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Obama to speak at undergrad commencement

Jenkins: Obama 'honored' University by accepting

By JENN METZ
News Writer

University President Fr. John Jenkins responded to criticism regarding the announcement of President Barack Obama as the 2009 Commencement speaker by clearly making a distinction between honoring the president and supporting his political views.

Jenkins made it clear in an interview with *The Observer* Sunday the University does not "foresee circumstances" that would cause Notre Dame to rescind the president's invitation.

"We have invited the president and he's honored us by accepting," he said.

The White House and the University announced March 20 the president will speak at the May 17 Commencement

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President Barack Obama spoke at Wesleyan University last May in place of Sen. Edward Kennedy. He will deliver the Commencement address at Notre Dame on May 17.

Some applaud, others condemn announcement

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

The University's announcement that President Barack Obama will deliver the 2009 Commencement address has inspired strong responses — both positive and negative — from seniors and student groups.

Students are vocalizing support as well as condemnation of the University's decision through numerous Facebook groups, blogs and other outlets.

Junior Mary Daly, president of Notre Dame's Right to Life club, said she is disappointed in the University's choice of speaker.

Although she said she believes it is

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Former ambassador to Vatican will receive Laetare Medal

'Most prestigious honor given to American Catholics' to be presented to Mary Ann Glendon at commencement

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See Mary Ann Glendon will be the 133rd recipient of the Laetare Medal, the highest award given by Notre Dame. She will receive the Medal during the 2009 Commencement ceremony on May 18, the University announced Sunday.

The Laetare Medal is called "the oldest and most prestigious honor given to American Catholics," according to a University release, and has been awarded annually

since 1883 to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

Glendon, who served as ambassador to the Holy See in 2008, is currently the

Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. She is also the current president of the Pontifical



Glendon

Academy of Social Sciences, appointed to that position by Pope John Paul II in 1994. She was the first woman to be named president of one of the major pontifical academies. She also served on the President's Council on Bioethics under President George W. Bush from 2002 to 2005.

University President Fr. John Jenkins called Glendon "a remarkable woman" who "has lived a life of service to the Church" in an interview with *The Observer* Sunday.

"She's probably the most powerful spokesperson for the Catholic viewpoint in our world today,"

Jenkins said.

In a press release, Jenkins said Glendon is "a compelling expositor of Catholic social teaching who exemplifies our University's most cherished values and deserves its highest praise."

Jenkins said Sunday that Glendon's presence at Commencement — where President Barack Obama is scheduled to give the main address — will be a strong representation of the Catholic viewpoint.

"In inviting President Obama, we will listen to him. But I think it's important he will listen to others. And I can't think of a better

spokesperson for the Catholic viewpoint than Mary Ann Glendon," Jenkins said. "We're very honored to have her."

A scholar of law and philosophy, Glendon's areas of academic research include bioethics, comparative constitutional law and international human rights. She is the author of numerous books, including "A Nation Under Lawyers: How the Crisis in the Legal Profession is Transforming American Society," and "A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of

see MEDAL/page 6

Bald for a cause

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

Wearing a pink bandana that said "Cancer fears me," 6-year-old Lauren Pollock, who lost her hair to chemotherapy, peered around her mother's shoulder to watch as Notre Dame students shaved their heads to show support for childhood cancer.

Over 100 people shaved their heads and raised an estimated \$24,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation at the Freshman Class Council's St. Baldrick's Day event, which took place on Thursday and

see BALD/page 8



Junior Tiffany Robak had her head shaved last Friday to raise money for the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Patriotic Holy Cross Brother Courtney dies

By ROBERT SINGER
News Writer

Brother Edward Vincent Courtney, who was a member of the Congregation of the Holy Cross for more than five decades, died last Monday in the Dujarie House at Notre Dame. He was 90 years old.

Courtney, a veteran of World War II, entered St. Joseph Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, Ind. to begin his religious training following the war. He made his first vows as Holy Cross brother on Aug. 16, 1947 and three years

later, made his final vows at Notre Dame's Basilica of the Sacred Heart, according to the South Bend Tribune.

Holy Cross Brother Robert Fillmore, provincial of the Midwest Province, told *The Observer* that Courtney's experiences in World War II motivated him toward a religious vocation and a lifetime of patriotism.

"After the war, he made this decision, which was very common for WWII veterans," Fillmore said. "They joined because they saw life in a very different way, and they

see COURTNEY/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Riding out the storm

I had been looking forward to Saturday ever since December when I found out Gaelic Storm was coming to campus. I'm kind of a groupie.

I know the names of every one of their songs, even the instrumental ones. I have a picture of myself with the lead singer, Patrick Murphy, in my dorm room.

Nora Kenney

News Wire Editor

I've seen them play in my hometown, Dublin, Ohio, many times. Despite the fact that my parents and parents' friends are always in the audience, and that, in fact, the majority of the audience is usually my parents' ages, their concerts get pretty rowdy. That's why I assumed that a Gaelic Storm concert on a college campus would be even crazier than one directed towards baby boomers.

Maybe my expectations were a little too high, but how could I not have expected a lot from a concert of my favorite Irish band during the week of St. Patrick's Day on the campus of the Fighting Irish?

Just before the concert I put on a green shirt and some Gaelic Storm songs, and my friends came to my room to get ready with me. But while I was trying to practice my jig to "Pina Colada in a Pint Glass," my friends were slightly killing the buzz, so to speak.

"Wait, are you seriously complaining about Obama giving the graduation speech?" I asked.

And it went downhill from there — two of us hate Obama and the other one loves him.

In the end we all agreed to disagree peacefully, and our Irish eyes were smiling once again. But the fact that I've been with my friends non-stop since January, including over spring break, meant that tension was still in the air...

At the concert, they refused to stand up and clap and dance. What's a Gaelic Storm concert if you're sitting? So, we yelled and sang along from our seats.

Apparently we were singing a little too loudly because the old man behind us yelled at us to shut up. This would never happen in Dublin, Ohio. The only Gaelic Storm song I wanted to sing at this point was "I Miss My Home".

My friends say I'm not very good at handling anger. I pout silently. I always think I'm doing them a favor by keeping my mouth shut, but they can't stand what they call my subconscious "pouty face."

But here's what I took heart in: some of my friends hate Obama. Some friends love him. Some friends won't stand up in a concert but still manage to get yelled at. But at the end of the day, when you're making the pouty face, they're your friends, so they'll still love you and forgive you. And that's all you can really ask for.

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

Contact Nora Kenney at nkenney@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT PRESIDENT OBAMA SPEAKING AT THIS YEAR'S GRADUATION?



Brian Wysocki
sophomore
Fisher

"I'm excited — it makes me wish I had volunteered for Commencement band."



Cherie Ng
freshman
McGlinn

"It's getting too controversial."



Christian Chan
junior
Stanford

"Why am I not a senior this year?!"



Erika Hansen
freshman
McGlinn

"I wish it was my graduation!"



Mitchell Hemann
freshman
Keenan

"Never heard of him."

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



TOM LA/ The Observer

An ESPN cameraman films Irish quarterback Jimmy Clausen during spring football practice on Friday.

IN BRIEF

A lecture hosted by the Theology Department called "The Igbo and their Perception of God, Human Beings and Creation," will take place Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium of Mendoza College of Business. Nigerian novelist and poet Chinua Achebe will deliver the Third Biennial Blessed Pope John XXIII Lecture Series in Theology and Culture. The talk on Mar. 23 will focus on "God," the talk on Mar. 25 will focus on "Human Beings," and the talk on Mar. 26 will focus on "Creation."

The McBride Lecture: "Protecting the Planet and Creating Jobs: A Win-Win Proposition" on Tuesday will feature David Foster, executive director, Blue-Green Alliance, a coalition of labor unions and environmental organizations. The lecture will take place in Hesburgh Library auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

The 22nd Annual Romero Lecture: "Now I Understand" will take place Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Eck Visitors' Center auditorium. Journalist Eugene Palumbo, who has covered the Catholic Church in El Salvador since he moved there in 1984 will give the lecture.

GreenND will host associate vice president and University architect Doug Marsh who will deliver a lecture called "LEED & Sustainable Building at Notre Dame" in Montgomery Auditorium of LaFortune at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

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

OFFBEAT

Clorox offers \$5K to wipe out toilet torcher

SAN FRANCISCO — The Clorox Company is offering a \$5,000 reward and a year's supply of toilet cleaning products for tips leading to the arrest of San Francisco's notorious portable potty pyromaniac.

The Oakland-based chemical company deployed a "potty patrol" team in the city Friday to make residents aware of its offer marrying marketing and community service.

Since November, more than two dozen construc-

tion site toilets have been set on fire in the city, causing an estimated \$50,000 in property damage and leaving a trail of foul-smelling evidence.

Woman accused of church theft blames Satan

ARLINGTON, Wash. — A woman accused of taking more than \$73,000 from the Arlington church where she was an administrative assistant blames the devil. Papers filed with a theft charge Wednesday in Snohomish County Superior Court say the 62-year-old Arlington

woman told detectives "Satan had a big part in the theft."

The Everett Herald reported the woman was accused of forging the pastor's signature on 80 checks from the Arlington Free Methodist church. She was fired in February 2008.

She told detectives she used the money to cover household expenses because she couldn't stand the thought of losing her home.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 52 LOW 40	HIGH 50 LOW 40	HIGH 63 LOW 43	HIGH 54 LOW 36	HIGH 58 LOW 38	HIGH 56 LOW 38

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

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In Theology and Culture

CHINUA ACHEBE

"The Igbo and their perception of God, Human Beings, and Creation"

Monday, March 23, 2009, 7:30p.m.: "God"

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

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

All lectures will be in Jordan Auditorium
Mendoza College of Business



Sponsored by the Department of Theology
Made possible by a grant from the Dilenschneider Family

College updates emergency plan

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary's officials have updated and posted a hazard response plan on the College's Web site.

The Saint Mary's All Hazard Emergency Response Plan was officially posted in January 2009. The plan has been in the works for several years, and will be updated on a regular basis.

"It was posted in January, but has been in the works for much longer," Susan Dapeer, the secretary to the President of the College, said. "We actually started working on a pandemic flu plan several years ago. As we worked on that plan, we realized that it should be part of a much larger and more comprehensive plan that would address all emergencies that might occur at Saint Mary's."

Dapeer was co-chair of the committee, which created the policies. Dave Gariepy, director of security, was the other co-chair. The committee included representatives from many different areas of the College.

The new plan is more in-depth than previous ones and covers all types of emergencies.

"We had previous plans to handle emergencies, but nothing that was all together in one place and easily accessible to everyone," Dapeer said.

The language of the plan states that it was put in place "to reduce the impact of an emergency on students faculty, staff, visitors, and facilities."

The plan details the actions members of the College commu-

nity must take in order to respond to any emergency that may occur. It includes everything from fires to bomb threats.

"Recent disasters on college campuses, shootings, fires, etc., have propelled colleges to develop plans like this," Dapeer said.

The plan states four main priorities: "To protect the lives, safety and health of Saint Mary's College and Congregation community members and those who may be visiting. To protect facilities, equipment, and services from loss during a continuing emergency event. To effectively communicate with all involved throughout the emergency. To provide for the continuation of college operations and services that have been disrupted or damaged by an emergency."

The plan classifies different types of emergencies based on the extremity of each individual situation, and each type of emergency has a detailed plan of action.

The policy also includes what to do should an emergency occur within each building on campus.

"In addition to the full plan, we will also have a very condensed version of what to do in an emergency online, in every office on campus, and in every residence hall room," Dapeer said. "Emergency exit plans will also be posted everywhere. They are ready to go, we are just waiting to receive the holders for them."

For more information about the new emergency response plan, visit <http://www3.saintmarys.edu/emergency-response-plan>.

Contact Alicia Smith at
asmith01@saintmarys.edu

New image to appear in Basilica's east chapel

Special to The Observer

Among the most arresting aspects of Maria Tomasula's work is the refulgence—"magic realism," as some critics call it—of her technique. Meticulously rendered flowers, berries, beads, twigs, rodent skulls and bone fragments fairly swell and glow as they bulge from the painted wooden panels so vividly that even a forerunner like Georgia O'Keefe might look twice, and approvingly, at them.

These commonplace objects are often so anomalously arranged in her widely viewed and reviewed oil paintings that the assortments invite a reverent attention, much as religious icons are able to do.

Something like this seems to have occurred to the members of a committee which early last year began searching for an artist to paint a new version of Our Lady of Guadalupe for an eastern apsidal chapel in Notre Dame's Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The committee members were Gilberto Cardenas, director of the Institute for Latino Studies; Rev. Austin Collins, C.S.C., professor of art; Charles Loving, director of the Snite Museum of Art; Rev. Peter Rocca, C.S.C., rector of the Basilica; Rev. Richard Warner,

C.S.C., director of campus ministry; and John Zack, University sacristan.

"The Snite Museum was very pleased to fund the commission of the painting through its Fritz and Milly Kaeser Endowment for Liturgical Art," Loving said. "Fritz Kaeser was an accomplished photographer and, after retiring from a career as a dancer, Milly Kaeser took up sculpture. It seemed fitting that the commission should be funded by gifts from two artists who were deeply interested in artworks that enhance public worship."

When they proposed the idea to Tomasula, the Michael P. Grace Professor of Art, she didn't take long to accept. A natural candidate for the job, she already had drawn deeply on Latin American iconographic tradition for much of her earlier work, and, besides, as the proud product of a Spanish speaking family and neighborhood in Chicago, she had been affectionately familiar with the Guadalupean image from earliest childhood.

That image, emblazoned by miracle or mystery on St. Juan Diego's tilma, or cloak, enshrined in the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City and widely venerated since the 16th century, is ubiquitous throughout the Americas.



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Women advancing in politics, Malveaux says

Keynote address given for SMC conference

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Women's political roles have been elevated following Hillary Clinton's historic primary run, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, the president of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C., said Friday at the Diverse Students' Leadership Conference held on Saint Mary's campus.

Malveaux was the keynote speaker at the three-day conference, which included workshops on issues of class, politics of difference, feminism, sexual orientation and cultural and religious diversity.

"We're living in an extraordinary moment, where we have seen women's leadership in fascinating ways, and have had the opportunity to understand that women in politics will never be seen the same way again," Malveaux said.

Although Hillary Clinton made great strides for women in politics, she said, women have still not succeeded fully, and need to continue to work towards equality between women and men in politics.

"We still don't have a woman as president of the United States, and it will be some time, I think, before we do," Malveaux said. "Still we have this role model, and this opportunity to think about the way that we can rethink gender stereotypes."

She discussed how gender stereotypes degrade women, and how women allow them to do so.

"How we use these gender

stereotypes to talk about a woman, who was at the pinnacle of her game, a senator from New York who has been distinguished and accomplished, who remained the last one standing in a whirlwind race against the eventual winner, Barack Obama," she said.

Malveaux urged women to be more aggressive and to not allow the use of gender stereotypes. She pointed out that men's attire is rarely noticed in politics, but when Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin was running for the vice presidency with Sen. John McCain, the media constantly held discourse over her apparel.

"When you talk about men you very rarely describe what they have on. A man is just there," she said. "We pay a lot more attention to women's attire than men's attire."

Malveaux also discussed what she called "fair-share-thinking." Every time you walk into a room, she said, half of the occupants should be men, and half should be women.

"Some women are ambivalent about women's equality," she said. "We women have been so trained to think about the men, that many of us will ask, well what about the men. It's not really fair."

Malveaux challenged women to continue to fight for their equality.

"We should not be so charmed by the progressive nature by the Barack Obama administration that we think that things will simply come to women," she said. "Women will get our share when we fight for it. The fact is that the struggle for women's equality is not over."

Contact Alicia Smith at
asmith01@saintmarys.edu



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

A memorial for Brother Edward Vincent Courtney was placed at the spot alongside Indiana 933 where Courtney once waved to motorists.

Courtney

continued from page 1

thought about life in a very different way. When you see death and tragedy you think about things very differently."

Courtney would retain this perspective for the rest of life. For years, he greeted drivers along Indiana 933 from his lawn chair near Holy Cross College, Tribune reported. Motorists honked and waved as he sat by his display of American flags.

Courtney not only wanted to remind people of the sacrifices made by servicemen and women overseas, but he also wanted to protect a symbol that was sacred to him.

Courtney supported a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from desecration, Fillmore said.

One of seven children, Courtney

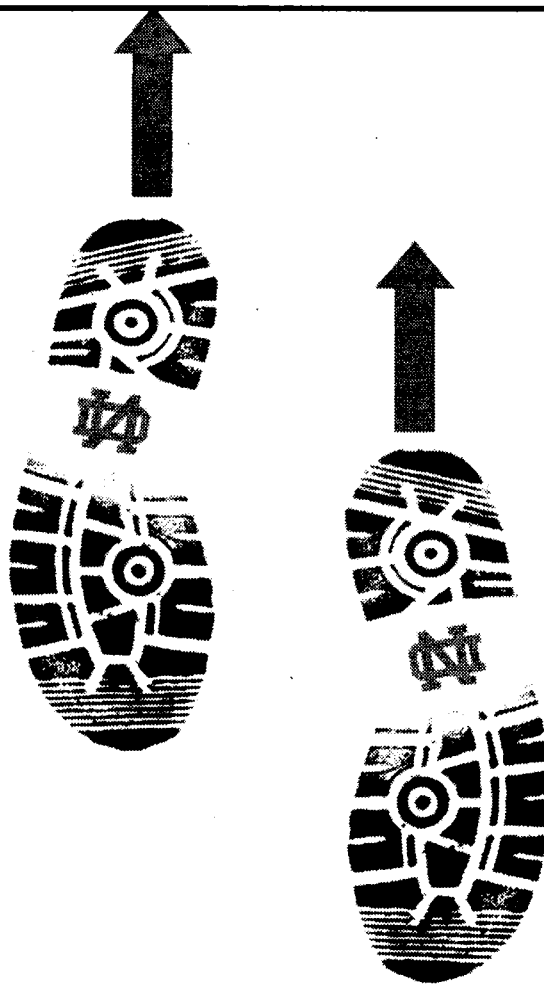
was born on May 2, 1918 in Portland, Ore. Courtney worked with the Southern Pacific Railroad for a year after high school, and in 1941, he joined the army, serving in five campaigns in North Africa and Europe until his discharge in 1956, the Tribune reported.

"We're very proud of what Brother Edward accomplished through his patriotism," Fillmore said. "As brothers, we're very proud of that."

Fillmore said one of Courtney's assignments as a brother was to sell subscriptions to Ave Maria magazine across the Midwest. Later in his life, he worked on the staff of Columba Hall as a mailman and commissioner, and then moved to Dujarie House until his death.

A funeral Mass for Courtney took place Saturday at St. Joseph's Chapel.

Contact Robert Singer at
rsinger@nd.edu



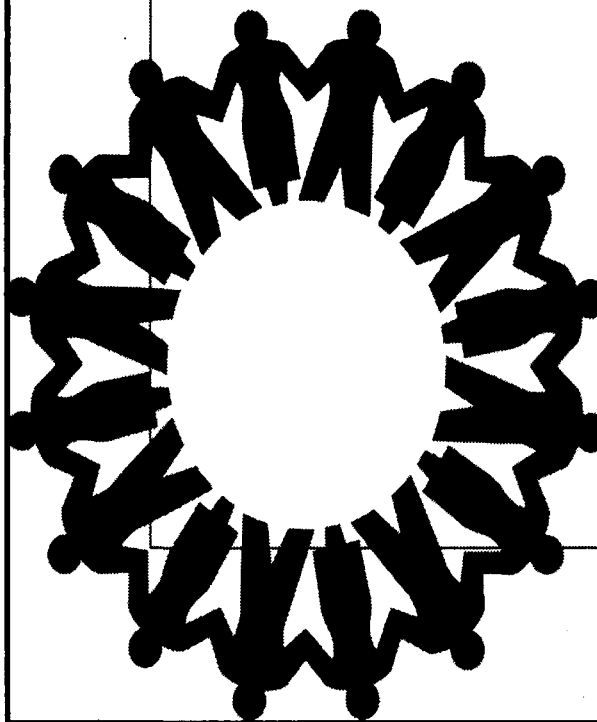
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Chavez calls Obama 'ignorant'

CARACAS — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday called President Barack Obama "ignorant," saying he has a lot to learn about Latin America.

The Venezuelan leader said he had been ready to name a new ambassador in Washington when Obama took office, but put that on hold after the new U.S. president accused him of "exporting terrorism" and being an obstacle to progress in the region.

"At least one could say, 'poor ignorant person,'" Chavez said on his weekly television and radio program, adding that Obama "should read a little bit so that he learns about ... the reality of Latin America."

Chavez's relations with Washington grew increasingly strained under former President George W. Bush. The Venezuelan president expelled the U.S. ambassador and withdrew his envoy from Washington in September. Top diplomats have yet to be restored at either embassy.

Group seeks ban on women in media

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — A group of Saudi clerics urged the kingdom's new information minister on Sunday to ban women from appearing on TV or in newspapers and magazines, making clear that the country's hardline religious establishment is skeptical of a new push toward moderation.

In a statement, the 35 hardline clergymen also called on Abdel Aziz Khoja, who was appointed by King Abdullah on Feb. 14, to prohibit the playing of music and music shows on television.

"We have great hope that this media reform will be accomplished by you," said the statement. "We have noticed how well-rooted perversity is in the Ministry of Information and Culture, in television, radio, press, culture clubs and the book fair."

NATIONAL NEWS

Resort employee suspect in shootings

HOT SPRINGS, Va. — Authorities in Virginia were searching Sunday for a resort employee suspected of shooting and killing two of his supervisors in the hotel kitchen while guests ate dinner in a nearby dining room.

Two kitchen workers were shot and killed around 8 p.m. Saturday at The Homestead luxury resort in the Allegheny Mountains near the West Virginia state line, Bath County Sheriff Larry Norfleet said. No one else was injured, and hotel spokeswoman Carol Stratford said no guests were present at the scene of the shooting. She said she didn't think guests heard the shots because a band was playing during dinner.

15-year-old killed by police Taser

BAY CITY, Mich. — Police in Michigan say a 15-year-old boy has died after being Tasered by officers who were trying to break up a fight.

Police didn't release his name and say state police are investigating.

A Bay City police news release says officers answered a report of an early morning fight on Sunday. The statement says two males were arguing in an apartment, and one of them "attempted to fight the officers."

Police say officers Tasered him, and his reaction led them to immediately call for emergency medical help. He was pronounced dead at Bay Regional Medical Center.

LOCAL NEWS

City officials support housing plan

FORT WAYNE — City officials have pulled their support for a developer's plan to rejuvenate a Fort Wayne neighborhood by building rent-to-own housing after the plan drew public opposition.

Fort Wayne Deputy Director of Community Development Heather Presley announced the decision Saturday.

The \$7.9 million Renaissance Pointe project on the city's southeast side would have consisted of 50 single-family homes. Tenants could have bought the homes at a predetermined price after 15 years under developer Henry Hall's plan.

Space shuttle moves to avoid debris

NASA astronauts reorient spacecraft away from 10-year-old rocket body

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL — Confronted with orbiting junk again, NASA ordered the astronauts aboard the linked space station and shuttle Discovery to move out of the way of a piece of debris Sunday.

Discovery's pilots fired their ship's thrusters to reorient the docked spacecraft to avoid a small piece from a 10-year-old Chinese rocket body that was due to pass uncomfortably close during Monday's planned spacewalk.

Mission Control said keeping the spacecraft in this position for about three hours — with Discovery's belly facing forward — would result in a slow, natural drag of about a foot per second, enough to get the complex out of the way of the 4-inch piece of junk.

