bojorquez said the inability to make adjustments in prior seasons has had a dramatic affect on the team's results in conference play.

"I think that has been a huge factor in why we have not been able to win our conference, which is our ultimate team goal," Bojorquez said. "We don't fix what needs to be fixed early on so it hurts us in the end. This year we are looking to improve on that."

No matter what happens next week, Sullivan said she would be satisfied if her team performs at the highest level it can.

"The best thing about our sport is you always have a chance to come back," Sullivan said. "That will to win and succeed is what will determine our success. Success for us isn't about winning every game, it's about playing the best we can play and being a team throughout the highs and lows."

The Belles open their season Sunday against SUNY Brockport at 9 a.m.

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu



Senior forward Cale Ridderwall skates up the ice during Notre Dame's 2-1 win over Bowling Green Feb. 11. The Irish will play Lake Superior State in the CCHA playoffs this weekend. PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Playoff

continued from page 16

growing pains. Freshmen are expected to tighten up on the big stage and on the road in places like North Dakota's Ralph Engelstad Arena (capacity 11,640), Michigan's Yost Ice Arena (capacity 6,637) and Miami (Ohio)'s Steve Cady Arena (capacity 4,000). This team struggled a couple times in those places, to be sure, but in those six intimidating away games, they went 2-3-1. That's a pretty good performance for a team full of young guys.

They were loose and care free all season long, oblivious to the pressures of playing with a top-10 ranking and the CCHA lead. They had no memory of the disappointment of last season, and a core group of seniors in Joe Lavin, Calle Ridderwall, Ryan Guentzel and Ben Ryan guided the team to the brink of a conference title. With only one regular-season game remaining and a one-point lead over Michigan (playing on the same day), the Irish simply had to win once more against a Western

Michigan team they had already beaten twice to earn the crown. It was the final regular-season game in Joyce Center history, and a vocal crowd was on hand to witness what should have been a title celebration.

Instead of a celebration, however, the fans were left only with disappointment as Notre Dame came out flat and dropped a 2-0 decision to the Broncos. Michigan's 5-0 victory gave the Wolverines the regular-season crown and the top seed in the playoffs.

The Irish can only hope that game was an aberration. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said his team got caught looking ahead to the playoffs. I want to believe him, and I think I do.

There's just this sinking feeling.

Playing at home in front of a sellout crowd in the Joyce Center's last game for a title, and the Irish get caught looking ahead? To what?

In any case, going down 2-0 in the first period should have been enough of a wake-up call. Is Notre Dame going to drop the ball again this weekend because they were looking ahead to Detroit? If they lose

the first game of the series, are they going to be able to come back and win two in a row?

These questions won't stop bothering me. I hope the freshmen aren't starting to feel the heat. This team has played too well for too long for this season to come to a quick end. Yet, if the young guys don't focus on the playoff games at hand, that's just what could happen. If the problem is focus, it's fixable. If the problem is pressure, it might not be.

I'm still an optimist about this Notre Dame team. With a really solid group of leaders and arguably the best coach in the country behind the bench, they could certainly make a run to the Frozen Four. It wouldn't surprise me at all.

It's hard for me to believe the Irish only lost because they didn't focus against Western Michigan. I just hope I'm wrong.

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

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu

10% OFF EVERYTHING!

WITH CURRENT STUDENT ID

- TUESDAY - Mariachi & Drink Specials
- WEDNESDAY - Karaoke Night
- THURSDAY - Latin Hip Hop DJ, Beer & Margarita Specials
- Your Study Break!

Salsa's

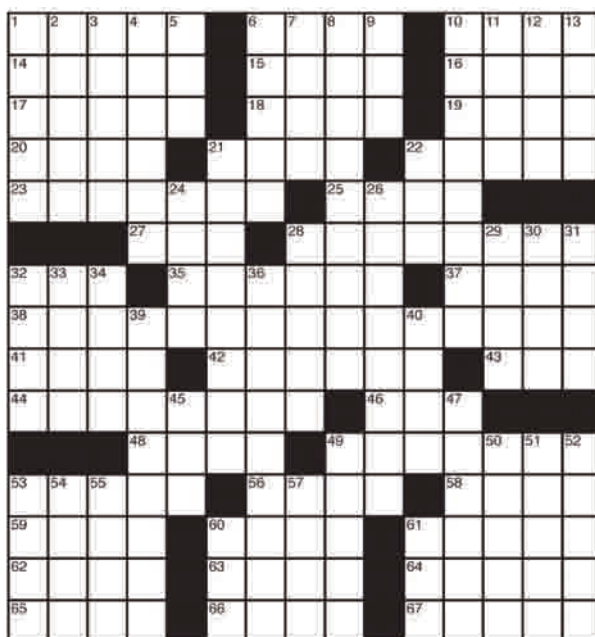
MEXICAN GRILL

Day Road Between Grape & Main • Mishawaka

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 ---
 - 6 Does yard work
 - 10 Longest river entirely in Switzerland
 - 14 Deuce follower
 - 15 ---
 - 16 Summer cooler
 - 17 ---
 - 18 Held up
 - 19 Slaughterer who dashed home to win the 1946 World Series
 - 20 Kind of cheese
 - 21 Food orders sometimes prepared in toaster ovens
 - 22 Excellence as a virtue, to ancient Greeks
 - 23 Advice for solving this puzzle, part 1
 - 25 Kaput
 - 27 "Just Say I Love _____" (hit of 1950)
 - 28 Fouls
 - 32 There is a "super" one every four yrs.
 - 35 Business TV newsmen Ron
 - 37 Roll's partner
 - 38 Advice, part 2
 - 41 ---
 - 42 Set right
 - 43 Broadcast
 - 44 1980s hairstyle with a long strand in the back
 - 46 Baseball's Cobb and others
 - 48 Goes for the bronze?
 - 49 End of the advice
 - 53 ---
 - 56 Go quickly
 - 58 Earl of _____ (Sir Anthony Eden)
 - 59 ---
 - 60 Scraps
- Down**
- 1 Official traditionally seen in a black hat
 - 2 First name in W.W. II infamy
 - 3 Service site for some veterans
 - 4 Harem guard, typically
 - 5 Marie or Jeanne; Abbr.
 - 6 Minnesota lake _____ Lacs
 - 7 One _____ (baseball variant)
 - 8 Dish-washing aid
 - 9 Call _____ or call on
 - 10 ---
 - 11 Crack
 - 12 Source
 - 13 In addition
 - 21 Like the poem "Tam o' Shanter"
 - 22 Org. for Joe Namath
 - 24 Hawaiian handouts
 - 26 Exhibitionist
 - 28 C.F.O.'s concern
 - 29 Bambini
 - 30 Return to sender?
 - 31 Twist
 - 61 Failed spectacularly
 - 62 ---
 - 63 Fancy
 - 64 "#@&%!, " e.g.
 - 65 ---
 - 66 Dispatch
 - 67 Perfume ingredient



Puzzle by Matt Ginsberg

- 32 Cake part
- 33 "Choice" agcy.
- 34 Discharge
- 36 Left-handed
- 39 "A pity"
- 40 Frightful river to cross
- 45 King who gained international prominence in 1922
- 47 ---
- 49 Rank
- 50 Unmistakable
- 51 Static
- 52 Break in, say
- 53 Eastern holy men's titles
- 54 Do programming work
- 55 Wilson of "Shanghai Noon"
- 57 Volcano whose eruption was described by Virgil
- 60 Band-Aid removal comments
- 61 Von Richthofen, for one

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



PLEASANDVILLE

JAMES SOLLITTO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY

This is what happens when 2/3 of PleasaNDville is already on Spring Break...

