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Bishop, White House issue responses

D'Arcy refuses to attend Commencement, believes University chose "prestige over truth"

By JENN METZ
News Writer

Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy and the White House released statements Tuesday regarding the controversy over the announcement that President Barack Obama will be the 2009 Commencement speaker.

D'Arcy, who has been openly critical of the University in the past, announced in his statement he will not attend the 2009 Commencement.

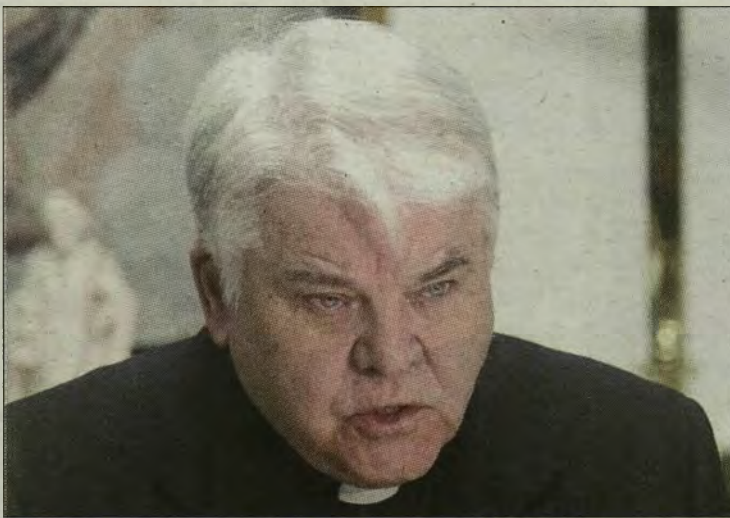
D'Arcy wrote in the statement, which is posted on the diocese's Web site, that he was made aware the president accepted the invitation to speak to the class of

2009 and receive an honorary degree by University President Fr. John Jenkins on March 20, shortly before news was made public at a White House press briefing by Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

D'Arcy challenged the University, as a Catholic institution, to question whether or not "by this decision it has chosen prestige over truth."

The bishop's statement is reflective of the response of some members of the national Catholic community, citing Obama's stance on issues relating to the protection of life as a reason for his decision to not attend the 2009 graduation, which will be

see D'ARCY/page 9



Bishop John D'Arcy, who has been openly critical of the University in the past, has decided not to attend this year's commencement.

NDSP investigates assault

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) is investigating an alleged assault that took place around 1:20 a.m. Sunday outside of Legend's of Notre Dame, according to Dave Chapman, assistant director of NDSP.

Chapman said a man reported the assault after he exchanged words with another man, who then hit him in the face with his fists.

The man was treated at a local hospital and has been

see ASSAULT/page 8

Lewis Hall decreases water use

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Writer

Lewis Hall environmental commissioners Caitlin Foster and Melissa Vondriska placed timers to track the amount water use in each of the dorm's showers on Monday, marking the beginning of a water conservation competition between each section of the dorm.

"I am really concerned with water conservation and I wanted to spread this awareness around the dorm and thought this was a good, fun way," Vondriska said.

The commissioners installed an hourglass timer in every shower, Foster said. The timers measure five-minute intervals, which encourages residents to finish their showers before the hourglass runs out.

They turned the use of the timers into a competition between the sections to increase incentive for water conservation, Vondriska said.

"We're asking the girls to keep track of how many showers under five minutes they take and record them on sheets outside the bathrooms," she said.

At the end of the three-week competition, Vondriska said the section with the most five-minute showers would win a prize.

"We don't have a way to monitor actual water saved, but we would like people to be aware of how long their showers are and cut down on the water they use," Vondriska said.

Foster said Lewis' Rector, Linda Cirillo, supported the commission-

see WATER/page 8

Student performs Irish music for President

Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band invited to play bagpipes at White House on St. Patrick's Day



Photo Courtesy of William McTighe

From left to right, freshman William McTighe poses in the White House with the wife of the Prime Minister of Ireland, Mary Cowen and McTighe's father, Bill McTighe.

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

William McTighe, a freshman and a member of the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band — based in Chicago — invited, along with eight of his fellow band members, by President Barack Obama to perform at the White House on St. Patrick's Day last week.

"President Obama was hosting a party at the White House on St. Patrick's Day and he wanted to put on a display of Irish music and culture," McTighe said.

The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band is a bagpipe ensemble that was founded in 1926 to "promote the music of the Gael." The band has more than 90 members and has played for every sitting president since John F. Kennedy. McTighe's connections with the prominent band go back to his infancy.

"I got involved because my father has been the band manager since I was a baby," McTighe said.

McTighe said when he first heard about the invitation he was excited, but was unsure as

see MUSIC/page 8

College hosts Immigration Monologues

Students, professors tell personal stories, challenges about moving to the United States

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

La Fuerza, a club that celebrates Latino heritage, presented Immigration Monologues Tuesday as a part of their Action Week activities.

The monologues consisted of five speakers, who discussed their personal stories of moving to the United States. Both professors and students told their stories of immigrating to America.

Luzmila Camacho-Platero, a Spanish professor at the College, talked about her many struggles while living in the United States. She immigrated to America from Spain. Camacho-Platero was a

student, and eventually decided to stay. After that decision, she was forced to try to get a work permit.

"I think for the amount of \$5,000 dollars I got my working permit," Camacho-Platero said.

Camacho-Platero also discussed the hardships she faced after living away from Spain after many years.

"After almost 17 years in this country, you realize that you are alone here. You might have a group of friends, but you are alone. You are alone for the good moments and the bad moments," she said.

According to Camacho-Platero, immigrants often do not

see STORIES/page 9



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

Latifa Oudghiri, a South Bend Community School District teacher, and foreign exchange student Randa Al-Assadi share their stories.

INSIDE COLUMN

Graduation
input

Dear Father Jenkins,

I would like to commend your decision to accept the President of the United States as this year's Commencement speaker. It is an honor to the University and to its students, especially those in the Class of 2009. If only I were so lucky.

Now, I know that some people are less than pleased about your choice. They say that some of the President's opinions differ from theirs, and thus you should rescind the offer immediately.

Laura Myers

I struggled with this too, at first.

Sports Writer

The guy's a Steelers fan, for crying out loud. That's not something to take lightly.

However, I was raised to respect people for their opinions, not to ostracize them. I can also acknowledge that no matter how hard I cheer on the Browns, it will not make Obama any less of a Steelers fan. But I'm sure that everyone can find some common ground. As I told a friend at church camp a few years ago, she could freely root for the Steelers as long as she threw in a "Go Irish!"

I realize that many of those upset by the President's upcoming appearance feel that his political actions violate Catholic Social Teaching, and I do understand their concern.

But what about Notre Dame's last Presidential graduation speaker?

The former President Bush spoke here in 2001, his first Commencement address after ascending to the presidency. Before that, he was Governor of Texas and oversaw the execution of 155 people. How does that go along with Catholic social teaching?

Personally, I would be honored to have George W. Bush as my graduation speaker. I think his speech would be great.

I don't know this for a fact, but I bet that when the former president spoke here, those currently in an uproar were less outraged and more akin to South Park's portrayal of tween girls at a Jonas Brothers concert. Please, please, Fr. Jenkins, do not Google that.

Maybe everything doesn't have to be about perfect Catholicism or even about politics. Maybe our President is a good example of hard work paying off, of breaking barriers, of having a positive impact. Maybe that's what Commencement should be about.

I have always loved Notre Dame, from the days I toddled around in a cheerleader outfit to the days I got my acceptance letter, took my first theology class and sat in the press box on a football Saturday. Sometimes I just walk around and think about how amazing it is that I actually go here.

President Obama obviously recognizes how special this place is as well — he chose us as one of only three colleges at which he will speak.

I respectfully request, Fr. Jenkins, that you do not let the voices of the few deter you from showing the president the same respect he has shown to this institution and all those who love it.

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

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

Due to a reporting error in the March 23 edition of The Observer, the article on the Chief Executive Assistant should have said student body president-elect Grant Schmidt. Bob Reish is still student body president. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT WOULD YOU "ASK BRENNA"?



Caitlin Albany
senior
Opus

"I'd ask her
who's her
publicist?"



Whitney Fricke
junior
Regina

"Who's
Brenna?"



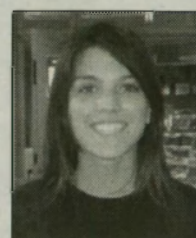
Cameron Muhlenkamp
senior
Zahm

"I'll watch her
on WNDU at 5
tonight and get
back to you."



Kelli Minor
sophomore
Holy Cross

"I'd ask her
what's going
on."



Leah Hall
sophomore
Holy Cross

"Who the heck
are you,
Brenna?"



Becky Whitaker
senior
Opus

"I think I met
her last night,
right?"



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

The Notre Dame Handbell Choir practices in Coleman Morse on Tuesday night. The Handbell Choir will hold a concert Monday at the homeless shelter.

IN BRIEF

A lecture hosted by the Theology department titled "The Igbo and their Perception of God, Human Beings and Creation," will take place 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 today will focus on "Human Beings," and the talk on Thursday will focus on "Creation."

A lecture on "Holocaust Denial in the 21st Century: New Forms of Antisemitism" will be given at 7:30 p.m. in McKenna Hall Auditorium today. The speaker is Deborah Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies from Emory University.

Men Against Violence will be hosting a lecture titled "Tough Guise: Media, Violence and Masculinity" today from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Carey Auditorium of Hesburgh Library. Sut Jhally will be conducting the lecture.

A symposium on "Change, Hope and Expectation: The Obama Presidency in Global Perspective" will be held with a lecture at 6 p.m. followed by the symposium at 7 p.m. on Thursday in Eck Visitors' Center auditorium.

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

OFFBEAT

Robot model no challenge yet to human rivals

TOKYO — It may have been a fashion first, but supermodel Naomi Campbell has nothing to fear.

The HRP-4C humanoid robot showed off her stormtrooper-like silver and black frame and bowed to a fashion-savvy audience at the start of the annual Japan Fashion Week in Tokyo -- but even her creators admit the mechanical model needs more work.

The HRP-4C has battery-powered motors in her body and face, allowing

her to imitate the expressions, gait and poses of a supermodel — up to a point.

"Our robot can't move elegantly like the real models that are here today," Shuji Kajita, director of humanoid robot engineering at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), told Reuters. "It'll take another 20 to 30 years of research to make that happen."

Guard fired after locking new hire in with inmate

HOLLIDAYSBURG, Pa. — A western Pennsylvania

county prison guard has been fired over a prank in which a new guard was locked in a cell with an inmate involved in a police shootout. Blair County officials didn't release the guards' names, but confirmed the incident after The Altoona Mirror received an anonymous report.

The report said the new guard was locked with the inmate for 20 minutes by a guard who wanted to see what the new hire was made of.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 55 LOW 38	HIGH 45 LOW 35	HIGH 58 LOW 40	HIGH 60 LOW 37	HIGH 50 LOW 30	HIGH 35 LOW 25

Atlanta 61 / 51 Boston 48 / 30 Chicago 50 / 44 Denver 53 / 24 Houston 73 / 63 Los Angeles 67 / 52 Minneapolis 41 / 36
New York 50 / 31 Philadelphia 49 / 31 Phoenix 81 / 53 Seattle 50 / 40 St. Louis 59 / 46 Tampa 81 / 60 Washington 51 / 33

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Judicial Council leaders present Peer Advocacy Program

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

Judicial Council president George Chamberlain and vice president Christina Harmon gave a presentation on the Peer Advocacy Program to members of the Council of Representatives (COR) in Monday's meeting.

The pair presented on the progress that the program has made this year as well as the goals they have for the program next year.

"The Peer Advocacy Program provides discipline advice to students who have been disciplined," Harmon said.

Chamberlain said his goal for the program this year was to expand it to offer real legal advice available to students. However, this goal was not met due to the unavailability of resources.

Initially, Chamberlain said he had looked to the free legal aid clinic at the law school for help, but found the infrastructure there to be inadequate to help students. He also looked to lawyers in the South Bend Community to swap legal advice in exchange for advertisement on campus, but the Office of General Counsel prevented this, citing the liabilities it could raise.

There are currently seven peer advocates trained to know the procedures of the Office of

Residence Life and Housing (ORLH) and help students dealing with them. They have all undergone strategic training processes with Kathleen Brannock, the assistant director of Residence Life and Housing.

The advocate's focus is strictly to prepare students for the disciplinary process. They are only allowed to sit in on hearings.

"We're not going out defending people. We're only there for support. The main goal of the program is to be a support system in a healthy, confidential and safe manner," Harmon said. "Confidentiality is a really important aspect of our program."

The peer advocates deal with discipline on a number of levels on a case-by-case basis.

Harmon said the program is strictly voluntary and is open to all students who have been disciplined.

In a presentation to the Council, Harmon explained the process students go through to get help from the program. When the ORLH issues a disciplinary letter to a student, a card is issued to the student with contact information for the Judicial Council. The student is then able to contact the members if they wish, Harmon said.

She said the program usually helps out with 20 to 30 cases each year and is hoping to increase those numbers.

"We are looking to expand by an ad campaign. We will make

sure it's effective, implementing it during heavy times of ResLife violations," Harmon said.

Student body vice president Grant Schmidt asked the pair about the incentive a student has for coming to the Judicial Council for help.

Harmon said students might be more likely to use their peers as a resource rather than someone in ORLH.

"It's a peer, somebody you're more comfortable talking to. It is a relaxing process that helps when you're tense and freaking out," Harmon said.

Student body president Bob Reish then turned the discussion to what COR can do to improve upon the awareness of the Peer Advocacy Program.

Among suggestions was the idea to address the program during freshman orientation.

"We should think about getting the word out at Frosh-O activities when explaining ... ResLife," Junior Class President Kim Kyrourac said.

The council would like to make dorm resident assistants more familiar with the program as another way to increase publicity.

Reish suggested it might be smart to train one person in every dorm.

"It would be two-fold," Reish said. "If a person is not comfortable with someone in their dorm they could speak with a trained advocate from another dorm or vice versa."



TOM LA/The Observer

Student body president Bob Reish and student body vice president Grant Schmidt participate in discussion in Tuesday's meeting.

Reish said the peer advocacy process is something that will be moved on to next year's administration to be looked at more closely.

In other COR news:

♦Eight approvals for new student government positions were made at the meeting. They include Grace Concelman, assistant Student Union treasurer; Sarah Hurtubise, assistant Student Union treasurer; Mallory Davidson, Student

Union co-director of programming; Matt McKenna, Student Union co-director of programming; Mary Jo Espinoza, Student Union Board art director; Nicole Sugiyama, Student Union Board director of publicity; Malcolm Phelan, Student Union director of operations; and Kim Kyrourac, Student Union Board chief controller. All were approved unanimously.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at edonne1@nd.edu



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NOW LEASING

College sells flowers to benefit cancer

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary's College will host Daffodil Days, a fundraising program, for the American Cancer Society Thursday.

According to the Web site for the American Cancer Society, "Daffodil Days is one of the American Cancer Society's oldest and most beloved fundraising programs."

The fundraiser has taken place each spring for the past 35 years, according to the Web site. Each year, donors are asked to accept daffodils in appreciation of their donation to the fundraiser.

This year the College will be participating as well. The Office of Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) sent letters to all parents of current students.

"At Saint Mary's, all parents of current students receive a

letter with the information about Daffodil Days. They can send their daughters fresh daffodils in a vase for a donation of \$15," Carrie Call, director of OCSE, said.

Students receive an e-mail if their parents have sent them flowers. Lists are also posted in each of the residence halls with the names of the recipients.

"We have all the daffodils and vases here on campus this coming Thursday," Call said.

Flowers will be available for pick-up in the Student Center Atrium on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to Call, this year the College raised \$8,725 from the fundraiser.

Students are still needed to help unwrap flowers and put them in vases for distribution, Call said.

"Saint Mary's students help with setting up flowers and facilitating the distribution during the day," Call said.

Students can sign up for a one-hour shift from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday. If students are interested, they can contact OCSE, Call said.

The entire Daffodil Days campaign has raised over \$240 million in the past 14 years, according to the American Cancer Society Web site. The money raised has benefited a variety of programs to help cancer patients cope and heal. Money also benefits cancer research to find the causes and cures for cancer.

According to the Web site, "As the first flower of spring, the daffodil represents hope and renewal. To the American Cancer Society, the daffodil symbolizes the hope we all share for a future where cancer no longer threatens those we love."

"To the American Cancer Society, the daffodil symbolizes the hope we all share for a future where cancer no longer threatens those we love.."

**American Cancer Society
Web site**

Contact Alicia Smith at
asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Researcher looks into frog love lives

Special to the Observer

Notre Dame biologist Sunny Boyd's research is a little like "Match.com" for amphibians. Say you're a female tree frog looking for a mate — how do you choose among a number of potential suitors?

Boyd, along with two post-doctoral researchers, two graduate students and three undergraduates, goes out into the real world — the real world being UNDERC, the University's environmental research center in Land O'Lakes, Wis. — and observe what frogs are doing in nature.

"Then we create computer models where we explore what might be causing the behavior," says Boyd, an associate professor in Notre Dame's Department of Biological Sciences.

Female frogs prefer males with longer calls—a trait linked to better offspring. But how does she choose? The lab's research is investigating two possible strategies. Does she pick the first male that meets the basic criteria, or—in what Boyd calls the "best of" strategy, make comparisons among several males?

Frogs are useful organisms for conducting basic

research, says Boyd, because they bear a considerable resemblance to humans — they have the same basic brain areas, and the same basic behaviors.

"Frogs use vocal communications — as do humans, she explains. "Obviously they have fewer words than we do, and their behaviors are simpler. Because their behaviors are simpler, we're looking at three behaviors instead of a hundred."

Another area of research looks at the vocal behavior of bullfrogs, something that's often a critical component of social interaction. Many behaviors—including vocalization, aggression and reproduction — are influenced by neuropeptides and steroid hormones similar to those found in humans.

"The frog peptide is vasotocin. Humans have a variety called oxytocin. The very same peptide is involved in pair bonding mammals," Boyd says. "The same chemical is linked to autism."

An exciting new line of research involves African clawed frogs and a new technique called microarray. The lab is investigating a steroid hormone that's produced directly in the brain, and trying to understand how it works.

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4:00 PM

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Sponsored by the Notre Dame Alumni Association and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture

WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Money offered to nuke test victims

PARIS — The French government offered for the first time Tuesday to compensate victims of nuclear tests in Algeria and the South Pacific, bowing to decades of pressure by people sickened by radiation — and seeking to soothe France's conscience.