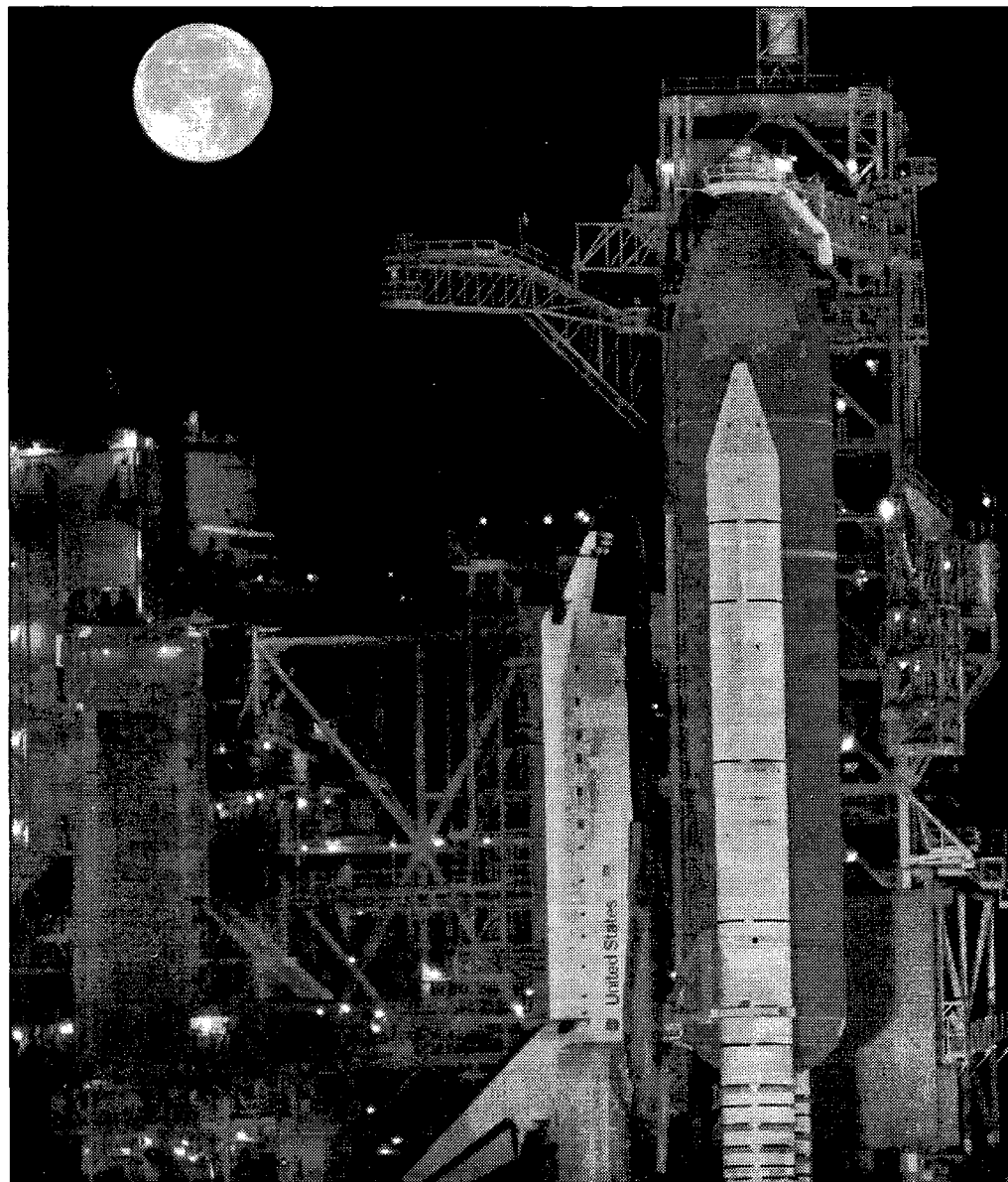
Space junk has been a recurring problem for the space station, especially recently. Earlier this month, the three space station residents had to take shelter in their emergency getaway capsule when another piece of orbital debris seemed like it might come too close.

And just last week, right before Discovery's arrival, the space station almost had to dodge yet another piece of junk. The debris — from an old busted-up Soviet satellite — stayed at a safe distance.

"As far as I know, it's coincidental that we've had just a couple in this close timeframe," shuttle commander Lee Archambault said in a series of news interviews.

The latest episode occurred as NASA scrambled to put together a spacewalking repair plan for a jammed equipment platform at the space station.

On Monday, spacewalking astronauts will return to an equipment storage shelf that jammed during Saturday's outdoor excursion. NASA officials said



The space shuttle Discovery sits on the launch pad at Kennedy Space Center before launch on March 11. NASA ordered the shuttle to move out of the way of debris on Sunday.

Saturday night that the astronauts accidentally inserted a pin upside down and got the mechanism stuck. But on Sunday, one of the spacewalkers, Steven Swanson, said it might not have been a mistake on their part but rather the way the system was built.

It was "a lot stiffer than we thought it was going to be," Swanson said. He said he didn't pull very hard on the pin. "Now ... it looks like if I had just pulled hard on it, it would have come on down."

So Monday's spacewalkers — former schoolteach-

ers Joseph Acaba and Richard Arnold II — will use all their strength to see if the pin comes loose. If all else fails, the jammed platform will simply be tied down with sturdier tethers, he said.

A hastily assembled team of experts spent Saturday night and much of Sunday trying to figure out how best to deal with the problem. The astronauts, meanwhile, gathered up a pry bar, a couple of hammers and other tools to force the pin loose.

The storage platform — located on the long space station framework that

holds all the solar wings — is meant to secure big spare parts that will be needed once NASA's shuttles stop flying. Because of all the pin trouble Saturday, the astronauts did not have time to deploy additional shelving on the opposite side of the station. That work was bumped to Monday's spacewalk.

Swanson and Acaba said they do not worry about space junk when they're floating outside.

"We have enough other risks and worries to take on as we go outside," Swanson said.

AFGHANISTAN

Suspected militants killed in raid

Associated Press

KABUL — U.S.-led coalition and Afghan troops killed five suspected militants during a raid in northern Afghanistan on Sunday, the coalition said in a statement. But the local mayor said his house was targeted and that the dead included his cook and driver.

Civilian deaths in coalition raids are an increasingly sensitive issue with President Hamid Karzai in the fight against the Taliban and other militants. The raids are often conducted with Afghan forces but the

joint operations have done little to dampen anger at international troops over civilian casualties.

Such deaths turn residents against the foreign troops that back Karzai's government. But U.S. and NATO officials say militants regularly operate out of homes and portray dead fighters as civilians to stoke public anger.

Independent confirmation was impossible Sunday — as is often the case — because of the remoteness of the area.

Abdul Rahman Akhtash, the deputy provincial police chief, said about 300 people gathered to protest the raid.

A coalition statement said five militants were killed and four others were detained during the early morning raid targeting a "terrorist network" in Kunduz province, close to the border with Tajikistan.

It said one militant was killed in the initial assault on a compound, and the rest died after troops asked for noncombatants to leave the buildings and instead were "engaged with small arms fire."

But Abdul Manan, mayor of Imam Sahib district, said the raid targeted his house and killed two of his guards, a cook, a driver and another man.

Reaction

continued from page 1

an honor to have the president speak at Notre Dame, Daly said Obama's strong pro-choice beliefs and support for the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) contradicts the Catholic mission of the University.

"It is kind of a bummer for seniors, especially those who really don't support or agree with Obama's views," she said. "It's kind of a slap in the face for them. They have been at Notre Dame for four years working for this diploma and here is someone speaking at your graduation who you fundamentally don't agree with."

Daly said Obama's recent executive order to lessen federal limits on funding for stem cell research also goes against Notre Dame's Catholic identity.

"To my understanding, most speakers we've had in the past have been in relative agreement with the University," she said.

Daly told The Observer Sunday that Right to Life has not yet formulated plans to address the issue, but the group will meet Tuesday to "make definite plans."

She said many pro-life groups and news agencies have been in touch with her.

"There are a ton of ideas flying around," Daly said. "But we don't have any decisions yet. Those will be coming out in a few days."

But many students are voicing excitement at the prospect of hearing Obama speak at graduation.

Senior Spencer Howard, president of the College Democrats at Notre Dame, described his reaction to hearing the news with one word: "amazement."

Howard said most College Democrats are supporters of Obama and campaigned strongly for the president during the 2008 election.

"I think we all are still stunned about it," he said. "I don't think anyone really expected to have the president of the United States speak at our commencement."

Howard said the negative reactions from some students and outside groups is to be expected.

"There is always going to be somebody who's not happy," he said.

Even though there are students who disagree with Obama's views and policies, Howard said many of the reactions he has seen rise above political beliefs.

"Everyone I've talked to, regardless of party, is pretty excited," he said.

Senior Brittany Love said she believes the University was not considering politics when making the decision, but rather, looking for a charismatic commencement speaker.

"He's a great speaker," she said. "And if you look at him overall, he has a great image."

Love said she is excited about the Commencement address because she is taking part in the University's graduation ceremony and the African American Recognition Ceremony, which takes place earlier in the day.

"We are trying to get him to come to the ceremony," she said. "We are still working on

it though."

Love said the African American Recognition Ceremony already has a keynote speaker, but the participants just want Obama to "stop by."

Senior Colin Diamond said he believes Obama's political positions should have been considered before the University extended the invitation to speak at graduation.

"They really need to consider the views of the person speaking," he said. "Frankly, I'm disappointed."

Although it is a University tradition to invite the current U.S. president to speak, Diamond said Obama's position on abortion should have caused the University to withdraw the invitation before the

president accepted.

"I will still go to the commencement ceremony," he said. "I'm not going to avoid my own graduation."

Diamond said he does not think Obama will discuss his views on abortion at all, but

"I think we all are still stunned about it. I don't think anyone really expected to have the president of the United States speak at our commencement."

Spencer Howard
president
Notre Dame College Democrats

"I don't think he belongs as a speaker at Notre Dame," she said. "I understand that he's the president, but at the same time, his views and his policy-making are completely out of line with the mission of the University."

Toates said despite her dis-

agreement with the University's choice of Commencement speaker, she will probably still attend the ceremony.

"I haven't completely decided though," she said.

Toates said she will most likely participate in any protests that may occur in the months leading up to the ceremony.

Senior Katie McAnany said she personally does not agree with Obama's position on abortion, but is still excited to hear him speak.

"I'm honored the president decided to come here to give the address," she said. "He's a great speaker and I know he's not coming here to talk about abortion."

Although there is a lot of controversy surrounding the University's choice of speaker, McAnany said she believes there is a chance for a positive outcome for all involved.

"I think we can use this as an opportunity to create some dialogue with Obama," she said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Medal

continued from page 1

Human Rights."

Glendon graduated from University of Chicago Law School, where she served on the law review.


The most recent recipients of the Laetare Medal include actor and activist Martin Sheen in 2008, former Notre Dame Board of Trustees chair Patrick McCartan in 2007 and jazz pianist and composer Dave Brubeck in 2006.

Other notable Medal recipients include President John F. Kennedy, Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day, death penalty abolitionist Sister Helen Prejean and Civil War Gen. William Rosecrans.

The Laetare Medal was established in 1883 at Notre Dame as an American counterpart to the Golden Rose, a papal honor given since the 11th century. The award is named for Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent. The medal bears the Latin inscription, "Magna est veritas et prevalebit" which means "Truth is mighty, and it shall prevail."

Jenn Metz contributed to this report.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu



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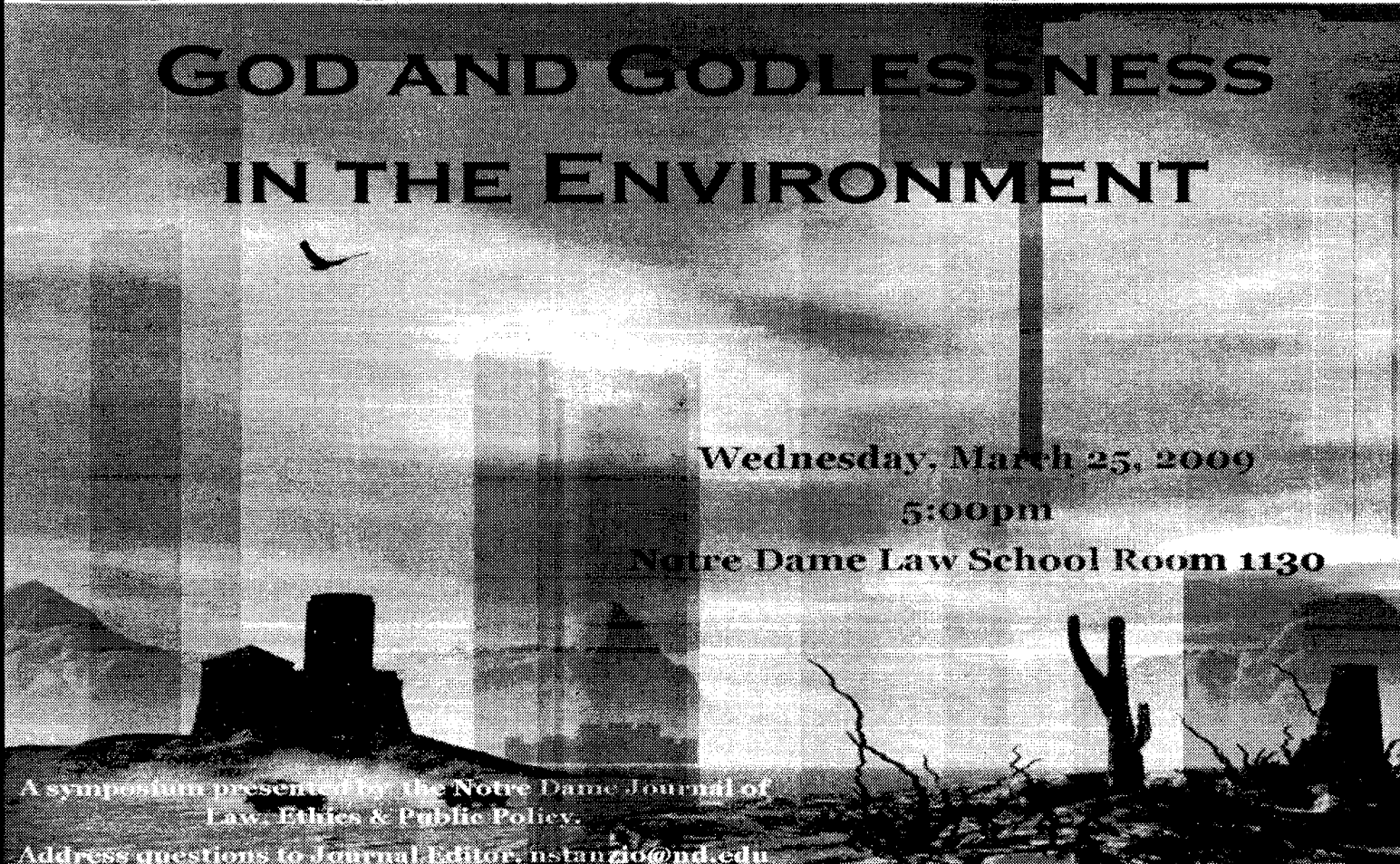
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Each year, the Sheedy Award, named for a former dean of the College of Arts and Letters, honors one member of the Arts and Letters faculty for outstanding teaching.

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

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Notre Dame Law School Room 1130

A symposium presented by the Notre Dame Journal of
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Address questions to Journal Editor, nstanzio@nd.edu

MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones **7,278.38** -122.42
Up: 967 Same: 87 Down: 2,774 Composite Volume: 85,469,364

AMEX	1,321.971	-13.77
NASDAQ	1,457.27	-26.21
NYSE	4,832.13	-105.09
S&P 500	768.54	-15.50
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,945.96	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	3,842.85	+25.92

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+0.77	-0.02	2.62
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-10.68	-0.74	6.19
AMERICAN INTL GP (AIG)	-22.22	-0.36	1.26
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-1.67	+1.67	76.71

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+1.08	+0.0280	2.63
13-WEEK BILL	+5.26	+0.01	0.20
30-YEAR BOND	+1.16	+0.0420	3.65
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.12	+0.0020	1.64

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GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-2.60	956.20
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IN BRIEF

Gov. plans to buy banks' toxic assets

WASHINGTON — Struggling to contain the worst financial crisis in seven decades, the Obama administration wants to buy billions of dollars of toxic assets from banks to ease borrowing for consumers and businesses.

Some industry officials familiar with the details said Saturday they expected the approach would try to remove as much as \$1 trillion from banks' books. An announcement from Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner could come as early as Monday.

If banks are not burdened by the soured loans, then they would be in better shape to resume more normal lending.

According to administration and industry officials, the plan would rely on the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to supplement the government's \$700 billion bailout fund. The uproar over the millions of dollars in bonuses for employees at troubled insurance giant American International Group Inc. has dimmed prospects for getting more bailout money from Congress.

Biden adviser warns against tax on AIG

WASHINGTON — Vice President Joe Biden's economic adviser warned Sunday that a congressional plan to tax American International Group Inc. executives' bonuses may go too far in using the tax code as a tool for retribution.

President Barack Obama has not said whether he would veto some version of a House-backed plan to heavily tax the \$165 million in bonuses. Biden economist Jared Bernstein said it's important to look at what version of the proposal comes out of the Senate.

"I think the president would be concerned that this bill may have some problems in going too far — the House bill may go too far in terms of some — some legal issues, constitutional validity, using the tax code to surgically punish a small group," Bernstein said in a television interview. "That may be a dangerous way to go."

Democratic and Republican leaders in the Senate also have expressed concern about the plan's approach to dealing with the AIG bonuses.

Republicans voice concern about budget

Senators predict federal bankruptcy if measure passes; Obama dismisses criticism

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans on Sunday predicted a doomsday scenario of crushing debt and eventual federal bankruptcy if President Barack Obama's massive spending blueprint wins passage.

But a White House adviser dismissed the negative assessments, saying she is "incredibly confident" that the president's policies will "do the job" for the economy.

In a TV interview, Obama himself laughed when discussing the dire state of parts of the economy — and ascribed his laughter to "gallows humor."

White House Council of Economic Advisers chairwoman Christina Romer insisted that the nation's flailing economy will be rebounding by 2010.

Administration officials — and the president himself — have taken a cheerier tone despite economic indicators that are anything but positive.

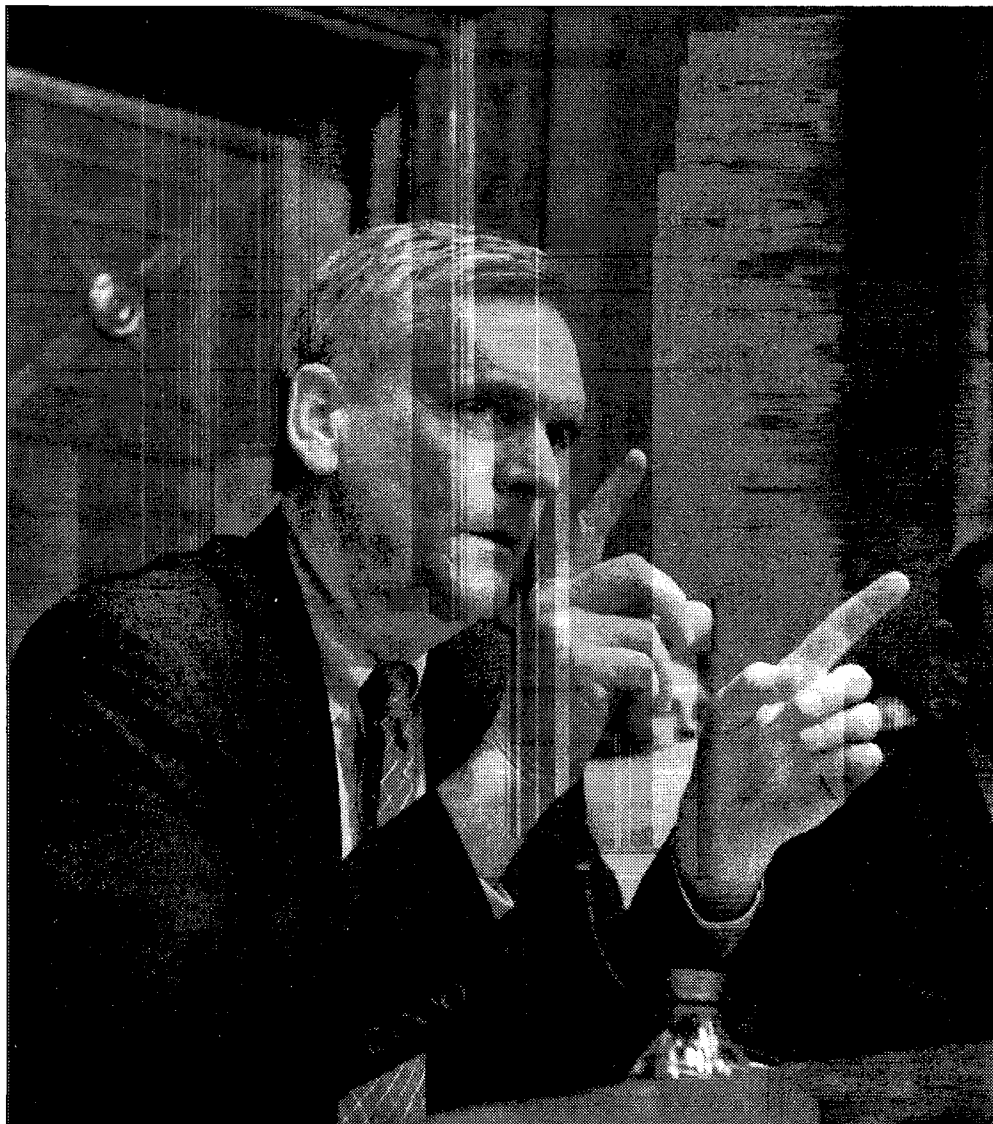
"I have every expectation, as do private forecasters, that we will bottom out this year and actually be growing again by the end of the year," Romer said.

The president, in an interview that aired Sunday on CBS News' "60 Minutes," talked about the need to spend taxpayer money to save financial firms and the auto industry.

"I just want to say that the only thing less popular than putting money into banks is putting money into the auto industry," Obama said with a laugh.

Interviewer Steve Kroft asked how that laughter might be perceived, given the economy's troubles.

"There's got to be a little gallows humor to get you through the day," Obama said. "If you had said to us



AP

Sen. Judd Gregg during March hearings on President Obama's 2010 federal budget. Gregg said that the budget, if passed, could cause bankruptcy for the U.S. economy.

a year ago that the least of my problems would be Iraq, which is still a pretty serious problem, I don't think anybody would have believed it."

Republicans say Obama's budget is no laughing matter.

Senate Republicans warned of deficits that could climb to \$20 trillion in coming years and a weakened dollar if Obama and his Democratic allies get their proposed \$3.6 trillion budget plan passed.

"The practical implications of this is bankruptcy

for the United States," said Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H. "There's no other way around it. If we maintain the proposals which are in this budget over the 10-year period that this budget covers, this country will go bankrupt. People will not buy our debt; our dollar will become devalued."

Sen. Susan Collins, a Maine Republican who sided with Obama on his \$787 billion economic stimulus plan, said she couldn't support the White House plan this time.

"It would double the public debt in 5 years,

triple it in 10 years. ... That is not sustainable. It poses a threat to the basic health of our economy," Collins said.

Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the top Republican on the banking committee, said Obama would have to scale back his budget, given a Congressional Budget Office report Friday that the president's budget would produce \$9.3 trillion in deficits over the next decade — more than four times the deficits of Republican George W. Bush's presidency.