THE MATING RITUAL

SCOTT MITCHELL and MATT MOMONT

I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF HAS MEANT TO ME. I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT YOU, ABOUT MYSELF.

IT'S JUST THAT WE BOTH ARE GOING DIFFERENT PLACES. THE DISTANCE... WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER IN PERSON FOR A WHILE. I DON'T WANT TO HOLD YOU BACK.

IT'S SPRING BREAK. I'M GOING TO MEXICO FOR A WEEK. CALM DOWN.

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bow Wow, 24; Brittany Snow, 25; Juliette Binoche, 47; Mickey Gilley, 75

Happy Birthday: This is a great year for personal change. Whether you alter your image or your status, it will work to your benefit. Offering your services will lead to financial gain, respect and long-term contracts. Involvement in a cause will bring about interesting new friendships and greater possibilities. Your numbers are 9, 11, 18, 25, 33, 43, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't lose your temper when what is required is love, not criticism and name-calling. Refine your approach when dealing with people who don't see things the same way you do. Play fair. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): What you offer others will be appreciated and the favor returned. Getting involved in an activity or with an energetic group will help you look and feel your best. If there is something bothering you at work, talk to your superior. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can sway some of the people you deal with but not everyone will buy into your charm. Prepare to answer some tough questions. Be straightforward. Do not give the impression you are hiding something. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't stop until you have exhausted all possibilities. What you do today can make a difference to the way the rest of your year will unfold. Being progressive and even a little bit pushy will pay off when it comes to advancement. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The best part of the day will be socializing with colleagues or friends. Trying to spice things up will entice someone you want to impress. Don't reveal how you feel just yet. Keep someone guessing if you want to get a successful response. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take action now and you will learn a lot from what you experience. A change in attitude regarding money matters will help you clear up a misconception someone has about you. Play to win and you will. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get caught in someone else's melodrama. You may not want to rock the boat but if it means you will be blamed for something you didn't do, you had better speak up. Take a cordial but firm approach to any problem you face. Love is in the stars. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Bury yourself in what you enjoy working at the most. Don't be afraid to take an unusual approach to life, love and finding happiness. Alterations at home will make your life more interesting and allow you greater freedom. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Not everyone will like what you are doing or how you are treating the people around you. Complaints can be expected, especially if you exaggerate or push others to do things your way. You cannot force anyone to be your friend or lover. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make some marked improvements to your surroundings both at work and at home. If you feel more comfortable, you will do better and excel further. Have patience when dealing with children, parents or your lover. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If something isn't working stop going against the grain when what's required is symmetry. You can have a lot more than you realize by offering help and suggestions and listening to the way the people you care most about are feeling. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone you meet is likely to play an emotional game with you. Cut to what's important and intervene if you must. You must put your own plans first if you want to reach your deadline or goal. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate and can relate to others. You are open to ideas and imaginative in everything you do.

JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

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

YEDEK

MUGMY

CLITIE

HINSIF



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

Answer here: TO " O O O O " O O O O

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's | Jumbles: PROBE BUXOM RACIAL BROOCH
Answer: What the weaver left in his estate — AN "HEIR" LOOM

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

Make checks payable to:
and mail to:

The Observer
P.O. Box 779
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Enclosed is \$130 for one academic year

Enclosed is \$75 for one semester

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

HOCKEY

Playoff pressure

Notre Dame takes on Lake Superior State in CCHA tournament

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

After a one-week hiatus, Notre Dame returns to home ice this weekend for a second round CCHA playoff matchup against Lake Superior State in the final round of hockey games that will ever be played at the Joyce Center.

The No. 8 Irish (21-10-5, 18-7-3-2 CCHA), who earned a first round bye after finishing second in the conference, will battle the Lakers in the best-of-three series for the right to move on to the CCHA semifinals at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena March 18. LSSU (12-15-9, 8-12-8-5), the CCHA's No. 8 seed, advanced to the second round after sweeping Ohio State last weekend.

Notre Dame will look to rebound after falling in its last

see CONTEST/page 14



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Freshman goalie Mike Johnson defends the net for the Irish during a 2-1 win over Bowling Green Feb. 11. Johnson totalled 21 saves on the night.

Freshman-laden roster creates uncertainty as postseason play begins

Less than a month ago, I was supremely confident this Irish team would win the regular-season CCHA title, storm through the league playoffs and claim another trophy in Joe Louis Arena — making a serious run at another Frozen Four appearance. Coming into this weekend's play-off-opening series against Lake Superior State, however, I have no idea what to expect.

Notre Dame's a freshman-laden team, which usually means there will be some



Allan Joseph

Sports Writer

see PLAYOFF/page 14

ND SOFTBALL

Squad to travel to California for invitational tourney

By JACK YUSKO
Sports Writer

As Spring Break approaches, the Irish are preparing to head for warmer climates — but the next week will be anything but relaxing.

The team is headed to the Judi Garman Classic in California, an annual tournament hosted by Cal State Fullerton that attracts many top-25 softball teams from across the nation, including eight former national champions.

Widely considered the premier

midseason tournament, it is the perfect opportunity to gauge where the team stands at this point in the season, said senior catcher Alexia Clay.

"This tournament is a great opportunity to see where we need to be and if we're there yet," Clay said. "We look forward to this tournament every year as there are always tough teams to beat and good softball to be played."

The tournament will indeed be tough. This year, the Irish (12-2) will play No. 10 Oklahoma, Cal State Fullerton, No. 17 Louisiana-Lafayette, New Mexico, No. 5

Washington and No. 6 Michigan.

In addition, recent injuries have benched a few key players, and the team was dealt its first two losses last week at the Diamond 9 Citrus classic.

Yet even with such a rigorous schedule and couple of setbacks, the team maintains confidence. The Irish came off their two consecutive losses with a three-game winning streak to finish out the invitational and Clay believes things are looking up.

"We've had a few injuries lately but have adjusted well. We're play-

ing great together and going up," Clay said. "We haven't peaked yet, which is a good thing as we can continue to improve until the regional hump later in the season."

With the postseason nearing, the Irish are grateful for the chance to face solid competition before the conference tournament, as few regular season games remain against ranked opponents.

Clay said she is especially looking forward to playing Michigan in a renewal of the traditional rivalry between the two schools.

"We have a bit of a softball rivalry

as well as a school rivalry with Michigan. We've met them in the post season the past three years and lost each time," Clay said. "It's a bit of a sore spot and we're ready to get some revenge."

The Irish hope to build upon the winning streak that began last weekend as they spend the break in California playing some of their stiffest competition yet. The team kicks off the tournament against Oklahoma Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Contact Jack Yusko at jyusko@nd.edu

BASEBALL

Team to head south for break

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

The Irish bats have gone cold in their past six games, but the team will head to warm climates and try to get hot at the plate as they play eight games in nine days over Spring Break.