Victims cautiously welcomed the move, nearly 50 years after France conducted its first atomic tests. But they say it's still too stingy, and is only a first step toward healing wounds left by explosions that sent blinding white flashes cascading over French Polynesia and the Sahara Desert.

The French government will set aside some €10 million (\$13.5 million) for the compensation for the first year, Morin said. The U.S. government, by comparison, has approved more than \$1.38 billion in compensation to victims of nuclear tests since the enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act in 1990.

Government arrests TV manager

KABUL — The manager of an Afghan television network who refused to censor images of women dancing in short skirts and plunging necklines was arrested in what appeared to be a new sign of the government's struggle to define the role of Islam in a country once led by extremists.

The government has previously censured television stations and taken others to court, but the arrest of Emrose TV's Fahim Khodamani on Monday was the first for airing overly salacious content, the Afghan deputy attorney general said Tuesday.

The debate over television in this conservative Muslim country heated up after U.S.-led forces toppled the Taliban in 2001.

NATIONAL NEWS

City puts non-bias rules to a vote

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Voters went to the polls Tuesday in an election that could strip the local government's anti-discrimination protections for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents.

The fight began after the city commission last year revised Gainesville's anti-discrimination ordinance to protect transgender people — those who are born one sex but identify with the other. That allows the city's approximately 100 transgender residents to use the public restroom of their choosing, along with protecting them from job and housing discrimination.

The charter amendment on Tuesday's ballot would void the city's ordinances barring discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Legislature to change state song

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland lawmakers are thinking maybe it's time to find a way to scrub "Northern scum" — and a few other sensitive pre-Civil War phrases — from the official state song.

"Maryland, My Maryland," set to the traditional seasonal tune of "O, Tannenbaum," was written in 1861 and adopted as the state song in 1939. But now some lawmakers are pushing for a change to the warlike language in what was originally a poem that doubled as a call to arms.

LOCAL NEWS

Senate passes unemployment bill

INDIANAPOLIS — A plan that would cut benefits to most jobless people to help fix Indiana's bankrupt unemployment insurance fund moved to the House — and a showdown with majority Democrats.

The Senate passed a Republican plan on Tuesday that is designed to make the fund solvent. It was approved on a mostly party-line 30-20 vote in the GOP-controlled chamber and sent to the House, where Democrats have some major problems with it.

House Speaker Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, said he would quickly send the bill to a joint House-Senate conference committee.

Flooding draws Fargo community together

Community joins forces to fill 2 million sandbags to prepare for record flooding

Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. — As the swelling Red River lapped within 30 feet of his back door, Carlis Kramer's property resembled nothing so much as a bustling construction site.

In a well-ordered ballet, four people loaded sandbags, four others hauled them to the house and another person stacked them into a dike.

This is how Fargo responds to the threat of record flooding: Hundreds of people from all walks of life have joined forces to shield the community from the rising river, racing to fill 2 million sandbags.

The effort has drawn football players, soldiers, high school students, even a Microsoft engineer — all fearful of enduring another disaster like the devastating floods of 1997.

"A friend of mine brought his neighbor's kids, and friends of family bring boyfriends and girlfriends," Kramer said.

The 1997 floods forced tens of thousands of people to flee homes in North Dakota, Minnesota and southern Canada in one of the costliest and largest flood evacuations in U.S. history before Hurricane Katrina. The disaster killed 11 people in the Dakotas and Minnesota and caused an estimated \$4.1 billion in damage.

This year, the river has been swollen by heavier-than-average winter snows, combined with an early freeze last fall that locked a lot of moisture into the soil. The threat has been made worse by spring rains.

The river was expected to crest in Fargo late Friday. As sandbagging continued in Fargo and neighboring Moorhead, Minn., residents' hopes were raised by word of a lower-than-expected crest about 30 miles upstream.

The 18-foot crest forecast for Wahpeton, N.D., and its cross-river neighbor, Breckenridge, Minn., was well within both cities' flood protection.



AP

Isabel Kallmeyer works with her neighbor Caitlin Carson, with the shovel, to fill sandbags in the hopes of holding back floodwaters of the Red River Tuesday in Fargo, N.D.

In Fargo, Noah Addy was among dozens of volunteers who gathered around huge sand piles at the Fargodome indoor football stadium to shovel sand into bags.

While most workers needed two hands to drag the bags onto piles, the muscular Addy tossed them like they were pillows.

A native of Ghana, he moved to Fargo about eight years ago for college. Now an engineer for Microsoft, he did not hesitate when the company offered its Fargo employees time off to help.

"I didn't experience the 1997 flood, but everybody told me how bad it was, so I feel that helping is the right thing to do," Addy said.

Not far away, near a home in south Fargo, Phil Hansen handled sandbags as easily as Addy.

Hansen grew up in North Dakota, then went on to play pro football for the Buffalo Bills. In his playing days, Hansen teamed with Bruce Smith to form one of the NFL's best pass-rushing duos.

On Tuesday, Hansen's mouth was bloody from the work.

"I bit my tongue, and I haven't stopped bleeding for two hours," said Hansen, who now lives in nearby Detroit Lakes, Minn. "It feels good to help, though."

Some people nearest the river said they would stay no matter how bad conditions got.

Michael Hagan was caked in mud as he prepared to jack up his trailer beyond the reach of floodwaters.

"No one's going to run around here," he said. "They'll stick around and

help each other out. That's how it works around here."

The prospect of staying throughout the flood actually brought a smile to JoAnn Gray's face as friends and neighbors helped fill sandbags in her front yard.

"In '97, I had three kids in diapers," and had to leave as floodwaters approached. This time, her family, friends, and neighbors filled sandbags until midnight, with her children doing some of the work.

Still, Gray became somber when discussing what would happen if the dike failed. "My kids have their bags packed," she said.

Out-of-towners flocked to the Fargo area, looking for some way to help. From Grand Forks, the town hardest hit by the 1997 floods, came hundreds of high school and college students.

JAPAN

First survivor of both atom bombs ID'd

Associated Press

TOKYO — A 93-year-old Japanese man has become the first person certified as a survivor of both U.S. atomic bombings at the end of World War II, officials said Tuesday.

Tsutomu Yamaguchi had already been a certified "hibakusha," or radiation survivor, of the Aug. 9, 1945, atomic bombing in Nagasaki, but has now been confirmed as surviving the attack on Hiroshima three days earlier as well, city officials said.

Yamaguchi was in Hiroshima on a business trip on Aug. 6, 1945, when

a U.S. B-29 dropped an atomic bomb on the city. He suffered serious burns to his upper body and spent the night in the city. He then returned to his hometown of Nagasaki just in time for the second attack, city officials said.

"As far as we know, he is the first one to be officially recognized as a survivor of atomic bombings in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki," Nagasaki city official Toshiro Miyamoto said. "It's such an unfortunate case, but it is possible that there are more people like him."

Certification qualifies survivors for government compensation — includ-

ing monthly allowances, free medical checkups and funeral costs — but Yamaguchi's compensation will not increase, Miyamoto said.

Yet, Yamaguchi is satisfied that his record is now a historical fact.

"My double radiation exposure is now an official government record. It can tell the younger generation the horrifying history of the atomic bombings even after I die," Yamaguchi was quoted as saying by the nationwide Mainichi newspaper.

Japan is the only country to have suffered atomic bomb attacks. About 140,000 people were killed in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki.

TOUGH GUYSE-

Media, VIOLENCE

masculinity

& Dr. Sut Jhally

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AMEX	1,362.81	-9.37	
NASDAQ	1,517.40	-38.41	
NYSE	5,064.33	-121.53	
S&P 500	806.25	-16.67	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	8,488.30	0.00	
FTSE 100 (London)	3,911.46	-41.35	

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-7.31	-0.57	7.23
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-3.83	-0.12	3.01
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-1.97	-1.62	80.60
FINANCIAL BULL 3X (FAS)	-13.41	-0.95	6.11

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.23	-0.006	2.654
13-WEEK BILL	+7.89	+0.015	0.205
30-YEAR BOND	-2.36	-0.087	3.606
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.71	+0.012	1.693

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.18		53.98
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-28.70		923.80
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	0.00		88.50

Exchange Rates			
YEN			97.7700
EURO			1.3466
CANADIAN DOLLAR			1.2301
BRITISH POUND			1.4679

IN BRIEF

Labor Dept. mishandling complaints

WASHINGTON — The Labor Department regularly bungles its handling of complaints from workers who say their bosses are cheating them on overtime pay or committing other labor violations, an undercover investigation found.

The probe by the Government Accountability Office says agency officials often took too long to respond to complaints, failed to record them and, in one instance, lied about investigative work that was never performed.

"This investigation shows that the Department of Labor has left thousands of actual victims of wage theft who sought federal government assistance with nowhere to turn," GAO investigator Gregory Kutz said in prepared testimony, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

The House Education and Labor Committee plans to hold a hearing on the investigation Wednesday.

To test the agency's intake process, GAO investigators posed as workers or companies on 10 occasions. Kutz said the agency mishandled nine out of 10 of the fake complaints.

Specter shifts stance on union bill

WASHINGTON — In a setback for organized labor, Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter said Tuesday he will oppose a bill that would make it easier for workers to form unions.

Specter was the only Republican to support the Employee Free Choice Act two years ago, and unions were hoping he might be the crucial 60th vote needed to overcome an expected GOP filibuster of the measure when it's taken up this summer.

Specter has faced unusually heavy pressure from both labor and business interests and is likely to face a tough Republican primary challenge next year from former Pennsylvania Rep. Pat Toomey. In a statement, Toomey called Specter's decision a "flip flop," prompted by the threat of primary opposition to the five-term senator.

business or overseas."

Specter said his vote to end a filibuster on the bill two years ago was not support for the merits, but instead for Congress to take up the issue of labor law reform.

Democrats to scrap \$400 tax credit

Senate budget blueprint will not include Obama's signature tax cut in 2010

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A top Democrat in the Senate announced a budget blueprint Tuesday that would scrap Barack Obama's signature tax cut after 2010 and blends sleight of hand with modest cuts to domestic programs to cut the deficit to sustainable levels.

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., promises to reduce the deficit from a projected \$1.7 trillion this year to a still-high \$508 billion in 2014. But to do so, he assumes Congress will let Obama's "Making Work Pay" tax credit delivering \$400 tax cuts to most workers and \$800 to couples will expire at the end of next year. Those tax cuts were included in Obama's stimulus package.

Conrad, D-N.D., who has for decades sought to highlight the dangers of permanent deficits and rising government debt, produced a budget plan bristling with both — even after proposing to bring tax rates on income and capital gains to largely rebound to pre-Bush administration levels.

At the same time, Obama's controversial global warming initiative experienced a setback as House Democrats are declining to advance them under fast-track rules that could have effectively cut Senate Republicans out of the debate, Rep. John Spratt Jr., D-S.C., said Tuesday.

The developments come on the eve of debate in the House and Senate budget committees as they take the first steps to pass Obama's \$3.6 trillion budget plan for the fiscal year starting in October.

Obama's budget has ignited a firestorm on Capitol Hill, with Republicans assailing it over record spending and budget deficits, while many Democrats remain wary of his plans to combat global



Senate Budget Committee Chairman Senator Kent Conrad answers questions from reporters about the budget Tuesday on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

warming.

"It puts us on the path over 10 years for a very different kind of country, one with less freedom, one with more government, one with this extraordinary debt, and one which our children will have a very difficult time affording," said Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn.

Conrad's plan was released in the wake of new budget estimates that predicted Obama's plan would produce alarming estimates of red ink — \$9.3 trillion over 10 years and \$2.3 trillion more than estimated by the White House just last month.

In grappling with the deficit, Conrad would cut Obama's proposed increases for domestic agencies funded by lawmakers each

year to growth of about \$27 billion, or 6 percent for next year.

But Conrad also makes several shaky assumptions, especially that Congress will raise taxes by more than \$114 billion over 2013-14 to make sure middle-class taxpayers won't get hit by the alternative minimum tax. He also saves \$87 billion by promising Congress will come up with spending cuts or new revenues to avoid cuts in Medicare payments to doctors.

Under Congress' arcane procedures, the annual congressional budget resolution is a nonbinding measure that sets the terms for follow-up legislation.

The congressional budget plan also determines how much money to use for

defense programs and domestic programs whose budgets are set each year by Congress, and it sets out the fiscal priorities of the governing party in Congress.

The House wants to use the filibuster-proof measure to advance Obama's health reform initiative, but is opting against giving his global warming initiative fast-track consideration.

Obama's plan to combat global warming would impose higher energy costs on consumers and businesses through a so-called "cap-and-trade" system for auctioning permits to emit greenhouse gases.

Neither budget includes Obama's \$250 billion set-aside for more bailouts of banks and other firms.

Consumers buy groceries at auctions

Associated Press

DALLAS, Pa. — Out of toilet paper? Need to pick up a few things for dinner? Take a number and start bidding.

Many bargain hunters these days are trading supermarket aisles for the auction circuit in search of deep discounts on everything from cereal to spare ribs. Past the sell-by date? Bidders are happy to ignore that detail if they're getting a good deal.

As consumers seek relief from the recession and spiraling food prices, grocery auctions are gaining in popularity as an easy way to cut costs. The sales operate like regular auctions, but with bidders vying for dry goods and frozen foods instead of antiques and collectibles. Some auctioneers even accept food stamps.

When Kirk Williams held his first grocery auction in rural

Pennsylvania last month, nearly 300 people showed up. Astonished by the turnout, he's scheduling auctions at locations throughout northeastern Pennsylvania.

"Right now, people don't have a lot of spare pocket change," said Williams, 50, operator of Col. Kirk's Auction Gallery near Bloomsburg, Pa. "They're looking to save money."

Rich Harris, 28, who was recently laid off from his welding job, showed up at Williams' auction in Dallas earlier this month looking for meat for his freezer and snacks for his kids. With his wife pregnant with their third child, "I'm basically trying to expand my dollar right now," he said. "The deals, they seem to be fairly good."

Grocery sales make sense for auctioneers, too. Sales of baseball cards,

estate jewelry and other auction staples have "fallen off a cliff," Williams said. He hopes to average about \$12,000 in sales per auction, which would net him a profit of about \$1,000.

The popularity of the auctions — which sell leftover or damaged goods from supermarkets, distribution centers and restaurant suppliers — comes at a time when people are stretching their grocery budgets by using more coupons, buying inferior cuts of meat, and choosing store brands over national brands.

The economic downturn, paired with the worst food inflation in nearly 20 years (grocery prices spiked in 2008 before easing in January and February), has caused a "seismic shift" in consumer behavior, said Brian Todd, president of The Food Institute.

Music

continued from page 1

to why the president had selected the Shannon Rovers specifically.

"We are not sure why we got invited, but since we are the official band of Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade and are supported by Mayor Daley of Chicago, we think that might have had something to do with it," he said. "But we do know that he wanted a connection to the Irish community in his hometown."

McTighe recalls being in a state of disbelief when he first heard that an invitation had been extended to the Shannon Rovers.

"I first found out about the invitation on the Tuesday before fall break when my dad called me, but I didn't believe him at all; I thought he was joking," he said. "I didn't

know he was serious until he asked me for my social security number and driver's license number because the White House needed them for a background check."

Once the knowledge that he would be performing in the White House had sunk in a little bit, McTighe said the excitement began to take hold of him.

"I was on cloud nine for a couple of days and just felt

great," he said. "As the time got closer though, I was honestly very nervous and did not know how I would react once I was there."

McTighe said he and the other Rovers were flown out of Chicago on Tuesday morning so they would be there in time to perform later that afternoon.

"When we first got to the White House, we were shown to a changing room in the basement after a security check," McTighe said. "We waited there and finished tuning before we were ready to play. A couple of minutes before we played a military person that was on staff came in and gathered us together for a group shot with Mr. and Mrs. Obama. We got to meet them and shake their hands."

After meeting the President and First Lady, McTighe and his band mates performed in various locations in the East Wing and then they were moved to play in the State Dining Room.

"Afterwards we were allowed to put our instruments away and come up and enjoy the party and mingle with the guests," McTighe said.

The party guests included prominent Irish Americans as well as Irish dignitaries including the Prime Minister

of Ireland, Brian Cowen.

"We got to meet Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi, Ethel Kennedy, the Cowens, and John Kerry," McTighe said. "We also talked to other senators and congressman at the party, but we had no idea who they were outside of Dick Durbin from Illinois."

McTighe also got to talk to President Obama once more and found him to be an average, personable guy.

"It was quite the experience meeting President Obama, but at the same time he seemed like a real person," McTighe said. "While it is definitely pretty cool meeting someone like that, it didn't seem out of this world; he was still an average person. I liked that aspect very much and thought that was what was most intriguing."

McTighe said his experience at the White House was a memorable one and will stay with him for years to come.

"Overall, I thought it was a great experience and was something that comes around once in your lifetime so it is definitely something that you have to take advantage of," he said. "It is very cliché but it is one of those things that you can tell your children and grandchildren about."

One memory from the trip stood out to McTighe.

"The most memorable thing about my White House visit was that I got to go there pantsless; not many people can say that."

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden@hcc-nd.edu

Water

continued from page 1

ers' idea and helped them order the timers.

Lewis residents also seemed enthusiastic about the installation of the timers and the beginning of the competition, Foster said.

"Generally, we've had a positive response," she said. "The residents that we've talked to have been eager to see how long they actually take in the shower. Some have said this is a good way not just to save water, but to save time in general."

The competition ends April 8, but Vondriska said they plan to keep the timers in the showers after the competition.

Foster said the shower timer competition is important because Lewis residents will learn about water conservation.

"Most people don't know how long the showers that they take are and this is a good way just to get people thinking about it," she said. "Educating people is the first step in correcting environmentally unfriendly behaviors."

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccryst@nd.edu

Assault

continued from page 1

released, he said.

Chapman said he cannot disclose whether one or both of the men are students at the University because of privacy

issues.

A suspect has been identified, but Chapman said NDSP cannot release any further details because the case is still under investigation.

"We talked to some witnesses and we will go from there," he said. "The case is still under investigation."

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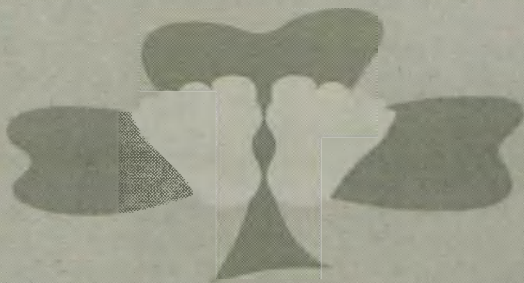
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this conference is free and is open to the public.

friday 3.27

saturday 3.28

a moral foundation for the helping professions:
medicine, law, ministry and teaching

edmund pellegrino, m.d.