Social Web sites face user complaints

Associated Press

SAN JOSE — Yelp.com prides itself on being a site where people can write reviews about pretty much anything and connect with similarly critical peers. Yet as the site grows, some of the businesses scrutinized on Yelp are turning the tables and griping about the company itself.

The complaints highlight an irony for Web sites that stimulate online communities and let users speak their minds. As the sites make the world more transparent, giving people the power to discuss everything from a great pizza to a bad date, the sites' own transparency is often questionable, as consumers and businesses struggle to understand how they operate.

This tug of war has become

increasingly public with the explosive popularity of social Web sites like Facebook, Twitter and MySpace, as well as niche sites like Yelp, which has more than 5 million reviews on establishments in dozens of cities.

Properly balancing the interests of various constituencies — and retaining their loyalty, perhaps through improved channels of communications — will prove key to whether the sites can grow into vibrant, moneymaking operations for years to come.

Many sites have expanded so fast that explanations about what they are doing often come late — after their users have had plenty of time to air complaints. Facebook has felt such growing pains, and now Yelp is, too.

One big gripe from businesses that get reviewed on Yelp is that they don't quite get how it works.

For instance, some wonder why users' reviews can seemingly mysteriously disappear from Yelp's pages about a business.

This irks Leslie Tagorda, owner of a San Francisco-based Web design company, Flair-Designs. She has noticed reviews vanish from the Flair-Designs page on Yelp over the past two years. This worries her because the more reviews she has, the more calls she gets from potential clients, she said.

When she first noticed reviews disappearing, Tagorda contacted clients who had written the comments, to see whether they had deleted them. They said they had not.

Bald

continued from page 1

Friday, said freshman Catherine Soler.

The St. Baldrick's Foundation is an organization that raises money to cure childhood cancer by supporting cancer research and fellowships, according to its Web site.

Of the 126 people who shaved their heads, four were women. Together, these four women raised about \$10,000, which is nearly half of the total amount of money that was raised at the event.

Junior Tiffany Robak said that she was "freaking out" right before she shaved her head, but a little girl that was battling cancer came to watch, and that reminded her why she was doing it.

"At one second I thought I was going to pee my pants,

but I didn't," she said. "She was so excited that I was doing it. And I was like, 'This is why I'm doing it. This little girl is so nice and she just loved life and she was so grateful.'"

After Robak shaved her head, she said she initially thought, "People are going to think I'm crazy, like Britney Spears or something."

But she said reactions have been overwhelmingly positive, and she does not regret her decision.

"The other day I said to someone, 'I kind of want my hair back.' And he was like, 'Yeah, but so does that little girl,'" Robak said.

She said his comment really made an impact on her, and now she is even taking advantage of her new hair-style to emphasize her femininity.

"It kind of makes me feel more girly. I wear all my earrings now or I make sure I

have my rings on," she said. "It's just kind of fun dressing up or wearing my cute clothes. Just to make sure I feel like a girl."

Dr. Tim Griffin, a pediatric oncologist at Memorial Hospital in South Bend, gave a speech Thursday night to kick off the event, and introduced a few children who were battling, or had beaten, cancer.

"It's wonderful to see them in this environment. You look at their faces and for one of the first times they see that there are people out there who care," Griffin said.

"They still want to act like a kid," he said. "When they see fun, when they see excitement, when they see people having a good time, it really has an impact on them."

And the atmosphere at St. Baldrick's Day was definitely full of fun, with plenty of balloons, streamers, upbeat music and smiling faces.

When Griffin introduced Lauren Pollock, she said that her favorite band was the Jonas Brothers, so later that night, Freshman Class Council made sure to put on some of their music for her enjoyment.

Pollock said that her favorite color was pink, like her bandana and the shirt she was wearing. She also said she likes to ride her bike and play with her Goldendoodle Brady, named after Brady Quinn.

Pollock said she was having "fun" at St. Baldrick's Day.

Her mother, Judy, said that when her daughter found out that she was going to lose her hair, "That was the saddest thing."

"It's pretty cool that everybody would come out and support [children with cancer] in this way," Judy Pollock said.

Students who came to have their heads shaved ranged

from a male student with dreadlocks to various members of the football team.

Freshman Mike Golic said he decided to shave his head for the event because he has had a few uncles who have been affected by cancer and wanted to help out the cause.

"What they're going through is far worse than a hair cut," Golic said. "If these kids can deal with what they have to deal with on a daily basis, I can suck it up for a haircut."

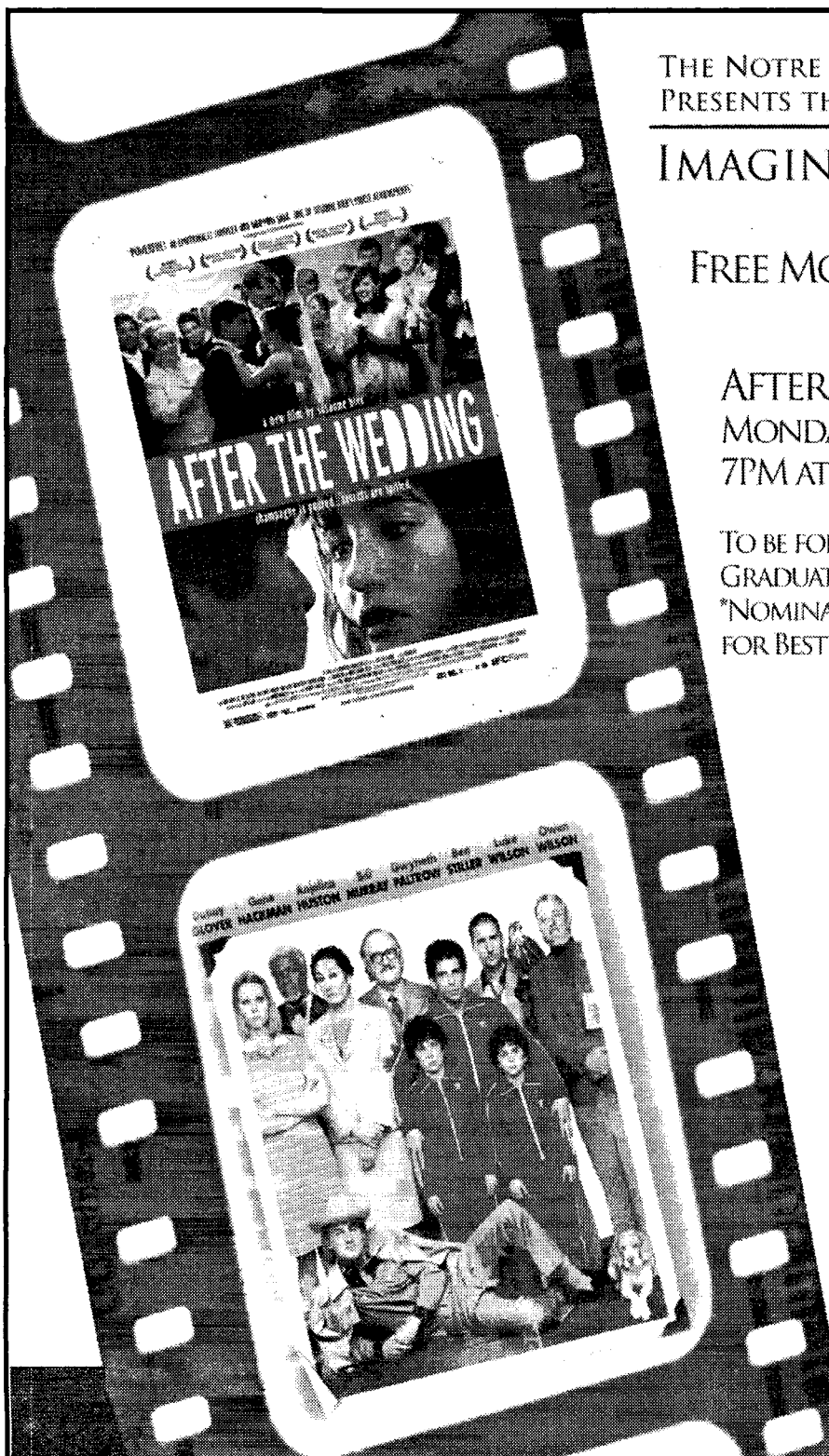
Freshman Dayne Crist, who came with Golic to get his head shaved, echoed Golic's sentiments and added, "I'm just happy to be here helping out."

Soler said she is extremely pleased with how the event turned out, and said it showed the "true spirit of Notre Dame."

"I think it couldn't have gone any better," Soler said. "Just to see everyone's reaction, how touched they are and how much they wanted to give to the cause."

"These kids will be talking about this for months," Griffin said.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu



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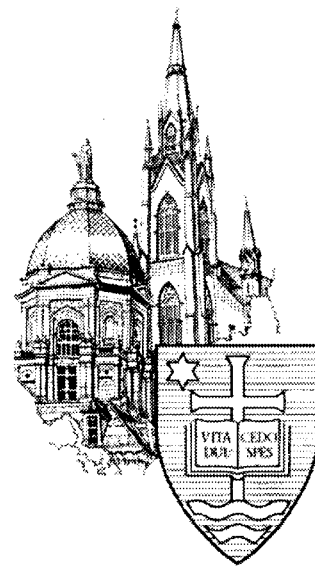
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PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR THE CENTER FOR ETHICS AND CULTURE

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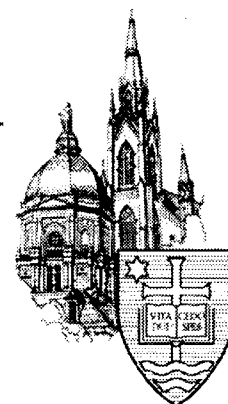
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Edmund Pellegrino, M.D.

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McKenna Hall Auditorium



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7:30 pm

McKenna Hall

Professor Lipstadt is the 2009 Provost Distinguished Lecturer and Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University

Cosponsored by the ND Holocaust Project

Obama

continued from page 1

ceremony, to take place in the Joyce Center. The Notre Dame appearance will be Obama's second commencement address as president; he will speak at Arizona State University on May 13 and the United States Naval Academy on May 22.

Notre Dame has a long-standing tradition of inviting the current U.S. president to speak at the University, Jenkins said.

"Presidents from both parties have come to Notre Dame for decades to speak to graduates about our nation and our world. They've given important addresses on international affairs, human rights, service, and we're delighted that President Obama is continuing that tradition," Jenkins said.

Some members of the Notre Dame community, and the larger national Catholic community have negatively responded to the announcement, launching campaigns to stop the president from visiting the University because of his stances on issues regarding the protection of life.

Jenkins made clear the University is not honoring the president for his stances on these issues, but for his leadership.

"The invitation of President Obama to be our Commencement speaker should in no way be taken as condoning or endorsing his positions on specific issues regarding the protection of life, such as abortion and embryonic stem cell research," Jenkins said.

These "crucial differences" in positions on the protection of life are not being ignored in extending the invitation to the president, Jenkins said, but rather can be used as a catalyst for dialogue.

"We are not ignoring the critical issue of the protection of life. On the contrary, we invited him because we care so much about those issues, and we hope ... for this to be the basis of an engagement with him," Jenkins said.

"You cannot change the world if you shun the people you want to persuade, and if you cannot persuade them ... show respect for them and listen to them," he said.

President Obama is "an inspiring leader who has taken leadership of the country facing many challenges: two wars, a really troubled economy, he has issues with health care, immigration, education reform, and he has addressed those with intelligence, courage and honesty," Jenkins said.

Obama's historic election as the first black president in American history adds to the honor of his acceptance of Notre Dame's invitation, he said.

"I would say that it's a special feature for us that we will hear from the first African American president here at Notre Dame, a person who has spoken eloquently and powerfully about race," he said. "Racial prejudice is a deep wound in America and President Obama has been a healer, so we honor him for those reasons."

The president will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University when he visits in May. Jenkins said The Office of the President issues honorary degrees, and he "consulted with many people" about the decision.

Response to Catholic community

The Cardinal Newman Society (CNS), a group that describes itself in its mission statement as "dedicated to renewing and strengthening Catholic identity at

America's 224 Catholic colleges and universities," has launched a Web site,

www.NotreDameScandal.com, that includes an online petition to Jenkins that reads: "It is an outrage and a scandal that 'Our Lady's University,' one of the premier Catholic universities in the United States, would bestow such an honor on President Obama given his clear support for policies and laws that directly contradict fundamental Catholic teachings on life and marriage."

CNS is one of many groups that has begun campaigns to protest the selection of the president as Commencement speaker. Other organizations, like the Pro-Life Action League, have called for Catholics to urge Notre Dame to withdraw the invitation through postings on their Web sites.

CNS has also faxed a letter to Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy. D'Arcy has been publicly critical of the University in the past, specifically regarding the performance of "The Vagina Monologues" on campus.

Jenkins said he spoke with D'Arcy regarding Obama's visit to campus in May, but he cannot speculate what the bishop's response will be.

According to the CNS-organized protest Web site, as of 2 p.m. Sunday, the CNS petition has received over 10,500 signatures.

CNS' Campus Speaker Monitoring Project, which aims to uphold the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) 2004 statement titled "Catholics in Political Life," reports colleges and universities that host "scandalous commencement speaker and honorees, including advocates of abortion rights, stem-cell research, physician-assisted suicide, homosexual marriage and women's ordination," according to its Web site.

The document released by the USCCB, a group whose purpose is "to promote the greater good which the Church offers humankind," according to its Web site and includes an assembly of the hierarchy of the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands who exercise certain pastoral functions on behalf of the Christian faithful of the U.S., states "The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

Jenkins said Sunday the critical lines in the statement include that politicians "should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions" and Notre Dame's invitation is consistent with the 2004 document.

The president's honorary degree "does not, it is not intended to condone or endorse his position on specific issues regarding life," Jenkins said. "That's not what we're honoring."

In an April 2008 Wall Street Journal article titled "Catholicism, Inc.," Jenkins commented on his past encounters with CNS: "The Newman Society has no ecclesiastical standing and no academic standing. For me, it resembles nothing more than a political action committee."

When asked Sunday, Jenkins said he stands by his position on CNS.

The pope has not released a statement regarding the selection of President Obama as Notre Dame's Commencement speaker and the University's Catholic identity; Sunday, Jenkins said does not think the pope will issue such a statement in the future.

The debate surrounding the president's visit to campus provides "a positive engagement on the issues we care about," Jenkins said.

"We want to recognize his very real and significant accomplishments and his leadership. At the

same time, we want to engage him in the future, and I think this occasion will be a wonderful time to do that," he said. "I think if he is going to reconsider his views, I think Notre Dame is the best possible place to begin that process."

The University's Commencement speaker carries the responsibility of providing graduates with inspiration as they leave Notre Dame, Jenkins said.

"Our graduates are leaving campus at a time of great challenges. We have special expectations for those graduates — what they will do and how they will lead the world," he said.

Jenkins said he hopes University Commencement speakers instill in graduates "the importance of public service" and "make them aware of the important issues in our world and will inspire them to be leaders and active citizens."

Past Presidential speakers

Obama will be the sixth U.S. president to be the principal speaker at a Notre Dame Commencement ceremony and the ninth president to receive an honorary degree.

During his 2008 presidential campaign, Obama delivered an address to graduates at Wesleyan University in Connecticut last May, filling in for Sen. Edward Kennedy.

According to a March 20 University press release, the last sitting president to give the Commencement address at Notre Dame was President George W. Bush, who spoke in 2001. In his address, Bush said the nation's faith-based organizations were central to the war on poverty. It was Bush's first commencement address after his election to the presidency in 2000.

President George H.W. Bush was the principal Commencement speaker at Notre Dame in 1992.

In May 1981, President Ronald Reagan was the University's Commencement speaker in his first public appearance after a March 1981 assassination attempt.

President Jimmy Carter spoke to 1977 Notre Dame graduates; his speech was what some call the key foreign policy address of his presidency, according to the release.

President Dwight Eisenhower spoke at Notre Dame in 1960, as the first U.S. president to deliver the Commencement address.

Then-U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy gave the winter Commencement address in 1950; he is the only president to receive the Laetare Medal, Notre Dame's highest honor, awarded annually to an influential American Catholic.

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

Monday, March 23, 2009

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GRAPHICS EDITOR: Andrea Archer

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Maddie Boyer

AD DESIGN MANAGER: Mary Jesse

CONTROLLER: Stacey Gill

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR: Mike Moriarity

OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

(574) 631-4542 jmetz@nd.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 wbrink@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4324 kking5@nd.edu, asteiner@nd.edu

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 jshaffe1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

acharn01@saintmarys.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 igavlick@nd.edu

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS

(574) 631-8839

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www.ndsmcobserver.com

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TODAY'S STAFF

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What is acceptable?

Mr. Caruso extols the virtues of what some derisively refer to as cafeteria Catholicism in "Catholocism a la carte" (March 20). I refuse to criticize Mr. Caruso for not goose-stepping "page by page through the Catechism." He is entitled to his theological opinions.

Instead, I want to explore several intellectual difficulties with his view. Let us assume that he is correct and that the values of tolerance, understanding and personal freedom ought to guide our religious judgments and actions. The question arises: How can we distinguish between those beliefs and actions we ought to tolerate and those which are unacceptable? I can imagine some easy cases. Imagine a contemporary religion that condones human sacrifice. Back in the real world, however, these issues are not so easy. Is homosexual marriage acceptable? Is polygamy acceptable? Should we tolerate the small (but very real) Church of Satan? Should we shun a religious leader if she has the audacity to proclaim that what she believes is true and that people ought to adopt her creed on pain of hellfire?

To wit: Should we tolerate intolerance? Mr. Caruso's view is so fraught with these kinds of difficulties and contradictions that he fails to hold to it himself within the context of his own argument where he simultaneously calls for greater respect and tolerance while bashing those who do not share his views.

Francisco Fernandez del Castillo

junior

Fisher

March 20

Pro-life for absolutely everyone

Pro-life is a truly loaded term in the world in which we live. Just on hearing these words, people get up in arms, often throwing around labels like "baby killers" and "anti-women." The Catholic Church does teach that human life is sacred — always sacred — "from conception to natural death," as the saying goes.

But in the well-intentioned fervor of many pro-lifers, the focus often becomes the sacredness of a very particular aspect of life, leaving other very important life issues, excuse the pun, on the roadside to die. While I understand this enthusiasm, I think it distorts the pro-life movement into something almost inimical to the effort to increase respect for all human life. Take, for instance, the following: In the past 30 years, our country has legally executed more than 1,136 of its own citizens convicted of crimes, but our campus anti-death penalty group is struggling to find interested members. Nearly 4,000 Iraqi civilians were killed by the U.S. bombing campaign in March 2003 alone and the total of Iraqi civilians lost since the war began is now in excess of 90,000. Every three and a half seconds someone in the world — a world which produces enough food to feed all its people sufficiently — dies from hunger. Another six million children die every year from easily preventable and completely curable diseases like tuberculosis and diarrhea from lack of access to medication and clean water. Don't these people have a right to life too? Who's fighting for them?

Michelle Webb

senior

McGlinn

March 18

Denunciation of condoms not a solution

Pope Benedict XVI's arrival in Cameroon on March 17 marked his first pilgrimage to Africa as Pontiff. Traditionally reticent on the issue of contraception, His Holiness stated in his first statement on the issue that condoms were not the answer to Africa's fight against the AIDS epidemic. The reason? That condoms only "increase[d] the problem" and only a "responsible and moral attitude toward sex" would help fight the disease. With all due respect to His Holiness, he is simply incorrect.

As an empirical matter, condoms have proven to be the single most effective (and cost-effective) preventative measure for HIV. Moreover, I take issue with the Pope's premise that the AIDS epidemic is solely the result of immoral sexual practices. Undoubtedly certain sexual practices (such as having multiple partners) substantially contribute to the problem. (Of course, the multiple-partner phenomenon is hardly unique to Africa, as anyone who has lived in a guy's dorm can attest.)

I have no doubt that greater monogamous sexual practices would be a vital part of slowing HIV transmission. But even those sub-Saharan Africans who are "morally responsible" with sex are not immune from HIV. Over 22 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa live with HIV; in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, more than one in five adults are infected. Yet due to the lack of testing facilities and the prohibitively expensive cost of general HIV testing, it is estimated that fewer than ten percent of adults in sub-Saharan

Africa have taken an HIV test within the last 12 months. Simply put, it is entirely possible that two people could fall in love, marry, be completely monogamous and still transmit HIV because one of them unwittingly (and unbeknownst to the other) contracted the virus in his or her past. And bear in mind that the one initially carrying HIV need not have engaged in "irresponsible sex" to contract the virus. Many children are born with HIV or contract it through breastfeeding. Other people unwittingly contract HIV through exchange of blood or reuse of dirty instruments or needles in underfunded medical clinics. But even if the one initially carrying the virus had engaged in "irresponsible sex," his or her partner surely did not act in a sexually irresponsible manner.

In 1968, Pope Paul VI stated in "Humanae Vitae" that the use of contraceptives was intrinsically evil. It is worth noting that this position represented the underwhelming minority viewpoint of the 72-member commission begun under Pope John XXIII to study the issue: Only four theologian priests, one cardinal and two bishops dissented from the majority report that there was nothing intrinsically wrong with contraception. But credibility as a matter of doctrine aside, "Humanae Vitae's" credibility as a matter of moral absolutism is, in my view, severely compromised. In the Church's view, it is morally repugnant to separate the conjugal and procreative elements of sex through using contraception. I confess I find this admonition rather odd, given that the Catechism explicitly approves a

means of doing just that through "birth regulation based on self-observation and the use of infertile periods" (2370).

In any event, I cannot fathom how the Church can justify condemning couples — even married, monogamous ones — to inevitable death in order to prevent something that is allowed by the Catechism in a different form. In my view, the Church's condemnation of contraception would be more appropriately framed as the prohibition of bearing false witness, i.e., "misrepresenting the truth in our relations with others" (2464). Bearing false witness may be wrong as a general rule, but sometimes it would be moral to prevent a far greater evil. For example, I doubt that fishermen who ferried Jewish people away from Nazi Germany acted immorally by lying to the S.S. about whether they had anyone on board. Similarly, while contraception may be wrong as a general rule, I contend that a married couple using a condom to prevent a possible spread of HIV — especially during an infertile period, where procreation is not possible anyway — does not commit an "evil" act. While I have great respect for Pope Benedict's intellect, I believe this issue should not be relegated to pontifical fiat. Another 1.3 million Africans were infected with HIV last year. We need a solution to this epidemic. And fast.

Brodie Butland

alum

class of 2005

March 17

OBSERVER POLL

Is your bracket faring better than Obama's?

Yes

No

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm supposed to have a Ph.D. on the subject of women. But the truth is I've flunked more often than not. I'm very fond of women; I admire them. But, like all men, I don't understand them."

Frank Sinatra
singer

Reactions to Obama as ND

Obama selection a betrayal of Notre Dame's mission

This past Friday, the University announced that Barack Obama will deliver the annual Commencement address in May. Many students were understandably thrilled at the news that the President of the United States will be speaking on our campus, but the decision to invite Mr. Obama deserves serious reflection. The selection of a Commencement speaker is an important decision which carries significant practical and symbolic implications. Though Barack Obama's lofty political position and worldwide celebrity status will certainly garner significant publicity for the University, the Notre Dame administration has made a serious error. Mr. Obama's policy stances are enough to disqualify him from speaking at our University, but more importantly, Notre Dame's longstanding practice of selecting sitting U.S. presidents as commencement speakers is inappropriate and should be discontinued.