Notre Dame (4-6) will compete against UAB, No. 24 Coastal Carolina and Kent State in the Caravelle Resort Classic in Conway, S.C., and against Iowa and Gonzaga in the Irish Classic in San Antonio. The team will also face off against Texas-San Antonio in a regular game between the two tournaments.

Irish coach Mik Aoki said it would be beneficial for his team to hit the road and play in warm cli-

see AOKI/page 13



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Notre Dame celebrates after a game against Rutgers April 9, 2010. The Irish will play at South Carolina and San Antonio over break.

ND SWIMMING & DIVING

Irish to send swimmers to NCAA qualifiers

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

The final practices are in the books, and the Irish are prepared to extend the seniors' final season by bringing a solid performance to the NCAA Zone qualifying meet in Columbus, Ohio.

Eager to earn her spot in the NCAA meet, sophomore Jenny Chiang said the Irish are confident in the two women and four men from Notre Dame who will be competing in the zone meet.

"I think we have a very strong team between [senior] Heidi Grossman and I on the women's side and [senior] Eric Lex, [senior] Nate Geary, [senior] Wes

Villaflor and [sophomore] Ryan Koter on the men's side. This may be one of the best teams our program has had," she said.

Chiang said she and Grossman have worked the past several weeks to perfect their dives for the qualifying meet.

"In preparing for big meets, our practices usually change from doing a high quantity of a specific dives to about three to four each of multiple categories of dives and focus more on quality," Chiang said. "This way we are able to practice all the dives we will be competing in the meet because by now we don't need to be making big corrections on

see CHIANG/page 13

IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, March 10, 2011

THE
OBSERVER



ALL HE DOES IS
win,
win,
win



NOTRE DAME'S ALL-TIME WINNINGEST PLAYER, **TY NASH,**
RETURNS HOME FOR THE **BIG EAST TOURNAMENT**

Unexpected rise could be prelude

Three years ago, Ben Hansbrough was toiling away unhappily at Mississippi State.

Less than five months ago, Big East coaches not only left the Irish senior guard off the Preseason All-Big East First Team, they did not even grant him honorable mention status.



Douglas Farmer

Sports Editor

Tuesday, those same coaches named Hansbrough the Big East Player of the Year, after unanimously naming him to the All-Big East First Team on Sunday.

Three years ago Notre Dame finished 10th in the Big East, and ended the season with a loss to Penn State in the NIT semifinals.

Less than five months ago, the Irish finished seventh in the Big East preseason coaches' poll, five spots behind Villanova.

Now, the Irish enter postseason play after finishing second in the Big East and No. 4 in the nation's final polls.

Unexpected rises seem to be the theme to Notre Dame's season: to the extent that Villanova would have needed to win two games in order to face the Irish in the Big East quarterfinals tonight. Alas, the Wildcats couldn't even beat South Florida Tuesday, further skewing the preseason prognostications.

Only two questions remain: How high can the Irish rise? And will Hansbrough and Notre Dame end up flying too close to the sun?

The Irish last tasted a top-five ranking in January 2003 after opening the season with 12 wins in their first 13 games. This season, an identical start only carried Notre Dame to the No. 15 slot in the polls.

A late-season, three-game swoon dropped the 2003 Irish into a No. 5 seed for the NCAA tournament. Mike Brey's current squad only lost consecutive games once, and thus, could face a No. 16 seed in the NCAA's opening round.

The most unexpected aspect of this rise is that Notre Dame deserves a No. 1 seed.

But can these Irish handle such accolades, or will no longer being the underdog and instead being the focus of conversation backfire and Ben, Brey and the boys?

No matter how much fans — and columnists — speculate, no one can know for sure how Notre Dame will handle the heat, but certain indicators should fill Irish fans with confidence as St. Patrick's Day approaches.

For the first time in recent memory, Notre Dame did not suffer an embarrassing loss this season. Granted, all five of its losses came by margins which could qualify as eye-sores — at an average of 16 points per loss — but each of those losses also came on the road, against NCAA tournament-bound teams. Thus, it is realistic to presume the Irish will avoid an embarrassing upset against an opponent akin to Old Dominion or Winthrop, as they have in the past.

Another change from years past is that Notre Dame has proven it can win games when its 3-point shooting does not show up on a given night. In back-to-back games at the Old Spice Classic in November, the Irish shot a combined 5-of-34 from deep, yet still prevailed over Cal 57-44 and Wisconsin 58-51. At some point in the coming tournaments, fourth-year forward Tim Abromaitis' shot will not be falling. This is a Notre Dame squad that can survive such a drought.

The Irish also know how to slow down their fast-paced offense. Though Notre Dame put up 93 points to topple then-No. 19 Villanova on Feb. 28, it also held itself to 56 points in a 56-51 victory over then-No. 2 Pittsburgh on Jan. 24.

The security blanket known as Brey's 'burn' offense allows Notre Dame to enjoy whatever tempo its opponent brings to the court. Whether facing a high-flying Kansas or a plodding Purdue, the Irish will have options.

But the most encouraging difference between this version of Notre Dame and the ones previously seen did not reveal itself until the final regulation game — a 70-67 victory over then-No. 16 Connecticut. When Hansbrough fouled out with more than eight minutes left, it seemed that sans their catalyst, the Irish would fold. Instead, Notre Dame rose without its leader.

Already this season, the Irish defeated two top-20 teams while senior forward Carleton Scott rode the bench nursing a sore hamstring, and Notre Dame rallied to the upset at Pittsburgh without Abromaitis attempting a single field goal.

The Irish can truly win no matter who does not show up on any given day. Combine that with consistent performances no matter the opponent, an independence from the 3 and a varied offense, and perhaps this is finally the year for a deep Notre Dame run.

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

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

Irish enter Big East as No. 2 seed



Irish freshman guard Eric Atkins drives past Marquette sophomore guard Junior Cadougan in Notre Dame's 80-75 victory over the Golden Eagles Jan. 22.

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

After completing one of the best regular seasons in school history, No. 4 Notre Dame heads to the Big East Championship as the No. 2 seed in the conference and looks to take the first step in having one of the program's best postseasons ever.

In what is arguably the strongest conference tournament in NCAA history — which boasts a field that includes as many as 11 teams that could make the NCAA Tournament — the Irish (25-5, 14-4 Big East) earned a double bye and will open up action in the quarterfinals, which is crucial in a conference that boasts nine teams ranked in the ESPN/USA Today top-25, seven of whom also appear in the Associated Press' top-25.

While Notre Dame was not left for dead at the beginning of the season, few had high expectations for the Irish after the departure of starters Luke Harangody and Tory Jackson, and the Big East coaches picked Notre Dame to finish seventh in the 16-team league. Four short months later, however, the Irish find themselves ranked in the top-five of either poll for the first time since the 2002-03 season, which was the last time Notre Dame reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. This time around, the Irish are one of the favorites to win the Big East Championship and remain in contention for a coveted No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Irish coach Mike Brey, who won his third Big East Coach of the Year award in the last five seasons Tuesday, recognized his team's potential early in the season with its win in the November's Old Spice Classic and is more than thrilled with how the season has progressed in the vaunted Big East.