4:00p - 5:30p /auditorium/mckenna hall

holy
mass

5:45p - 6:45p /chapel/alumni hall

opening
dinner

6:45p - 7:45p /oak room/south dining hall

holy
mass

9:00a - 9:45a /chapel/alumni hall

continental
breakfast opens

9:45a - 10:15a /atrium/jordan hall of science

"the family as the sanctuary of life"

lisa everett, diocese of fort wayne-south bend

10:15a - 11:30a /101 jordan hall of science

"where do you live?"

chris godfrey, life athletes

11:45a - 12:45p /101 jordan hall of science

catered lunch

12:45p - 1:15p /atrium/jordan hall of science

"long-term health effects of abortion"

dr. elizabeth shadigan

WomenSafe health consulting

1:15p - 2:15p /101 jordan hall of science

"what the abortion debate is really about"

francis beckwith, senior visiting fellow

center for ethics and culture

2:15p - 3:30p /101 jordan hall of science

"say no to the status quo:
support for women and children"

chaunie brusie,

feminists for life

3:30p - 4:45p /101 jordan hall of science

D'Arcy

continued from page 24

the 25th Commencement held during his time as bishop.

"President Obama has recently reaffirmed, and has now placed in public policy, his long-stated unwillingness to hold human life as sacred," D'Arcy wrote in the statement. "While claiming to separate politics from science, he has in fact separated science from ethics and has brought the American government, for the first time in history, into supporting direct destruction of innocent human life."

A White House statement released Tuesday said the president welcomes the "spirit of debate and healthy disagreement on important issues."

"While he is honored to have the support of millions of people of all faiths, including Catholics with their rich tradition of recognizing the dignity of people, he does not govern with the expectation that everyone sees eye to eye with him on every position," the White House statement said.

Nationally, 54 percent of Catholics voted for the pro-choice Obama, with 45 percent voting for Arizona Sen. John McCain in the 2008 presidential election, according to CNN exit polls.

D'Arcy wrote his decision to not attend Commencement "is not an attack on anyone, but is in defense of the truth about human life."

University Assistant Vice President for News and Information Dennis Brown told The Observer that "Bishop D'Arcy has been a long-time friend and supporter of Notre Dame, and we're sorry he will not be there," in response to D'Arcy's statement.

Brown said D'Arcy is usually a member of the platform party at Commencement, but has, in the past, decided to not attend the exercises when the University has chosen to honor pro-choice politicians.

The last time this occurred, Brown said, was the 1992 Commencement exercises, when President George H.W. Bush was the principal speaker. That year, the Laetare Medal recipient was U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick

Moynihan. D'Arcy was one of many American bishops to express opposition to the University's choice of the Senator to receive the honor – the highest award given to American Catholics – because of his pro-choice voting record on the issues regarding abortion.

The bishop was quoted in a May 1992 Observer article stating he decided to not attend that year's Commencement exercises because Moynihan's "stated position on the question of human life in the womb is totally unacceptable."

He said in the 1992 article his presence at the ceremonies "could be interpreted as an approval of [Moynihan's] position relative to the issue of pre-born life."

He did, however, preside over the 1992 Baccalaureate Mass.

D'Arcy wrote in the statement Tuesday he was keeping the 2004 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) document titled "Catholics in Political Life" in mind when making this decision.

The document 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."

The Observer reported Monday Jenkins said the critical lines in this statement by the USCCB are that politicians "should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

Jenkins said in his interview with The Observer the invitation of Obama to be the 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."

D'Arcy wrote: "[T]he measure of any Catholic institution is not only what it stands for, but also what it will not stand for."

"I wish no disrespect to our President, I pray for him and wish him well. I have always revered the Office of the Presidency. But a bishop much teach the Catholic faith 'in sea-

son and out of season,' and he teaches not only by his words — but by his actions," D'Arcy said.

D'Arcy's office did not provide The Observer with additional information after inquiries were made Monday.

In his statement, D'Arcy wrote he has spoken with Mary Ann Glendon, former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican and the announced 2009 recipient of the Laetare Medal.

"I have known her for many years and hold her in high esteem," he wrote. "We are both teachers, but in different ways. I have encouraged her to accept this award and take the opportunity such an award gives her to teach."

D'Arcy has released statements in the past related to controversial University decisions, including "The Vagina Monologues" and the Queer Film Festival events on campus. On March 9 he also released a statement regarding Obama's decision to allow federal funding for stem-cell research.

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

Stories

continued from page 1

feel as though they belong to either country.

"You just don't belong anywhere. Which, at the same time, there is something positive about this. It gives you a perspective. From outside you see both countries and both societies, and you become more objective," she said.

Mari Cardenas, a sophomore at Saint Mary's, is an immigrant from Mexico.

"I came to the United States when I was 11 years old and I did not speak any English," she said.

Cardenas talked about her father's struggles working in the United States.

"My dad came to the states and like I said, he fits the stereotype of the Mexican immigrants. He worked in the fields and he would go from state to state," she said.

Her father was 16 when he first came to the United States. Since her father moved back and forth, he too did not feel like he belonged to either country.

Cardenas said, "It was kind of like he had two identities, one from over there and one from over here."

Randa Al-Assadi is currently a foreign exchange student at the College from Iraq. Al-Assadi emigrated from Iraq to Syria after the war began in 2006.

Al-Assadi decided to come to Saint Mary's in order to become successful.

"I'm happy to be here and be part of the Saint Mary's students. I've been here just six months, but I feel like I'm learning. Now I'm working hard and hoping to reach my goal of finishing my college education," Al-Assadi said.

Latifa Oudghiri, a teacher in the South Bend Community School District, immigrated to Canada and the United States. She said she has had many struggles while living in America.

"That enchantment changes into homesickness," she said.

However, even after her struggles, she found that there were many positive aspects of immigration as well.

"You meet a lot of people from all over the world. My best friend is a Russian, and she lives right now in Saudi Arabia. We always keep in touch," she said

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

GOD AND GODLESSNESS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

5:00pm

Notre Dame Law School Room 1130

A symposium presented by the Notre Dame Journal of
Law, Ethics & Public Policy.

Address questions to Journal Editor, nstanzio@nd.edu



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Monday, April 13, 2009

Obama claims gains in revival from economic chaos

President says the country is "moving in the right direction" in second prime-time news conference of his presidency

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama claimed early progress Tuesday night in his aggressive campaign to lead the nation out of economic chaos and declared that despite obstacles ahead, "we're moving in the right direction."

At the second prime-time news conference of his presidency, Obama also toned down his criticism of bonuses to executives at bailed-out AIG, and shot back at Republican critics of his budget.

In office for 64 tumultuous days, Obama cast his budget — now under review in Congress — as essential if the economy is to recover. The tax and spending plan "is inseparable from this recovery because it is what lays the foundation for a secure and lasting prosperity," he said.

The president also defended the U.S. dollar in the wake of China's suggestion for a universal currency, saying: "The dollar is extraordinarily strong right now," and "I don't believe that there is a need for a global currency."

The news conference, lasting 55 minutes, came at a pivotal, early moment in Obama's young presidency. Democrats in Congress are readying budget proposals that will largely determine how much of his first-term agenda will be passed. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is churning out near-daily proposals to solve the nation's economic crisis and the administration is struggling with public and congressional outrage over bonuses paid to executives of bailed-out AIG. Additionally, Obama departs next week for his first European trip as commander in chief, with the global economy a major focus.

Flexible on some points, Obama was unyielding on others. Pressed on why he seemed to delay before condemning the AIG bonuses, Obama said, "It took us a couple of days because I like to know what I'm talking about before I speak."

The news conference was dominated by questions about the economy. Obama defended the steps his administration has taken to counter the recession and an unprecedented credit crisis. He said teachers and others have jobs today because of the economic stimulus measure that Congress passed, and the nation is "beginning to see signs of increased sales and stabilized housing prices for the first time in a long time."

He said full-fledged recovery is months away, and he added, "It will take patience."

At the same time, he said, "we're in a better place because of the decisions that we made."

Obama put in a plug for the request Geithner made to Congress earlier in the day for extraordinary authority to take over failing companies like American International Group Inc., much as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. now does for banks.

"It is precisely because of the lack of this authority" that AIG's problems threatened to bring down the entire U.S. economy, he said. Top Democrats in Congress reacted positively to the proposal, although it is not clear when legislation might be considered.

Obama has been vocal in his unhappiness over the \$165 million in retention bonuses paid to executives at AIG, although his favorable reference to business men and women seeking profits was a new twist.

"Bankers and executives on Wall Street need to realize that enriching themselves on the taxpayers' dime is inexcusable, that the days of outsized rewards and reckless speculation that puts us all at risk have to be over," he said.

"At the same time, the rest of us can't afford to demonize every investor or entrepreneur who seeks to make a profit. That drive is what has always fueled our prosperity, and it is what will ultimately get these banks lending and our economy moving once more," he said.

On other issues, Obama:

— Said the American people are assessing his ability as chief executive based on his skills and work, not the color of his skin. He said there was justifiable pride in January, when he was inaugurated as the first black president.

— Strongly defended his proposal to raise taxes on the wealthy by reducing the value of the deductions they may take for

items such as home mortgages or charitable donations. It's a "realistic way for us to raise some revenue from people who benefited enormously over the last several years. Its not going to cripple them. They will still be well-to-do," he said.

— Called his decision to expand federal support of embryonic stem cell research the "right thing to do and the ethical thing to do." He said he wrestled with the ethics of the decision but is hopeful that the science will lead to help for people with debilitating diseases.

— Said the recent elections in Israel would not make it easier to create a stable environment with side-by-side Israeli and Palestinian states.

The president opened the news conference with a prepared statement read from a screen, turning the event's opening moments into a brief speech delivered to a nationwide TV audience in addition to the roomful of reporters.

He said his administration was

taking steps to make sure banks have money to lend "even if the economy gets worse."

Obama said he did not feel the government should call on Americans to make sacrifices beyond those imposed by the recession and credit crisis. "Folks are sacrificing left and right ... across the board, people are making adjustments large and small," he said.

Obama was quick with a retort when asked about Republican criticism of his budget, with its huge projected deficits.

"First of all," he said he inherited a deficit of over \$1 trillion from his predecessor. And secondly, he said the Republicans have yet to offer an alternative to his own tax and spending plan.

Obama has emphasized a desire to cut projected deficits in half by the end of his current term, although recent estimates make it appear almost impossible barring an extraordinary series of events.

Given concern in Congress over

the red ink, Senate Democrats are drafting a separate budget plan that assumes Obama's proposed middle class tax cut expires after two years — the sort of sleight of hand that other administrations of both parties have used in the past.

While Congress' budget does not go to the White House for a president's signature, the White House traditionally seeks to influence its provisions. Obama restated his objectives Tuesday night — health care overhaul, a new energy policy and more money for education and deficit control.

Obama stepped to the microphone one day after his administration unveiled a plan to melt the credit freeze by helping banks shed bad loans. Under the proposal, the government will finance the purchase by private investors of as much as \$1 trillion of the \$2 trillion in bad assets still held by the nation's banks, in the hopes of freeing banks to begin lending more freely and churn up economic activity.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL WEEK 2009 March 22-28

Sunday, 22

Mass in Spanish
1:30pm
St. Ed's Hall Chapel

Persian New Year Display
10:00pm
Fischer-O'Hara Grace

Monday, 23
Cultural Extravaganza
International booths, cultural displays, music performances, traditional dancing
5:30pm-9:00pm
F-Wing of North Dining Hall

Chinua Achebe Lecture
"The Igbo and Their Perception of God"
7:30pm
Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business

Tuesday, 24
Women Through the World Engaging Feminism in a Global Context
Dinner and Discussion
RSVP to mdeagost@nd.edu by March 20
6:30pm
Location: TBA

Hot Pepper Eating Contest
8:00pm
Fischer-O'Hara Grace

Badminton Workshop
8:30pm-10:00pm
Rolfs Sports Recreation Center

Leprechaun Fireside Chat
9:30pm
Coleman-Morse Lounge

Wednesday, 25
"Speed Language"
A Global Tour of Languages
6:00pm-8:00pm
Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures - DeBartolo 329

Squash Demonstration
6:45pm-8:00pm
Rockne Rec Center, Room 110

Chinese Dinner and Movie
Time: TBA
Montgomery Auditorium

Wednesday, 25 (cont.)

International Potluck Dinner
7:00pm
Fischer-O'Hara Grace

Chinua Achebe Lecture
"The Igbo and Their Perception of Human Beings"
7:30pm
Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business

Taize Ecumenical Prayer
10:00pm
Walsh Hall

Thursday, 26
2009 Erskine Peters Symposium
Change, Hope, and Expectation: The Obama Presidency in Global Perspective
Reception 6:00pm, Symposium 7:00pm

Chinua Achebe Lecture
"The Igbo and Their Perception of Creation"
7:30pm
Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business

Movie: "The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo"
8:00pm-10:00pm
Montgomery Auditorium

Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago
10:00pm
Stepan Center
\$5 at the door

Friday, 27
Badminton Tournament
9:00pm-1:00am
Rolfs Sports Recreation Center

Bollywood Film "Taare Zameen Par"
6:00pm-9:00pm
Montgomery Auditorium

Saturday, 28
Children's Day
4:00pm-6:00pm
University Village Community Center

Equality Health: Global Health Symposium and Banquet
Jordan Hall of Science
Symposium: 2:00pm-4:00pm, Room 105
Informational Hour: 4:00pm-5:00pm, Galleria
Banquet: 5:00pm-7:00pm, Galleria
(More info at <http://studentshop.nd.edu>)

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

page 11

THE OBSERVER

The Independent, Daily Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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A booth at Waddick's

I don't write about Notre Dame. It's not that I have anything against this place or that I don't care enough to pay it homage. It's just I don't have much to say regarding it and my fellow columnist Mr. Kessler does a good enough job covering all things under the Dome.

But lately I've been turning something over in my mind: the sheer joy and pleasure of being able to sit in one of the three booths at Waddick's. Less than a handful of times have I been privileged enough to grace that café's wooden corner with my presence. Less than a handful of times have I been able to gaze out the grand windows onto Malloy and Decio's shared front lawn. Less than a handful of times have I been able to remove myself from the lines out the door and the mad-cap dash of O'Shaughnessy's post-class bum-rush. Yet it is in that less than a handful of times that I have realized (internalized, even) my favorite spot on our Lady's campus.

During my year abroad, most mornings I would walk to Blackwell's Book Shop and ascend to the Café Nero on the first floor. I would pull out whatever novel or set of poems I was reading that term (Fitzgerald, Milton, James, Arnold, Joyce, Hemingway, Wilde, Pope, Woolf), purchase a latte, choose a small table and read. Simply read. I returned to Notre Dame this year looking for a similar routine. I only had classes in the afternoons and would have plenty of time to wake each morning, drink a latte and read whatever essay or book was assigned for that day in class.

But I encountered something unexpected. Not only was I no longer living in a city but I was no longer living in a place where

I could easily find my spot. I tried Starbucks (and to this day still go to the LaFortune Starbucks due to my penchant for a boldly roasted cup of American coffee) but it didn't feel right. The counter space was far too close to the seating space. There seemed to be an air vent above every seat I chose, no matter which seat I did choose (does anyone else feel the chilling cold upon entering Starbucks? Is it for the benefit of the baristas? If not, who benefits?) I tried the Glynn Family Honors Program lounge. This had always been the place I had gone freshman and sophomore year to get free coffee from the Keurig machine. Maybe returning senior year was supposed to include a conflated return to my old stomping grounds. But the Honors Program lounge was no longer my place. I had left it behind in my old age. I had grown out of its milieu.

Then I thought to myself, "What about Waddick's?" No — the lines were just far too long and you can never get a seat. But one day I thought I would try and sure enough, if you go to Waddick's in the middle of a class period (as opposed to in between class periods) there are plenty of seats to scoop up. And one fateful morning, I was able to get my Green Mountain Breakfast Blend, pay the cashier with my Flex Points and walk to my right to see an empty booth. It was here that I first fell in love with the Waddick's booth. And here, gentle reader, are the many reasons why the Waddick's booth is the best booth of all the booths.

Why Waddick's?

Why Waddick's indeed. With all the food service shops that cover the grounds of our fair University, it has become increasingly hard to decide which one is the best. The Dining Halls offer the forced-meal encounter for on-campus undergraduates. Reckers stays open at all hours of the night. LaFortune, the Whitman of restaurants at Notre Dame, contains the multi-

tudes of culinary delicacy within its singular entity. Greenfield's has high-quality food and the professional atmosphere desired by business major, professor and University employee alike. Crossroads at the Eck Hall of Law has the cache of newness. But only Waddick's, oh my Waddick's, has the fulfilling atmosphere of a quaint, community-oriented coffee shop.

Why the booths?

Well, why not the booths? The hallway-facing counter is too rigid, too imposing. The outer tables aren't really a part of the shop at all. And the inner tables, while great, just don't have the same intimacy of the booths.

Will I ever get a booth again?

Sadly, it takes an extraordinary amount of skill and cunning to win a booth at Waddick's. As I mentioned earlier, I have only been able to sit in one a few times. The time schedules of when to go to Waddick's in general do not apply to the booths therein: once somebody has one, he or she will hold onto it with dear life.

So I'm left in a quandary. I love the Waddick's booth but I can never access it readily or reliably. Should I forego my love of the Waddick's booth and settle for a lesser place? Or should I continue to claim the Waddick's booth as my favorite on-campus spot and hope each morning upon rising that I will be able to win one? I don't know, friends. I simply don't know.

In these last few weeks of my senior year I will go to Waddick's every day in the hope of finding an empty booth. And if I don't, I will walk slowly, contemplatively away. You will see me often in O'Shaughnessy. But I cannot say whether you will find me in rapture or in despondency.

Andrew Miller is a senior English major. He can be contacted at amille15@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Andrew Miller

The Roads Scholar

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Basketball needs support

The score is final, Kentucky beat Creighton so we will have one more game in the NIT on our home court. The Leprechaun Legion is the second (and should be first) best student section in the country. I think that is a pretty cool thing. To be honest however, it was a little embarrassing that the first two NIT games were broadcast on ESPN because the crowd was so small and dull with the exception of a few exciting moments. The people who were there were loud, and I give them 100 percent credit for making up for all the empty seats, but it was like comparing Notre Dame Stadium on a game day to the Blue-Gold Game.