Ben Linskey

Guest Columnist

As a Catholic academic institution, our University has a dual mission: the pursuit of both truth and justice. Notre Dame's mission statement proclaims that "[t]he University seeks to cultivate in its students not only an appreciation for the great achievements of human beings, but also a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice and oppression that burden the lives of so many." These concerns

should motivate all aspects of life at Notre Dame, especially the Commencement ceremony, which is intended to serve as a summation of the values and learning instilled in students throughout their time at the University. Accordingly, the administration has an obligation to choose a speaker who embodies Notre Dame's mission of intellectual growth and Christian service to mankind. There are thousands of brave individuals throughout the globe who have devoted their lives to bettering the lives of others by fighting poverty, war and other injustices. The University administration should use the Commencement proceedings as an opportunity to recognize the achievements of these outstanding men and women and hold them up as an example for the Notre Dame community to imitate.

The United States presidency, sadly, has proven itself to be an office which is not conducive to the cultivation of virtue in its occupants. Modern presidents have all too often subordinated truth and justice to the worldly concerns of electoral advantage, partisan gain and the accrual of power. Government in general, moreover, is anything but an unqualified force for good. Throughout its history, the United States government has perpetrated numerous acts of unqualified evil, ranging from the legitimization of human slavery to the suppression of peaceful dissent during World War I to the detain-

ment of Japanese Americans in internment camps and the use of nuclear weapons on innocent civilians in World War II. This is not to say that our nation's government is inherently evil, but merely to point out the sad and undeniable truth that the coercive power of government, even in the freest country in the world, is often used to perpetrate gravely immoral acts upon innocent people.

With these facts in mind, it is clear that any person concerned with justice must not simply acquiesce to governmental authority and blindly endorse the actions of political leaders. Rather, we have a moral obligation to remain eternally skeptical of government. The 20th century presidency was characterized by a parade of senseless wars, rampant abuse of power and a disturbing disregard for our nation's Constitution. Today, the United States is embroiled in two wars in the Middle East and facing a massive economic crisis at home. Our current predicaments are in large part a result of dishonest, corrupt and incompetent leadership. Now, more than ever, we must critically evaluate the actions of our government. The University of Notre Dame has a responsibility to instill in its students the values necessary for good citizenship: a concern for truth and justice, a healthy distrust of government power and a willingness to question and challenge authority.

Inviting Barack Obama to speak on our campus sends precisely the opposite

message. The University administration is tacitly encouraging students to view the president with respect, awe and admiration simply by virtue of his election to political office. And perhaps most importantly, it is turning a blind eye to Obama's support of state-sanctioned killing in the form of federal support for abortion and embryonic stem cell research, to his continuation of the Bush administration's reckless foreign policy of interventionism and its disregard for civil liberties and to his irresponsible and destructive economic policies. Presidents are not heroes or walking embodiments of moral virtue. They are humans, often deeply flawed, who wield a tremendous amount of power which may be used for good or ill. For this very reason, they are the last people who should be addressing Notre Dame students on the verge of graduation. By inviting Mr. Obama to speak at commencement, the University administration is betraying Notre Dame's great mission and doing a disservice to its students. Fr. Jenkins, do the right thing and rescind Barack Obama's invitation. Notre Dame students deserve better.

Ben Linskey, a sophomore majoring in political science and philosophy, is co-president of the College Libertarians. He can be contacted at blinskey@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A pro-life perspective of the pro-life protest against Obama

I am Roman-Catholic, pro-life and middle-upper class citizen with strong leanings toward the Republican Party. Oh, and one more thing: I am ecstatic that the President of the United States is coming to speak at my graduation Commencement. Within hours of the big announcement on Friday, I was receiving infuriating e-mails from my fellow pro-lifers calling for the immediate repeal of President Obama's invitation to Notre Dame. "We must stand against evil," said one message. "He supports gay marriage, which is an affront to the family," read another. "He should not be given this opportunity to confuse our youth." One message went so far as to compare Obama with history's most hated villain. The email read: "The German people supported Hitler because he was dynamic and promised jobs and food. There is more to a man than his charisma." There is also more to a man than his views on the single issue of abortion. Such rash and radical comments not only fail to promote the end of abortion, they undermine the entire pro-life movement.

In an emergency press release issued by the Pro-Life Action League, National Director and Notre Dame alumnus Joe Scheidler made the following statements: "Over the first two months of his administration, Barack Obama has established himself as the most pro-abortion president in U.S. history ... My alma mater should not be providing a platform for this president ... Father Jenkins cannot expect pro-life Catholics to stand back and allow the most pro-abortion president in U.S. history to make a mockery of Notre Dame's Catholic identity." As a pro-lifer myself, I understand where Scheidler is coming from; I, too, am concerned for the pro-life movement under the Obama administration. I simply cannot agree, however, with the idea that Notre Dame, one of the finest academic institutions in the nation, should deny the President of the United States a platform to speak sole-

ly because of his views on abortion. Obama is not coming to Notre Dame to speak about abortion, nor is his speech supposed to play a pivotal part in the formation of our Catholic identity.

It is our responsibility, not our Commencement speaker's, to continue to cultivate our Catholic identity and apply it beyond graduation. The role of a Commencement speaker is to welcome college graduates into the real world, arm them with knowledge of complex and evolving issues, and inspire them to be passionate and influential citizens of a global community. I simply cannot think of anyone more qualified to do these things than the leader of the free world, President Barack Obama.

Thus, to my fellow pro-lifers: let us battle the president on each and every issue pertinent to life, but let us not undermine our intelligence and our patriotism by forsaking other important issues in the reckless pursuit of one. The world will not stop turning for the abortion issue to be resolved. We as Catholics are therefore called to be dynamic citizens who take a multi-dimensional approach to making our world a better place; this means listening and learning from influential world leaders such as Barack Obama. To disinvite the President of the United States based on a single issue, even one as important as abortion, would be a disgrace both to our Catholic identity and to this great Catholic University.

Mark Weber
senior
off campus
March 21

Obama as speaker an identity crisis

It has been a Notre Dame tradition to invite new presidents speak at Commencement; many (but not all) presidents have spoken over the last 50 years. However, since the last time a president has spoken at Notre Dame's Commencement ceremony, Catholic institutions have been given clearer guidelines concerning the intersection of Catholicism and politics.

In 2004, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved, nearly unanimously, guidelines for Catholic institutions regarding their religious responsibilities in the political realm. The directions state, "Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions." The instructions, spelled out in "Catholics in Political Life," primarily address behavior towards candidates who endorse or enable abortion, as President Obama does. The decision of the Notre Dame administration to

invite President Obama to speak at Commencement disregards these instructions completely: Not only is Notre Dame providing Obama with a platform for his ideology, the University is awarding him an honorary law degree. The decision of Catholic bishops should hold within Catholic institutions. I do not intend to say that the academic dialogue of the ethical issues of abortion has no place at a Catholic university. However, Commencement is a ceremonial occasion, not an academic one. The invitation extended to Obama to speak at Notre Dame is not an invitation to participate in any discussion on abortion. It is, if not in fact at least in appearance, a tacit endorsement of his policies.

This leads me to question why Obama was chosen to speak at commencement. It seems that the University is disregarding — or worse, willfully violating — its call as a Catholic institution to uphold the values of our faith. Are we pandering to the famous and powerful or

attempting to increase our prestige through association?

Commencement is one of the moments a person will remember for the rest of their life. Setting politics aside, those who made this decision should have asked whether Obama and the values he stands for are the last things that the class of 2009 should take with them from Notre Dame. Even the controversy and division that surrounds the speaker devalues the occasion, one that should foster unity among all involved. If Notre Dame values its role as a Catholic institution, we need to make decisions that reflect this identity. The invitation of a speaker who openly opposes our values compromises our integrity as a Catholic university.

Andrew Haley
freshman
Stanford Hall
March 21

Commencement speaker

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speaker choice goes against Catholic identity

The fact that President Barack Obama has been chosen to give the Commencement address at the University of Notre Dame shocks and saddens me and deeply shakes the identity of Notre Dame as an institution of catholic education. The choice of President Obama reflects poorly on the University, as many of the President's policies and ideas fly in the face of what it means to be Catholic. While an outstanding orator and the President of the United States, Mr. Obama's standing as a champion on the issues of abortion rights and embryonic stem cell research makes him a very poor choice to give the Commencement address to our graduates in the spring.

Supporters of President Obama who also happen to be Catholic may point to their beliefs that Mr. Obama has many other ideas that will help a great number of people across the country, most especially the poor and unemployed. However, based purely on action, Mr. Obama has been able to pass laws, either through legislation or executive order, that both remove federal regulations on embryonic stem cell research and remove restrictions on foreign aid going towards abortion, better known as the Mexico City Policy.

At a time when our nation is facing a financial crisis — which he is doing all he can to turn around — Mr. Obama has

found the time to overturn the laws enacted by President Bush that both re-instituted the Mexico City Policy and put limits on embryonic stem cell research in favor of research into the more successful adult and umbilical stem cells. Unfortunately, Mr. Obama has done nothing to alleviate the fears of many Catholics, including myself, who feared that he would come through on his promise to Planned Parenthood that he would ensure that passing the Freedom of Choice Act (which would do away with many state laws that require parental notification or consent for minors wanting an abortion, that allow health professionals to conscientiously object to per-

forming an abortion and that force abortion practitioners to give women the side effects and possible repercussions of their choice to have an abortion).

Needless to say, Mr. Obama has acted and plans to act in a manner that directly contradicts the Catholic message of this University. I, as a future graduate of this University, implore the powers that be to find an alternate speaker who better represents the message and mission of the University of Notre Dame.

Brendan Durr
sophomore
Knott Hall
March 20

Obama choice unacceptable

I am a 1988 graduate of the University of Notre Dame who today is ashamed of that designation because of the choice of Barack Obama to deliver the commencement address. Mr. Obama during the presidential campaign made a promise to Planned Parenthood that his first priority as president would be to sign the Freedom of Choice Act, a piece of legislation so horrific that it would immediately strike down all state and federal laws regulating the murder of the unborn, remove licensing requirements for abortionists, deny those health care providers who choose to not violate their Hippocratic oath the right to refuse to murder an unborn child or participate in such and force taxpayer funding of the murder of the unborn. Since being elected, Mr. Obama has not wavered in his radical pro-abortion agenda, in keeping with his record in the Illinois senate of denying medical protection to infants surviving botched abortions. It is an undeniable fact that abortion is murder, and so Notre Dame has chosen a man to hold up as a role model who advocates the legal right to murder the

most defenseless in society. How particularly ironic it is that a university named for a woman who risked being stoned for adultery in order to give birth to the Savior of the world as an unwed teenager would bestow such esteem upon this vile, hateful man.

I will be in attendance on commencement day with several thousand others to show my distaste for this decision. We will bring with us the graphic photos of what abortion does to its victims so there can be no doubt about the hatefulness of the man chosen to instruct Notre Dame graduates in how to be a success in life. I would suggest that if the administration does not want to suffer the embarrassment of pictures of dismembered children lining Notre Dame Ave. on what should be the happiest day of our newest graduates' lives, they withdraw this invitation immediately.

Kevin Keane
alum
class of 1988
March 20

Fighting Irish no longer fight for justice

In 1964, Fr. Hesburgh linked arms with Martin Luther King, Jr., standing up for the dignity and equality of every human being. I am proud that my university had a hand in the fight against the evils of racism and helped the nation progress to a point when it could elect an African American president. While Fr. Hesburgh marched in the streets, fighting tirelessly to oppose the marginalization of human beings, the current Notre Dame administration has chosen to honor a man who actively works for the destruction of human life. In May, President Obama, who has strongly supported the Freedom of Choice Act and other heinous pro-abortion legislation, will take the stage in the Joyce Center and will be given an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Fr. Hesburgh, even in the face of opposition, firmly stood up for the rights of fellow human beings. Fr. Jenkins, on the other hand, has publically declared that the dignity of human beings is expendable, so long as you can secure the nation's most prestigious graduation speaker.

Emily Matich
junior
abroad
March 21

Welcome Obama

As a Notre Dame alumnus from 2004, I was quite excited to learn on Friday that President Obama will deliver the Commencement address at this year's graduation ceremony. I hope that this will be a moment when Notre Dame will fulfill its twin mission of being both a Catholic university and an elite institution of higher learning. I know that this decision will be met by some with a certain level of disappointment or anger because some of Mr. Obama's positions run contrary to Church teachings. However, I would argue that for Notre Dame to truly be both Catholic and a university, Mr. Obama's opinions must not be shunned but, rather, welcomed. The Catholic leaders of tomorrow must engage others in thoughtful debates. That means that understanding the thoughts and beliefs outside of the Church and hearing Mr. Obama speak is one way to do so, as his opinions are held by a significant portion of the American populace. In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the class of 2009 (if only a bit early), welcome Mr. Obama to campus and encourage the lively debate that is worthy of such an esteemed institution as Notre Dame.

Jacob Baska
alum
class of 2004
March 22

An open letter to Fr. Jenkins

I am writing to express my outrage over the invitation extended to Barack Obama to speak this May at Commencement. What is one of the greatest Catholic universities in the world doing inviting a person who so openly and insistently seeks to institute policies so fundamentally opposed to our Catholic values? Central to our Catholic mission is the defense of life at all stages and in all forms. Yet the University is honoring a man who is continually removing limits on embryonic stem cell research and abortion: in short, the most liberal, anti-life President our country has ever seen. If Our Lady's University does not take a stand against such abuse, who will?

In this era of moral relativism when so-called "Catholics" are openly supporting anti-life candidates, why is Notre Dame reinforcing these misguided beliefs. Notre Dame cannot seriously label itself as a Catholic institution any longer if Mr. Obama is allowed to speak at graduation. You cannot be a Catholic and pro-choice, nor can you be a Catholic institution and give honors and awards to pro-choice politicians. Lest you forget, Fr. Jenkins, the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops explicitly forbade such invitations in their 2004 document "Catholics in Political Life." They write, "The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions." It seems pretty clear that Notre Dame, having given Barack Obama 1) an award (an honorary degree), 2) an honor (an invitation to speak at Commencement) and 3) a platform (a captive audience of more than 10,000 people), finds itself turning its back on its Catholic identity. It appears, Fr. Jenkins, that three strikes and he's out.

Liam Larkin
senior
off campus
March 22

Obama a disgrace

My 40-year love affair with the University of Notre Dame — as student, alumna and parent — came to a sad and abrupt end upon learning the news of the invitation of Barack Obama to receive an honorary law degree and speak at my child's graduation. Everyone knows Obama's stance on the "life" issues and his opposition to what are the teachings of the Catholic Church. In his tenure, he would sign the Freedom of Choice Act, allow partial birth abortion and, most importantly, will appoint at least two Supreme Court justices who will enshrine Roe v. Wade into law for at least another 30-40 years.

There is a course taught at Notre Dame called "A Faith Worth Dying For." Do we really believe anymore that there are principles which are worth fighting for, perhaps dying for? Or is it all about making compromises with the culture, not appearing "strange" or "out there"? Is our Catholic faith really worth standing up and fighting for or is it just a comfortable, kumbaya, hand-holding-at-the-Our-Father kind of faith? The founders are rolling in their graves, right down the road in Holy Cross Cemetery. Ah, the cross — how inconvenient.

Mary Mullaney
alum
class of 1973
March 21



BROMANCE HITS THE SILVER SCREEN: I LOVE YOU, MAN Hits Theatres

By CORNELIUS ROGERS
Scene Writer

There's a new genre in town, and it's called "bromantic comedy."

"I Love You, Man," one of the first in this genre, opened in theaters this weekend. It combines the light hearted romance typical of a chick flick with the physical humor typical of a "frat pack" movie.

"I Love You, Man" will delight most viewers looking for lots of laughs, because it successfully combines both of these genres by utilizing a cast that is as diverse and fresh as its many jokes.

The plot of the movie centers on Paul Rudd's dilemma of having no true guy pal. His upcoming wedding forces him to search for a best man, and what ensues is hilarity.

Coming to the foreground of this film are Rudd and Jason Segel ("Forgetting Sarah Marshall"). Both actors have usually taken supporting roles in most of their comedies (see "Knocked Up"). Their performances as leads are sure to tickle viewer's funny bones.

The same cannot be said for Rashida Jones, whose character serves less to deliver punch lines and more to remind us that there is some heterosexuality in this film.

Smaller characters are played by Andy Samberg (sadly not on a boat), J.K. Simmons reprising his role as the father figure (see "Juno"), and Thomas Lennon. Adding to the mix are cameo

appearances by Lou Ferrigno (TV's "Incredible Hulk") and Canadian rock band Rush.

Many jokes in the film are just as eclectic and fresh as the cast. Visual humor is guaranteed when Jason Segel walks his pug/beagle mix on the beach while wearing Uggs boots. There is also the verbal humor of hearing Paul Rudd's various accents, many of which sound like a leprechaun.

Elements typical of a romantic comedy are also present, like when Rudd gets on an answering machine and says more than he should.

The film is also not afraid to dabble in the realm of the immature, with jokes about pubic hair, oral sex, and, of course, a gratuitous vomit scene.

However, not all of the jokes in the movie are knee-slappers. The character of the annoying co-worker Tevin (played by Rob Heubel) appears humorous in his first scene, but by the end of the movie, viewers are likely to find him just that: annoying.

The film also has predictable moments. It does not take viewers long to realize that every time Rudd and Segel's characters are about to part, Rudd will come up with some nonsensical nickname for Segel. But these moments are overlooked in comparison to the many laughs the film delivers.

While "I Love You, Man" has the humor and warm feelings typical of a Judd Apatow film, it has nothing at all to do with Apatow. Instead it is produced, written and directed by John Hamburg, whose writer credits include "Zoolander," "Meet the Parents," and "Along Came Polly" (which he also directed).

Viewers who enjoyed Hamburg's previous work are sure to find that his latest addition does not disappoint. Other viewers who are unfamiliar with this type of comedy may still find something funny in this social satire. "I Love You, Man" says while romance may be tricky, bromance is even harder.

Contact Cornelius Rogers at
crogers1@nd.edu

Roughly 40 minutes into "I Love You, Man," Jason Segel makes a magnificent entrance onto the screen, wearing a plaid shirt, pink striped sweater and tweed blazer.

The actor who got his start on the too short-lived "Freaks and Geeks" has finally reached deserved status in Hollywood as leading man material, while redefining that role in his comedic films: playing a guy's guy on the prowl for cougars who just doesn't know when to move on in "I Love You, Man" and a broken-hearted, oft-naked puppet

enthusiast in 2008's "Forgetting Sarah Marshall."

Segel has come a long way after his turn as shorts-wearing drummer Nick Andopolis on Judd Apatow's NBC comedy a decade ago.

Previously shafted with big screen supporting roles — such as one of fellow Apatow protégé Seth Rogen's friends in "Knocked Up" — Segel's starring role on the CBS sitcom "How I Met Your Mother" (HIMYM) and screenwriting have helped push him into the spotlight.

With the uncanny ability to make an audience cringe for hours, Segel's turn as Sydney Fyfe in John Hamburg's bromantic comedy (that's a word now) continues the trend of redefining traditional masculinity that began with Peter Bretter in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," a character he wrote for himself.

Full of wonderful bro moments on man dates and in the "Man Cave," "I Love You, Man" features Segel — a hero of male humiliation comedy — rocking out to Rush with co-star Paul

Rudd's bro-deprived Peter Klaven and displaying the ultimate dude confidence, walking his very small dog in calf-flattering Muggs and sporting various man scarves and cardigans.

Rudd is no stranger to the bromance himself. Fans may remember his taking a memorable trip to Las Vegas with Rogen in "Knocked Up." Then again, neither is Segel, whose man club with Neil Patrick Harris and Josh Radnor on HIMYM has helped the show's ratings skyrocket.

Segel's Marshall Erikson's rants — like the one about being too big for New York and loving New Jersey in a Price Co. surrounded by T-shirts of

dogs — are absolutely priceless and his stellar performance week after week makes this writer hope we never find out who the mother is.

His photo in the opening credits captures the ultimate dude moment: leaning back in your chair, smirking at the camera and holding a beer.

In a 2008 interview with The New York Times, Segel said he has drawn a lot of material for his writing from his own life, after listening to

advice from Apatow to pick up the pen.

Segel said Apatow told him: "You're kind of a weird dude. The only way you're going to make it is if you start writing your own material."

Weird, yes. Dude, definitely.

For his utter willingness to bear it all literally and figuratively on-screen and in-print (spoiler alert?) and his comfortableness with the role he's cast himself in, Segel, I love you, man. ep writing.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Observer.
Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

Jenn Metz

Scene Writer

Full of wonderful bro moments on man dates and in the "Man Cave," "I Love You, Man" features Segel — a hero of male humiliation comedy — rocking out to Rush with co-star Paul Rudd's bro-deprived Peter Klaven and displaying the ultimate dude confidence, walking his very small dog in calf-flattering Muggs and sporting various man scarves and cardigans.

I Love You, Man

Directed By: John Hamburg

Starring: Paul Rudd, Jason Segel, Rashida Jones and Andy Samberg



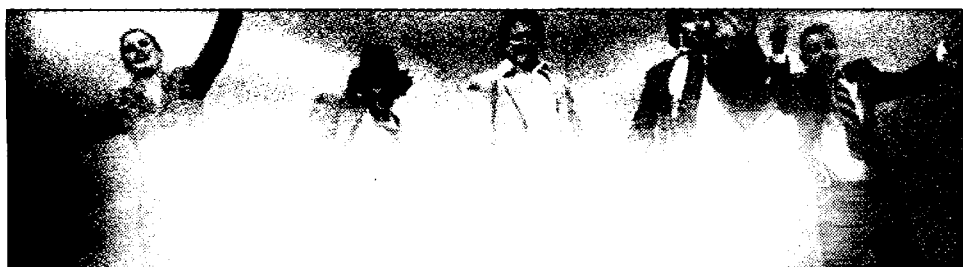
Paul Rudd, left, stars in "I Love You, Man," the latest in a recent series of films known as "bromances." In the film, Rudd is searching for a new "bro."

Image courtesy of movieweb.com



Jason Segel, seen here in 2008's "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," is known for his cringe-worthy on-screen antics and recent roles in "bromantic" comedies.

Image courtesy of celebritywonder.com



By GENNA McCABE
Scene Writer

Saturday night marked the first time Gaelic Storm, the world-renowned Celtic rock band, first made famous by its appearance in "Titanic," performed at Notre Dame. Even still, they were met with an audience full of fans, both young and old, anticipating a great show.

As the band members took the stage, they were welcomed with a standing ovation before they had played a single note.

The concert kicked off with a lively rendition of their song "Scalliwag" from the album "Bring Yer Wellies." From the first, the audience was encouraged to sing and clap along.

This was not a tall order, considering the infectious and upbeat nature of the music.

Even the most apathetic audience member found it hard to keep from tapping his foot.

The band continued with several songs off their newest album "What's the Rumpus?" including "Darcy's Donkey" and "Slim Jim and the Seven Eleven Girl."

By mixing instrumental songs with light-hearted ballads, Gaelic Storm kept the audience entertained.

The music was distinctly Irish in theme. It included stories of pretty lasses and amusing characters from small Irish villages.

And if nothing else, the band succeeded in persuading the audience that there is nothing more enjoyable than heading down to the local pub for a pint of beer.

The show had its fair share of highlights, not the least of which was the witty banter of Patrick Murphy, the group's lead singer

as well as accordion and harmonica player.

Between jokes about Angelina Jolie and beating Gaelic Storm's nemesis — Celtic Women — in the charts, Murphy delivered a fantastic performance. He conquered the often ridiculously fast lyrics with relative ease.

Equally impressive was Pete Purvis on the bagpipes. He gave the music a distinctly Celtic flair with his skilled melodies.

Between jokes about Angelina Jolie and beating Gaelic Storm's nemesis — Celtic Women — in the charts, Murphy delivered a fantastic performance.