"I always go in thinking 'sur-

vival' in this league and getting one of the bids, and then once we get to nine [Big East wins], then I start thinking about gravy or dessert or whatever," Brey said in his March 2 teleconference. "Certainly the way we won, the different ways we won, the guys that helped us win in Orlando got me energized coming out of there that, you know, we could be pretty darn good. We were better earlier than I thought we would be — I thought we'd be good — but certainly once you get moving toward eight or nine [conference wins], then you start wanting to be greedy."

"Obviously the pattern of the league when we got out of [facing Marquette and Pittsburgh back-to-back] and then we had that nine-day gap, you know the skies kind of opened up where you could frame it as chasing down the leader of the league," he said.

Although Brey picked up another prestigious honor, he was not the only member of the Irish to win one of the Big East's top-four awards. Fourth-year forward Tim Abromaitis was named Big East Scholar Athlete of the Year, and senior guard Ben Hansbrough became Notre Dame's first Big East Conference Player of the Year winner since Harangody won the award in 2008. Hansbrough's win marked the second time that Brey won Coach of the Year honors in the same season that the Irish boasted the conference's top player. Brey said he believes that his star guard will enjoy the individual accolades but would rather see his team succeed.

"I think individual honors for Ben ... and you know you probably say, 'oh BS,' but you guys have been around this psyche now for a while and you've been around it this year — it's pure in wanting his team to win," Brey said. "It's extremely pure, it started back in June, so I firmly

believe ... his team doing things is something he wants to remember and put his mark on as he goes on to play in the NBA and comes back to reunions, et cetera."

The Irish are certainly off to an auspicious start in New York, but they would undoubtedly like to return to South Bend with a conference championship to go along with their individual accolades. While the Irish have played in the Big East semifinals before, including a 53-51 loss to West Virginia last year, they've set their focus on reaching the program's first championship game.

"The one thing we talked about even back in the fall and I talked about it over the summer was our program, we've gotten an identity and a respect and a rhythm in this league now, and we've played on Friday night here in New York in the semis, but our program's never played on Saturday night," Brey said to bigeast.org after receiving his Coach of the Year award. "And I verbalized that — I haven't talked about the NCAA bracket, I haven't talked about anything but, 'I wonder what it would be like to play on Saturday night at the Garden,' and I think this group has embraced that and we're [going to] try like heck to get to that."

Notre Dame finds itself on a favorable side of the bracket to accomplish that goal as the Irish boast a 6-2 record against the teams they could potentially play before Saturday night's final. The other double bye on their side is No. 3 seed Louisville, who the Irish beat 89-79 in overtime Feb. 9. In Notre Dame's first game, however, the Irish will face No. 7 Cincinnati or No. 15 South Florida.

The Irish will tip off at Madison Square Garden tonight at 7 p.m. on ESPN.

Contact Mike Gotimer
mgotimer@nd.edu

Follow The Observer
Sports on Twitter
[@NDObsSports](https://twitter.com/NDObsSports)

Back to the Big Apple

Irish senior forward Tyrone Nash fulfills childhood dreams of playing in Madison Square Garden

By ANDREW GASTELUM
Sports Writer

Almost two decades ago, Tyrone Nash crossed a busy Eighth Avenue in downtown New York, clenching his father's hand. Dodging the traffic, Nash couldn't have been happier. His eyes twinkled in front of the magnificent palace in front of him, for he was there to see his favorite player take on his favorite team in America's sports citadel.

"My first [Knicks] game was seeing Michael Jordan kill us at the Garden," said Nash, Irish senior forward and Queens native.

"I was four years old and my dad took me. I'll never forget it."

That is where the dream began for Nash. He grew up in the shadow of the Garden with a fantasy that all New Yorkers share: to play there. But Nash got the chance early, as a young athlete with his local basketball team as a halftime filler.

"One time I got to play at halftime when I was in a youth league and that was the only time I thought I would play at the Garden," he said. "But lo and behold I got the chance to be a part of the Big East and play there every year."

The dream became reality multiple times throughout Nash's Big East career. Years after watching his heroes hustle down the court, Nash will play once again on the very same floor they did, something he could only dream of while watching highlight films as a kid.

"Those past players motivate me," Nash said. "I have a bunch of old Michael Jordan videos. I used to watch tapes of Dr. J, Grant Hill and all those guys over and over again. Then I would go and try to do what they did on my Fisher Price hoop with a rubber ball. That's where my basketball career started."

Nash has come a long way from the hoop on the back of his door, as the experienced senior is a key part of No. 4 Notre Dame's run this season. With the Irish's 70-67 win at Connecticut Saturday — where he had 13 points and five rebounds — Nash became the all-time winningest player in Notre Dame basketball history with 94 wins, passing the mark Tory Jackson and Luke Harangody set last season.

"It is a story that I can tell my grandchildren when I get older: That granddad is part of the winningest class in Notre Dame history," Nash said. "I'm etched in history now, and it's a great thing. If you would have told me that coming into my freshman year I would have never believed you. It is a testament to the great teams that I have been on. We just keep winning."

The teams keep on winning, but Nash is a bigger part of the winning than he gives himself credit for. The senior is averaging 9.7 points and 6.1 rebounds per game, while leading the team in offensive rebounds with 76. He has scored in double-figures in five of the past six games, highlighted by his fourth double-double of the year with an 11-

point, 11-rebound effort against then-No.19 Villanova on Senior Night.

Following Nash's lead, the Irish are 21-1 when they out-rebound their opponent and 15-1 when Nash scores in double figures. He has helped to build a plus-5.1 rebounding margin over opposing teams on the season. Nash has done this while also guarding colossal centers that outsize his 6-foot-8 frame.

"It is a different task every day," the forward said. "Sometimes I have to guard the biggest guy on the court, but then again he has to guard me on the offensive end too. I just try to use my speed and quickness and make his life hell when he has the ball. It's good that I can be versatile and guard the big men but then go out there and guard the guards. It's definitely an asset to my game."

After he rips away a rebound from his bigger opponent, the senior often brings the ball down the court himself to set up the offense, something that he picked up as a hybrid star in high school.

"I was like a guard-forward," Nash said. "It was more of a comfortability thing. My old coach used to always trust me with the ball and I made good decisions. It just stuck. And [Irish] coach [Mike] Brey realized that it could help the team out a little bit. It brings out [the other team's] big man and relieves some of the heat off the guards who face a lot pressure when they bring the ball up the court."

At times, Nash even plays like a true point guard. His vision and passing abilities over his career have resulted in 82 assists in the past four seasons, including a seven-assist night at Providence Feb. 23. The forward, who has led the Irish in assists in eight games this season, credits the



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Irish senior forward Tyrone Nash looks to score in Notre Dame's 97-72 victory over Maine Nov. 22.

coaching staff for his development, and, moreover, for the essential confidence in his game necessary for a multi-tool player like himself.

"[Coach Brey] has helped me by just giving me a chance," Nash said. "He instilled confidence in me and my game, which is something that I lacked in my freshman year and going into my sophomore year. He would just tell me, 'You can do it. Go for it.' Because of that, the confidence in my game went up and provided me with the opportunities that I have today."