I know the season was disappointing, but come on people, we need to show up for this game and be the loudest, most hostile student section Kentucky has ever played in front of. I am fully (not) condoning the "suck it" cheer, momma jokes and anything we can come up with as a student section. We have one more game left in the JACC, let's show the team that we are still 100 percent behind them so that they can be fired up and get back to Madison Square Garden to win!

Go Irish! Beat Wildcats!

Matthew McManus
sophomore
Fisher Hall
March 23

EDITORIAL CARTOON



DryBonesBlog.com

OBSERVER POLL

Is your bracket faring better than Obama's?

Yes
No

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

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to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you're never scared or embarrassed or hurt, it means you never take any chances."

Julia Sorel
author

Students voice opinions on Obama visit

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's our graduation

On Monday, March 23, The Observer published a two-page Viewpoint section that contained nine letters about the recent announcement that President Obama would be speaking at this May's Commencement. Of the nine letters in Monday's Observer, a mere two were from seniors. As a Republican and a member of the Class of 2009, I have mixed feelings about seeing President Obama address my class as we prepare to go forth from this campus. While I am honored the president has chosen to come to South Bend, I disagree with almost every political view he holds. I also understand the sentiment that some of his policies are not in line with Catholic teachings. While I have mixed emotions about the speech, there is one thing I am truly upset about. I am upset that the people who are complaining are not the ones graduating.

I understand there are intense emotions when it comes to a politician delivering an address of this nature. If it were up to me, John McCain would be here as president instead of Obama. But what makes me even more upset is

the idea that others want to mar the graduation of myself and my friends. Alumni and underclassmen are expressing their outrage. One alum threatened to bring pictures of abortion victims. While I am completely in opposition to President Obama as a staunch pro-life advocate, this is the last thing I want to see as I celebrate my graduation with my friends and family.

My classmates and I have earned the right to enjoy our commencement. We have worked hard over the last four years to earn the right to receive a diploma from Our Lady's University. Please do not let your disagreements with President Obama take away from our celebration. We've earned this. No one, not alumni, not undergraduates, not even President Obama himself, can take it away from us.

Michael Scholl
senior
off campus
March 23

The goals of higher education

I just wanted to express, from the bottom of my heart, how honored I am that the President of the United States is going to speak at my graduation. I can not think of a greater honor this University could bestow on the senior class. Over the last few days I have heard many people toting the phrases "Obama is a disgrace" and, "his values are completely against the values and mission of the University."

To these people, and to you if you have been worrying the same, I would ask you: what are the most important values of this University? Is the University's number one mission to rid the world of abortions, stem cell research, and homosexual marriage? While these may be important issues for some of our students, faculty and staff, I can not believe that Notre Dame would be the incredible and successful University it is today if these political and religious agenda's were the fundamental base of the University's mission. I was always under the impression that the University was "to cultivate in its students not only an appreciation for the great achievements of human beings, but also a disci-

plined sensibility to the poverty, injustice, and oppression that burden the lives of so many. The aim is to create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice."

Barack Obama is helping to make education mandatory for all children, combating employment discrimination, urging the role of religion (in a pluralistic sense) in politics, and encouraging all young people to participate in service. It sounds to me like Obama upholds the fundamental values and mission of the University. And the true "slap in the face" here is that if this unenlightened debate continues, the Notre Dame Class of '09 will be remembered for nothing more than protesting a man who has risen to one of the highest, and most honorable, positions our country offers. Thank you.

Kathleen Hession
senior
off campus
March 23

Pro-life represented

As both a proud Notre Dame law student and a conscientious Catholic, I share the excitement of my many colleagues who welcome President Obama to give our commencement address, as well as the chagrin of those who feel the invitation clouds our Catholic identity. I would invite those critical of the selection to note that the University has chosen to bestow its highest award, the Laetare Medal, upon the renowned pro-life, pro-family crusader Mary Ann Glendon. If Professor Glendon is willing to share the stage with President Obama at graduation, I am certainly willing to share the auditorium with him. As a former member of President Bush's Council on Bioethics, Professor Glendon could provide a healthy — and likely far more learned — counterpoint to Obama's pro-choice politics. The University would do well to allow her the opportunity to speak at length during the commencement activities as well.

David Roberts
third year law student
off-campus
March 23

Playlist

With the recent controversy of Obama's selection as this year's commencement speaker at graduation, I have put together a short list of songs that I feel summarize the reactions (and some reactions to reactions) that this issue has sparked in our student body and beyond: 1. "It's the End of the World as We Know It (and I Feel Fine)" — R.E.M., 2. "We Can Work It Out" — The Beatles, 3. "Grounds for Divorce" — Wolf Parade, 4. "The Best Day Ever" — Spongebob Squarepants, 5. "Don't Come Around Here No More" — Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, 6. "Idiot Wind" — Bob Dylan, 7. "I Don't Care" — The Ramones, 8. "What Have I Done to Deserve This?" — The Pet Shop Boys, 9. "J*zz In My Pants" — The Lonely Island.

Ryan Simmons
senior
Keough Hall
March 23

Don't decide based on one issue

The news of Notre Dame inviting President Obama to speak at our Commencement in May certainly has travelled far and fast. My friends abroad, in China and Europe, have sent me emails exclaiming their excitement. My grandfather, who lives in Hawaii and has absolutely no idea how to use the Internet, somehow figured out about our invitation to Obama and called to congratulate my parents before I could even break the news. Personally, I was thrilled to hear that President Obama will speak at our graduation, just as I would have been thrilled to hear that President John McCain would give the address.

Consequently, I was surprised to see the Viewpoint pages of The Observer filled with vitriolic articles expressing the extreme disappointment and outrage of both students and

alumni. I understand that many at this university oppose President Obama's pro-choice policies and support of stem cell research. And I understand how Catholic identity matters so much to this school. But to deny the leader of the free world a place to speak at Commencement because of his pro-choice policies and support for gay marriage is not just wrong, it's a dangerous way to look at the world. Viewing the world through the prism of a single issue tends to create a black and white picture; while, in my experience, there are plenty of moral issues that exist in shades of grey. If you disagree with the President's policies on abortion, then oppose his every initiative and mobilize support against them. But don't deny President Obama a place to speak on the basis of one issue when universities are meant to be a place for dis-

cussion, debate, and free speech. Four decades ago, Father Hesburgh linked arms with Martin Luther King Jr. to decry the racism that infected our society and stand for justice and equality. This May, our University will bestow an honorary degree on the first African-American President, a man married to a woman who is the direct descendent of slaves. This is America at its best. I'm proud to call Barack Obama my President. And I'm proud that my university has taken the initiative to invite him to speak.

Gavin Payne
senior
off campus
March 23

Embrace the President's address

To the many Viewpoint writers who oppose President Obama's future commencement address: You need to take a step back and truly think about what you are saying. You may not agree with the president's views — especially those on abortion, as you have clearly voiced — but needless to say, he is still the president, and you should be honored that he chose our institution to deliver a commencement address.

Think about it: Any sitting president could speak at essentially any university graduation he or she wants, and out of the thousands of colleges and universities in our country, ours was chosen as one of three this year. In 2001, then-President Bush spoke at graduation here at Notre Dame. I'm not going to hide my religious or political beliefs. I am a Catholic who is liberal. I agree with little of what President Bush did during his eight year presidency, but if I had been graduating from Notre Dame in 2001 instead of 2009, I still would have been honored that the current president spoke

at my graduation. It is a point of great distinction and something that all current students, alumni, faculty, and staff should be proud of. It is absurd for all of you to suggest that simply because his beliefs on abortion differ from yours that he should not be welcomed here. Let me ask you something: As a Catholic university, should we no longer welcome the study of stem cells? Should we not learn about other religions besides Catholicism? Should we ban the Alfred R. and Lee Abrams Collection in Hebrew and Jewish studies from the library? The obvious answer is no — because if we did that, this university would not be living up to the ultimate goal of being both the preeminent and pre-eminent-Catholic institution in the world.

Even if you do not agree with stem cell research or share the beliefs of members of other religions, it is still essential to learn about, discuss and welcome speakers who do maintain these beliefs because otherwise, it would be close-minded and perpetuate a "bubble" around the university.

You cannot ignore the world around you. You have to listen and learn about other people's opinions — even if you disagree with them — because that is what being a university student (not to mention an informed, intelligent individual) is all about. If your "love affair with the University of Notre Dame" has truly come to an end after learning about the president's future visit, and you honestly do not want to attend your child's graduation this May (as one of you suggested in your letter), then I think you should sell your commencement ticket online. There are thousands of people who would buy it from you and would be thrilled to hear our president speak. You should be honored for the opportunity, not disgraced.

David Onuscheck
senior
off campus
March 23

Alumni, parents speak out

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where do you draw the line?

I, too, am shocked that Notre Dame is inviting Obama, who is as pro-abortion a politician as it is possible to be.

I am all for academic freedom and inviting people of opposing views to campus for academic debates. For instance, if Notre Dame were to hold a forum on the abortion issue, I think it would be acceptable to invite a speaker or debater who is in favor of legalized abortion to make the case for that side, so that the issue will have a full hearing from both sides.

But this is completely different. Here, we are not inviting Obama to an academic debate, but rather, we are giving him an honorary degree, and giving him one of the most prestigious honors the university has — promoting him as Commencement speaker and holding him up as a role model to our graduates and the Notre Dame community as a whole. The standard here should be much higher than for inviting someone with controversial views to speak on campus at another forum.

Then the question arises: what about other Catholic issues? The church is against the death penalty — so why were Reagan and Bush allowed to speak, when they favor the death penalty? And should we exclude any politician that does not favor a legal ban on contraceptives or in vitro fertilization? Where do you draw the line? I

think this is a fair comparison, as those issues are against church teaching and I doubt you would ever find a single politician that proposes to ban the pill or condoms.

I think the death penalty is the closest comparison, as in both issues, it is truly a matter of life or death. So I think to be consistent, those who want to ban Obama should also say that Notre Dame should also ban any Commencement speaker who favors the death penalty. Then again, the death penalty hits how many? Thirty or 40 a year? And these people are convicted of heinous crimes. There are over a million abortions a year, and these victims are 100 percent innocent. So do you make an argument based on this that the abortion issue is a deal breaker, while the death penalty or other Catholic issues are not? Again, where do you draw the line? A difficult question.

I fear that this issue will tear the Notre Dame community apart, and this is the most important reason that the invitation was a bad idea. The “prestige” of having a President visit Notre Dame is simply not worth the anguish that will be produced.

Mark Rolfes
alum
class of 1984
March 23

Allow Obama to speak

As one who decidedly did not support Barack Obama in the 2008 election and does not support the vast majority of his policies today, I will admit that when I found out that my alma mater had invited the president to speak at my son's graduation this May, I wasn't exactly elated. In fact, I was a bit stunned, given Obama's radically pro-choice agenda.

Due to the uniqueness of its mission, Notre Dame will always be striving to strike a balance between the moral values it espouses and the academic freedom that is the hallmark of great universities. So long as Mr. Obama does not use his speech to advocate his pro-life policies, how does this differ from similar invitations extended to George W. Bush or his father, both of whom supported the death penalty, which also stands in contrast to the pro-life position? To the class of 1988 graduate who suggested “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 with-

draw this invitation immediately” (“Obama choice unacceptable,” March 23) — maybe that person ought to give a little thought to the graduates, whom the commencement ceremony is being held to honor. Before anyone angered by this choice chooses to turn graduation into a circus, they might want to think about that. If we can't trust our graduating students to have a strong enough moral compass not to be swayed by a president who doesn't even speak about his pro-choice views from the podium, what strength of character have we, their parents, instilled in them?

I didn't vote for the Barack Obama. I don't often agree with him. I vehemently disagree with his position on life issues. He is, nonetheless, the president of the United States. I urge Fr. Jenkins to resist the pressure, out of respect for the Office of the U.S. Presidency, which transcends any given occupant.

Diane Dirkers Jones
alum
class of 1984
March 23

Risking it all

I am ashamed of Notre Dame today. As a Saint Mary's graduate, sibling, spouse and mother of Notre Dame alums and prospective students, you have crossed a line. President Obama is on record as saying “if my daughters get pregnant, I don't want them punished because of a mistake.” President Obama supports FOCA, has already pledged my tax dollars to perform abortions overseas and has signed over money for stem cell research.

President Obama is in stark contrast to our Catholic teachings. This is not the same as inviting Ronald Reagan to speak when the opposition was anti-war, not the same as supporting Ford when Notre Dame was pressured to

break ties because of Ford's plant in South Africa. In those situations, Father Hesburgh thought it best to keep the other camp close so as to have some influence.

Your decision to invite President Obama to speak at Commencement is a slap in the face to Catholics and pro-life supporters who toil endlessly and donate hard-earned money to fight the pro-abortion movement in this country. By inviting Obama — in spite of his flagrant disregard for human life — you have everything to lose.

Catherine Kelly
alum
Omaha, NE
March 23

Hitting them where it hurts

This past Friday I received the quarterly notice from Notre Dame requesting my contribution to the Annual Fund. Rather than make my usual donation to the fund, this year I will instead make a second donation to the National Right to Life Committee. This donation will be made in honor of Notre Dame University. The entire Notre Dame family is obliged to express our feelings in some tangible way. I hope that this will inspire others to respectfully protest the misguided choices made by the leaders of our beloved Notre Dame.

Joseph Losito
alum
class of 1981
March 23

Rescind invitation

As the mother of two sons currently enrolled at Notre Dame, I am deeply saddened by the decision to have President Obama as the 2009 Commencement speaker. His blatant opposition to Catholic values disqualifies him as one who should be given such a distinction at the University. The title “President of the United States” should not fog the University's ability to make wise choices in people that they bestow such an honor. This decision is contrary to the ideals and

strong Catholic identity that is Notre Dame. If President Obama is allowed to speak, Our Lady will surely shed a tear over all of Her University on graduation day. I would ask Father Jenkins to please take a stand and be a Catholic role model to all. Father Jenkins, please rescind the invitation to have President Obama speak.

Susan Montalbano
Wellesley, MA
March 23

Speaking from experience

I'll keep this short and sweet: I'm saddened by the University's commencement invitation to President Obama. I say this as a 1992 graduate of Our Lady's University and as a woman who found herself young, alone and pregnant — and chose life. What policies and positions of Obama can matter if he can't protect the very least among us — the unborn. How do I tell my daughter, the wonder of my life, why the school she aspires too attend can't stand against society and stand for Christ, for our faith, and for Our Lady?

Bridget Zappa
alum
class of 1992
March 24

Elated for Obama

Thank you! We are thrilled that President Obama will be speaking at our son's graduation. Anyone who wants to protest by not attending, please send us their extra tickets. We have plenty of relatives and friends who would be thrilled to attend.

Ginny Pauwels
Rochester Hills, MI
March 23

Disgusted by choice

I have just thrown in the trash four Notre Dame t-shirts, a Notre Dame hat, sweatshirt and flag. Needless to say, I will never write another check to the University. I will not associate myself with a university that offers an honorary degree to a politician who lauds abortion and, just within the past month, has issued an executive order that forces every American to pay for the murder of the unborn of the world. I never thought it possible, but Notre Dame is no longer my university.

Eoghan McGill
alum
class of 1988
March 22

Quick Facts about U2:

- Formed in Dublin on Sept. 25, 1976
- Over 145 million albums sold worldwide
- Winner of 22 Grammy Awards, more than any other band
- Band members include Bono (vocals and guitar), The Edge (guitar, keyboard, and vocals), Adam Clayton (bass guitar), and Larry Mullen, Jr. (drums and percussion)
- Band members featured prominently in numerous human rights and social justice campaigns, including Amnesty International
- Bono's lyric writing is largely inspired by the Bible
- All four band members appeared on postage stamps in Ireland in 2002
- The 1987 album "The Joshua Tree" has sold more than 25 million copies making it their most popular album to date
- The name "U2" may come from the title of the Irish unemployment form
- Band members are good friends with the members of Coldplay, who are also very active in social justice campaigns



U2 is uninspired

By NICK ANDERSON

Scene Writer

It all seemed pretty clear-cut for a while there. We all had U2 figured out. "Pop" had just been released to low sales and mixed reviews. The following "PopMart" tour, which famously involved a 40-foot mirrored lemon, seemed to be the final nail in the coffin of a once great band. The only reasonable response to U2 was to pay lip service to their early work while ignoring their current releases.

All of this worked until Bono declared that they were "reapplying for the job of the best band in the world." Ridiculously, this worked. By their 2005 "Vertigo" tour, U2 was cool again. Musicians such as Franz Ferdinand, Interpol, Kanye West, Scissor Sisters, Keane, and The Killers all lined up to play a supporting role in their shows. U2 had regained its

place as the premier stadium rock group. No one else was even close.

So how did they go from dead in the water to the most important band in the world? Largely by redoing what they had done before. By returning to the classic rock sound of their earlier work, they regained much of their early acclaim. They could do no wrong. They released a U2 iPod with barely a mention of commercialism. Six years after Bono's fateful proclamation, his words were fulfilled. U2 was the "best band in the world." The only major criticism leveled was the lack of experimentation. Still, U2 never was a group to leave well enough alone.

The band turned to musical titan Rick Rubin, who was responsible for the reinvention of Johnny Cash. After two promising singles, "The Saints Are Coming" with Green Day and "Windows in the Skies," a roadblock caused the band to release Rubin and return to two other legendary producers, Brian Eno and Daniel Lanois. They were each veterans of U2 masterpieces, "The Joshua Tree" and "Achtung Baby."

The resulting album, "No Line on the Horizon," is less than inspired. It finds U2 standing in place for most of the album, and in its weaker moments, trying to catch up. Hints of promise are spread throughout the album, but they only entice the listener, failing to follow through with a complete song.

The most promise is found in the first single from the album, "Get on Your Boots." The Edge takes full advantage of his crunching guitar in the opening riffs. Bono's staccato, half-

speaking vocals find their perfect environment by exploring a new style different from the impassioned wailing we've come to expect.

It's hard, however, to accept such a light single from a band that has always appeared to take itself so seriously. The listener can even begin to feel slightly guilty about buying into the image and forgetting the music. This feeling disappears immediately when Bono sings, "I don't want to talk about the wars between nations," a line that sounds entirely unbelievable and artificial. U2 is a band capable of great music, but they are just as serious as ever.

The other high point of the album, "Cedars of Lebanon" takes advantage of Brian Eno's atmospheric production. It's a departure from the stadium sound of most of the album and instead delivers a dark, moody song that feels like a true exploration of sound.

The remaining nine songs on the album suffer from weak writing ("I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Go Crazy Tonight", "Magnificent") and complacent instrumentation ("Moment of Surrender", "White as Snow"). While not terrible songs, they merely rank rather low in U2's catalogue.