The standout performance of the night was Jessie Burns on the fiddle. On such tracks as "Death Ride to Durango" and "Floating the Flambeau," Burns was able to display her clear mastery of the instrument.

Something about the light and playful sound of her fiddle made an already enjoyable performance particularly memorable.

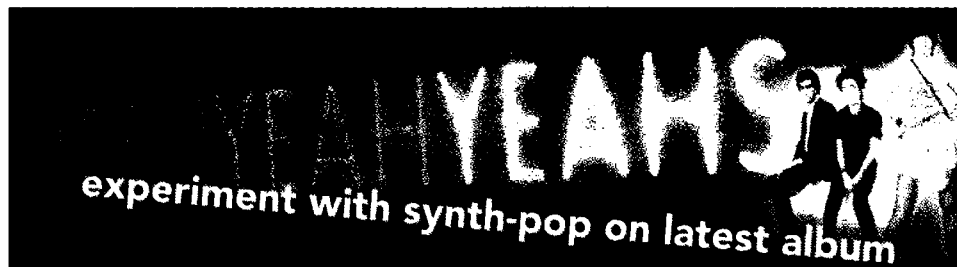
When the band came back on stage for an encore, they performed their song "Kiss Me I'm Irish." The sentimental melody and clever lyrics were especially appropriate on a campus where everyone likes to consider themselves at least a little bit Irish.

All in all, Gaelic Storm delivered an enjoyable and fun performance. They managed to get the majority of the audience up out of their

seats and dancing — quite a feat considering the large number of older members of the audience.

Although this was the first time Gaelic Storm performed at Notre Dame, one can only hope that they will be back soon.

Contact Genna McCabe at
gmccabe@nd.edu



By MAIJA GUSTIN
Scene Writer

"It's Blitz!", the third studio album from Yeah Yeah Yeahs, shows the trio experimenting with their sound. Known for soaring vocals and screaming guitars, Yeah Yeah Yeahs move towards a more synth-heavy pop sound in their latest release.

"Zero" sounds like typical Yeah Yeah Yeahs fare, but rather than wailing over screaming guitars, singer Karen O is wailing over synths and a heavy drumbeat. It's energetic and, although different, the synth sounds totally unique to the group.

In "Soft Shock," O departs from her typical hard-edged scream-singing for a softer ballad number. That is to say, a ballad for Yeah Yeah Yeahs. This song is again backed by some synths, but it keeps the melodic intensity of any of Yeah Yeah Yeahs' best guitar-driven songs.

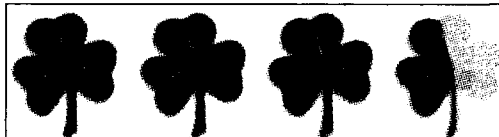
"Dull Life" is the catchiest song on the album. It's more of a traditional Yeah Yeah Yeahs sound with great guitar-drum interplay and Karen O doing her typical thing. Still, it's a great addition to the album. "Shame and Fortune" is done in the same way. A bit of old Yeah Yeah Yeahs mixed in with some new. They both fit perfectly with the sound of the other songs without sticking to the same formula.

"Runaway" is a great ballad-esque

It's Blitz! Yeah Yeah Yeahs

Label: Interscope

Recommended Tracks: "Dull Life,"
"Runaway" and "Little Shadow"



number featuring some awesome guitars, piano, and string instruments. It's both beautiful and epic, and it definitely shows off Karen O's unique voice. "Little Shadow" is another nice ballad that features O at her softest as a singer and a cool organ accompaniment.

If you have the cash for the "It's Blitz! (Deluxe Edition)," a whole extra \$3, there are some gems to be found. The deluxe edition comes with acoustic versions of "Soft Shock," "Skeletons," "Hysteric" and "Little Shadow." "Soft Shock" is stunning as an acoustic number. Karen O's voice shines, and she really lets the sentiments of the song come out. It is well worth the price. "Hysteric" and "Little Shadow" also make great acoustic songs with some beautiful string parts.

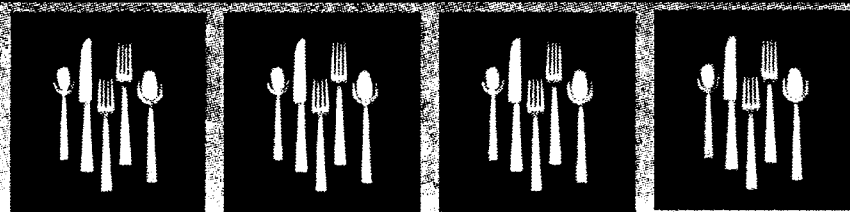
Many people have called this album a disco-infused rock album, which might be a bit of a stretch — synthesizers do not equal disco. But Yeah Yeah Yeahs have certainly designed an album more suitable to dancing than their typical releases. They have always been high-energy, but "It's Blitz!" combines that energy with an upbeat and more pop-rock sound.

"It's Blitz!" may not be Yeah Yeah Yeahs' best album to date, but it's a successful departure from their typical sound. Their traditional formula has always been blazing guitars, heavy drums, and some great work by Karen O. Her fantastic voice is still there, and drummer Brian Chase never lets up with his intensity. The greatest change is Nick Zimmer stepping away from his guitar to add some synth-sound to the album.

It's a big change of material for the New York City-based trio. However, they handle their new sound with the same amount of tact and creativity they've always put into their work.

It proves to be a solid experiment in the band's musical abilities, but fans may miss their old sound.

Contact Maija Gustin at
mgustin@nd.edu



Dining Hall Dish

By CORNELIUS ROGERS
Scene Writer

Seeing as I am new to this scene — no pun intended — I would like to point out that I am not the most creative person when it comes to dining hall dishes. What does make me qualified to write here? I like food. A lot. But if you are one of the many readers who find yourself dissatisfied with your dining experience, please write in. The dining hall dish is only as good as you allow it to be. Without further ado...

The Little Pesto that Could

Like to make your own pizza at North? Find the pizza sauce too salty? Find the barbecue sauce an abomination to Italian culture?

If you answered yes to these questions, then you were one of the many people who

enjoyed the pesto sauce served in North Dining Hall last semester.

I am talking of course about the original pesto. The real pesto. The Pokemon Red and Blue of pesto, not some cheap spin-off.

This pesto sauce contained two of pesto's key ingredients: crushed basil leaves and pine nuts. As a warning to all those with allergies, a sign was displayed saying, "pesto sauce contains nuts."

This system worked fine. For a while. Until an undisclosed incident involving an allergic reaction temporarily banned this beloved pesto.

But the pesto could not remain in exile forever. Recently, the pesto made its return to the dining hall, although without one of its core ingredients. This new pesto contained no nuts of any kind.

Needless to say, it did not have as much flavor as its predecessor. It was described as tasting like "watered-down" pesto or

"Pesto-Light."

Eventually this message reached the ears of some head honchos and a newer pesto was brought in, the one being served currently. This pesto does contain nuts, but surprisingly is not the same as the original. It tastes a little more diluted, but is still a good option for pesto lovers.

Good toppings with this new pesto are pineapple or pepperoni. This pesto sauce is not too heavy on the calories. So yes, you can still eat it and fit into your overpriced American Eagle jeans.

For true die-hard pesto fans, comment cards are your hope of salvation. In summation, venture out and try the new pesto sauce and let the dining hall staff know what you think.

Anything less would be nuts.

Contact Cornelius Rogers at crogers1@nd.edu

NBA

LeBron, Cavs edge Nets for 9th straight win

Rockets beat Spurs by two on Scola's late layup to knock San Antonio from first in Southwest Division

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Long before LeBron James arrived and started Cleveland's climb toward the top of the NBA, Zydrunas Ilgauskas was quietly putting up numbers on some terrible teams.

So as Ilgauskas continues to rewrite the Cavaliers' record book, it means so much more that it comes while his team is doing the same.

James had 30 points and 11 rebounds, and the Cavaliers won their ninth straight game, beating the New Jersey Nets 96-88 on Sunday night to tie a franchise record with their 57th victory.

Ilgauskas added 18 points as the Cavaliers improved the NBA's best record to 57-13. He had four blocks and passed John "Hot Rod" Williams (1,200) as the Cavs' career leader with 1,202. He already became Cleveland's top rebounder earlier this season.

"These things are always nice, but especially when the team is doing well," said Ilgauskas, who arrived in 1996. "If you're on a bad team, you can't enjoy it as much, and this so far has been a special season. A lot of records have fallen."

The Cavs weren't especially sharp while playing their second game in two days, but now get some time off before they host the Nets on Wednesday in the back end of a home-and-home series. A victory in that one gives Cleveland its second double-digit winning streak this season.

It would also make the Cavs the winningest team in their history. Cleveland went 57-25 in both 1988-89 and 1991-92.

"It's not the main goal, but any time you get an opportunity to write your name or write your team into the record books, you should be proud," James said.

"I think the franchise, the team, the coaches, everybody, everybody that's associated with the Cavaliers—people that work the concession stands—everybody, we should all be proud about this," James added. "Because it's not promised every year where you get a chance to set records, franchise records, or winning divisions, things like that. Great achievement by us."

Vince Carter had 25 points and nine rebounds, but without injured All-Star point guard

Devin Harris the Nets simply lacked the firepower to hang with the NBA's toughest defensive team. New Jersey had its two-game winning streak snapped and fell two games behind Chicago for the eighth and final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference.

"It's tough. As bad as our shooting was, we still had an opportunity to get back into the game," Carter said. "We got it down to two points but missed some easy layups, i.e. myself. We had some great looks at some shots, but it was just unfortunate."

James finished two assists shy of a fifth triple-double during the winning streak on a night where he was content to let his big men handle the scoring load early. Anderson Varejao finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds, helping Cleveland out rebound New Jersey 46-37.

"He plays at his own pace," the Nets' Jarvis Hayes said of James. "He was getting his teammates involved in the first three quarters and slowly got more engaged in the game offensively. It's tough, he ended up with 30 and it seemed like he was having a quiet night, when he was two assists shy of a triple-double."

New Jersey, which never led, cut a 19-point deficit to eight early in the fourth quarter. James then made consecutive buckets to restore the double-digit cushion that Cleveland enjoyed most of the game. The Nets got it down to eight again with under 2 1/2 minutes left, but Carter—who had earlier banked in a shot from inside the foul line while being tripped—missed on a layup on a baseline drive and the Cavs went on to win for the 26th time in 31 games.

James took only two shots in the first quarter while the Cavs wore down the Nets inside. Varejao and Ilgauskas each scored eight points as Cleveland took a 27-21 lead. The Nets were within two points late in the second period before James made a pair of free throws, then finally made a field goal on a play that showed off his unmatched combination of power and athleticism.

He grabbed a defensive rebound, dribbled the ball up the right side of the floor before suddenly cutting into the lane near the free throw line, driving left and dunking it with his right

hand while being fouled.

His other first-half field goal pushed the lead back into double digits with 2:12 remaining, and the Cavaliers led 48-38 at the break.

The Cavs scored seven straight to open a 59-40 lead on a jumper by Ilgauskas with 7:45 remaining in the third and led 71-55 after three.

Rockets 87, Spurs 85

The Houston Rockets have lost Tracy McGrady, traded away their starting point guard and changed their starting lineup 17 times this season.

And with 10 games left, they're the new No. 2 in the Western Conference.

Knocking the Spurs from first place in the Southwest Division for the first time since January, Houston capped a furious fourth-quarter rally when Yao Ming fired a perfect pass to Luis Scola underneath with 11.9 seconds left to stun San Antonio on Sunday.

Ron Artest scored 24 as Houston won its fourth straight and headed to Utah with a half-game division lead over the Spurs. Not since Christmas have the Rockets enjoyed at least a share of first place.

"I would say it's been a surprising climb to first," Rockets guard Shane Battier said. "We've had so much ... just malaise this year with all the injuries we've had and lineup shuffles and trades. I don't know that too many people thought we would be here today."

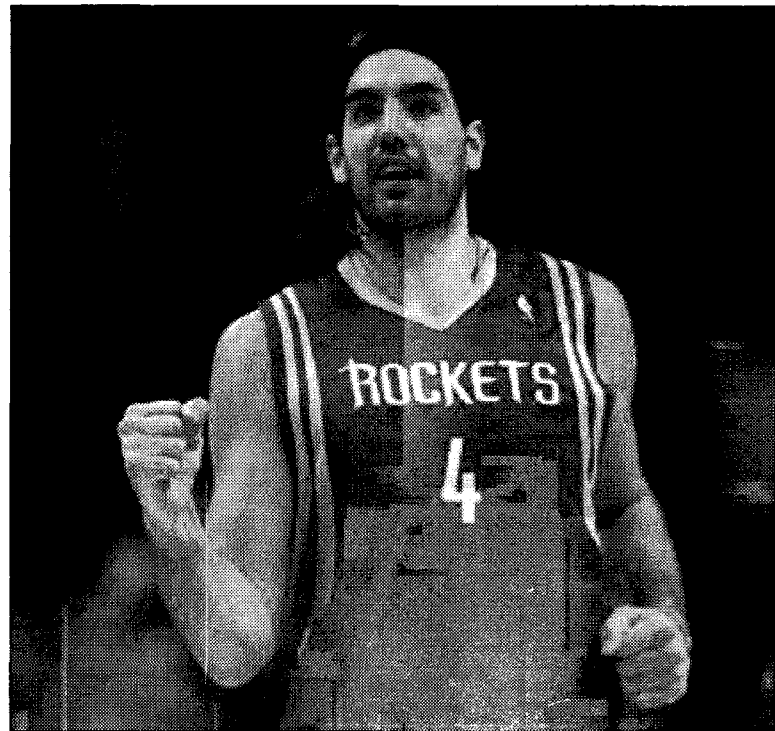
Tim Duncan scored 23 points and Tony Parker had 22 and 12 assists for the Spurs, who had appeared to start pulling away midway through the fourth before the Rockets embarked on a 10-2 run.

Parker tried to put the Spurs back ahead but misfired on a tough 7-footer with 2.9 seconds left. Matt Bonner clanked a 3-pointer off an in-bounds pass with 0.3 seconds on the clock that wouldn't have counted anyway.

Houston executed much better. The jewel came on Scola's game-winner, when Yao stood at the top of the key, raised the ball over his head as though he was going to shoot, then whipped the ball to Scola cutting toward the basket.

Yao said he thought he was going to shoot before seeing Scola at the last second.

"It was my fault," Duncan said.



Rockets forward Luis Scola pumps his fist after Houston's 87-85 win over San Antonio on Sunday. Scola scored 19 points in the game.

"He popped to the top. I didn't see anybody rotate to him, and I just kind of half rotated to him. Thought he was shooting the ball and turned to block out and it went right by my head. It was just another mental mistake on my part."

Yao finished with 13 points and eight assists. Scola had 19 points and 17 rebounds, scoring five in the final 30 seconds.

"You got to give Luis credit for being open and cutting to the open area," Rockets coach Rick Adelman said.

While the Los Angeles Lakers are poised to claim the top spot in the West—they're the only team in the conference to clinch a post-season spot thus far—slotting the other seven playoff teams figures to go down to the end.

San Antonio had been the second-best in the West for more than two months, though their lead was hardly ever safe. The Spurs, Denver, New Orleans, Portland and Utah are now all within three games of Houston.

The Rockets have made their surge without McGrady, who had season-ending surgery on his left knee nearly a month ago.

Since McGrady's last game on Feb. 9 -- when the Rockets were 4 1/2 games back of San Antonio—Houston has won 16 of 20 and now trails only the Lakers in the

West. The Rockets play the Jazz on Tuesday before hosting the Lakers on Saturday.

"We know the standings change hourly," Battier said. "So it doesn't really mean much right now."

The Rockets led 51-47 at half-time behind 13 points from Artest, who then scored six of the first eight points in the third to stretch the lead to nine. The Spurs answered with a 7-0 run in the final 1:39 to cut Houston' lead to one entering the fourth.

Ime Udoka's fastbreak layup with 8:46 remaining tied it at 70 for the first time since late in the second quarter. He then cleaned up Parker's air ball, sank a 3-pointer and hit a jumper to put San Antonio ahead by five. Udoka finished with 16.

But Aaron Brooks capped Houston's 10-2 run with a 16-footer with 1:21 left for an 82-81 lead. Scola scored the rest for the Rockets.

The Spurs have lost three of four, and Duncan said this one was big.

"It's huge, especially with the race as close as it is, and as close as (the Rockets) are to us," he said. "Obviously, we came in here knowing the importance of this game. Just wished it could have bounced a couple of different ways for us."

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit Support Services for Victims of Rape & Assault at: <http://osa.nd.edu/health-safety/assault/>

Bowl to win.

AROUND THE NATION

Monday, March 23, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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NCAA Women's Tennis ITA Division 1 Rankings

	team	points
1	Northwestern	91
2	Georgia	84
3	NOTRE DAME	74
4	Duke	72
5	Baylor	67
6	Miami (Fla.)	61
7	California	60
8	Georgia Tech.	57
9	Clemson	56
10	Southern California	56
11	UCLA	53
12	Tennessee	46
13	Stanford	46
14	Kentucky	45
15	North Carolina	44
16	Arizona St.	40
17	Florida St.	36
18	LSU	35
19	Michigan	35
20	Virginia	35
21	Wake Forest	32
22	Fresno St.	30
23	Washington	29
24	Texas A&M	28
25	Boise St.	27

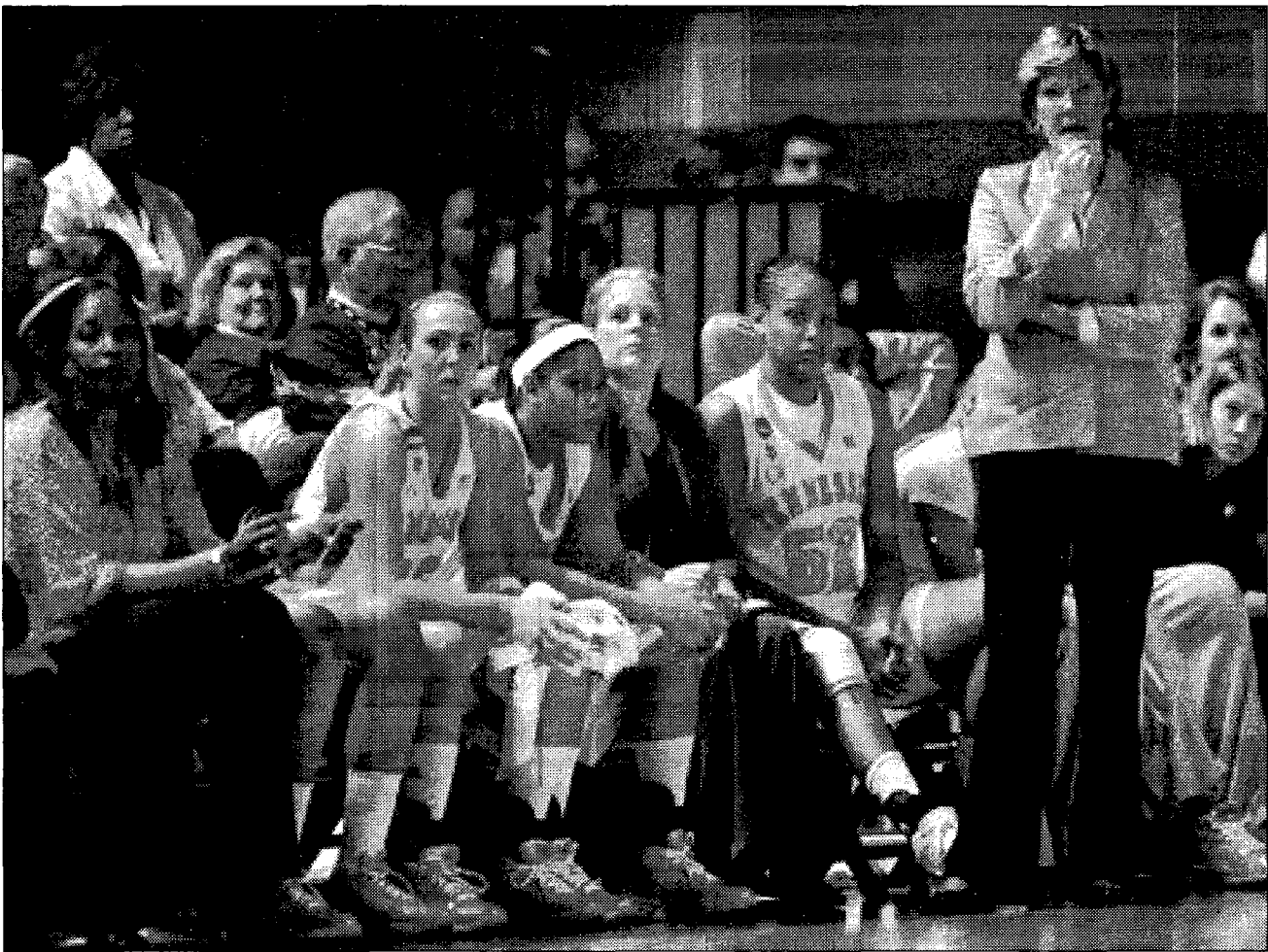
NCAA Women's Lacrosse IWLCA Division 1 Rankings

	team	record
1	Northwestern	6-0
2	Maryland	4-0
3	Duke	5-1
4	Virginia	5-1
5	Penn	3-0
6	Syracuse	4-1
7	Princeton	2-1
8	Georgetown	3-1
9	North Carolina	3-2
10	Vanderbilt	2-2
11	NOTRE DAME	4-1
12	Boston University	2-2
13	New Hampshire	4-1
14	Cornell	2-2
15	Penn. St.	4-1
16	James Madison	3-0
17	Stanford	6-2
18	Dartmouth	2-2
19	Ohio St.	4-1
20	Loyola (Md.)	3-1

NCAA Men's Hockey USA Today Rankings

	team	record
1	Boston University	29-6-4
2	NOTRE DAME	29-5-3
3	Michigan	28-10-0
4	Denver	22-10-5
5	North Dakota	24-12-4
6	Northeastern	25-10-4
7	Yale	22-7-2
8	Princeton	22-10-0
9	Vermont	20-11-5
10	Cornell	20-8-4
11	Minnesota	17-12-7
12	New Hampshire	19-12-5
13	Miami (Ohio)	20-12-5
14	St. Lawrence	21-11-4
15	Boston College	18-13-5

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



The Tennessee women's basketball team was upset by the Ball State Eagles, 71-55 in the first round of the NCAA tournament, marking one of the worst seasons in the forty-two year program history.

Lady Vols lose in first round of tourney

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Tennessee's title defense ended sooner than expected, wrapping up the worst season ever for Pat Summitt's vaunted program.

Ball State stunned the two-time defending national champions 71-55 in the opening round of the NCAA tournament on Sunday night, snapping one of the more remarkable streaks in college basketball history.

The Lady Volunteers (22-11) had never lost in the first two rounds of the tournament, going 42-0 through the years.

Tennessee also became the first defending champ to lose its opening game in the women's tourney. Old Dominion won the title in 1985 and failed to make the tournament the following year.

"I thought we were tentative, maybe uptight," Summitt said. "But you have to give credit where credit is due and that's to the Ball State basketball team. They had a lot more toughness. They beat us to loose balls. They made shots."

The 12th-seeded Cardinals (26-8), who were making their NCAA debut, will play Iowa State in the second round on Tuesday.

Porchia Green led Ball State with 23 points, Audrey McDonald added 18 and the Mid-American Conference champions dominated the second half to capture the biggest win in school history.

Shekinna Stricklen had 17 points for Tennessee. The Lady Vols shot just 35 percent and played the second half without center Kelley Cain, who went down in the first half with a knee injury.