Those opportunities were not always there for the senior, who was also offered scholarships from Kentucky, St. John's, Purdue and many others. Nash sat behind veteran forwards his freshman year, averaging less than four minutes per game. But he was never one to quit, starting off-season work immediately after his freshman season.

"Nothing in life is given to you and you have to learn everything," Nash said. "I learned that early on in my freshman year. I made a real effort to go home and work hard on my game to show the coaches how I have improved so I could earn some minutes on the court and play in this league. After that I was able to start my first game that year. It just made it feel that much better that I worked so hard for it and I earned it."

Since then the forward has been the most consistent force for the Irish. Along with fourth-year forward Tim Abromaitis and fellow senior Ben Hansbrough, Nash has started in every contest this

year. On top of that, the senior has played in a team-high 80 consecutive games, dating back to February of his sophomore year. That type of consistency has developed the Irish into a top-five team; Nash, however, is not ready to celebrate this ranking, knowing that there are still three more teams ahead of his.

"Don't get me wrong, it's great, but I don't want to be satisfied with that," the veteran said. "I don't want to get too comfortable with a ranking. It doesn't mean anything when we get to the tournament. We still have a lot of work to do and goals to be fulfilled."

Starting tonight, Nash can expand his records at the famed Garden, a place that holds a special meaning of home-court advantage to the senior.

"Playing at home in front of my home crowd is just an incredible feeling," Nash said. "Hopefully we could come out of there with a win this time and a Big East championship in my hands. It would definitely be a great story."

Reflecting on his career before practice in the Purcell Pavilion Monday afternoon, the senior's wide grin — provoked by thoughts of New York — soon morphed into a meek smile. His eyes twinkled due to the magnificent palace in front of him.

"I'm going to miss this whole thing ... All of it," the senior said, ready to return to his home on 7th and West 31st one last time.

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastel1@nd.edu



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Senior forward Tyrone Nash scores in Notre Dame's 66-58 win over Cincinnati Jan. 19. Nash and the Irish will play their first game of the Big East tournament tonight at Madison Square Garden.

Notre Dame

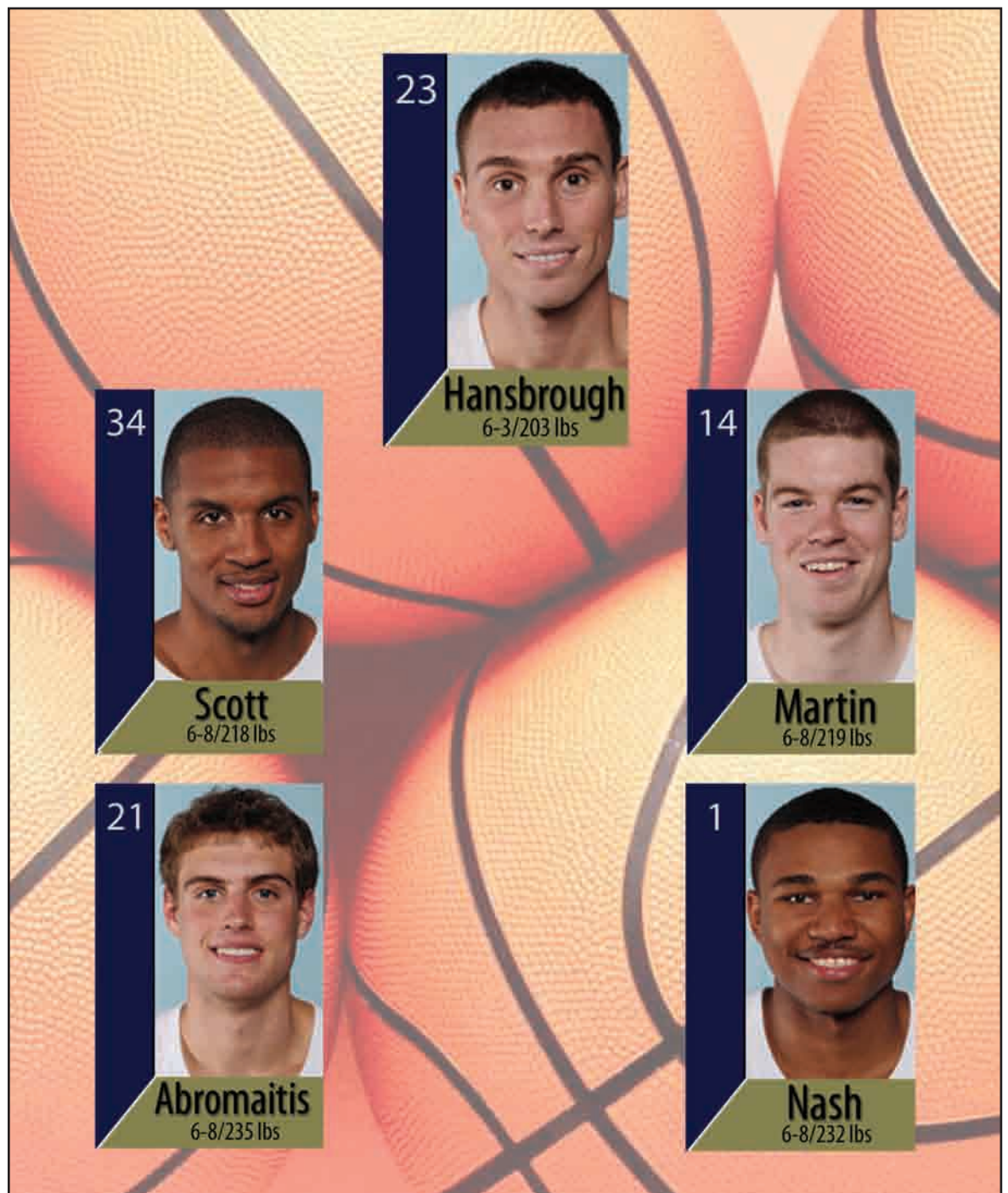
Record: 26-5 (14-4 BIG EAST)

AP: 4 Coaches: 4

2010-11 Schedule

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Nov. 12 | Georgia Southern | W 98-61 |
| Nov. 14 | Liberty | W 72-51 |
| Nov. 17 | Chicago State | W 102-62 |
| Nov. 22 | Maine | W 97-72 |
| Nov. 25 | Georgia (Orlando, Fla.) | W 89-83 (2OT) |
| Nov. 26 | California (Orlando, Fla.) | W 57-44 |
| Nov. 28 | Wisconsin (Orlando, Fla.) | W 58-51 |
| Nov. 30 | Indiana State | W 81-72 |
| Dec. 8 | Kentucky (Louisville, Ky.) | L 72-58 |
| Dec. 11 | Gonzaga | W 83-79 |
| Dec. 19 | Stony Brook | W 88-62 |
| Dec. 22 | UMBC | W 93-53 |
| Dec. 29 | Georgetown | W 69-55 |
| Jan. 1 | @ Syracuse | L 70-58 |
| Jan. 4 | Connecticut | W 73-70 |
| Jan. 8 | St. John's | W 76-61 |
| Jan. 10 | @ Marquette | L 79-57 |
| Jan. 16 | @ St. John's | L 72-54 |
| Jan. 19 | Cincinnati | W 66-58 |
| Jan. 22 | Marquette | W 80-75 |
| Jan. 24 | @ Pittsburgh | W 56-51 |
| Feb. 3 | @ DePaul | W 83-58 |
| Feb. 6 | Rutgers | W 76-69 |
| Feb. 9 | Louisville | W 89-79 (OT) |
| Feb. 12 | @ South Florida | W 78-55 |
| Feb. 19 | @ West Virginia | L 72-58 |
| Feb. 23 | @ Providence | W 94-93 |
| Feb. 26 | Seton Hall | W 60-48 |
| Feb. 28 | Villanova | W 93-72 |
| March 5 | @ Connecticut | W 70-67 |