"No Line on the Horizon" is a disappointment, but not one without merit. To anyone with a preconceived notion of U2, it will fit perfectly. It will appease their fans while providing ammunition for those who dislike U2. And for those of us without strong feelings, it will be essentially forgotten.

Contact Nick Anderson at
nanders5@nd.edu

No Line On The Horizon

U2

Label: Interscope

Recommended Tracks: "Get On Your Boots," "Cedars of Lebanon," "Magnificent"



Why U2 matters



By Alexandra Kilpatrick

Scene Writer

It was a warm St. Patrick's Day afternoon and everyone on campus was reveling in all things Irish. Off in the distance a stereo could be heard blasting U2's "City of Blinding Lights" in celebration.

No band in the modern rock era has influenced more bands than U2. The Dublin-based band created a new genre of rock music with an atmospheric, layered feel, passionate lead vocals, insightful lyrics, and a longer form than that of the classic rock era. Their anthemic, post-punk sound has influenced most modern rock bands, including acts like Coldplay, Radiohead, the Killers and Kings of Leon.

The Irish rock band first got its start with 1980's "Boy" but first gained international commercial success with 1983's "War." This album included "Sunday Bloody Sunday," the band's first overtly political song, whose lyrics contrast the devastating events of the Bloody Sunday incident with Easter Sunday. The subsequent year, Bono and company released "The Unforgettable Fire" with another hit political single, "Pride (In the Name of Love)." The song was written about Martin Luther King, Jr. and is still one of the band's most easily recognizable singles.

In July 1985, Bono jumped off the stage in the middle of U2's performance of the song "Bad" at the Live Aid concert for Ethiopian famine relief,

embracing and dancing with one of the fans. This performance marked a turning point in the band's career because it showed the television audience the Irish rock star could make a personal connection with his audiences. As "Rolling Stone" magazine put it in 1985, "for a growing number of rock-and-roll fans, U2 [has] become the band that matters most, maybe even the only band that matters." And after nearly 30 years in the spotlight, U2 still has a very large fan base and a lot of respect.

In 1987, Bono and the band released "The Joshua Tree," which built on their previous albums' atmospheric sound but featured more exploration of American roots rock, including blues-rock and country music. The album brought several hit singles to the public, including "Where the Streets Have No Name," "With or Without You," and "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For."

"With or Without You" became the band's first American No. 1 hit single, and as one of U2's most emotional songs, it was featured as Ross and Rachel's break-up song on "Friends." The song has a very slow, romantic, mesmerizing sound and insightful lyrics: "Sleight of hand and twist of fate / On a bed of nails she makes me wait / And I wait without you."

As new forms of music such as dance and alternative rock influenced the band, they reinvented their sound for 1991's "Achtung Baby" with such hits as "One" and "Mysterious Ways." They then returned to a more traditional

sound with the release of "All That You Can't Leave Behind" in 2000, which included "Beautiful Day" and "Elevation" as successful singles.

A personal favorite and one of U2's most famous songs, "Beautiful Day" is a very optimistic anthem that features a drum machine and a rhythm sequencer. The song contains lyrics about a man who has lost everything yet finds comfort in what he has: "It's a beautiful day / Sky falls, you feel like / It's a beautiful day / Don't let it get away." President Obama used the song as an inspirational entrance to some campaign events last year.

Wanting to present harder-hitting rock, the band released "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb" in 2004, which included "Vertigo," featured on one of the first iPod commercials, as well as "City of Blinding Lights" and "Sometimes You Can't Make It on Your Own," a tribute to Bono's father who died in 2001.

Bono and company created a new kind of rock that has been influential to so many bands over the past 30 years, but they have also evolved by exploring various kinds of music and incorporating these forms into their albums. Because of their widespread influence, musical experimentation, inspirational lyrics and political activism, U2 is still one of the greatest rock bands around today.

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Campus Rant

By Joey Kuhn

Assistant Scene Editor

I remember being a freshman. I remember all those slow Saturday nights last year when the other freshman guys in my hallway and I would sit around in someone's dorm room, waiting for a call or text from somebody, anybody, that would release us from our boredom. I remember all those times when the longed-for call or text never came.

Then we would pack up our hopes into winter jackets and trek across the icy campus to Main Circle. There we would hope to solicit a party invitation from a random group, or at least get an address from a cabbie. With any luck, there would actually be a party at said address, which we could then attempt to sneak into or else submit to paying five dollars for a cup. Usually, these nights just led us on wild goose chases, and we would end up back at Main Circle at about 1:00 with nothing to do.

It was then, and only then, that we would turn our weary souls to the absolute last resort for late-night entertainment: Legends.

What has happened to turn this establishment from campus laughingstock to hot spot? Nowadays kids are clamoring at the door to get into Legends. One can often overhear people talking excitedly about Techno or Blacklight Nights, but the crown jewel of the club's newfound popularity is clearly the perennial Hip Hop Night. On

said night, the line to get into the club often extends all the way to the street and around the corner. Bouncers literally have to hold the crowd back, and a fight that broke out in the parking lot back in the fall has become the matter of campus lore.

I should be happy that Legends has gotten so popular. I remember constantly wishing last year that there were something else to do at Notre Dame on weekends besides go to a dorm party or go to a party off campus. Legends seemed like the perfect place to fill that void, except that nobody ever wanted to go there. The few times I convinced any of my friends that we should check out Hip Hop Night, we got there only to discover about 10 people dancing awkwardly on an empty floor.

I wanted Legends to be cool because I wanted an option for underage kids who couldn't find or didn't want to go to a party on weekends, but also did not want to just sit in their rooms and watch movies or play Mario Kart. And then, slowly but surely, Legends started to gain street cred. I heard people who used to dismiss it with a laugh saying things like, "Hip Hop Night is actually not that bad. I went last night, and there were a decent number of people there."

That was when Legends hit its high point. It was a socially acceptable option to go to Legends, and it didn't even have to be a last resort. Most importantly, anybody could spontaneously show up there with a group of friends and they would get in

immediately but still find a sizeable group to mingle with inside.

Then, around the beginning of this school year, a certain tipping point was breached, a slight shift in weight that caused a popularity landslide. Suddenly, getting into Legends on Hip Hop Night became harder than unsticking the bowls at North Dining Hall. I don't know what happened to spur this drastic change. Perhaps people suddenly realized that, if everybody pre-gamed, Hip Hop Night could be just like a giant, less cramped dorm party. Maybe, given the upperclassmen's softening stance toward the nightclub, the new freshmen were not bombarded with anti-Legends propaganda from day one, leading to record turnouts. Or maybe the entire incoming freshman class just really liked to dance.

Whatever happened, Legends went from acceptable to grossly overrated. Like the rock star whom everyone loves even though his music is mediocre at best (Bono, anyone?), Legends has gotten a slightly big head. It is my duty to bring it back down to its level. Students should never have to wait in line to get into Legends, barring a concert by some big name artist. So fellow students, I never thought I'd be saying this, but please, start going to dorm and off campus parties again.

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Lawson will lead Tar Heels against Gonzaga

Mills' double-double leads Saint Mary's past Curry, Davidson; Alabama asks VCU to interview Grant

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. —Ty Lawson is starting to feel better, just in time for North Carolina.

The speedy point guard said his troublesome toe is still achy after returning to the lineup over the weekend, but he plans to play in the Tar Heels' game against Gonzaga on Friday. And coach Roy Williams also sounds optimistic, too, that the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year will be ready for the NCAA tournament's round of 16.

"It's getting better," Lawson said Tuesday. "I'm walking on it better. Hopefully in a couple of days, it'll be back to 100 percent."

Lawson had missed three straight games with a jammed right big toe before helping the top-seeded Tar Heels (30-4) rally past LSU in Saturday's second-round game in the South Regional.

He experienced some minor swelling in the toe afterward, but nothing like what followed the regular-season finale against Duke that forced him to the sideline.

He participated in the team's shootaround Monday and expected to go through some drills during practice this week. But the team has been cautious, keeping him out of practice for almost two weeks, in addition to missing both of the Tar Heels' ACC tournament games and their NCAA opener against Radford.

Williams said the injury will linger.

"It's here," he said. "It's going to be here. It's not going to go away. It's going to hurt the whole rest of the season until he can take that time off."

Lawson injured the toe in practice two days before the Duke game and needed a painkilling shot beforehand. He nearly had a triple-double in 36 minutes in the win, but the toe swelled unexpectedly afterward. It turned out Lawson—on advice from his father—might have exacerbated the problem when he soaked his foot that night in hot water and Epsom salt.

These days, Lawson is sticking to a steady regimen of icing his foot in the morning, before practice and after practice. Then, when he's at home, he fills a trash can with ice and water and soaks his foot a few more times in the evening. He's also worn a compression wrap to limit swelling and exercised in a swimming pool.

The injury has been the topic of conversation around Chapel Hill for weeks, creating a hubbub that has grown tiresome for

his teammates.

"I get a lot of questions about how does Ty's toe feel?" senior Tyler Hansbrough said. "I'm like, 'It's not my toe. I don't know.' I don't ask him how his toe's doing because I'm sure 100 other people have. I understand other people's curiosity. They want to know if he'll be able to go because of his impact on this team and what he's done this year. Either way, I thought we were a solid team with or without him."

Still, Lawson makes the Tar Heels' fast-paced offense go—and that was apparent during his return against LSU.

After fans greeted him with a loud roar that drowned out his name during starting lineups, the junior looked rusty and hesitant early on. At one point in the first half, he came out of the game after feeling a pop in his toe, took off his shoe and was in obvious discomfort while a trainer looked at him on the bench.

But he got better as the game wore on, helping the Tar Heels rally from a five-point deficit midway through the second half. He finished with 21 of his 23 points after the break, including a pair of driving baskets during the decisive 11-0 second-half run that looked like the same ol' Lawson.

"I don't think he's going to be 100 percent," Williams said. "But we'll take whatever we can get, especially if it's like that performance Saturday. That's about as good as I've had a point guard play in 21 years as a head coach. I even told him that I was thinking of calling him 'Rambo' instead of 'Dennis the Menace.'"

Lawson said the performance gave him confidence, joking that it proved the toe "wouldn't fall off" as he tried to play at his normal fleet-footed pace. He's also hoping it will answer all the questions about the injury.

"It's just one toe," he said. "I don't think it's that big of a deal. But to everybody else, I guess it is. I'm just trying to get it better. I'm ready for it to be over."

Saint Mary's 80, Davidson 68

Patty Mills screamed over the final buzzer and waved both arms joyously skyward, goading the raucous Saint Mary's fans into what might have been the first storm-the-court celebration in the history of the NIT's second round.

This was no ordinary early-round game in college hoops' consolation tournament, however. After winning a full-tilt duel with Davidson's Stephen Curry, Mills wanted to leave his fans

with one last memory to match this entertaining matchup.

Mills had 23 points and 10 assists while leading Saint Mary's into the NIT quarterfinals with a victory Monday night.

Curry had 26 points, nine rebounds and five assists in what might have been the national scoring leader's final game for the Wildcats (27-8), but Mills overcame his awful 3-point shooting with effective passing and just enough of his usual daredevil drives to the hoop, preventing Davidson from rallying late.

Mills and Curry briefly chatted before the game, each telling the other to simply have fun.

After occasionally guarding each other, they met up again briefly afterward while dodging the red-clad fans whooping it up at McKeon Pavilion, wishing each other luck until their paths cross again — probably in the NBA.

"It was a personal challenge, and the sort of personal experience you don't get every week," Mills said. "I thrive on things like that. It took the whole team to guard [Curry], and we did that, a little bit. He had 26, but we guarded him."

The NIT rarely gets more intriguing matchups than this showdown between Mills and Curry, two high-scoring point guards who felt their teams were unfairly denied NCAA tournament berths. Neither guard disappointed, but Curry acknowledged Mills and the Gaels (28-6) were a bit sharper overall.

"Hostile crowd, big atmosphere, it was definitely a fun game for all involved," Curry said, describing Mills as "relentless. He's just always on the attack."

Omar Samhan added 18 points and nine rebounds for the Gaels, who will play Wednesday night at San Diego State, with the winner getting a trip to Madison Square Garden next week for the NIT semifinals.

Mills, the Australian Olympic star, scored 17 points in the first half of what probably was his final game at McKeon Pavilion, where fans chant "Aussie Aussie Aussie!" after his baskets. He struggled with 1-of-10 3-point shooting, a common theme since his return from a broken hand two weeks ago.

But Curry, last season's NCAA hero during Davidson's run to the regional final, couldn't quite spur a second-half comeback late in the Wildcats' cross-country trip, missing 11 of his final

17 shots in an 11-of-27 performance that included four 3-pointers -- but none in the final 10 minutes.

With the loss still fresh, Curry wasn't ready to announce whether he'll return for his senior season.

"I haven't thought about it," Curry said. "I tried to put it off until our season is over. I'll just have to get together with all the people involved in the decision, but I don't have a timeline or anything like that."

Thanks to the NIT's clever scheduling, Curry and Mills got a memorable head-to-head matchup — although both wished their seasons would have ended in the bigger tournament.

Diamon Simpson had 12 points and 15 rebounds for Saint Mary's, which took charge with a 14-5 run early in the second half largely made on baskets by Mills' teammates. The Gaels maintained the lead with Mills' scoring — and the occasional incredible pass, such as his 45-foot lob to Wayne Hunter for a layup while getting fouled with 4:43 to play, driving the crowd wild.

"It was a special game," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said. "I don't know if I remember a game that's been a better atmosphere. I'm pretty sure I've never been involved in a game in here that's had more hype and more attention. To play in a game like that, to play well, it makes you really proud of your kids."

The Gaels' cacophonous bandbox of a gym high in the Oakland hills was packed to the rafters 30 minutes before tipoff. Fans stood shoulder-to-shoulder on the concrete walkway behind the last row of seats, craning their necks for a partial view of warmups — during which Curry tripped over his pants and crashed to the floor on a layup attempt, getting up with a sheepish grin.

"Is this the atmosphere that they have for every game?" Davidson coach Bob McKillop asked. "It just blows my mind that they have this kind of crowd. This is very similar to [Duke's] Cameron [Indoor Stadium] in terms of the noise level, the heat, the intensity, the passion. Saint Mary's deserves credit for that."

Alabama pursues VCU's Grant

Anthony Grant, who has led Virginia Commonwealth University to the NCAA tournament twice in the last three seasons, is again a popular figure as major conference schools look for a coach.

Alabama athletic director Mal

Moore received permission from VCU's Norwood Teague over the weekend to speak to Grant about its coaching vacancy, Teague said Tuesday.

So far, Alabama is the only one to have asked, Teague said.

It's not clear whether Grant and Alabama have had any discussions. Grant did not return calls Tuesday and phone and e-mail messages to his agent, Mark Carmony, were not returned.

Alabama spokesman Doug Walker said the school would have no comment until a coach is hired.

VCU, which does not have a football team, pays Grant a base salary of \$400,000, with bonuses and incentives that boost his pay to nearly \$1 million.

Potential suitors for Grant that already have a vacancy are Georgia and perhaps Virginia. Alabama and Georgia both play in the Southeastern Conference, and the Cavaliers are in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The 42-year-old Grant spent 12 years as Billy Donovan's right-hand man, including 10 at Florida, before taking over as the Rams' coach when Jeff Capel left for Oklahoma three years ago. He has led VCU to three Colonial Athletic Association regular season titles.

Florida had just won the national championship, and in his first season in Richmond, Grant led the Rams to the CAA regular season and tournament championships, and then to a victory against Duke in the NCAA tournament. The Rams took Pittsburgh to overtime in the second round before losing, and the showing quickly made Grant a hot commodity in the coaching ranks.

Only Donovan having second thoughts at the last minute after agreeing to leave Florida for the NBA's Orlando Magic prevented Grant from leaving after a year to coach the Gators.

But the interest in Grant has hardly waned.

Last season, the Rams again won the CAA regular season, but lost in the tournament semifinals and were snubbed by the NCAA tournament, and this year they won the conference regular season and tournament titles. In the 2009 NCAA tournament, they lost 65-64 in the first round to UCLA when Eric Maynor's contested 17-foot jumper at the buzzer missed.

A year ago, Grant was among the candidates for the job at LSU before the Tigers hired Trent Johnson, and the Rams' success this year made it likely other schools would call.

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.

WANTED

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PERSONAL

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/>

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone. We have many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-7819 or Ann Firth at 1-2685. For more information, visit NDs Assistance for Pregnant Students/Office of Student Affairs website at: osa.nd.edu/health-safety/assistance-for-pregnant-students.