The way the Cardinals fearlessly challenged the Lady Vols, it might not have mattered if Cain was available.

Green and backcourt mate Kiley Jarrett did whatever they wanted against the bigger — but decidedly slower — Lady Vols. Using their speed to blow by defenders, Green and Jarrett were able to get into the lane or find open teammates.

The Lady Vols, meanwhile, appeared to be a step behind all night.

"Their guards did an awesome job," Tennessee's Angie Bjorklund said. "We need to get down and defend no matter what and we didn't do that today."

IN BRIEF

Michael Jordan attends son's championship game
PEORIA, Ill. — Michael Jordan celebrated another Chicago basketball championship — his son's.

Marcus Jordan, son of the Bulls' six-time champion, scored a game-high 19 points to lead Chicago Whitney Young to a 69-66 victory over Waukegan in the Illinois Class 4A championship Saturday.

As Marcus Jordan and his teammates celebrated on the court after the final buzzer, Michael Jordan stood quietly, clapping his hands with tears in his eyes.

"Crying?" the NBA great said in response to a reporter's question. "I'm not crying. Not for me, anyway."

The younger Jordan was key down the stretch after two teammates fouled out, hitting 4 of 4 free throws in the final 3 minutes to seal the victory.

"Awesome," Marcus Jordan said. "Just awesome."

Rose-Hulman's Goslee throws school's first perfect game
TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — Rose-Hulman softball pitcher Jordan Goslee took a perfect game a step further.

The junior also had a perfect day at the plate in an 8-0 win over Hanover College in Division III action on Sunday afternoon.

Goslee threw the first perfect game in school history and just the second no-hitter with eight strikeouts in five innings. She also went 3-for-3 from the plate with three singles.

Rose-Hulman snapped a scoreless tie with three runs in the fourth inning and five in the fifth frame to invoke the mercy rule.

Goslee's perfect game in the second half of a doubleheader followed a performance that was nearly as strong. She went 3-for-3 from the plate in the opener with three doubles and four RBIs in a 10-1 victory.

Pacers' Jarrett Jack aids 108-83 win over Charlotte Bobcats
CHARLOTTE, N.C. — From getting into a dispute with a teammate to being benched to shifting to point guard, Jarrett Jack had a busy 24 hours.

He capped it off by being nearly perfect.

A night after getting into an on-court argument with T.J. Ford, Jack replaced Ford at point guard and scored 31 points on 13-of-14 shooting, leading the Indiana Pacers to a dominating 108-83 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats to snap a five-game losing streak.

"We put that behind us. It had nothing to do with it," Jack said of the incident with Ford on Friday that got him banished to the locker room. "I didn't want to come out with the 'I told you so' stuff. I just wanted to come out and play good basketball and try to get off that losing streak."

around the dial

NCAA Women's Basketball
Arizona St. vs. Florida State
7:00 p.m., ESPN2

2009 World Baseball Classic
Korea vs. Japan
9:30 p.m., ESPN

BASEBALL

ND loses 2 of 3 to Seton Hall

By BILL BRINK and
MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writers

The Irish dropped two of three games this weekend in their conference opening series against Seton Hall, with the Pirates capitalizing on the Notre Dame's inability to close out innings. Seton Hall batted .458 from the plate and scored 19 runs over the three games with two outs.

The Irish (13-7, 1-2 Big East) offense battered Seton Hall (10-7, 2-1 Big East) ace Sean Black in the conference opener, defeating the Pirates for their sixth straight win on Friday. The Notre Dame lineup tallied 16 hits, and four different Irish players had multiple hits in the game.

After Black held the Irish offense in check through the first two innings, Notre Dame finally reached the Pirates ace in the bottom of the third. Senior shortstop Jeremy Barnes blistered a two-out pitch into the right-center gap, scoring juniors David Mills and A.J. Pollock, who hustled home from first base on the hit.

"I was looking curveball after what I had seen my first at bat, and got one and hit it well," Barnes said.

The Irish held the 2-0 lead until the fourth inning, when Seton Hall put together a two-out rally against Notre Dame starter Cole Johnson. After Notre Dame retired the first two batters, the Pirates put together a hit batsman and three consecutive hits to score three runs.

The Notre Dame offense quickly responded, picking up four runs in the bottom of the inning. Second baseman Mick Doyle led off the inning with a double, and third baseman Greg Sherry was hit by a pitch with one out. A Golden Tate double tied the game at three, and Mills blasted a single through the infield to score Tate and Sherry.

A Seton Hall error on a hard hit ball by Pollock allowed one more Irish run and pushed the lead to 6-3.

The top of the Irish offense continued their hot hitting in the sixth inning, with the heart of the order crushing the ball. After a Mills walk, Pollock doubled for his third hit of the game, and senior Evan Sharpley drove Pollock home with a triple. Barnes then singled to drive home Sharpley and put the Irish up six.

Barnes said the speed and balance in the Notre Dame lineup made life difficult for Pirate pitchers.

"When you have guys at the top of the lineup with speed getting on base, and big boppers in the middle picking up RBI, we're very tough," Barnes said. "Even at the bottom of the lineup, we've got Greg [Sherry] turning it over batting almost .400."

Johnson was impressive over seven innings for Notre Dame, allowing just five hits and four earned runs. The sophomore struck out six and walked two to pick up his second win of the year.

Barnes led the Irish offense, going 4-for-5 at the plate with four RBI. Mills and Pollock each added three hits of their own, and Evan Sharpley had

two hits including his first career triple.

The Irish winning streak came to an end on Saturday, as Notre Dame allowed five unearned runs in the seventh inning during their 9-4 loss to Seton Hall Saturday.

Senior Keith Cantwell got the win for the Pirates, going eight innings and giving up four runs on six hits.

"Our focus of what our guys need to swing at wasn't good," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "He was getting ahead of his fastball, he was moving in and out on us and he was throwing his change-up for a strike. When he'd get ahead, he'd throw balls in the dirt and he chased."

Sophomore Brian Dupra got the loss, giving up nine hits and seven runs but only three of them earned.

"Honestly I thought mechanically that was the best he's pitched since he's been here," Schrage said. "His slider today was as good as it's been."

Senior designated hitter Chris Affinito had the most productive day for the Pirates. He went 4-for-5 with a run and an RBI. Pollock had two hits and a run to lead the Irish.

Seton Hall broke open the game with a two-out, five-run rally in the seventh inning. Singles from senior center fielder Matt Smedberg and Affinito put men on first and second, and a throwing error from senior shortstop Jeremy Barnes allowed Smedberg to score when junior outfielder Chris Spagnuolo grounded to short. Espozito doubled and Rogers walked to load the bases. It looked like the inning would end when Fontenelli grounded to short, but Barnes bobbled the ball and everyone was safe.

"He's made those plays all year and he didn't make them today," Schrage said. "He'll win you more games than he'll lose you."

Two bases-loaded walks scored two more runs, and the Pirates led 8-3.

The Pirates touched up Dupra early. Sophomore shortstop A.J. Rusbarsky singled to center and Affinito doubled to the warning track in right-center, driving in Rusbarsky.

In the second inning Dupra struggled with his control, and the Seton Hall bats didn't help his cause. Junior right fielder Michael Rogers reached on a fielder's choice and junior third baseman Chris Fontenelli singled. Sophomore second baseman Sean Gusrang walked to load the bases. Sophomore left fielder Bobby Abreu then walked, scoring Rogers, and Rusbarsky grounded out to third base to score Fontenelli.

The Irish tied the score in the bottom of the sixth. Junior right fielder David Mills singled to left to start the inning and junior center fielder A.J. Pollock hit a high fly ball to left that Abreu lost in the sun, causing the ball to drop. Senior first baseman Evan Sharpley grounded out but advanced the runners to sec-

ond and third, and a wild pitch allowed Mills to score. On the next pitch Barnes blasted a two-run home run over the left-field fence to tie the score.

The Pirates scored another run in the top of the ninth when freshman pitcher Hudgins hit Fontenelli and Gusrang doubled to left to drive him in. Sharpley hit a solo home run in the bottom of the ninth.

Seton Hall dominated the rubber match on Sunday, bashing 20 hits off Notre Dame pitchers in a 11-4 win.

Sophomore pitcher Joe DiRocco stymied the Notre Dame offense, scattering four hits over seven shutout innings. DiRocco kept the ball low in the strike zone and while only striking out two, held the Irish to mostly ground balls.

The Pirates scratched out a run in the top of the third to start the scoring, putting together a walk, an infield single, and a blooper into left-center field for the first run off junior Notre Dame pitcher Eric Maust. The Irish continued their weekend long theme of giving up two-out hits, but Maust was able to induce a grounder to short to escape a bases loaded jam.

Seton Hall again loaded the bases in the fourth, putting together three straight singles with one out. After third baseman Greg Sherry made a terrific catch on a foul ball behind third, left fielder Bobby Abreu drove home two Pirates with his third hit off Maust.

For the third straight inning Seton Hall loaded the bases against Maust in the fifth, this time with no outs. A sacrifice fly by the catcher Espozito gave the Pirates a 4-0 lead and chased Maust from the game.

Seton Hall added another run off of Mills, who came on in to pitch in relief, but the Irish were able to strand two runners and exit the inning down 5-0.

The Pirates plated four more runs in the eighth off Notre Dame reliever Todd Miller, highlighted by a solo home run by Rusbarsky.

Pollock finally broke the Seton Hall shutout in the bottom of the eighth, hitting a laser over the left field fence to score Mills, who had walked.

Catcher Matt Scioscia and Golden Tate each had RBI singles for the Irish in the ninth.

The designated hitter and pitcher Mills led the Irish offense and was also their most effective pitcher Sunday. Mills had two hits to lead Notre Dame along with Pollock on the game and gave up one run in two and two third innings of relief.

Notre Dame hosts non-conference opponents Central Michigan and Oakland on Tuesday and Wednesday before returning to conference play next weekend at Pittsburgh.

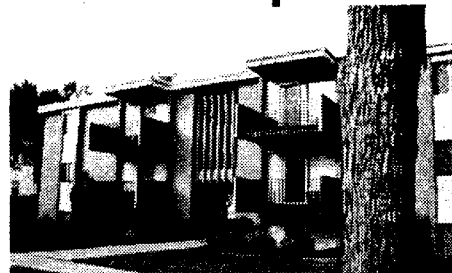
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ND Women's GOLF

Golfers place sixth in Texas

By ALEX WEST
Sports Writer

Windy conditions and a tough course couldn't stop the Irish this weekend, as the squad finished in sixth place at the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational Sunday afternoon.

The Irish shot a team score of 915 for the three-day tournament played at the University of Texas Golf Club in Austin, Texas. Leading the way for the Irish were sophomore So-Hyun Park and freshmen Becca Huffer, who finished 23rd and 29th respectively.

Irish coach Susan Holt said that everyone on the team had solid rounds.

"We didn't play well, but the conditions harmed a lot of teams," Holt said.

On Sunday, wind speed

climbed as high as 30 mph. It wasn't just the Irish who had difficulty with the elements, though, as every team saw their scores rise in Sunday's round.

The Irish scored their best round on Friday with a score of 296, putting them into sixth place.

On Saturday, as the wind began to pick up, Notre Dame shot a 308, moving it back into a tie for seventh. After their third round score of a 311, the Irish stood alone in sixth place, ahead of top 25 teams Arizona and Vanderbilt and only 43 strokes behind tournament winner Purdue.

"We played really well," Holt

said. "When it's all said and done, it was a successful tournament."

Senior captain Lisa Maunu earned a top-50 finish while junior Annie Brophy and sophomore Katie Conway rounded out the Irish team finishing 58th and 62nd, respectively, out of 91 competitors.

The Irish next travel to Brown Summit, N.C. on April 3rd for the Bryan National Collegiate Tournament at the Bryan National Golf Course.

Contact Alex West at awest@hcc-nd.edu

"We played really well. When it's all said and done, it was a successful tournament."

Susan Holt
Irish coach

MEN's TENNIS

Notre Dame drops back-to-back matches

By CHRIS MICHALSKI
Sports Writer

The Irish dropped back-to-back matches over the weekend, getting blown out 4-0 by Boise State and losing a close match 4-3 to Wisconsin.

Irish coach Bob Bayliss described Saturday's loss to the Broncos as Notre Dame's "worst match of the year."

Boise State started off by taking the doubles point, putting the Irish in an early hole. The singles matches didn't go any better for the Irish, as No. 22 senior Brett Helgeson, sophomore Stephen Havens, and freshman Niall Fitzgerald all dropped their matches in straight sets. The rest of the singles matches were abandoned as Boise State had clinched a 4-0 victory.

"Against Boise State we seemed to be missing something," Bayliss said. "Perhaps they played too well for us, but I felt that from top to bottom we played soft, with the exception of Dan Stahl, who would likely have won had the matches been played out."

The Irish fared slightly better the next day against the Badgers, and Bayliss said he felt the effort in that match was "where it needed to be," but the Irish could still not muster a

win.

Doubles teams of Helgeson/Tyler Davis and Fitzgerald/Matt Johnson both lost 6-8, giving the Badgers an early 1-0 lead heading into singles. After Helgeson lost in straight sets at first singles, the Irish found themselves in an early 2-0 hole. Extraordinary efforts from Havens, freshman Casey Watt, and sophomore Daniel Stahl at second through fourth singles sent the Irish back on top 3-2.

Needing just one win at fifth or sixth singles, the Irish couldn't quite finish out the comeback. Sophomore David Anderson lost in a first set tiebreaker and could not rebound for a win at fifth singles, while Fitzgerald could not handle the left serve-and-volley of Wisconsin's Michael Muskievicz.

"This match exposed our weaknesses and serves as a challenge for us to find solutions to our areas of concern," Bayliss said. "Our doubles needs to improve."

The Irish will head home and face off against a Big East foe, South Florida, for the first time outdoors. The match is scheduled for Saturday, March 28 at 1 p.m.

Contact Chris Michalski at jmichal2@nd.edu

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ND SOFTBALL

Team splits doubleheader

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

The Irish ended a win streak Sunday, but it took only two pitches for the team to start a new one.

Notre Dame (11-11, 1-1) had won 26 straight over St. John's (9-12, 2-2), but lost the first game of a doubleheader 4-3 against the Red Storm. They won the second game 5-4 due to late inning heroics by sophomores Katie Fleury and Brianna Jorgensborg.

It looked like the second game would go the same way as the first. St. John's held a 4-3 lead going into the bottom of the seventh and pitcher Kat Lawrence quickly dispatched the first two Irish batters.

Sophomore second basemen Katie Fleury then stepped to the plate. She fouled off her first two pitches before taking a ball. Down to her last strike, Fleury launched the next pitch over the left field wall to tie the game.

"Pressure situations like that are easier, they're more fun," Fleury said. "I was just trying to hit it up the middle to get on base."

After Fleury had circled the bases, sophomore Brianna Jorgensborg stepped up and sent the first pitch she saw to dead center, where it bounced off of the scoreboard for the game-winning home run.

"I couldn't stop smiling as I was running the bases," Jorgensborg said of her first walk-off homer. "You try to act like you've been there before, like it's your job. But

in such a big moment you just can't help it. You feel giddy."

The games marked Notre Dame's first in Big East play.

"I don't believe we started the Big East season well," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "I don't feel we ever got into our groove. We're lucky we have good hitters who can go out there and make adjustments at the end of the game."

The first game began as a pitchers' duel, as senior pitcher Brittany Bargar (7-6) retired the first six batters she faced and Red Storm pitcher Linzee Sumrall retired her first five.

The game remained tied at zero until the bottom of the fourth, which Johnson started with a single to center. Senior Christine Farrell came into the game as a pinch runner and advanced to second on a wild pitch and to third on a passed ball. Two outs later, Miller hit a single over the head of the second baseman to score Farrell, giving the Irish a 1-0 lead.

The Red Storm looked like they would not put up much of a fight against Bargar. Through five innings, only two batters reached second and the squad had gone down in order three times.

In the sixth, however, St. John's came out swinging. Two singles and three doubles gave the Red Storm all four of its runs. With two on and one out, Bargar was able to induce the last two outs, but not before the damage was done. St. John's led, 4-1.

"Bargar had six great innings and one bad one,"

Gumpf said.

The Irish did not go quietly, though. In the bottom of the seventh, freshman center fielder Alexa Maldonado hit a single and Kohan followed with a two-run homer. However, Sumrall got Johnson to fly out to end the game.

The second game went much like the first. Both teams were stifled until the fourth, when the Irish scored two runs on a home run by junior first basemen Christine Lux.

St. John's responded in the top of the fifth with a four-run inning capped by a three-run home run by Red Storm third baseman Roxy Struble.

Sophomore Jody Valdivia (4-5) recorded the win for the Irish, giving up only six hits in the complete game.

"[Valdivia] did really well," Fleury said. "It makes it a lot easier for the defense when the pitcher is keeping runners off the bases."

The Irish will be in action again in a non-conference contest against Ball State Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

Note:

♦The victory in the second game marked the 300th win of Irish coach Deanna Gumpf's career. All 300 victories have been with the Irish. Gumpf, though, said the milestone does not mean very much.

"Honestly, I had no idea," she said. "I'm focused on the team."

Contact Laura Myers
lmyers2@nd.edu

MEN'S GOLF

Irish stumble to 18th in E-Z-Go Invitational

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

After a promising start to the spring season, Notre Dame faltered at the 30th Annual Schenkel E-Z-Go Invitational, finishing last in a field of 18 with a 48-over par 912.

No. 16 South Carolina led the elite field with a one-over 865 at the 6,910-yard, par 72 Forest Heights Country Club in Statesboro, GA.

The Irish stumbled out of the gate, shooting a tournament-worst 311 in the opening round. Notre Dame never quite seemed to get in a rhythm, carding 298 and 303 in the final rounds to finish twelve strokes behind the seventeenth place finisher, No. 43 Augusta State.

Irish head coach Jim Kubinski has emphasized the importance of looking beyond statistics when assessing his young team.

"We're improving with each event regardless of scores," Kubinski said. "Our guys are realizing they have the physical skills to compete with any team in the country. They still need to grow in several mental aspects, and they will."

Sophomore Jeff Chen lead the team in scoring with an 8-over 224 (77-72-75), 50th

overall. Chen paced the team for the second tournament in a row after his eleventh-place finish at the Palmas del Mar Invitational last week. Fellow sophomore Dustin Zhang closely trailed Chen with a 9-over 225 (79-72-74) on the tournament. Zhang finished tied-for-55th overall.

Junior Doug Fortner, one of the veterans of the team with senior Josh Sandman out due to injury, finished 87th with a 17-over par 233 (77-77-79). Freshman Freshman Max Scodro shot an 18-over 234, rebounding from his first round 82 with a 77 and a 75 to close the weekend tied-for-88th. At a 19-over 235, sophomore Connor Alan-Lee sunk to 90th with scores of 77, 78, and 80.

The eighteenth-place finish marked Notre Dame's worst result of the season. The Irish competed without Kubinski, who missed the tournament with flu-like symptoms. Irish assistant coach Steve Colnitis guided the team in his absence.

Notre Dame returns to the links on Friday at the Spring Break Championship at Gleneagles Golf Club in Delray Beach, Fla.

Contact Michael Blasco at
mblasco@nd.edu

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish compete at NCAAs

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

After powering their way to a record-extending 13th consecutive Big East title, the Notre Dame women's swimming and diving team capped off its stellar season at the NCAA national championships last weekend in College Station, Texas.

Under the direction of Irish Brian Barnes and diving coach Caiming Xie, three athletes took to the pools in the tough national field.

"The competition at this level is extremely tough," Barnes said. "It is an amazing honor for all of these athletes just to make it this far."

First in the water for the Irish was sophomore Amywren Miller. In her return to the National Championship meet, Miller swam the 50-yard free in 22.47, placing her at 26th overall in the preliminaries. She was unable to advance to the finals, though, but ended her second collegiate

season with a strong showing in the tough field.

"When you swim at this level there's always things you feel like you could have done better, but I just came out to have fun and improve from last year, which I did," Miller said. "I really fed on the great positive energy of the team this season."

The next competitor for Notre Dame was junior diver Natalie Stitt, who was competing in her first ever NCAA appearance. In the 1-meter event, Stitt tallied a final score of 245.30, good enough to place 32nd. Next she competed in the 3-meter dive, finishing in 32nd again, with a final score of 245.65.

"I had a few nerves for my first time at this meet," Stitt said. "The field is full of amazing divers, it makes you really want to aspire to be like them."

The final swimmer for the Irish was sophomore standout Samantha Maxwell, one of the nation's top performers all season long, and a school record-holder in sev-

eral events.

In the 100 breast preliminaries, Maxwell bested her own school record to set the first-ever sub 1:00 time, tagging up in 59.73. In the finals, Maxwell did it again, setting her own mark even lower, swimming a blazing 59.44 to place 6th, and earn her first ever All-American honor.

"The girls in these events are so fast, as soon as a race starts its almost over, so you have to be perfect from the dive to the finish," Maxwell said. "We have been building up to this all season, so I felt more comfortable my second time around."

In Notre Dame's final event of the season, Maxwell put in another strong effort in the 200 breast, touching in 2:09.62 to snag the 11th spot in the nation. She set yet another Notre Dame record in the process.

The Irish finished in 31st place as a team with 19 points.

Contact Nathaniel Lee at
nlee5@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame wins two against SEC opponents

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame bested two of the SEC's top teams this weekend, as the No. 2 Irish defeated No. 29 Vanderbilt Friday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion and then defeating No. 12 Tennessee 5-2 on Sunday on the road.

The tone of Friday's match against the Commodores (5-4) was set early, as all three Irish doubles teams won, earning Notre Dame the first point of the match.

"We are looking to get all three doubles solid in all of our matches," senior Kelcy Tefft said. "We're trying to get the right dynamic on all three doubles. It is tough, as it is a long season and you are playing over twenty matches."

Freshmen Kristy Frilling and Shannon Matthews, and juniors Cosmina Ciobanu and Kali Krisik all won their singles matches, elevating the team to a 5-2 victory.

"We have some very good four, five and six singles. Every match we expect a lot from them, and they did just that on Friday," Tefft said.

Come Sunday, the Irish found

themselves transported from the cool climate of South Bend to the warm spring of Tennessee. Undeterred, the team met the close to seventy degrees temperatures with strong play against the Volunteers (10-3), winning the doubles point once again.

"Tennessee is really good, and playing them outside was very good for us," Tefft said. "Their courts are a little slower than we are used to, but we looked good conditioning-wise."

After the doubles point, Krisik quickly gave Notre Dame a 2-0 lead with a convincing victory at No. 6 singles, and Tefft, Ciobanu, and Frilling also all won their matches. Frilling was forced to come back from a large third set deficit, but did manage to come back, earning the Irish's last point of the match.

Matthews suffered her first defeat of the season in a close match, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Notre Dame returns home to face Indiana on Thursday, as the Irish look remain undefeated at the Eck Tennis Pavilion on the season.