Notre Dame's starting lineup



BEN HANSBROUGH

18.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 4.2 apg

The Big East Player of the Year has proven to be a complete player for the Irish this season, including showing abundant amounts of emotion on the court. Furthermore, his defensive performances against the likes of Connecticut's Kemba Walker and Pittsburgh's Ashton Gibbs cemented his status as completely necessary. Hansbrough enters the Big East tournament 12 for his last 16 on 3-point attempts, and will be a difficult matchup for any and all who face him.

SCOTT MARTIN

9.5 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.8 apg

Martin has struggled recently on the offensive end, scoring just 15 points in his last three games combined. But when he is making his shots, Martin is a dangerous weapon for the Irish, and his size at the guard position creates a mismatch for almost everyone who guards him. He likely will not lead Notre Dame in any categories, but the Irish need him to contribute points and rebounds if they are going to make a run in the tournament.

TIM ABROMAITIS

15.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.8 apg

Abromaitis' offensive repertoire hinges on his 3-point shooting and ability to slip behind the defensive for backdoor finishes. Luckily for the Irish, Abromaitis has made 18 3s over his last four games, including a Purcell Pavilion record nine against Villanova Feb. 28. The Wildcats learned that leaving Abromaitis open can be a grave mistake, and Notre Dame's opponents in the Big East tournament would be wise to learn from 'Nova's mistake.

CARLETON SCOTT

11.4 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 2.2 apg

Scott is Notre Dame's most versatile scorer. He can shoot from distance, making 37 percent of his attempts beyond the arc. He can also muscle his way down low and score on put-backs, and he has a knack for finding open space for a mid-range jumper. Defensively, Scott's most prized asset is his help defense, using his athleticism to guard the lane and protect the rim. Scott seems to consistently hit big shots for the Irish, and in New York, he may be called upon to do just that.

TYRONE NASH

9.7 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 2.7 apg

Nash has received consistent playing time for four years now, so he is no stranger to the physical style of play in the Big East. He often gives up size to whomever he is guarding, but has done an excellent job defending the centers around the Big East. Nash will score and rebound for the Irish, but may help their offense most with his vision, creating three-point attempts with his inside-out passing ability.

BENCH PERFORMANCE/INTANGIBLES

Most of Notre Dame's opponents are deeper than the Irish, but freshman guard Eric Atkins is leading the Big East in assist-to-turnover ratio, providing a stabilizing force for the offense, and sophomore forward Jack Cooley has come on strong in the second half of the season.

Winning his third Big East Coach of the Year award in five years, Irish coach Mike Brey has done an excellent job leading the Irish this season. Notre Dame can run and shoot or can slow things down and run the 'burn,' and Brey has switched between the two masterfully this year.

Follow *The Observer's* continued coverage of all o

MARCH MADNESS, live from Ne

Notre Dame's most likely opponents at Madison Square Garden

PITTSBURGH



No. 1 seed; 15-3 Big East, 27-4 overall

Lost to Notre Dame 56-51 on Jan. 24

When the Irish and Panthers met in late January, Notre Dame managed to silence a rowdy Oakland Zoo with its nearly-patented "burn" offense.

Pittsburgh boasts a one-two punch in Ashton Gibbs and Brad Wanamaker that should still scare Irish fans.

No. 3 seed, 12-6 Big East, 23-8 overall

Lost at Notre Dame 89-79 (OT) on Feb. 9

Louisville came the closest of anybody to beating Notre Dame at Purcell Pavilion this season, but when the extra period commenced, the Irish ran away with the victory.

Kyle Kuric's sharp-shooting can keep the Cardinals in nearly any contest.

LOUISVILLE



SYRACUSE



No. 4 seed, 12-6 Big East, 25-6 overall

Defeated Notre Dame 70-58 on Jan. 1

Long-time Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim has essentially perfected the zone defense, and utilized such against the Irish with no mercy on New Year's Day.

Notre Dame's only answer to the Orange is to simply shoot the lights out until Syracuse gives up its zone gimmick.

No. 5 seed, 12-6 Big East, 20-10 overall

**Lost at Notre Dame 76-61 on Jan. 8
Defeated Notre Dame 72-54 on Jan. 16**

Nobody wants to face the Red Storm at home, otherwise known as Madison Square Garden. St. John's ran Notre Dame out of the gym when they met in New York City, while the Irish did likewise when in South Bend.

ST. JOHN'S



CINCINNATI



No. 7 seed, 11-7 Big East, 24-7 overall

Lost to Notre Dame 66-58 on Jan. 19

Only South Florida stands between Cincinnati and a quarterfinals date with Notre Dame.

The Bearcats are an NCAA tournament lock, but have quite a bit to play for in New York city as their seed will largely hinge on their performance this weekend.

No. 8 seed, 10-8 Big East, 21-9 overall

Lost at Notre Dame 69-55 on Dec. 29

In a roller coaster of a season, the Hoyas have risen to the top-10 in the country, and nearly fallen out of the polls.

Georgetown could not figure out how to score against Notre Dame, as the Irish held the Hoyas more than 10 points below their season average.

GEORGETOWN



CONNECTICUT



No. 9 seed, 9-9 Big East, 22-9 overall

**Lost at Notre Dame 73-70 on Jan. 4
Lost to Notre Dame 70-67 on March 5**

In two evenly-matched contests, Notre Dame came up the victor twice.

Connecticut junior guard Kemba Walker would relish a third chance to one-up Ben Hansbrough, but will not get the chance if he doesn't make it to Saturday.

No. 15 seed, 3-15 Big East, 10-22 overall

Lost to Notre Dame 78-55 on Feb. 12

After upsetting Villanova Tuesday — shortly before this Insider went to print — South Florida provided the Garden its first unexpected drama of the weekend.

If the Bulls can get by Cincinnati Wednesday, they'd get a shot at upending the Irish, however unlikely it may be.

SOUTH FLORIDA



Predicting the Irish postseason: Big East and NCAA

Irish coach Mike Brey may have now won three of the last five Big East Coach of the Year awards, but, hands down, this has been his best coaching job in his 11 years at Notre Dame.

Granted, it doesn't hurt to start five seniors. That combination usually yields pleasing results in the springtime, and this year the Irish will prove that theory true.

Only two teams in the Big East can claim winning records against Notre Dame — Syracuse and West Virginia. Fortunately, the earliest the Irish could face either of them would be the Big East semifinals. By that point, Notre Dame will have locked up a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament, and the Irish bandwagon will be filling quicker than ever.