April 3rd
April 25th

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

ITA Men's Tennis Division I Top 25

	team	points
1	Virginia	85
2	Mississippi	77
3	Georgia	75
4	Stanford	73
5	Tennessee	72
6	Ohio St.	70
7	Florida	64
8	Southern California	61
9	Illinois	58
10	Baylor	56
11	UCLA	53
12	Texas	53
13	Kentucky	50
14	Texas A&M	48
15	Florida St.	47
16	South Carolina	45
17	Alabama	42
18	Pepperdine	41
19	Louisville	41
20	Arizona	41
21	Virginia Tech	37
22	Auburn	35
23	Boise St.	33
24	Wisconsin	32
25	Wake Forest	30

NCAA Women's Lacrosse Division I Top 20

	team	record	points
1	Northwestern	9-0	400
2	Maryland	8-0	365
3	Penn	7-0	365
4	North Carolina	7-2	319
5	Duke	8-2	296
6	Georgetown	5-3	291
7	Princeton	5-1	289
8	Syracuse	6-2	274
9	NOTRE DAME	8-1	234
10	Virginia	6-3	223
11	Vanderbilt	4-3	210
12	Boston U.	5-3	178
12	Loyola (Md.)	6-1	140
14	Stanford	6-2	128
15	Penn St.	4-4	86
16	Dartmouth	3-3	78
17	Ohio St.	7-1	78
18	James Madison	4-3	59
19	Cornell	5-2	55
20	New Hampshire	6-3	52

NCAA Men's Volleyball Division I-II Top 15

	team	record
1	UC Irvine	17-3
2	Cal St. Northridge	19-3
3	Pepperdine	14-2
4	Southern California	13-6
5	BYU	13-8
6	Long Beach St.	10-10
7	Stanford	14-8
8	Penn St.	17-3
9	UC San Diego	10-10
10	UCLA	9-12
11	Lewis	16-5
12	UC Santa Barb.	6-13
13	Hawaii	6-13
14	Ball St.	13-7
15	Loyola (Ill.)	10-8

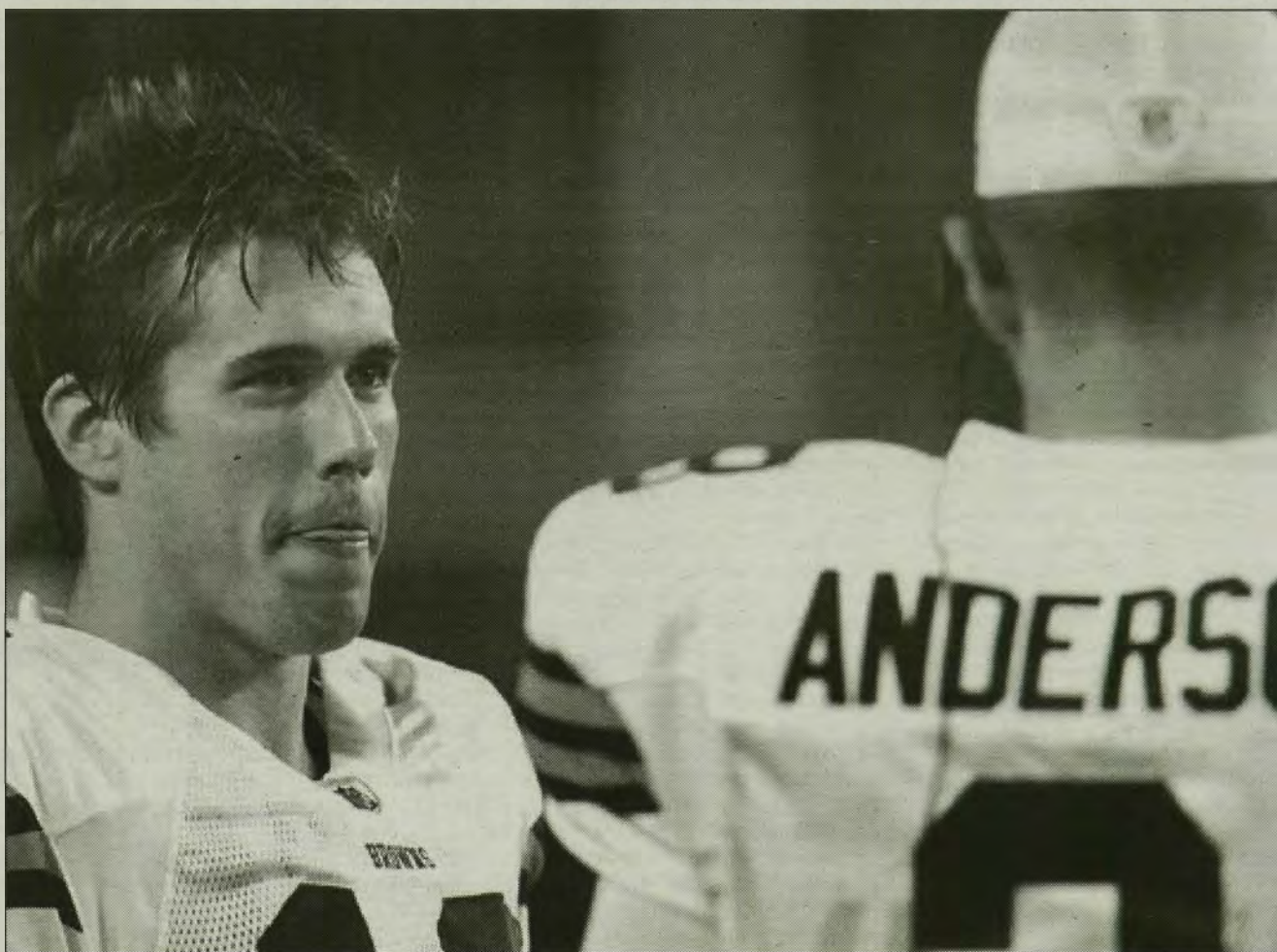
around the dial

NBA

Celtics vs. Magic
8:00 p.m., ESPN

Jazz vs. Suns
10:30 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Browns quarterback Brady Quinn talks to Pro Bowl quarterback Derek Anderson during a 2008 preseason game against the Jets. Quinn lasted just three games as the starter before breaking a finger and needing surgery.

Quinn, Anderson vie for QB job

Associated Press

DANA POINT, Calif. — Brady Quinn or Derek Anderson? Eric Mangini isn't sure, so he's throwing the Cleveland Browns quarterback job into a free-for-all.

"I don't have a projected starter at this point," Mangini said Tuesday at the NFL meetings. "What we're going to do is we'll have an open competition where they'll both get a chance to establish that they'll be the starter."

Anderson, coming off a Pro Bowl season in 2007, opened last year as the starter. As the Browns struggled, he was benched for Quinn. Both

quarterbacks subsequently were injured, and Mangini replaced Romeo Crennel as coach after Cleveland finished 4-12.

Mangini, who was fired by the Jets after they collapsed from 8-3 to 9-7 and didn't make the playoffs, has been on a quarterback carousel before. He had three starters in his three seasons in New York: Chad Pennington, Kellen Clemens and Brett Favre.

"I'm excited about both of them," he said of Quinn, heading into his third season, and Anderson, who will be in his fifth. "I sat down with both of them, been able to spend some time with

them.

"I like both guys. I like a lot of the things that I've learned about them in terms of through the conversations and also things that I've seen on tape."

What he also has seen on tape are lots of mistakes and lots of losses as the Browns plummeted from 10-6 in 2007 to last place in the AFC North.

Anderson received a big contract after his breakthrough '07 season, a three-year, \$24 million deal with a \$5 million bonus he collected this month. But he struggled before being replaced by Quinn for the ninth game.

Quinn, who has a five-

year, \$20.2 million contract, lasted just three games before breaking a finger on his right hand and needing surgery. Anderson returned, but he injured left knee ligaments in the 12th game and was done, too.

Anderson was 3-6 in his starts last year with nine touchdowns, eight interceptions and a passer rating of 66.5. Quinn was 1-2 with two touchdowns, two interceptions, and a 66.6 passer rating.

They weren't helped by a leaky line and poor performances by their receivers, particularly with wideout Braylon Edwards dropping many passes.

IN BRIEF

Armstrong still plans on racing in Tour de France

PALENCIA, Spain — Astana team manager Johan Bruyneel is confident that Lance Armstrong's broken collarbone will not prevent him from taking part in the Tour de France or the Giro d'Italia.

"I don't think this changes anything for the Tour de France," Bruyneel said Tuesday. "A broken collarbone in the month of March does not at all compromise the start of the Tour de France or your performance in the Tour de France."

The Tour de France runs July 4-26.

Armstrong, 37, also had planned to ride in the Giro, which runs from May 9 to May 31.

Bruyneel said the team was also "not ruling out the Giro at all. I think it's perfectly possible."

Phillies' pitcher Hamels returns from injury

LEARWATER — Phillies ace Cole Hamels pitched in a minor league game Tuesday, his first start since experiencing elbow tightness last week.

The World Series MVP threw 3 2/3 scoreless innings against Pittsburgh Pirates minor leaguers at Philadelphia's spring training complex. It was his first appearance in a game since receiving an anti-inflammatory shot in his arm last Tuesday.

"It felt good," Hamels said after his first outing since March 15. "I think it was really just trying to establish feeling each pitch, one at a time, in each inning. And that was kind of the big thing -- how I'd feel in between innings. And I felt great."

Hamels allowed one hit and one walk while striking out five of his 13 batters. The left-hander threw 35 of 48 pitches for strikes.

Younger Curry to transfer from Liberty

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Seth Curry, the high-scoring younger brother of Davidson star Stephen Curry, says he is transferring out of Liberty to seek a higher level of competition.

Curry, 6-foot-3 and 180 pounds, led the nation's freshman with a 20.2 scoring average.

Liberty went 23-12 this season, finishing with an 88-65 loss to James Madison on Monday night in the CollegeInsider.com tournament. Curry scored eight points in the loss.

"This is a difficult decision that I have reached after close consultation with my family and others close to me," he said in a statement released through the school.

He said the decision "is based on my desire to develop as an athlete to the fullest of my potential and take advantage of new opportunities that may be available to me in a higher-rated conference."

NFL

League work stoppage looms

Lobbyist hired in anticipation of possible inquiry by Congress

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Politics has always been a contact sport, and the National Football League is suiting up for the game.

The NFL has established a Washington office in the last year, hired a full-time lobbyist and created a political action committee to make federal campaign donations. The moves come as a work stoppage looms as a possibility in two years, which could generate some unwelcome congressional attention for the league.

The NFL also is facing more immediate controversies from how games are broadcast to whether a ban on Internet gambling on games should be continued.

Commissioner Roger Goodell, the son of a former New York Republican congressman and senator, orchestrated the Washington blitz after talking with owners on the league's legislative committee three years ago. That committee was making a presentation to the owners on Tuesday at the NFL's annual meeting in California.

"I agreed with those who told me that during these changing times in Washington, the league should have full-time representation there like so many other business and entertainment organizations that have issues on the Hill," Goodell told The Associated Press in a statement.

Coincidentally or not, the NFL player's union last week chose Washington lawyer DeMaurice Smith as its new executive director, replacing the late Gene Upshaw, who had predicted a lockout. Smith served on the Obama transition team and previously worked for Eric Holder, who is the nation's attorney general.

Washington Redskins safety Fred Smoot said he thinks Smith's connections will come in handy if Congress gets involved in an NFL work stoppage.

"He knows all the steps to take, and I think we made a very smart decision on that," Smoot said during a recent visit to Capitol Hill to lobby for a fitness bill.

The NFL hired Capitol Hill veteran Jeff Miller, 38, to serve as its in-house lobbyist. Miller spent eight years as an aide to Sen. Herb Kohl, most recently as chief counsel and staff director of the Senate Judiciary antitrust subcommittee, which Kohl chairs. Kohl, a Wisconsin Democrat, owns the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team.

"I'm a lifelong NFL fan, grew up in Wisconsin, rooted for the Packers at my father's knee every Sunday," Miller told The AP in his first interview since taking the job. "I had had opportunities in the past to leave the Hill and do other things, such as work at a law firm and lobby firm. But when the NFL calls, you can't turn that down."

Among his tasks: Leading the effort among major sports leagues to protect a ban on Internet gambling, which some members of Congress want to overturn.

"We want to maintain the integrity of the game, and gambling threatens that," he said.

Miller said the league will also be watching as Congress renews

satellite broadcasting legislation. The NFL must respond to any changes, Miller said, "because so much of our business is finding the most fan-friendly way to get our games to the people who want to watch them."

Members of Congress have criticized some of the NFL's broadcasting policies. Last year, for example, 13 senators wrote to Goodell, asking him to make NFL Network games available to more fans on free television. The league has said it provides free broadcasts in the home cities of competing teams, but the senators argued that the NFL too narrowly interprets "home markets."

Prior to Miller's hiring, the NFL outsourced its Washington work to outside lobbyists, and has continued to do that on some issues.

"The emphasis is to have a full-time person spending every waking moment thinking about how what Congress or the administration is doing is going to affect the NFL's business model," Miller said.

Miller's operation is overseen by NFL vice president Joe Browne, who is based at league headquarters in New York. In a phone interview, Browne said the league looked around, and saw that other entertainment businesses and sports had full-time Washington operations. Major League Baseball, for example, brought on a full-time lobbyist in 2000.

"It was time for us to come into the 21st century," Browne said. He pointed out that Goodell, given his political lineage — his father was Charles Goodell, who served in the House in the 1960s and the Senate from 1968-71, "appreciates the role that Congress plays perhaps more than some do."

Browne coined the name of the NFL's new "Gridiron PAC," which raised \$313,000 through the end of last year, the most recent reporting period. Donors included NFL officials such as Goodell, as well as owners and executives of all but two of the

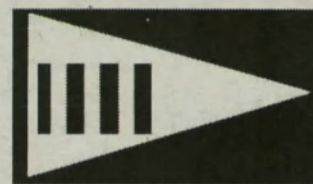
league's 32 teams.

The only holdouts: the Oakland Raiders, owned by longtime league nemesis Al Davis, and the Cleveland Browns. Neither team returned telephone messages seeking comment.

Browne said the prospect of labor troubles wasn't a factor in establishing the PAC and the Washington office, noting that over the years, the league and the union have come before Congress together to work for common goals.

But the NFL's long history of labor peace is in jeopardy; last year, the owners voted to opt out of the current collective bargaining agreement in 2011, raising the possibility of a work stoppage in two years.

If baseball's experience with the 1994-95 strike is any indication, the NFL could be in for some unfriendly reaction on Capitol Hill. Several lawmakers introduced legislation to take away MLB's coveted antitrust exemption after the 232-day strike wiped out the 1994 World Series.



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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Pitino preaches defense

Louisville not worried about free throw woes as long as defense is strong

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Andre McGee can admit it now. He was scared. Really scared. Like “uh-oh, is this it?” kind of scared.

Walking out of the huddle late in the second half of top-seeded Louisville's second-round game against Siena last Sunday, the senior guard looked up at the clock, saw the Cardinals trailing by four and wondered just for a second if his team's two-month roll was finally over.

“It's definitely a fear when time's winding down and you had a comfortable lead — you thought — at one moment and then that lead was gone in a minute and they were up, they were in control,” McGee said. “They were in the driver's seat. Our backs are to the wall and we were tested.”

It's the kind of exam the Cardinals (30-5) have managed to ace again and again this season. Louisville stormed back to a 79-72 victory and a spot in the Midwest region semifinals on Friday against 12th-seeded Arizona (21-13).

The win was Louisville's 10th straight in games decided by 10 points or fewer. They've done it the way teams aren't supposed to be able to do it in the nation's toughest conference.

Louisville doesn't rely on great guard play. Instead, it's do-everything senior forward Terrence Williams who handles the ball when it matters.

The Cardinals don't make their free throws. Louisville shots 64 percent from the line as a team — including 50 percent so far in the NAAs — and only two regular contributors have percentages north of 70.

At this point in the season, coach Rick Pitino holds no great hopes that the Cardinals will somehow turn into a dozen Reggie Millers at the line.

Sure they'll practice them, go through the whole routine of making so many in a row before they can head off the court. But they've been doing that most of the season.

If they make them? Great. If they miss? Deal with it and dig in. It's what they've done all season.

“You win with defense,” Pitino said. “We have weaknesses like everybody has weaknesses. There are games when we shoot well from the foul line also. I think the bottom line is it comes down to shooting the basketball, creating turnovers and creating a style that wins out.”

It's a style the Cardinals have used to win the Big East regular season and conference titles, one that is a grittier version of Pitino's Kentucky teams of the mid-1990s.

Those teams won as much with talent as toughness. This team doesn't have those star qualities. What it does have, however, is Williams, one of the best all-around players in the country.

More of an athlete than a basketball player as a freshman, Williams has evolved into the unquestioned leader and most outlandish character on a team McGee calls “the funniest in the country.”

Williams leads the Cardinals in assists and steals and “gotta have ‘em” plays. He scored seven points during Louisville's game-turning 9-0 run and added a couple of late free throws, a good sign for a player who shoots 58 percent at the line.

Running the offense — and doing it while logging heavy minutes — isn't exactly a role he envisioned. Yet his play hasn't given Pitino a choice. Pitino tinkered with his lineup for weeks early in the season hoping McGee, Edgar Sosa or Jerry Smith would take control at the point.

None of them did. So Pitino turned to Williams, whose 2:1 assist-to-turnover ratio is the best on the team. Oh, and a midseason adjustment to his shooting form has made him one of the best 3-pointer shooters on the team as well.

The co-captain, however, refuses to take the credit. While his coach likened him to Superman for the way he rescued the Cardinals against the Saints, Williams looks at it more as the next step in a learning process that began in November and December.

Louisville hardly looked like a team capable of a deep March run while losing to Western Kentucky and Minnesota. Their last loss in a close game? A 56-55 defeat to UNLV on New Year's Eve, a loss cemented when Williams missed a contested layup at the buzzer.

And the final seven minutes against Siena looked an awful lot like wins over Pittsburgh, Syracuse and Marquette. Great defense, a couple of big stops and enough will to survive even as they missed free throws.

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NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Michigan State upsets Huskies; Duke rolls

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State fans came to boo their former coach.

They left cheering for the Spartans.

Mia Johnson scored 17 points and Lauren Aitch had 15, lifting ninth-seeded Michigan State to a 63-49 win Tuesday night over the top-seeded Duke Blue Devils and former coach Joanne P. McCallie in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Duke didn't make a shot for the last 7½ minutes as it was outscored 16-2, leading to students rushing the court to celebrate.

In more than a decade, the only top-seeded team to lose in the second round was Ohio State in 2006 against eighth-seeded Boston College.

Michigan State (22-10) will face the winner of the Iowa State-Ball State game on Saturday in the semifinals of the Berkeley Regional.

Jasmine Thomas had 14 points for Duke (27-6) and leading scorer Chante Black was held to just four.

The Blue Devils, who scored at least 75 points in each of their last six games, were held to a season-low total and made just 27 percent of their shots.

Raucous fans and flying elbows might've rattled them.

The game was so physical there were sequences in the lane that looked like an NHL goal-mouth scramble.

McCallie was booed — again — when she was introduced and she simply smiled as she shook the hand of her successor, Suzy Merchant, and shared a laugh with her coaching staff.

Coach P knew how loud it could get in the Breslin Center because she coached there for seven seasons before bolting two years ago. Her team found out Tuesday night.

Duke insisted it wasn't unfair, as a top-seeded team, to play on Michigan State's home court. But it certainly seemed to give the Spartans a lift to have most of the lower level in their arena filled and to rattle Duke.

Michigan State men's basketball coach Tom Izzo and some of his players even took time away from preparing for their third-round matchup with Kansas to watch the game.

Izzo stayed for the whole game, cheering from a suite, and his players were on their feet on

a baseline as were 5,000-plus fans in the stands.

The Spartans, though, looked like they were going to be in trouble early in the game.

They turned the ball over on their first possession and then gave up a 3-pointer to Abby Waner, who returned to the line-up after resting her sprained knee during the first-round rout of Austin Peay.

But the Blue Devils went scoreless for 4 minutes after Waner's shot and were plagued by turnovers.

Duke had more turnovers (seven) than field goals (five) when Michigan State led by six after surging ahead with a 14-4 run.

Michigan State led 25-20 at halftime after the Blue Devils made just 27 percent of their shots, leading to their second-lowest total in a first half this season.

Duke was determined to turn things around early in the second half led by Black, who scored on an aggressive move in the lane on the opening possession to match the two points she had in the first half.