Contact Douglas Farmer at
dfarmer1@nd.edu



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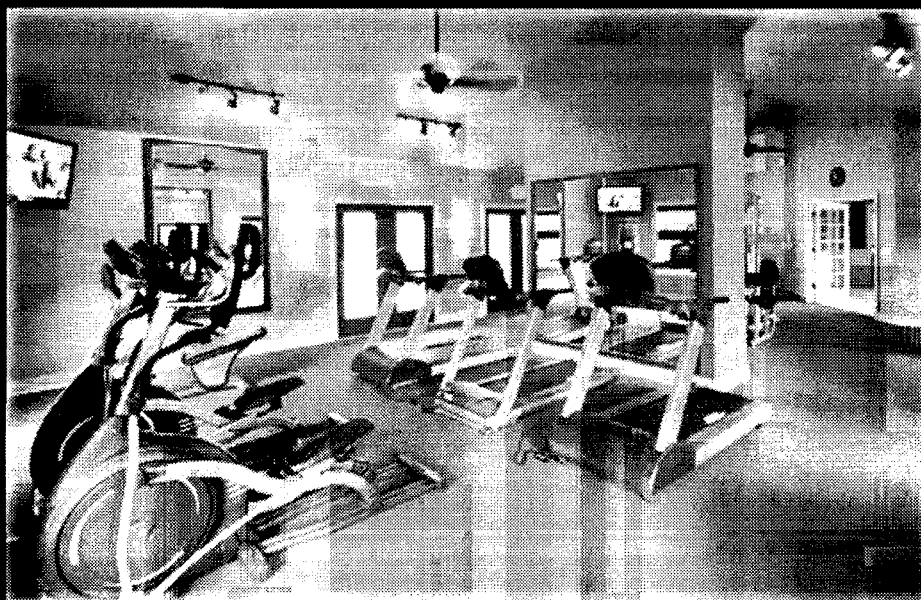
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NCAA

continued from page 28

defensive end. Gophers junior center Zoe Harper grabbed 13 rebounds herself.

"Second-chance points are huge for our team," Harper said. "And we knew whoever was going to win the rebounds was going to win the game."

Notre Dame trailed 42-30 at halftime, but the crowd was rejuvenated after the break and it rubbed off on the team. Notre Dame erased a 13-point deficit with 18:08 remaining with an 11-2 run that made the score 50-46 Gophers with 14:34 left. Lechlitner had seven points during the run, including a driving layup while getting fouled that she turned into a 3-point play by making her foul shot.

"We knew something like this was going to happen but we had to step up and make shots," Gophers coach Pam Barton said.

Freshman forward Kellie Watson hit a 3-pointer to make the score 53-49, and four foul shots from Lechlitner and freshman forward Erica Solomon brought the Irish within two with 10:19 left. Then Ohm started getting hot. She knocked down three 3-pointers in the next three minutes and Minnesota led 64-56 with 7:05 remaining.

"I just go out there and shoot," Ohm said. "That's my role on the team. When in doubt, just shoot it."

Senior guard Lindsay Schrader experienced back problems early the second half. After grabbing a rebound, Schrader bent over and grabbed her back. She participated in the next defensive series, but eventually fell to the ground and left the game.

"I think the thing we miss the most, we missed her intensity," McGraw said. "Eight rebounds a game, you miss that."

It wasn't clear exactly what happened to Schrader's back.

The Irish pulled within seven twice in the remaining minutes but could not get any closer. The final



Irish junior guard Ashley Barlow stands near center court as the seconds tick away on Notre Dame's first round loss to Minnesota.

minutes turned into a free throw contest, and Minnesota held its edge.

Ohm's first 3-pointer started a 15-7 run and Minnesota led 25-13 with 10:41 left in the first half. The Gophers took advantage of Notre Dame's collapsing defense to draw defenders towards a post player, and then they kicked the ball to an open shooter.

Ohm hit her second 3-pointer to give Minnesota a 36-22 lead with 4:29 remaining. The Irish hit six free throws down the stretch and the half ended with Minnesota ahead 42-30.

The Gophers shot 62.5 percent from field goal range in the first

half, in part because they found open high-percentage shots. The Irish only hit 34.5 percent of their field goals.

Minnesota also out-rebounded Notre Dame 21-12 in the first half. Notre Dame had only seven defensive rebounds, while Minnesota had 16.

McGraw said the Gophers played with more intensity and had the Irish on their heels.

"They were very, very physical and I don't think we've really seen that," McGraw said. "We really just lost our rhythm offensively."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Spring

continued from page 28

guard Trevor Robinson, freshman linebacker Darius Fleming, early-enrollee cornerback E. J. Banks, and sophomore receiver Golden Tate. Most of the players will be limited due to injury, but some — such as Tate, who also plays baseball — have other considerations.

Weis also discussed the new coaches hired for the upcoming season — offensive line coach Frank Verducci, running backs coach Tony Alford, and defensive line coach Randy Hart.

"One of our objectives in the spring time is to get that all worked out and meshed so as we go into training camp and into the season, everyone's set and ready to go," Weis said in a press conference.

Weis, though, was quick to note that he was still the man in charge.

"There's one cook," he said. "There are some helpers. There's one cook. Let's get that out of the way now."

One of the other goals for the spring, Weis said, was to improve an Irish rushing attack that averaged just 3.3 yards per carry last year.

"I'm a little frustrated in these first couple of days of spring because the way spring is laid out, you get 15 practices, one of them is the spring

game, then you get three days you can't wear pads," Weis said. "So we've identified as one of the things we really want to, you know, work on right off the bat offensively is our running game. You get a little frustrated in these first two days because when you go with no pads on, to work on your running game, you know, that just doesn't mesh too well."

Weis said that he has talked with junior running back James Aldridge about the possibility of moving to fullback, where converted linebacker Steve Paskorz is currently the only scholarship player.

"We've talked to James about if getting toward closer to the end of his career here, and he was buried behind Armando (Allen) or if he got behind Robert (Hughes) and rather than sitting there in third, we talked about using him as a regular fullback," Weis said.

Weis also addressed the defensive side of the ball, which will be switching from a 3-4 to a 4-3 formation.

"Really, there is very much familiarity because our will linebacker is really translates into our weak side end, so there's a lot of familiarity with some of these people," he said. "You'll see a couple of people at a couple of different positions."

Currently, freshman Kapron Lewis-Moore, freshman Ethan Johnson, sophomore Ian

Williams, and junior John Ryan are listed as starters on the defensive line, with early-enrollee Zeke Motta, sophomore Brian Smith, and sophomore Steve Filer at linebacker.

Much speculation has been made as to whether Weis would coach from the press box or from the field.

"My intent is to coach the game from the field," he said. "That is my intent. Okay? As (Bill) Parcells said years ago, I reserve the right to change my mind, but that is my intent. I talked to people."

At the collegiate level and pro level, from Andy Reid right on down. By a very, very large majority, almost everyone I talked to were overwhelming thinking I was thinking way outside the box."

Notes:

◆Weis announced that Irish alumni Justin Tuck, Bertrand Berry, Jeff Faine, and Reggie Brooks would serve as honorary coaches for the Blue-Gold game.

◆Notre Dame held its Pro Day on Mar. 19. Cornerback Terrail Lambert stole the show by posting 40-yard dash times of 4.37 and 4.36. "I was hoping to get a 4.2, but I kind of slipped at the start," Lambert said. "But I'll take a 4.3. It's cool."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Same old problems haunt Notre Dame

The circle of this season is now complete. Notre Dame lost 79-71 to Minnesota in the first round of the NCAA Tournament because they couldn't box out, couldn't defend the 3-point line and couldn't score for extended stretches.

Irish head coach Muffet McGraw made that very point herself as soon as she began her opening statement in the postgame news conference.

"Same old story, every game..." she said. "They were very aggressive, they attacked us, we got back on our heels and we never really settled in defensively, which, as you all know, has been a problem for us all year long."

Starting point guard Melissa Lechlitner echoed McGraw's sentiments.

"It was our defense; just like coach said. It was the same story all year. We cannot guard people and it was our defense; plain and simple," Lechlitner said.

But the really frustrating part is how cliché this whole process has become. It's a story anyone who has witnessed any of Notre Dame's losses (and some of their closer wins) has seen played out countless times.

McGraw goes into the game talking about the work the team has put in at practice on the defensive end and how she feels confident her players have turned the corner. She talks about how they understand who the other team's shooters are and that they need to try to at best contain them.

Then the game begins and everything is forgotten. Junior guard Katie Ohm was clearly the Golden Gophers' distance threat — but she got left alone more often than not and shot 5-of-9 from 3-point land. Minnesota guard Emily Fox led all scorers with 23 points playing her game unhindered from the Irish defense.

"The scouting report told us

exactly how she played. She is a great shooter and she can do it off of the dribble. She is one of the best players on the team," Lechlitner said. "Obviously we didn't look at the scouting report, because she did exactly what we knew she was going to do. We prepared for it all week long during practice and when it came down to it we didn't get it done."

In her news conference after the game, McGraw put the onus of the poor defensive effort on herself, saying that she has to find a way to get her team to guard better.

Part of that should come with age, as the Irish return every player from this year's squad and add Naismith National High School Player of the Year Skylar Diggins to the roster for 2009-10. McGraw said she has to change the entire mentality of her team to get them to appreciate their defensive efforts for next season.

"We are a team that feeds off our offense so when we score, we feel good about what we're doing at the other end. We're backwards in that," McGraw said. "We need to get excited about our defense and not worry so much about our offense. I think that's a little bit of immaturity and hopefully they'll learn from that."

For most of this season, this has been the case. McGraw talks often about how her philosophy of the game is that she wants to win scoring 60 points. But her team has played most of the season (especially since Big East play started) trying to outshoot opponents.

Just looking at conference play (in part to avoid counting cupcake games early in the season) the Irish averaged 70.5 points per game in conference while allowing 67.4 points per game. Those aren't the types of games McGraw wants her team in — and they are the type the Irish have struggled in this season.

And if McGraw doesn't do something to change the mentality of this team for next season, just get used to more of the same.

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

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfztpa5@nd.edu

Fencing

continued from page 28

Freshman Courtney Hurley and sophomore Ewa Nelip helped narrow the gap with Penn State on Sunday by posting an impressive sweep of the Nittany Lions in the women's epee pool. Hurley and Nelip took down Penn State's Nina Westman and Anastasia Ferdman to finish play tied for third.

"They were one step closer to the gold medals," Bednarski said. "Making observations from the outside, they fenced really very well. They were driving the team forward and that's when the chase started, but they were too far to catch them."

Bednarski said that the Irish showed tremendous poise for a team carried by youngsters with raw talent and emotions, and that Penn State's superior experience, and the advantage of playing on their home strip, were the only factors keeping his fighters a title.

"The [Nittany Lions] feel a little bit more comfortable in their own territory," Bednarski said. "They had the public behind them, helping to give

them extra adrenaline, extra energy. I will not say that if we repeat the competition, they will be winners. Maybe we can win, even Ohio State. But at this moment they were better and simply won more gold medals. It was a great team and a great competition, and we showed our potential."

The Irish fencers may have fallen just short in 2009, but the team promises to bring more experience and even more focus to the strip next season. Olympian and silver medalist Gerek Meinhardt and first team All-American Courtney Hurley still have three years of fighting ahead of them, while the rest of the young nucleus can only get better.

"Each year is different because we don't know who will come to support them next year," Bednarski said. "We know that we have a core team that is very strong and very young. I'm angry that we lost this chance. They are angry. So let's hope that we can turn this anger into work and skill next year when we will probably compete against Penn State who will try to defend their position."

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Saint Mary's falls to Indiana Wesleyan 6-0

Gebert loses in tiebreaker as Wildcats power past Belles to keep perfect record

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's fell 6-0 to No. 15 Indiana Wesleyan Sunday, as the Belles were unable to put a halt to the Wildcats' 8-0 record.

Belles coach Dale Campbell, though, said the tough competition would provide Saint Mary's invaluable experience heading into conference play.

"We gave our best effort, but we made too many errors against an opponent this strong,"

Campbell said. "They were more consistent and hit better volleys in doubles to gain an early lead on us."

Campbell said that the Wildcats well-rounded squad made them a very difficult matchup for the Belles.

"They were solid throughout their lineup," Campbell said. "Their players were consistent off the ground and volleyed sharply."

The high point of this match for the Belles was the number two singles match between junior captain Camille Gebert and Indiana Wesleyan's Lisa Massey, which Gebert lost in the tiebreaker round.

As a very young team, the Belles have been seeing diverse competition through-

out the course of this season. The team consists of all sophomores and one junior captain, Gebert.

"This team is gaining experience and should only get better in matches to come," Campbell said. "We expect to win a lot of matches and do well in our conference."

The Belles' next match is on the road against Alma on Mar. 28, which opens MIAA conference play for both teams. In practices this week, Campbell said his team will be working on different

things to help their chances of beginning this season's conference games with a win.

"We want to continue to improve our doubles play, our movement, and get off to a good start in our next match," said Campbell. "All we can do is control the way we play, not our opponents." In terms of team morale, this weekend's setback from Indiana Wesleyan will not be entirely detrimental to the team's mission.

"Our team has a great attitude, understands that they have to work hard to improve every day, and that hard work will pay off."

Contact Molly Sammon at
msammon@nd.edu

"We gave our best effort, but we made too many errors against an opponent this strong. They were more consistent."

Dale Campbell
Belles coach

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Burke, Byers lead ND laxers

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame senior captains Shannon Burke and Jillian Byers both had impressive games Sunday as they led the Irish to a 20-4 win over California, moving the Irish winning streak to seven and overall record to 8-1.

"One of the stand-out performances was Shannon Burke," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "She had one goal, which is a big deal for a defender, but also had five ground balls and five caused turnovers, which is amazing in one game."

Burke, a preseason All-Big East team selection, led the Irish defensive effort while contributing offensively as well. She moves to 21 ground balls and 16 turnovers caused this season, the highest combination of the two on the team so far this season. She finished up her junior season fourth in the conference with 1.56 caused turnovers per game, second on the team for ground balls (33), and first in caused turnovers (32). The Maryland native is a key example of the significant impact the Notre Dame defense has made on the field this season.

Byers led the offensive effort Sunday with five goals and an assist, and ten other Irish players also got in on the scoring act. Notre Dame's all-time points leader moved to 33 goals and seven assists this season, 209 goals and 260 points in her collegiate career.

Following Byers was sophomore midfielder Kailene Abt with four goals and two assists, and junior attack Gina Scioscia with two goals and four assists. Abt moves to 18 goals and three assists this season, while Scioscia

leads the team in points with 44 from her 24 goals and 20 assists.

Freshman midfield/attack Maggie Tamasitis contributed with three assists and a goal, while freshman defender Kelly Driscoll scored her first two goals for the Irish. Kaitlin Keena, Shannon Burke, Beth Koulup, Shaylyn Blaney, Meredith Locasto, and Maggie Zentgraf each netted one goal for Notre Dame to round out their scoring drive.

Coyne was pleased with Notre Dame's performance Sunday, especially the balance her team showed.

"Twenty goals and eleven assists is very balanced for any team," she said. "We were able to play everyone on the team today, the fourth of our nine games in which we've been able to do that. I think that says a lot about our presence on the field and our team overall."

Junior midfield Alex Tickner led the Golden Bears scoring with two goals, followed by one from each senior midfielder Ghillie Little and junior midfielder Alyse Kennedy.

Notre Dame launched the game with a 5-0 run in the first eight minutes of the play, with goals from Blaney, Byers, Keena, and Abt. Cal got on the board with 19:03 left in the first period with the first of Tickner's two goals. The Irish responded by netting four more goals before the Bears scored for the second time. Scioscia closed out the half with her first goal, putting Notre Dame at a 10-2 lead.

Scioscia opened up the second half with another goal less than a minute into play, quickly followed by two goals from Abt. Cal's Kennedy scored with 22:36 left to play, but Notre Dame answered

with four more goals to increase their lead to 17-3. Cal's final goal came from Little with just under nine minutes left in the period. Driscoll scored twice and Locasto once to lock up the game for the Irish.

Senior goalkeeper Erin Goodman made two saves in the match, playing 45:26 of the 60 minutes of play. The win was the 31st of Goodman's career, tying her with Irish alum Jen White for the most career wins in Irish history.

"We have set some goals for ourselves, but individually it is great that different people are stepping up in different games," Coyne said. "We're trying to work on our defense transition, causing turnovers and scoring points off of our defense's work as well. Our team is falling into a rhythm with our team goals and our individual performances and working together on the field."

Coming up next for the Irish is a string of five conference games, two at home versus Georgetown and Loyola (MD), before traveling to Cincinnati, Louisville and Syracuse.

"Our next games are all Big East, so our focus is on the conference, earning our way into the conference tournament, and being the top seed in the tournament," Coyne said. "There are a lot of Notre Dame teams who have won a Big East championship, and we want to be one of them since we haven't done that yet."

Notre Dame heads back on the field Friday, March 27 as they take on Georgetown at 8:00 at Loftus Sports Center.

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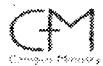
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MEN'S LACROSSE

ND stays perfect vs. Vermont

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame stayed hot in sweltering Dallas this week, with a 13-7 win over Vermont in the 2009 Patriot Cup at SMU's Ford Stadium.

Senior attack Ryan Hoff led the way for the No. 3 Irish with a five-goal effort on the day. Four of Hoff's goals came during a stretch where Notre Dame tallied eight unanswered goals that began in the first quarter and ended early in the second with the Irish on top 9-1.

Irish coach Kevin Corrigan thought that Notre Dame's aggressive start helped set the tone of the game.

"We played very well in the first quarter," Corrigan said. "We were very aggressive at both ends and took advantage of opportunities and put the pressure on them in the first 20 minutes."

The Irish got on the board first when junior attack Neal Hicks found the back of the net just over two minutes into the game. Vermont tied the score at one when senior attack Andrew Kelleher scored the first of his four goals on the day with 9:33 left in the first quarter.

Hoff began the eight-goal run for the Irish with his first. Fellow senior attack Duncan Swezey added two goals and an assist in the run while sopho-

more midfielder David Earl and junior midfielder Grant Krebs each scored once during the run.

Notre Dame's run helped Irish set the tempo for the game.

"Their pressure worked against them," Corrigan said. "We were able to kind of attack them a little bit and make plays."

The Irish run also helped ease coach Corrigan's concerns about Notre Dame's offense, but he still thinks there is room for improvement.

"They came out and played us very aggressively," Corrigan said. "I'm still not sure if I see us creating within our offense as much as I'd like to, but I love the fact that there's a lot of people contributing."

Notre Dame cooled off on both ends after the run however, allowing the Catamounts to get back into the game with four unanswered goals.

"They kept playing hard and we got a little frivolous with our decision making," Corrigan said. "We did a good job defensively not giving them anything early, but we had to play a lot of it in the second, third and fourth quarters. Thankfully, we

had a big enough cushion."

Back-to-back goals from Kelleher cut the Irish lead to 9-3 and a goal from Vermont sophomore attack Derek Lichtfuss made it a five-goal game at the half.

The Catamounts scored first in the second half on a goal from junior midfielder Ryan Gillette with 6:25 remaining in the third quarter. The Irish ended the Catamount run nearly three minutes later when Hoff scored his fifth goal of the game, giving the Irish a 10-5 lead after three quarters of play.

After Kelleher notched his fourth goal of the game, Notre Dame opened the lead to 12-6 on goals from Earl and Hicks. Earl finished off the Irish scoring and sealed his first career hat trick with 21 seconds left to play.

Notre Dame will look to extend their undefeated start into conference play as the Irish take on Bellarmine at home in their Great Western Lacrosse League opener on Wednesday.

"Their pressure worked against them. We were able to kind of attack them a little bit and make plays."

Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach

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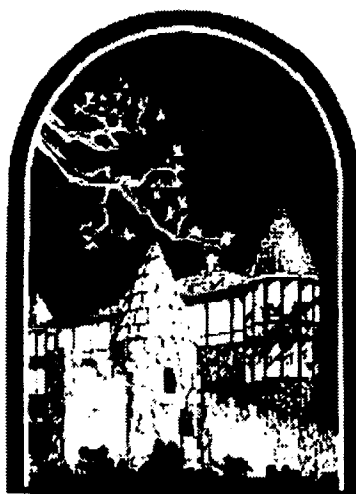
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CCHA

continued from page 28

a matter of being patient enough to generate some scoring chances. Once we caught a break, it turned the tide for us."

The victory secured Notre Dame, which also won the conference's regular season championship, the top seed in the NCAA Tournament's Midwest Regional. The Irish will travel to Grand Rapids, Mich., to play Bemidji State at 7 p.m. on Saturday to open the 16-team competition.

The winner of that game would play the Northeastern-Cornell winner on Sunday night to advance to the Frozen Four on April 10-12 in Washington, D.C. Notre Dame, as a No. 4 seed and the last team invited to the tournament a year ago, advanced all the way to the national title game before falling to Boston College.

The Wolverines dominated the game until the midway point, scoring twice on Irish senior goaltender Jordan Pearce — who hadn't given up multiple goals in a game since Feb. 20 — and keeping the high-powered Notre Dame attack from generating much in the way of scoring chances.

But when freshman wing Billy Maday redirected a shot from junior linemate Kevin Deeth past Michigan goaltender Bryan Hogan on a four-on-four, the Irish trailed just 2-1 with nearly 30 minutes to play.

"You keep reminding them, and sometimes it's just the emotion of getting that first goal. All of a sudden things change, and everyone starts getting hungrier," Jackson said. "Remaining patient was the key to the game."

With less than two minutes elapsed in the third period, Ridderwall tied the game, just after the Wolverines had killed an Irish power play, by deflecting a Brett Blatchford shot past Hogan. Ryan struck 50 seconds later, notching the game winner for the second straight night after taking a pass from junior Ryan Thang for an open wrist shot from in close.

"That was a tough game for Hogie," Wolverines coach Red Berenson said of his freshman netminder, who did stop 29 shots. "It's a goalie's nightmare. The puck was going in too easily."

Not for Michigan, though. Pearce was tested by several Michigan flurries until the Irish doubled with Ridderwall's second goal of the night with just under nine minutes to play.

Off a pass from Maday, Ridderwall beat a Michigan defender and put a backhander on Hogan from the right side. Hogan looked to have it stopped initially, but Ridderwall poked his own rebound home from a 4-2 Irish lead.

Junior forward Christiaan Minella closed the scoring with three minutes to play. After senior center Christian Hanson, off a pass from sophomore defenseman Ian Cole, drew the Michigan defense to him on the blue line, he centered it to Minella, who had a clean wrist shot from between the circles.

Pearce, who was named the tournament MVP, took care of the rest, as the CCHA Scholar-Athlete of the Year made 28 saves, including several big ones to keep the game close before the Irish got themselves on the board.

Ridderwall, Ryan and Cole joined Pearce on the all-tournament team.

To advance to Saturday's championship game, the Irish first had to top No. 6 seed Northern Michigan on Friday afternoon, topping the Wildcats 2-1.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Mason

continued from page 28

win, and it is a trophy that means a lot to anyone who has had the chance to play for it.

This year's CCHA is the toughest conference in the country. The conference will make up 25 percent of the NCAA Tournament and it could easily have been more. Two of the four teams still playing for a national title — Miami (Ohio) and Ohio State — didn't even make it to Detroit last weekend.

Saturday night's championship game more or less decided which team would get a local one-seed in Grand Rapids and which would have to travel to start the tournament. But to Jackson and the rest of the Irish that could not have meant less.

"It's not like basketball. I get surprised when I hear how conference championships don't seem like a big deal," Jackson said. "For them it's all about seeding. In hockey it's a very big deal. Our conference championship is in line with what the Stanley Cup is for the NHL."

Before we get too carried away with NCAA seeds and Frozen Four plans, it is important to take a second and realize what this team has already achieved.

Good. That's taken care of, now on to why the Irish can and should win a national championship.

The coaching and the talent have been in place all year. This weekend Notre Dame showed it has the ability and poise to win under pressure — something that other talent-laden Irish teams have been unable to do this year.

When Northern Michigan's Nick Sirota tied the semifinal game with 1:23 left on the clock, the flashbacks came immediately. Last year Miami scored a last-minute goal in the same game and eventually won in overtime. This time around was different.

Jackson immediately called his team over and told them this wasn't going to be a repeat, to stay focused and get control of the game. Twenty-three seconds later sophomore Ben Ryan put the Irish up for good.