The way Notre Dame has been shooting of late though, neither the Orange nor the Mountaineers could slow down the onslaught. Ah, the springtime.

Big East: Notre Dame tops Pittsburgh for the Big East tournament title

NCAA: With a No. 1 seed, the Irish make it to the Final Four, where a sole bounce can determine a game

The Irish have given us legitimate reasons to think big — perhaps even into April — and have been rewarded for those performances this week with the No. 4 spot in the polls and individual recognition for Ben Hansbrough and coach Mike Brey. But what I love about this team is that it has earned everything to come its way this year.

I thought the Irish were vastly underrated coming into the year, but instead of complain about it, they won the Old Spice Classic, and then kept on winning. I remember how excited Brey said his players were when they first earned a top-25 ranking because they knew they had earned it. I love the way Brey has allowed his players, and even himself, to publicly enjoy some of the unexpected magic of this season, like when he joked that he should retire if he won his third Big East Coach of the Year award in five years. Coach, it's a relief you didn't stay true to your word. But heck, if you get us to Houston, you can do whatever you want. You've earned it.

Big East: Notre Dame falls to Syracuse in the Big East tournament final

NCAA: Notre Dame makes it further than ever under Brey, but falls again in the Elite Eight

Though I've claimed to be a believer in the Irish every step of the way this season, when big games presented themselves, I'll admit my faith wavered.

I knew Notre Dame was good, but I never thought that it would beat then-second-ranked Pittsburgh on the road. I knew the Irish were one of the best teams in the country, but beating Connecticut on the road on the Huskies' senior day — especially when Irish senior guard and catalyst Ben Hansbrough fouled out with more than eight minutes left — just seemed unlikely.

But now, the lack of faith is over. I'm on board, all in, 100 percent. Notre Dame just has a certain spark this year, and they will beat Cincinnati, Louisville and finally Pittsburgh in the Big East tournament on the back of the Big East Player of the Year as the Big East Coach of the Year guides them. It's their time.

Big East: Notre Dame over Pittsburgh in the Big East tournament final

NCAA: Notre Dame earns No. 1 seed, makes it past the Sweet Sixteen



Douglas Farmer

Editor-in-Chief



Matt Gamber

Senior Sports Writer



Eric Prister

Associate Sports Editor

of
New York City and the NCAA Tournament,
at ndsmcobserver.com/sports/irish-basketball.

Notre Dame faces a long history of NCAA missteps

Despite eight trips in his 10 years at ND, Irish coach Mike Brey has yet to tally three wins in one March

By MATT GAMBER
Senior Sports Writer

Notre Dame begins play Thursday in New York with a realistic shot at advancing to, and winning, the program's first-ever Big East tournament title. But the Irish, who are ranked No. 4 nationally, have their eyes on another tournament in which they will likely receive a top-two seed.

Notre Dame will qualify Sunday for its eighth NCAA tournament during coach Mike Brey's 11-year tenure, and a strong showing at Madison Square Garden this week should guarantee the Irish a No. 2-seed, if not a No. 1, in the NCAAs. While that high seeding will provide an added amount of pressure to perform in the Big Dance, the Irish are a veteran group that has been to the NCAA tournament before.

Unfortunately for Notre Dame, that experience hasn't been altogether successful in recent years.

After the Irish won six of their final seven games to escape the bubble and earn a No. 6-seed in last year's tournament, Notre Dame suffered a first-round upset to No. 11 Old Dominion, 51-50, in New Orleans.

"It's just amazing how fast it can end," Brey said after the loss. "Once you get into these one-game shots, anything can happen."

In addition to having that experience from which to learn, there might be two silver linings for this year's Irish team.

First, senior guard Ben Hansbrough led Notre Dame with

17 points in last year's upset loss, which shows that the Big East player of the year is tournament-tested and NCAA-ready.

Second, their high seeding will mean the Irish will likely be favored in their first three tournament games — or, in March Madness terms, until the Elite 8, where the Irish have never been under Brey.

While seedings and point spreads can almost always be thrown out the window during the NCAA tournament, it is worth noting that under Brey, Notre Dame has only once beaten a team with a higher seeding than the Irish.

2001: No. 6 seed

Brey, in his first season at Notre Dame, ended an 11-year tournament absence by qualifying for the NCAAs after winning the Big East's West division title in the regular season — in large part thanks to the efforts of forward Troy Murphy, who won his second straight Big East player of the year award in 2001.

Murphy, a first-team All-American, scored 19 points in Notre Dame's first-round game to help lead the Irish past No. 11-seed Xavier, 83-71.

No. 3-seeded Mississippi ended Notre Dame's run in the second round, however, when Rebels guard Jason Harrison's 3-pointer beat the shot clock and gave Ole Miss the lead, 57-55, with 46 seconds to play. The Irish fell, 59-56, to end Brey's first season.

2002: No. 8-seed

Notre Dame won back-to-back NCAA tournament openers for the

first time in 23 years, beating No. 9 seed Charlotte, 82-63, to advance to a game with No. 1 seed Duke, the defending national champion.

The Irish led their second-round game 71-64 with six minutes to play, but the top-seeded Blue Devils would recover with a 20-6 run that gave them an 84-77 victory.

Then-Duke star Jason Williams made the go-ahead free throws with 1:04 to play and made another pair 30 seconds later to bury an Irish team that received 20 points each from David Graves and Matt Carroll in the near-upset.

Notre Dame trailed 45-39 at the half and 48-39 with about 16 minutes to play, but the Irish surged ahead with a 14-0 run that nearly propelled Brey to a victory over legendary Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, under whom Brey coached in the early 1990s.

2003: No. 5-seed

Notre Dame snuck by No. 12-seed Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 70-69, in the first round. In that game, the Irish needed every one of guard Chris Thomas' 27 points to top the Panthers, who were led by current-Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl and were making their first-ever NCAA appearance.

Playing in Indianapolis, the Irish enjoyed a quasi-home court advantage and drilled 13 3 to beat No. 4-seed Illinois, 68-60, and advance to their first Sweet 16 since 1987.

Notre Dame would advance no further, however, as top-seeded Arizona — led by the trio of Luke Walton, Jason Gardner and Channing Frye — rolled by the Irish 88-71. Notre Dame turned the ball over 19 times in a game it trailed 53-40 at the half.



Observer File Photo

Then-senior guard Tory Jackson walks off the court last March after Old Dominion upset the Irish in the NCAA's first round.

2007: No. 6 seed

Notre Dame knew to look out for No. 11-seed Winthrop, a trendy upset pick, but the Irish still fell in the first round 74-64 to an Eagle program that secured its first NCAA tournament victory.

The Big South champions held off a Notre Dame team that rallied back from a 54-34 deficit to take a 63-62 lead with 2:21 left, as the Eagles finished the game on an 11-2 run of their own to send the Irish packing.

2008: No. 5 seed

A year after suffering a first-round upset, Notre Dame held

serve in its first game by beating No. 12-seed George Mason, a popular Cinderella team after its magical run to the Final Four in 2006.

But the Irish run ended two days later, when Washington State trounced Notre Dame, 61-41, in Denver.