Then, Black caused a turnover and assisted on Waner's 3-pointer that tied the game 34 seconds after halftime and helped the Blue Devils go back ahead for the first time since the 12:00 mark of the first half.

Michigan State, though, proved it could take Duke's best shot by competing the rest of the way in the closely contested game.

Connecticut 87, Florida 59

Next stop on the UConn express — Trenton.

Renee Montgomery scored 25 points in her final game at home and undefeated Connecticut beat eighth-seeded Florida in the second round of the NCAA tournament on Tuesday night.

The Huskies (35-0) advanced to the regional semifinals for the 16th straight season where they will play fourth-seeded California on Sunday. This is the fourth time that UConn has been undefeated while playing in the NCAA tournament. Connecticut went on to win the national championship in 1995 and 2002. In 1996-97, the Huskies lost to Tennessee in the regional final.

Tina Charles followed up her 32-point effort in the first round with 22 against Florida. She also had 10 rebounds for her 11th double-double this season.

Maya Moore added 22 points

and 14 rebounds for her 16th double-double of the season.

Marsha Dotson scored 22 to lead Florida (24-8).

With her No. 20 hanging in Gampel Pavilion on the wall in the Huskies of Honor, Montgomery started her 136th straight game to break the school record she shared with Jen Rizzotti.

The senior guard is hoping to cap her storied career with UConn's sixth national championship. Besides Kerry Bascom, Montgomery is the only honoree of the 11 who hasn't won an NCAA title.

She left the game to a long standing ovation from the crowd with 6:23 left and UConn up by

36.

The Huskies continue to steam-roll opponents. No one's come within single digits of them all season and they've beaten their previous six ranked opponents by an average of 31 points.

UConn took a little while to get rolling against Florida. Connecticut built a 25-12 lead before Florida went on a 8-1 run to cut the deficit to six.

Then Montgomery took over.

She scored nine straight points during a 13-0 run to put the game away. Montgomery followed up a four-point play with a 3-pointer and two free throws. Charles ended the burst with a three-point play to make it 39-20.

After Steffi Sorensen hit a 3-pointer to stop Florida's drought, UConn scored the next eight points to go up 47-23 and end any thoughts of a comeback.

Sorensen's 30-footer at the buzzer made it 47-26 at the half marking the 14th time this season that UConn led by at least 20 at the break.

Florida could get no closer than 20 in the second half.

The Gators' leading scorer, Sha Brooks, never was able to get going, picking up three fouls in the first seven minutes of the game. The Gators committed 16 team fouls in the first half to UConn's four leaving Florida coach Amanda Butler shaking her head in disgust.

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MLB

Yankees overcome Wakefield knuckleball

Hawkins saves Houston victory over Mets; Bradley, Soriano, Ramirez power Chicago Cubs past Colorado

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tim Wakefield had his pitches moving all around the strike zone.

The Red Sox knuckleballer allowed one run and four hits over 5 2-3 innings in Boston's 7-1 loss to the New York Yankees on Tuesday night.

"Today was a good test, probably facing their starting lineup the rest of the way," Wakefield said. "I'll take all the positives out of it and go on to my next one."

Derek Jeter went 1-for-2 with a walk in his first game since rejoining the Yankees

from the World Baseball Classic. He grounded out in the first, hit a fourth-inning soft liner to right for a single and walked during the sixth against Wakefield.

"If I'd known that, I would have waited until Thursday (to play)," Jeter said, joking about facing Wakefield's knuckler.

The 42-year-old Wakefield struck out five and walked one. His spring ERA dropped from 7.71 to 5.40.

"The ball is starting to dance around a little bit better," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "He's starting to get his legs under him. Like every-

body else, he's got to build up arm strength."

New York right-hander A.J. Burnett allowed one run and three hits over 5 2-3 innings.

"We had fun out there," Burnett said. "It's getting better every time out there."

Burnett has given up two runs over 15 innings in his four starts.

"His stuff is as nasty as any pitcher in baseball," Jeter said.

The Yankees' starting lineup against Boston - Johnny Damon, Jeter, Mark Teixeira, Hideki Matsui, Jorge Posada, Robinson Cano, Xavier Nady,

Cody Ransom and Brett Gardner - could be what New York will use on opening day.

"That's pretty close," manager Joe Girardi said. "We might do something a little different."

Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez, the regular No. 4 hitter, is expected to be out until May after undergoing right hip surgery on March 9.

Austin Jackson hit a grand slam during the Yankees' six-run eighth, then was reassigned to minor league camp after the game with infielders Juan Miranda and Eduardo Nunez.

Jackson has been working with Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson, a team special adviser, for the past couple of seasons in the minors.

David Ortiz had an RBI single for the Red Sox, who had won seven in a row.

The crowd of 11,113 was a record for George M. Steinbrenner Field, which originally opened as Legends Field in 1996.

Astros 5, Mets 0

LaTroy Hawkins picked up where he left off with the Houston Astros.

The middle reliever returned from the World Baseball Classic to pitch a scoreless inning Tuesday and start a double play in Houston's 8-0 win over the New York Mets. New catcher Ivan Rodriguez homered for the Astros in their fifth straight victory.

Hawkins was 2-0 with a 0.43 ERA in 21 innings over Houston's final 24 games last season.

"I thought he threw the ball well today," manager Cecil Cooper said. "He looked nice and crisp to me."

Cooper expected Hawkins, along with starting pitcher Roy Oswalt, to get some work in beginning Friday, with Hawkins throwing light bullpen sessions until then. But the 6-foot-5 right-hander arrived in Kissimmee ready to pitch, so Cooper put him in.

Though he had good results, Hawkins said he felt "terrible" on the mound.

"I couldn't throw the ball over the plate and I threw a lot of pitches," he said. "But I need that rhythm from last season when it counts."

Astros starter Wandy Rodriguez pitched four scoreless innings against a New York team that was without several key players including David Wright, Carlos Beltran and Jose Reyes. The lefty appears to have recovered from last week's left index finger injury - he allowed two hits and walked two with a pair of strikeouts.

"I controlled my curveballs," Rodriguez said. "I felt the finger, but not bad. I need to work more because today I missed my location a little bit."

Mets starter Mike Pelfrey gave up six runs and 10 hits in 4 2-3 innings, after allowing

just one run in his previous 10 innings.

"Pelfrey is a guy that usually has a little bit better command and control," manager Jerry Manuel said. "He's probably going through a period here where it's a little bit of a struggle, but he'll be OK."

Pelfrey said he's almost 100 percent recovered from a shin injury.

"It's almost to the point where it's completely gone," Pelfrey said. "I was debating whether or not to even wrap it today."

Rodriguez hit his first home run for Houston, driving Pelfrey's pitch to left in the fifth inning. He finished 2-for-3 and Geoff Blum went 3-for-4, including a three-run double in a six-run fifth.

Carlos Lee added a pair of RBIs for the Astros.

Cubs 9, Rockies 8

Greg Smith's fatigue was understandable.

Smith pitched three innings in the Colorado Rockies' 9-8 loss to the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday in his first Cactus League game since March 3 after being sidelined with flu-like symptoms.

"I felt OK," Smith said. "I didn't feel weak, but I did get a little tired toward the end."

The left-hander allowed four runs, three earned, and seven hits. He struck out two and walked two.

Chicago picked up two runs in the first. Derrek Lee hit an RBI single and Aramis Ramirez had a sacrifice fly.

"In the first inning I felt like I made some pitches, but they had some hits with a bloop over second or a broken-bat hit," Smith said. "As the game went on, I felt good, I felt good, but then I would leave a breaking ball up, or leave a changeup and that's when I started getting a little tired. It wasn't as crisp as I wanted to be later."

Chad Gaudin allowed two runs and two hits in two innings for the Cubs in his first spring outing since last Wednesday. The right-hander is transitioning to the bullpen after falling out of the competition for the fifth starter spot.

"Some things just don't go your way sometimes," Gaudin said. "Try to make some adjustments and get back to where I was. I felt good. I felt good about what I was doing out there. It was a lot better than I had been before. It's a work in progress."

Gaudin has a 10.03 ERA this spring. He got the start even though he lost to left-hander Sean Marshall in the competition for the final rotation spot. Manager Lou Piniella said his role likely will be as a middle reliever.

Milton Bradley hit his second spring homer and finished with three hits for Chicago. Alfonso Soriano went 2-for-2 with two walks and two RBIs, and Reed Johnson scored three runs.

Dan Ortmeier hit a two-run homer for Colorado.

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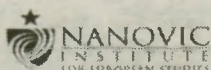
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NFL Umenyiora returns to Giants defensive line

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — If Justin Tuck had concerns about Osi Umenyiora coming back from knee surgery, they ended the first day the two entered the weight room for the New York Giants' voluntary offseason program.

Umenyiora promptly declared he was the stronger man.

Tuck laughs telling the story, knowing that's how the defensive linemen push themselves, by challenging each other.

When asked who really was stronger, Tuck admitted it was Umenyiora, at least for now.

"He calls himself the king right now, and me the prince," Tuck said Tuesday after the Giants held another voluntary practice at Giants Stadium. "But he has had six months of training and I had six months of being beat up."

Looking at Umenyiora, there is no doubt that he's happy to be back at work.

The defensive end tore the lateral meniscus in his left knee in a preseason game against the Jets, sidelining him for the year. He said Tuesday his knee is at 99 percent and he will be ready for the start of training camp in July.

Surprisingly, Umenyiora said the injury was not something new. It had been bothering him for two years and finally gave out in the exhibition game in August.

"I haven't been in a situation like that my whole life," Umenyiora said. "To see the way it unfolded and the pain and rehabilitation process, how grueling and how hard it was, I think that added an extra motivation [for this season]."

The 27-year-old, who earned Pro Bowl berths in 2005 and '07, said the Giants didn't take any chances with his injury.

Doctors could have "burned" out the torn cartilage, giving Umenyiora the chance to play again later in the season.

However, that could have shortened his career substantially.

"That shows you what type of organization the Giants are," Umenyiora said. "If they would've said I should do that, I would've actually thought about it, like maybe I can go out there and help them. But it wasn't even a part of the discussion. They were like 'Fix it. Get it over with and come back next year.'"

Umenyiora said his recovery went so well that his knee was at about 80 to 85 percent late in the season and he would have considered returning had the Giants not put him on injured reserve.

Now, Umenyiora is focusing on the coming season.

"I haven't put on pads or nothing yet, but I've been out there doing the exact same things everybody else has been doing with no problems," Umenyiora said. "As long as I'm able to do that, then I think it's where it needs to be."

The only obstacle in his recovery is getting back on the field, which he said is more a mental thing.

After his injury and surgery, Umenyiora stayed away from the team, saying it would have bothered him if he remained. He added that it was tough watching, noting the Giants' loss to the Eagles in the playoffs was hard to accept.

"It was very frustrating for me," he said. "I wasn't able to help the team. I was able to call them and give them support, but that was the extent of my help. To see the way it ended, it was very frustrating. It was a team they should have beat and would have beaten if everything was in order, and it wasn't. We'll reload next year and go at them."

With the signing of defensive end Chris Canty and tackle Rocky Bernard and the return of Umenyiora, the Giants are deep on the defensive line.

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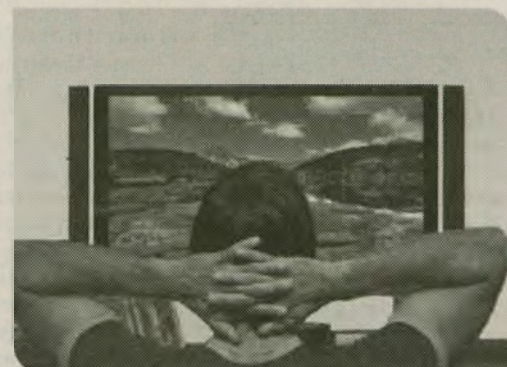
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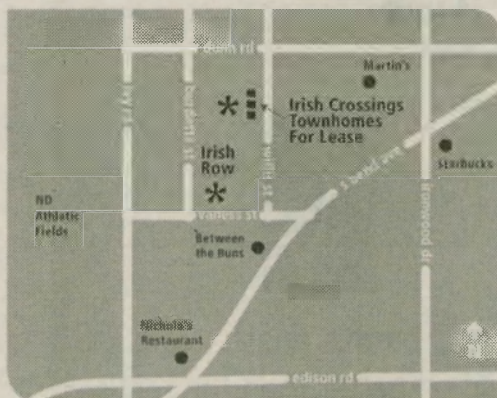
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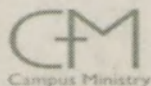
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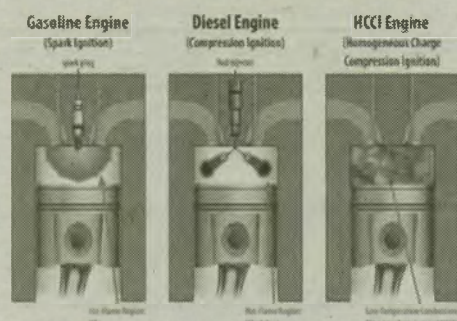
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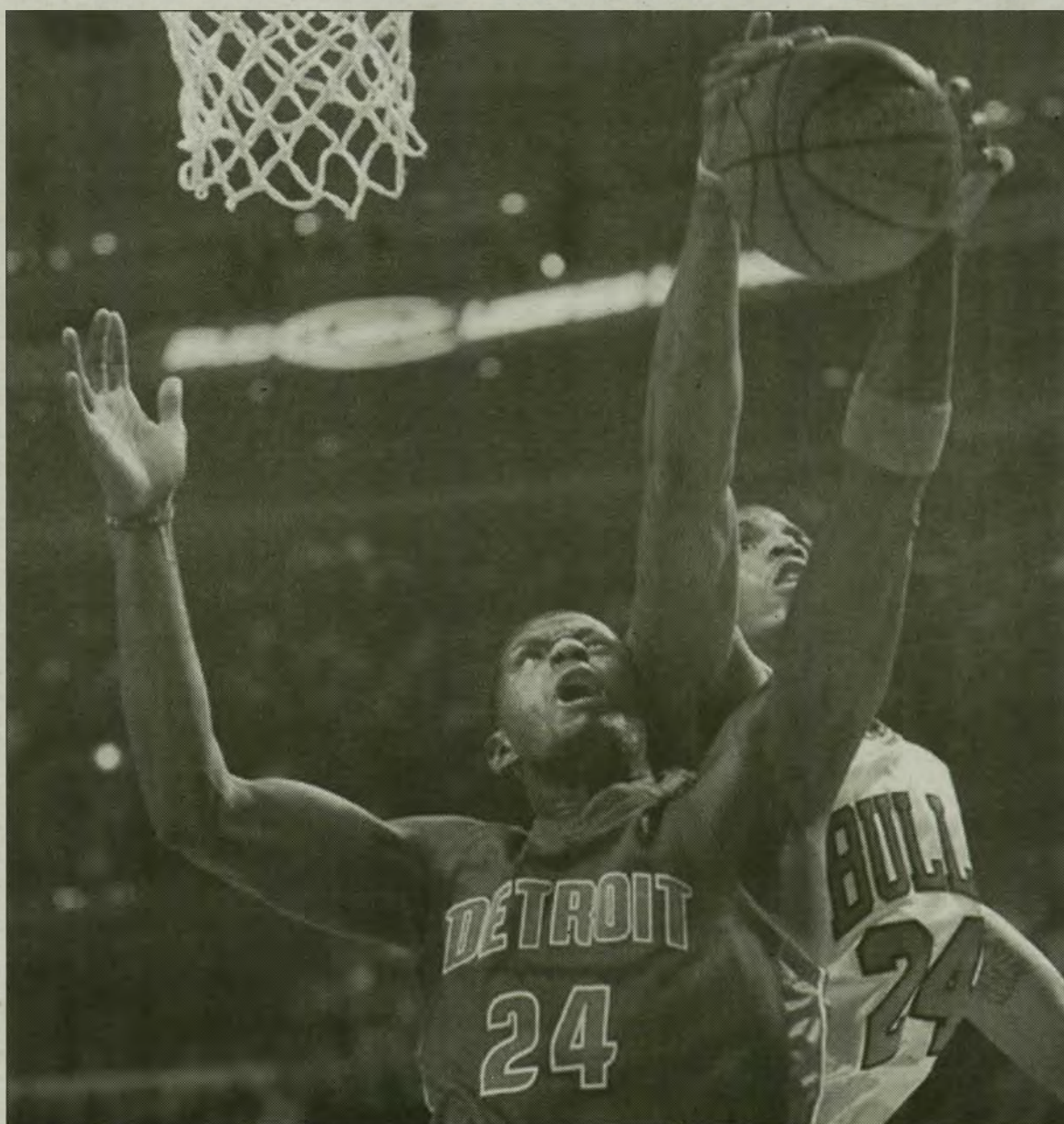
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NBA

Bulls top Pistons without Rose



Pistons center Antonio McDyess, left, battles Bulls forward Tyrus Thomas for a rebound during Chicago's 99-91 home win over Detroit on Tuesday. AP

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Just in case anyone forgot, Kirk Hinrich showed he's not a bad point guard, either.

Hinrich scored 24 points filling in for injured phenom Derrick Rose, and the Chicago Bulls beat Detroit 99-91 Tuesday night to pull with in a game of the seventh-place Pistons in the Eastern Conference.

"By no means is Kirk a backup point guard," Chicago's John Salmons said. "But we've got the best backup point guard in the league."

This hasn't been an easy season for Hinrich, but he was at his best on a night when his team needed it. With Rose sidelined, the veteran delivered a performance that brought back memories of his first five years, when he was the starter and the Bulls made three straight playoffs.

Of course, everything changed after last season's free fall.

Hinrich lost his job when the Bulls drafted Rose with the No. 1 pick, then sustained a thumb injury early on that knocked him out for 30 games.

"It's been challenging at times, just trying to stay with it," he said. "I feel like I've been playing well lately in somewhat limited minutes. I'm just trying to stay in and do whatever I can to help the team make the playoffs."

Consider this performance one big assist from Hinrich, who actually distributed eight.

He had plenty of help from the rest of the starters—all of

whom scored in double figures while playing at least 29 minutes.

Ben Gordon scored 19, Tyrus Thomas had 18 points and 12 rebounds, Joakim Noah scored 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, and Salmons added 16 points as the Bulls earned their fifth win in six games. More importantly, they now lead Charlotte by two games and Milwaukee by 2½ in the race for the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot and are right behind seventh-place Detroit, which has lost five of six.