"This group never says die and that's an important asset going into the NCAA Tournament," Jackson said.

Saturday night they were tested again. Notre Dame was technically the home team, but the maize and blue colored Joe Louis Arena might as well have been in Ann Arbor. The crowd was getting behind the Wolverines who looked well in control with a 2-0 lead.

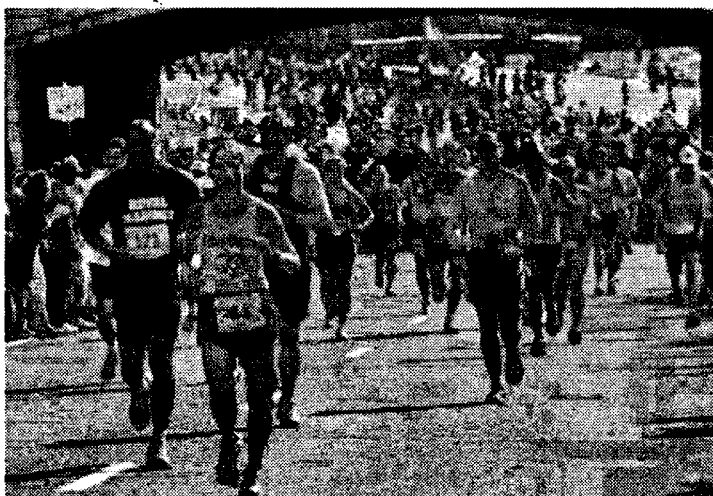
Once again there was no panic. The Irish continued to play their style of hockey and it paid off. A flurry of early third period goals shifted momentum towards Notre Dame and gave the Irish a 3-2 lead. When sophomore Calle Ridderwall scored his second goal of the game with nine minutes remaining the first fans started to trickle out. By the time Christiaan Minella buried his team's fifth unanswered goal it looked like a fire drill.

A Notre Dame team coming from behind or closing out tight games is not something an Irish fan is used to seeing. But it is a hallmark of a championship team. The Irish already have one title under their belts, and they looked poised for a second.

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

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu.

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Michael Fischer	Littleton, CO	Matt Schirtzinger	Columbus, OH
John Fisher	Medfield, MA	Nick Seewald	Clinton Township, MI
Erin Flattery	Katy, TX	Ian Shields	Daphne, AL
Michael Franko	Holmdel, NJ	Jodie Sullivan	Strongsville, OH
Michael Furdyna	Granger, IN	Sarah Tapp	Atlanta, GA
Zach Gaudette	Grosse Ile, MI	Luca Tomasi	Chapel Hill, NC
Ellie Graham	Lake Forest, IL	Marybeth Train	Grosse Pointe Farms, MI
Thomas Grant	Carlsbad, CA	Ian Trudell	Rocky River, OH
Kevin Greene	Ada, MI	Josh Underhill	Grandville, MI
Catherine Groden	Glenview, IL	Meg Vertovec	La Grange Park, IL
Shannon Hughes	Deer Park, IL	Joe Wagner	Saint Louis, MO
Tim Jenks	The Woodlands, TX	Joe Wawrzynski	East Lyme, CT
Brian Jochems	Lees Summit, MO	Brittany Weems	San Antonio, TX
Allan Joseph	Dublin, OH	Amanda Williams	Newburgh, IN
Amy Jurvis	Woodbury, MN	Christine Willinger	Madison, NJ

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions
welcomes the **Reilly Weekend** students to campus.

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across
- 1 Ballet bend

5 Stogie

10 "Kapow!"

14 Optimistic

15 Zee :: English ::
Greek

16 Seized vehicle

17 "Dies ____" (Latin
hymn)

18 One of 24 for
pure gold

19 Animals that
might hear "gee"
and "haw"

20 What a person
in an emergency
might have to
make

23 Portuguese
colony until 1999

24 Benedict XVI,
e.g.

28 Snares

32 Poetic da-DUM,
da-DUM, da-
DUM, e.g.
- 33 Some glazed
pottery

38 ____ de France

39 Philip who wrote
"Goodbye,
Columbus"

40 Joy's partner

41 Capital NNW of
Copenhagen

42 Funnyman
Philips

43 Any of the Jonas
Brothers, e.g.

45 "Divine Comedy"
writer

47 Attacked

48 Lord's Prayer
phrase before
"as it is in
heaven"

51 Prefix with
national or grain

55 Breakfast brand
since 1928 that
hints at the
starts of 20-, 33-
and 43-Across

59 Unilever swab

62 Poet T. S. ____
- 63 Funnyman Jay

64 Morales of
"NYPD Blue"

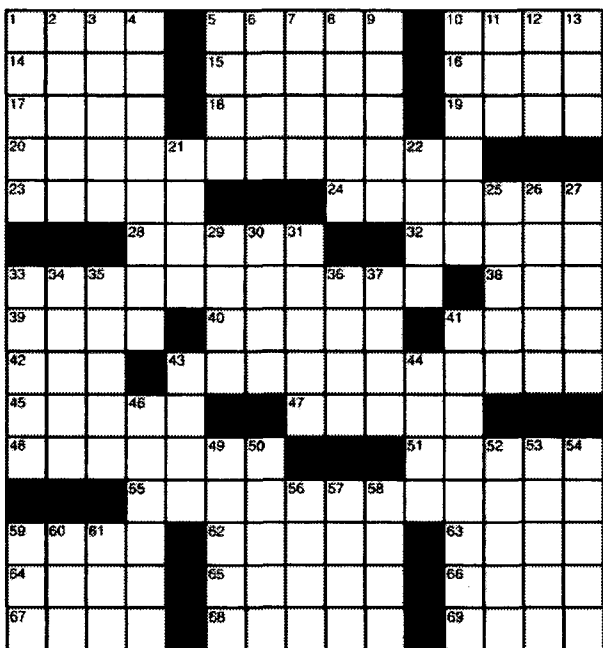
65 The former Mrs.
McCartney

66 School where
Aldous Huxley
taught George
Orwell

67 "Stop it!"

68 Pricey seating
areas

69 Ripped



- Down
- 1 Light refractor

2 ____ Doone
cookies

3 Sci-fi writer
Asimov

4 Pirate costume
feature

5 Pepsi alternative

6 Apple computer

7 Ex-Spice Girl
Halliwell

8 Showing shock

9 3:1 or 7:2, e.g.

10 Novelist Emily or
Charlotte

11 ____ Luthor of
"Superman"

12 Mimic

13 Tue. preceder

21 Uncool sort

22 "This round's
____"

25 Formal response
to "Who's
there?"

26 Guy

27 Air-conditioning
gas

29 Dog food brand

30 Crook, in cop
lingo

31 Does the
sidestroke or
butterfly
- 33 Doctrine

34 Like Jupiter, but
not Zeus

35 Do penance

36 Together, to
Toscanini

37 Take five

41 Rare birth
occurrence

43 Gilpin of
"Frasier"

44 Dog food brand

46 La Brea
attraction

49 Immune system
agent

50 Sun: Prefix

52 Deceive

53 Voice below alto

54 "Saying ____
thing, doing ..."

56 Double-decker
checker

57 Went on
horseback

58 "Take ____ a
sign"

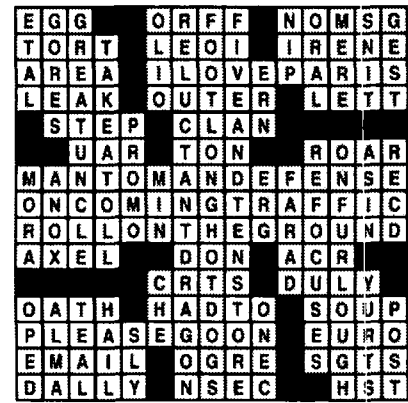
59 Abbr. at the end
of a proof

60 General on a
Chinese menu

61 Writer Fleming

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Reese Witherspoon, 33; Elvis Stojko, 37; Matthew Modine, 50; Bob Costas, 57

Happy Birthday: Be careful not to let aggressive action be your main method of getting your way. Instead, use thought, patience and good management. Participation may not be your thing but it will help you know better the people with whom you are dealing. A well rounded outlook will lead to confidence. Your numbers are 5, 17, 23, 31, 36, 41, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Involvement in community events or making adjustments to your own lifestyle will help you realize your potential and what you can do to make a difference. A secretive individual may try to cross you with gossip. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Refuse to let anyone rush you into making an important decision. You have to protect your interests by finding out all you can before you decide to get involved. Someone from your past may cause problems for you again. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make some intricate moves but, before you do, consider the consequences. You are likely to disrupt plans and lose a friend in the process. Opportunities are present but it will be important how you handle matters. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Changing things a bit will show others you can be versatile. A short trip will bring you to a place you may eventually call home. A partnership may be on the verge of a breakdown -- do what you must to save it or move on. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You deserve some down time. Look at your options and make a decision. The choice is yours and the comfort and satisfaction you gain will not be a waste of time. A love relationship is looking good. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your mind will be on a job that needs to be done, so just get to it and do your best. Someone you love may be disappointed with the decisions you make. Try to make it up to him or her. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make some interesting connections if you network or attend a seminar or tradeshow. A new way of doing things will enhance something that you already do well, giving you the edge when it comes to performance. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let emotional matters cause you to miss out on something you've been looking forward to. You have to indulge yourself once in a while. A change of plans will keep life interesting and help you clear up some of the uncertainties you've been feeling. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't give in to anyone trying to get you to do something you don't want to do. It may change the dynamics of your relationship but that is probably overdue anyway. Focus on the things you like to do and you can hook up with someone with whom you have plenty in common. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone will not like what you are trying to do or the changes you are making to the way you earn your living. Keep things a secret for now, until you have the confidence and knowledge to stand up to any opposition you might face. Don't give in to pressure. ★★

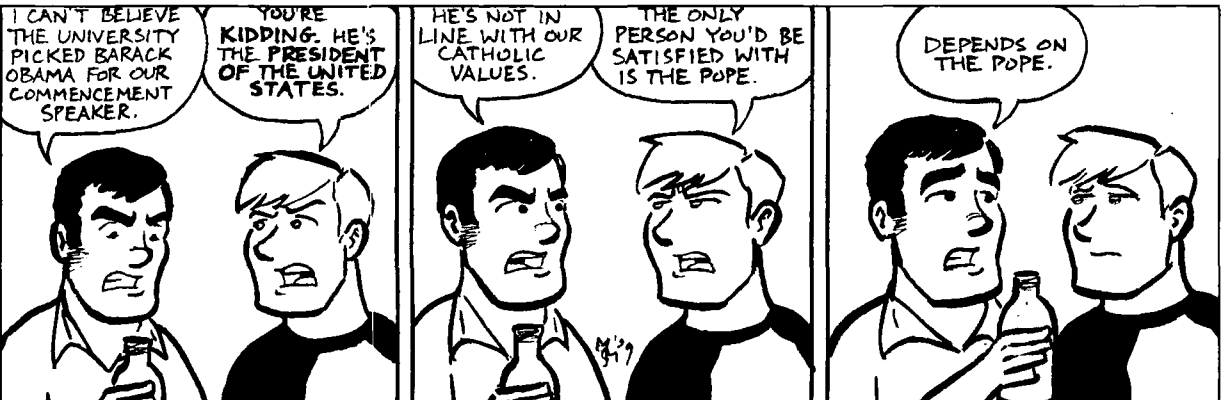
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be emotional about a past relationship. Don't give in because you are afraid of being alone. It's only a matter of time before you meet someone new. Get out and get involved in things you enjoy. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may want to keep things a secret, especially if it will cause someone to challenge you. Focus on development and strategy. If someone pushes you, push back. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are powerful, observant and work well with others. You don't mind change. You strive for perfection and quality.

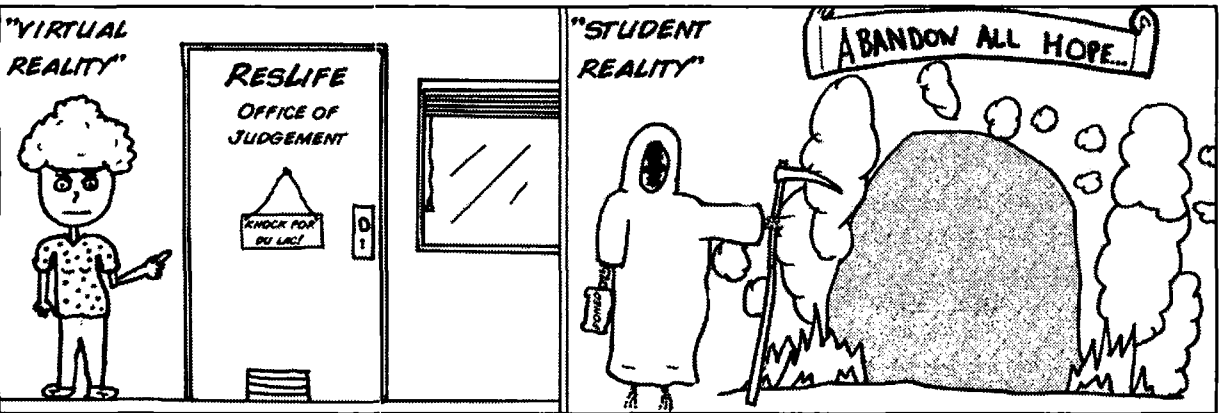
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MICHAEL MIKUSKA



THE DOME PIECE

DAVID CAVADINI



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

NALST
[] [] [] [] []

GINOG
[] [] [] [] []

COZADI
[] [] [] [] []

TROBEH
[] [] [] [] []

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NEW JUMBLE NINTENDO www.jumble.com/ids

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

That should keep the flu away. I didn't feel a thing.

3/23

WHAT THE HUNTER SAID WHEN HE WAS INOCULATED.

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

Answer here: [] [] [] [] [] " [] [] [] [] [] "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: PUDGY JUMBO JOCKEY EXEMPT
Answer: How the parents wanted to keep the college grad's room — EMPTY

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.

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HOCKEY

Motor City comeback

Irish score five straight goals to beat Michigan and win CCHA crown

By **MATT GAMBER**
Sports Editor

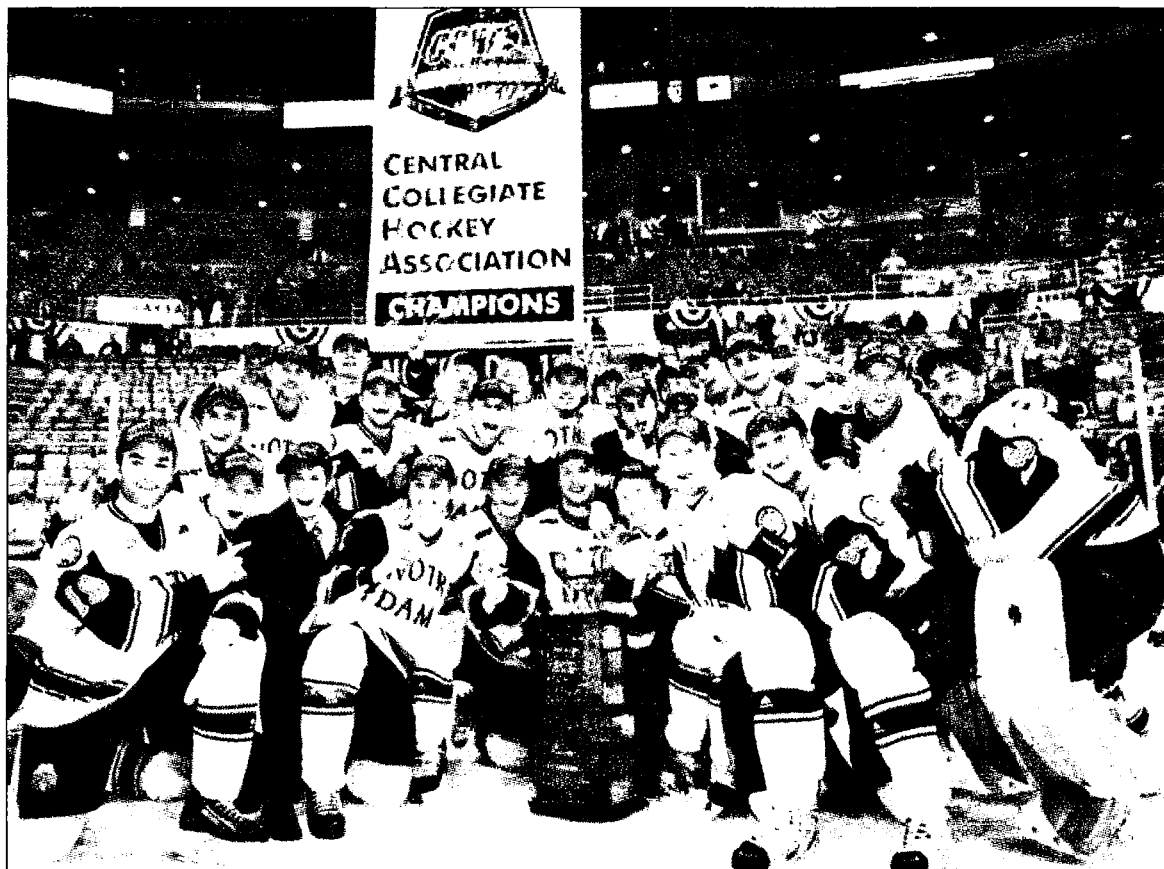
DETROIT — Notre Dame needed to do something it hadn't done all season to accomplish a goal the Irish have had in their sights since October, and coach Jeff Jackson's squad came through.

No. 1 Notre Dame (31-5-3) overcame its first 2-0 deficit of the season with five unanswered goals to beat No. 3 Michigan 5-2 and capture the program's second CCHA tournament championship in three years.

Goals from sophomore forwards Calle Ridderwall and Ben Ryan in a 50-second span in the third period's first two minutes started the Irish onslaught that turned a 2-1 lead into a 3-2 deficit for the Wolverines (29-11-0), the conference's No. 2 seed.

"That's why you play 60 minutes," Jackson said. "It was just

see CCHA/page 25



The Irish pose around the Mason Cup after they defeated Michigan 5-2 in the CCHA Championship game Saturday night. The win is Notre Dame's second conference title in three years.

Enjoy the Mason Cup, but expect one more title to come in April

DETROIT — With a No. 1 ranking, the best record in college hockey (31-5-3) and an appearance in last year's National Championship game it's easy to overlook a CCHA title. Irish coach Jeff Jackson certainly has not.

Expectations have been high in South Bend all year. The fans, the media and the team all feel that if the season were to end next weekend it would be a disappointment. But that doesn't mean winning the Mason Cup should be overlooked. It is a difficult trophy to



Dan Murphy

Senior Staff
Writer

see MASON/page 25

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame ousted from NCAA first round by Minnesota

Team suffers from early deficit vs. Gophers

By **BILL BRINK**
Sports Writer

The Irish had a home-court advantage, local fans and a second-half run that had the Joyce Center jumping and the team down just two points.

But all those factors couldn't overcome familiar foes — 3-point defense and rebounding — and Notre Dame's NCAA Tournament run ended early.

Minnesota senior guard Emily Fox had 23 points and junior guard Katie Ohm hit five 3-pointers during the No. 10-seed Gophers' 79-71 win over No. 7-seed Notre Dame Sunday at the Joyce Center.

The loss knocks the Irish (22-9) out of the Tournament. Minnesota

(20-11) advances to the second

round of the Tournament against No. 2-seed Texas A&M, who beat No. 15-seed Evansville 80-45 Sunday.

"Same old story, every game, we can't defend the 3-point line," Irish coach Muffet

See Also

"Same old problems haunt Irish."
page 22

McGraw said.

Ohm finished with 15 points. Fox was 7-for-17 from field goal range and had four assists and four steals as well. When junior guard Brittany McCoy got into foul trouble early, Fox took over and played 38 minutes of good basketball.

"[She's a] great shooter, can do it off the dribble," Lechlitner said. "Obviously we didn't look at the scouting report because she did exactly what we knew she was

going to do."

Junior guard Ashley Barlow led the Irish with 20 points on 7-of-16 shooting. Junior guard Melissa Lechlitner had 16 points, seven of them in a second-half run that brought the Irish within two.

The rebounding differential played a large role in the game. Minnesota out-rebounded Notre Dame 45-32 and 34-21 on the

see NCAA/page 22

FOOTBALL

ND starts spring practice

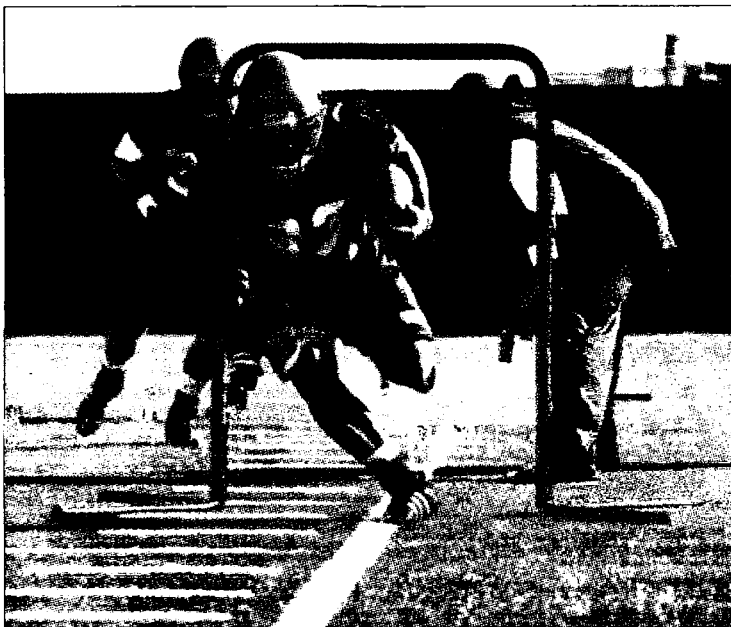
By **SAM WERNER**
Associate Sports Editor

Just less than three months after their dominating 49-21 win over Hawaii in the Hawaii Bowl, the Irish were back on the field Friday for the opening of spring practice.

Starting with Friday's session, Notre Dame will have the NCAA-regulated 15 practices, culminating with the Blue-Gold spring game on April 18. Before the team took the field, Irish coach Charlie Weis met with the media to go over the spring depth chart and his goals for the off-season practices.

Weis first went over the players who would be limited for spring practices. Notable inclusions were freshman right

see SPRING/page 22



Irish sophomore running back Robert Hughes runs through drills Friday during Notre Dame's first practice of the spring.

FENCING

Squad finishes second to Penn St. in NCAAs

By **CHRIS MASOUD**
Sports Writer

Rarely does a team that finishes first overall in the regular season feel as though it has something to prove, but the Irish fencing team left the strip on Sunday wanting to prove a little bit more.

The Irish fencers finished second overall at the 2009 NCAA Fencing Championship in State College, Penn., finishing with 182 wins over the weekend. The Nittany Lions, favored early in the season to win it all, captured their 11th championship in the last twenty years with 195 wins. Rival Ohio State finished in third with 166 wins.

"We just mobilized all the energy, everything to fight," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "We had a

very good season and in general, many teams wanted to be second. We are not happy anyway because we have a bigger appetite, but we have to wait until next year."

Despite falling short of their ultimate goal, the Irish turned in impressive performances each day of the competition on both the men's and women's sides. By the end of the championship, the squad featured 10 All-Americans and two silver medalists.

In women's foil sophomore Hayley Reese advanced to the semifinals where she upset top-seeded Oksana Dmytruk of Ohio State, 13-11, to advance to the gold medal bout. Reese had to settle for silver, though, after falling to Penn State's Doris Willette 15-5.

see FENCING/page 22