The Irish shot only 24.5 percent (13 of 53) from the field, and 17.6 percent from 3 (3 of 17), in a game that saw senior forward Luke Harangody pull in 22 rebounds but score only 10 points on 3-of-17 shooting.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

nd ncaa history under brey (2001-11)

| Year | ND Seed | Round Reached | Result |
|------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2001 | No. 6 | Second round | Loss to No. 3 Mississippi, 59-56 |
| 2002 | No. 8 | Second round | Loss to No. 1 Duke, 88-71 |
| 2003 | No. 5 | Regional semifinal | Loss to No. 1 Arizona, 88-71 |
| 2007 | No. 6 | First round | Loss to No. 11 Winthrop, 74-64 |
| 2008 | No. 5 | Second round | Loss to No. 4 Washington State, 61-41 |
| 2010 | No. 6 | First round | Loss to No. 11 Old Dominion, 51-50 |
| 2011 |WE SHALL SEE..... | | |

The Morris PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
211 North Michigan Street ★ South Bend, IN
(574) 235-9190 or (800) 537-6415
www.MorrisCenter.org

Tickets On Sale Now

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| Barney Live In Concert "Birthday Bash!" Thursday, March 10 | Larry the Cable Guy "Tailgate Party" Comedy Tour Saturday, March 12 | The Color Purple Broadway Theatre League Musical Fri-Sat, March 18-19 | Willie Nelson & Family Country Legend Sunday, March 20 |

Upcoming Events

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Saturday, March 26 | South Bend Symphony "Classical Mystery Tour" Tribute to the Beatles | Friday, April 8 | Styx, Blue Oyster Cult & Mark Farner Rock Tripleheader |
| Saturday, April 2 | R&B Comedy Explosion with The Whispers | Saturday, April 9 | South Bend Symphony Masterworks Concert |
| Thursday, April 7 | Randy Travis Country Concert | Friday, April 15 | Celtic Woman "Songs from the Heart" |

Visit Morris Ticket Outlet at Hammes Bookstore in Eddy Street Commons

Hansbrough, Walker among Big East honorees

Pittsburgh's Gibbs, Providence's Brooks named by coaches to all-conference first team

By ERIC PRISTER
Associate Sports Editor

Among other accolades, including Big East Player of the Year, Irish senior guard Ben Hansbrough was named to the Big East all-conference first team. Joining Hansbrough were five others, Connecticut junior guard Kemba Walker, Providence senior guard Marshon Brooks, Georgetown senior guard Austin Freeman, Pittsburgh junior guard Ashton Gibbs and St. John's senior guard Dwight Hardy.

Hansbrough finished third in the Big East in scoring, averaging 18.5 per game, and 11th in assists with four per contest. His 45-percent 3-point shooting percentage is also third in the conference. Hansbrough averaged over 20 points per game in Big East play, including four straight contests over 20. He was the only player unanimously named to the all-Big East first team.

"He's been amazing," Irish coach Mike Brey said of Hansbrough on Jim Rome is Burning. "He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything [player]. And he pulls his teammates along with him, come hell or high water. He's just done a great job setting for the tone for us. He has a great

basketball IQ."

Kemba Walker finished second in the Big East in scoring with 23.1 points per game. He led the Huskies in scoring in 25 of their 31 games this season, scoring 24 points or more 13 times. He played a conference-high 37.4 minutes per game and finished 10th in the Big East in assists with 4.3 per contest.

"He's leading a lot of young people to some awfully good places," Huskies coach Jim Calhoun said after Connecticut's Feb. 16 win over Georgetown. "I've never seen a guy be able to do those kinds of things. He obviously wins games, but he's also a pretty good guy to watch play. He's fun to watch play."

Marshon Brooks led the Big East in scoring with a 24.8 points per game average. He scored 20 points or more in all but three Big East games,

including a 52-point explosion in Providence's one-point loss to Notre Dame Feb. 23. Brooks also finished seventh in the conference in rebounds, pulling down just over seven per game. He led the Friars in points in 26 of their 31 contests, and recorded seven double-doubles.

"Marshon Brooks is able to make the right plays — not just scoring, but make the right passes," Friars coach Keno Davis said after the loss to

"[Hansbrough's] been amazing. He is a live-on-the-edge, compete-every-day, want-to-win-everything [player]."

Mike Brey
Irish coach



Connecticut junior guard Kemba Walker celebrates during the Huskies' 78-70 win over Georgetown Feb. 16. Walker and five others were recently named to the Big East all-conference first team.

Notre Dame. "I feel like he is pretty unselfish, I don't know. But it's a special player. He can score in so many ways."

Austin Freeman scored 17.8 points per game for the Hoyas, good enough for fifth in the Big East. Freeman was named the Preseason Big East Player of the Year, and scored at least 20 points in 11 contests this season. He ranked third in the Big East in free throw percentage, shooting 86.7 percent from the charity stripe.

"Austin Freeman in most situations is unflappable," Hoyas coach John Thompson III said after Georgetown defeated Villanova Jan. 29. "So the last three minutes of the game were only indicative of what he's done the last four years. They're running, trapping and making it hard to do what you want

to do, so you put the ball in his hands because good things happen."

Gibbs finished sixth in the Big East in scoring for the regular season champions, averaging 16.1 points per game. He led the conference in 3-point percentage, making 46.6 per-

cent of his shots from beyond the arc, and in free throw percentage at 89.5 percent. Gibbs sunk at least three 3-pointers in 19 contests this year for the Panthers.

Hardy was named the Big East Most Improved Player and earned Big East Player of the Week three times, the most in the conference. His 17.9 points per game was good enough for fourth in the conference, and he finished fifth in free throw percentage, making 84.4 percent from the line.

"Austin Freeman in most situations is unflappable. So the last three minutes of the game were only indicative of what he's done the last four years."

John Thompson III
Hoyas coach

Contact Eric Prister at
eprister@nd.edu

MARCH 17 - 19, 2011

ST. PATRICK'S 3-DAY BASH

16TH
FUN STARTS @ MIDNIGHT

17TH
OPEN @ 8AM WITH BREAKFAST

LIVE MUSIC
SOUTH OF SOMEWHERE @ 3PM
THE INCREDIBLE JOHNSON @ 9PM

18TH
OPEN @ 11AM
PRIZES & GAMES ALL DAY!

LIVE MUSIC
SHOCK ROXY @ 9PM

19TH
OPEN @ 11AM
PRIZES & GAMES ALL DAY!
UFC 128

LIVE MUSIC • BEVERAGES
GREAT FOOD • GIVEAWAYS
ALL WEEKEND LONG

ONLY 3 MINUTES FROM CAMPUS

Little Caesars®

HOT-N-READY

LARGE PIZZA

\$5

CHEESE OR PEPPERONI

•Original Round •Carry out •Plus tax

HICKORY CROSSING PLAZA
3601 Edison Road at Hickory • 243-4680



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer



EILEEN VEIHMEYER/The Observer

The Irish finished the regular season winning 11 of their last 12 contests and earned the No. 2 seed in the Big East tournament. Three victories over top conference opponents would earn them their first ever Big East tournament title.

Follow Douglas Farmer, Eric Prister and Matt Gamber as they travel to New York to cover Notre Dame's road to the championship.



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer



DAN JACOBS/The Observer



DAN JACOBS/The Observer