Tayshaun Prince and Will Bynum scored 20 each for the Pistons, who clearly miss injured stars Allen Iverson, Rasheed Wallace and Richard Hamilton. Bynum also had nine assists while Antonio McDyess scored 16, but the Bulls simply pulled away in the second half.

"We really need those guys back," Prince said. "But at the same time, while they're not here, we've got to figure out a way in the situation we have. We almost have to play perfect basketball to come out with a win."

Trailing by one early in the third, Chicago scored 10 straight to go ahead for good, 60-51, and broke it open early in the fourth.

An off-balance Thomas started the final quarter by banking a short transition jumper and buried the free throw, and Hinrich followed with a jumper that made it 80-68. Another layup by Hinrich midway through the quarter made it 92-73, and while he certainly didn't make anyone forget about

Rose, the veteran did an admirable job filling in for the star rookie.

His only failure was at the end, when he missed the second of two free throws and denied fans the free Big Macs that come when the Bulls score 100. They let him hear it then and during a postgame interview. Otherwise, he gave them plenty to cheer.

"I've got a thicker skin than that," a grinning Hinrich said.

Tuesday's game was the first of two remaining between these old rivals, who are jockeying for playoff positioning while dealing with injuries.

Rose's absence was a mild surprise for the Bulls, considering he wound up playing 39 minutes at Washington the previous night despite injuring the wrist on a dunk attempt in the second quarter. X-rays and an MRI showed no damage. Even so, he was in too much pain to play on Tuesday.

The Pistons, meanwhile, have their injury issues.

Iverson missed his 14th game in a row with a sore back, while Wallace (strained left calf) and Hamilton (strained left groin) missed their eighth and fifth straight, respectively. Clearly, the Pistons miss their stars. Then again, they weren't exactly rolling when they were healthy.

They dropped eight in a row before Iverson went down, and after a four-game win streak, the losses started piling up again.

"We need to stay the course and try to control what we can control," Pistons coach Michael Curry said.

**Write sports.
Contact Matt at
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NBA

Spurs hold on to edge Warriors

Parker scores 30 in win; Bryant sits fourth quarter in blowout victory

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs didn't let a third straight game slip away in the final moments. But boy, was it close.

Gnawed by last-second losses in their previous two outings, the Spurs got redemption when Roger Mason made an 18-footer with 23.9 seconds left and watched Monta Ellis clank a running 3-pointer at the buzzer to escape with a 107-106 win over the Golden State Warriors on Tuesday night.

Tony Parker scored 30 points and Tim Duncan scored 13 of his 21 in the fourth quarter, when the Spurs blew a late six-point lead but survived at the end.

It was thanks to Mason, who scored the last of his 24 points when he took a handoff from Duncan, rolled to the top of key and swished the game-winner.

"Definitely a relief," Mason said. "Those last few games stung."

Those included an 80-77 loss to Boston on Friday — when the Spurs missed their last six free throws in the final 2:32 — and an 87-85 defeat Sunday against Houston that cost them the Southwest Division lead to the Rockets. They could move back atop the division should the Rockets lose later Tuesday to Utah.

This one could've been another stinger. Ellis missed one chance to win the game on a jumper with 5.9 seconds left but missed, then the shot as time expired. He led the Warriors 27 points.

"It was good," Ellis said of final try. "Brought it up and let it go."

In all, five of San Antonio's last six games have been decided by three points or fewer. They won only two, and have fallen to 11-6 in games decided by three or fewer points after once being 9-2 in that category.

The Spurs, who have lost three of five, broke a two-game skid and avoided dropping three straight for only the second time this season.

"We're obviously going through a rough patch," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "We can't seem to sustain what we're trying to do offensively, and Golden State's a high-scoring team."

San Antonio led 103-97 with 3:01 left before the Warriors regained the lead with a half-minute remaining. Swarming Duncan in the paint, Golden State stripped the ball and Kelenna Azubuike scooped it up to race down the court for an easy layup with 33.9 remaining.

That put the Warriors ahead 106-105, but not for long. Mason answered the next time down.

Warriors coach Don Nelson said he thought Ellis could've gotten a better look than the long 3-pointer he fired at the buzzer.

"I thought Monte could have gotten to the rim, certainly in five seconds get to the rim," Nelson said. "But anyways, that was what he chose to do. They made a big shot and we didn't. That's really the bottom line."

Azubuike finished with 13 for the Warriors, who have lost 17 of their last 19 road games. They have two more left on

their four-game road swing with a stop in Dallas on Wednesday.

The Spurs head to Atlanta on Wednesday and may face the Hawks without Duncan. Popovich is trying to preserve his 32-year-old forward for the playoffs, and already sat out Duncan in a back-to-back games earlier this month.

He gave no indication Tuesday whether Duncan would play against Atlanta.

Golden State played again without Jamal Crawford, who missed his fourth straight game in what has become a bizarre subplot with Warriors coach Don Nelson. In the past week, Crawford has been benched, allowed back, and benched himself — all while being perfectly healthy.

Nelson doesn't want Crawford back next season and sat him on March 17 in favor of playing youngsters. He wanted Crawford back into the lineup two games later, but Crawford said he wanted more practice time before jumping back in.

Golden State's next practice won't be until Thursday, after the Spurs play Dallas on Wednesday night.

Not that the Warriors didn't keep pace in San Antonio without him.

Facing the NBA's second-best defense, Golden State went into halftime ahead 54-52 with the league's worst. It was a seesaw match the rest of the way.

Ellis hit a jumper to put Golden State ahead 89-87 with under 7 minutes left before Duncan answered to knot it back up. They traded baskets before the Spurs went ahead by three when Parker converted a 3-point play before the frenzied finish.

Lakers 107, Thunder 89

To Kobe Bryant, a little bit of rest is way overrated. Getting ready for the playoffs is what the last stretch of the season is all about.

Bryant scored 19 points before taking the fourth quarter off, and the Los Angeles Lakers cruised to a win against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night.

The Lakers led from start to finish for the ninth time this season and closed within a game of idle Cleveland for the best record in the NBA, and they did it without any of their starters stepping on the floor in the last 8 minutes.

That rest could prove helpful as the Lakers continue a seven-game road trip, having won the first two games.

"I don't really care about that too much," Bryant said. "It's all about how well we're playing, if our bench comes in and holds our leads."

Lamar Odom scored 18 points before fouling out and Pau Gasol had 14 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists for Los Angeles.

Kevin Durant scored 24 points to lead Oklahoma City, which had all five starters reach double figures but never cut the Lakers' lead to less than 17 points in the second half.

"We should try to do that more often, absolutely," Gasol said. "I think it's something that shows character and consistency, and we haven't been able to do that as often as we should."

"Hopefully when we get big

leads, on the road especially, we can take care of the game and make sure you continue to execute and stay focused on what you need to do well every single possession and sustain the lead," Gasol said.

Los Angeles was up by nine within the first five minutes and then closed out the first quarter with eight straight points to go up by 17. For a team that hasn't lost this season after leading by 17 or more, the Lakers could feel pretty comfortable by then — if not for their last visit to Oklahoma City.

In that game last month, the Lakers let an 18-point lead get whittled down to one before Bryant came to the rescue by scoring 15 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter of a 107-93 win.

This time, Bryant and the rest of the starters could get plenty comfortable as the bench was emptied. Even seldom-used reserves Adam Morrison and Shannon Brown — picked up in a trade last month with Charlotte — got into the game.

"We can't complain about that," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "I think we played all right in the first quarter. After that, I think we just kind of toyed with the game. I didn't like that so much."

Josh Powell had 14 points and Luke Walton 11 to lead the reserves, and Derek Fisher also scored 11.

"I just think towards the end of the season we have to take each one of these games and start thinking about the playoffs and gearing ourselves towards that," Powell said. "Every game is important, and we're just trying to do what we can do to sustain the effort."

Jackson suggested it could be tough for L.A. to catch Cleveland, considering that the Cavaliers play eight of their last 12 games at home — where their only loss came to the Lakers.

"We've got a few more road games than they do, they've got a better home record than we do, so that means that they have a better chance right now," Jackson said. "But the tie goes to us, so that's important that we keep pressure on them."

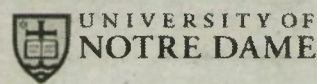
Bryant said the chase is more about bragging rights than home-court advantage.

"We want to have the best record just to have it, just because of the challenge of it, to say that we did it," Bryant said. "Outside of that, it's just about us getting better."

Jeff Green scored 12 points, Nenad Krstic added 11 and Thabo Sefolosha, Russell Westbrook and Nick Collison each had 10 for Oklahoma City.

"That's one of the best teams in the league right now," Thunder guard Chucky Atkins said. "We have a young team, we're learning and we just got to move on."

The Lakers all but put the game away when they finished the first half on an 11-0 run shortly after Oklahoma City went with an oversized lineup, pushing their lead to 62-38. After Westbrook picked up his third foul, Thunder coach Scott Brooks went without a point guard and instead had Sefolosha and Durant in the backcourt with forwards Green, Collison and Krstic.



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Freshman infielder Dani Miller waits for her pitch during Notre Dame's doubleheader split with St. John's on March 22.

Cardinals

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brought home Jorgensborg to give Notre Dame the 5-1 advantage.

"Same as with the defense, any window they thought they had to get something going, with a combination of good pitching and good solid defense, we just shut them down," Marrone said.

The Irish will hope to take the momentum from the non-conference victory into this

weekend's doubleheaders at Georgetown and South Florida.

"We're going to work on team chemistry on the field," Marrone said. "We have all the right parts, we just need get everything clicking again. The hitters are there, pitchers are there, it's just a matter of putting it all together."

Notre Dame will return to action today with a home doubleheader against Western Michigan.

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FOOTBALL

Wife of Pirates prospect suspect in kidnapping

Associated Press

PLANT CITY, Fla. — A 2-month-old is back in the arms of her parents and the wife of a top Pittsburgh Pirates minor league prospect is suspected of taking the infant from a health clinic outside Tampa, authorities said Tuesday.

Amalia Tabata Pereira, 43, was being questioned by Florida detectives in Manatee County, where the girl was found unharmed Tuesday afternoon, a day after she was taken from the clinic. Plant City Chief of Police Bill McDaniel said authorities are looking to charge Pereira with false imprisonment.

She is the wife of Jose Tabata, 20, an outfielder and one of the top three prospects for the Pirates, who train in Bradenton, which is in the county where the infant was found. In a statement, Pirates president Frank Coonelly said they have received "no indication that Jose is believed to have had any involvement in this matter."

Sandra Cruz-Francisco was taken from her mother, Rosa Sirilo-Francisco, about 3 p.m. Monday by a woman her family only knew as 'Janet,' Plant City police said. The mother had taken her baby for a checkup at the Plant City Health Department, where she met Janet, who said she was an immigration official, Sirilo-Francisco told the Tampa Tribune. The woman told Sirilo-Francisco that there were offi-

cers at her home waiting to deport her and the child's father to Mexico.

Janet offered to help, but said she had to take the baby.

The two women drove with the infant to a farm where the child's father works and Janet told him the same story, and the mother later handed the child over.

Plant City police Capt. Darrell Wilson couldn't confirm the mother's account of events.

"We believe that may have been the story, but we haven't spoken with the suspect," he said.

Investigators now believe Janet and Pereira are likely the same person. Wilson said Pereira has a criminal record that includes theft and fraud convictions and that police did not have a hometown for her because she has several aliases.

"We don't know if it's an isolated incident or not," he said.

There were conflicting reports regarding exactly how the infant was found.

Plant City police said Pereira turned herself and the baby in to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office early Tuesday afternoon. But authorities in Manatee said Pereira was detained after an anonymous tipster called police to report a woman on a street corner in downtown Bradenton had information about the missing baby.

When deputies responded to the scene, the baby was found and a woman was detained.

CCHA

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Four.

"As much as I don't want to have to play Michigan again, I'd like to see them get to the Frozen Four," Jackson said. "I'd love to see Miami take a shot at it and Ohio State. But it would be tough to do that because there are a lot of good teams all over the country."

The Irish received the second overall ranking behind only Boston University. Despite the fact that the Irish had the No. 1 ranking and a higher winning percentage, the Terriers were able to edge Notre Dame because its PairWise Ranking was one point higher. The PairWise rates teams based on common

opponents, wins over ranked teams, head-to-head record and the RPI. Boston University won its only game against Michigan this season, and its winning percentage (1.000) against the Wolverines tops Notre Dame's (.667), which most likely gave them the edge.

Both teams had plenty of chances to take on top competition as the Hockey East — the Terriers' conference — is the only other conference with four teams in the tournament. Notre Dame is looking forward to the chance to prove itself against the strong Hockey East teams.

"Any time you get the chance to showcase your team and your conference's skill against other conferences you really want to do well and let people know you're one of the better,

if not the best, in the country," Irish senior Christian Hanson said.

All of the Notre Dame players are looking forward to seeing their conference do well in the tournament.

"I think even if there was a situation where we didn't make the tournament we would still be rooting for the other CCHA teams," sophomore Ben Ryan said.

The Irish have a lot of pride in their conference. That was never more evident than last weekend when they won the CCHA's Mason Cup.

"We put a lot of pride in the trophy," Hanson said. "It was a big deal to win it and we're not going to let anyone take it from us. We're protecting it."

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Izzo leads MSU to the top

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Late March would be a bad time to line up Tom Izzo for a GQ magazine cover photo shoot.

The Michigan State coach tends to look a little haggard this time of year, with tired eyes, a weary smile and a no-frills green warmup suit reflecting the long hours he's working as his team advances deeper into the NCAA tournament.

And Izzo wouldn't have it any other way.

"I might look worse," Izzo said Tuesday with a sandpaper voice. "I might feel worse. But as far as inside ... this is it. I don't live for opening day. I live for March and I love every minute of it."

"If I was looking good and feeling good — probably wouldn't be playing."

Second-seeded Michigan State (28-6) faces No. 3 seed Kansas (27-7) in a Midwest region semifinal Friday in Indianapolis. The Spartans have been in the round of 16 eight times in the past 12 years, more appearances than any program in the nation except Duke.

The Spartans have looked good in their first two NCAA games, defeating 15th-seeded Robert Morris and No. 10 seed Southern California in the first and second rounds. The victories give Izzo a 28-10 record in the NCAA tournament, tied for the fifth-best winning percentage among active coaches.

Michigan State's 12-year NCAA tournament appear-

ance streak is fourth longest in the nation behind only Arizona, Kansas and Duke. Izzo won the 2000 national title and has coached in four Final Fours, with a potential fifth trip now two victories away.

Not bad for the native of Michigan's rural Upper Peninsula, who labored as an assistant under Jud Heathcote for more than a decade before taking over the Spartan program before the 1995-96 season.

The 54-year-old Izzo is the longest-tenured coach in the Big Ten. He won his fifth regular season conference title this year.

The Spartans made the NIT in Izzo's first two seasons. It's been nothing but the NCAA tournament since.

Izzo's recipe for success? Hard work, exhaustive game preparation, a fiery demeanor and a disdain for contentment. It's no fluke that his teams almost always are among the national leaders in the statistics that reflect toughness — rebounding and defense — even when the offense is inconsistent.

Izzo takes a football-like approach to video study and game preparation that gets his assistants and players up to speed on opponents with the best in the nation.

"They go into a game, they know they are prepared for what's going to happen," Izzo said. "I guarantee you every player is going to say all the rocks have been turned over, all the stones have been flipped. We know what's going on. There will be no surprises. That's the only thing I can give to them."

The rest of it, they have to give to me."

Michigan State defeated Kansas 75-62 on Jan. 10 in East Lansing. But Izzo says his team realizes the young Jayhawks have improved dramatically since.

Center Cole Aldrich and guard Sherron Collins were significant contributors during last season's NCAA title run for Kansas. Several newcomers, including guard Tyshawn Taylor, have steadily improved over the course of this season.

Michigan State is led by Big Ten player of the year Kalin Lucas, a point guard averaging 14.6 points and 4.5 assists per game.

But the Spartans have been getting key contributions from a host of players, including a career-high 18 points from defensive specialist Travis Walton in the win over USC.

The Michigan State-Kansas winner advances to play Sunday against No. 1 seed Louisville or No. 12 seed Arizona in the Midwest final.

"They go into a game, they know they are prepared for what's going to happen."

Tom Izzo
Michigan State coach

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observersportsblog.wordpress.com

CMU

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with the Notre Dame offense struggling to overcome a 7-6 deficit. But Pollock's blast turned the tide for the Irish, who would score one more in the seventh and five in the eighth to turn a tight game into a rout.

Freshman lefthander Ryan Richter (2-0) tossed three shutout innings in relief for the victory, allowing just two hits and two walks while striking out four.

"Our whole focus tonight was to play nine innings hard," Schrage said. "This team needs to establish an identity, and we want the identity of playing all 27 [outs] hard and laying it all out on the field, and we didn't do that on Sunday. That was disappointing, but tonight it was not disappointing."

After a rough start, Central Michigan starter Trent Howard kept the Irish offense at bay through the middle innings, and Notre Dame trailed 7-4 until chasing Howard in the bottom of the sixth.

Sophomore third baseman Greg Sherry made it 7-5 with an RBI single that plated senior shortstop Jeremy Barnes, who had reached on an error. After sophomore catcher Cameron McConnell's single, freshman second baseman Tommy Chase ripped his first career hit past first base to score Sherry and make it 7-6. But sophomore left fielder Golden Tate would ground into an inning-ending twin killing to end the threat.

After Richter got out of trouble in the top of the seventh, Notre Dame took advantage of a leadoff error in its

half that put junior right fielder David Mills on second base. Pollock wasted no time in turning the score around, blasting a no-doubter over the left-field fence off reliever Jesse Hernandez, who took the loss.

Notre Dame continued with four straight singles, and though one runner was gunned down at the plate, the Irish scored once more on a McConnell groundout to grab a 9-7 lead.

Pollock drove in another run in the eighth with a single, and after Barnes' sacrifice fly, Sherry cleared the bases with a single up the middle that went under the glove of the Chippewas' center fielder. That gave the Irish a 14-7 lead, and Central Michigan would add just one on a solo home run by Scott Phillion in the ninth.

"We had to come back from the Seton Hall series," Pollock said. "Just picking up wins — every win is a win, so it helps. Hopefully we'll win tomorrow and get some momentum going for Pittsburgh [this weekend]."

The Irish started quickly, scoring three runs in their half of the first without hitting the ball particularly hard.

Tate led off with an infield single, and after a four-pitch walk to Mills, Pollock blooped a single to right to load the bases. Freshman designated hitter Mike Scioscia guided a bouncer right through the middle of the infield, scoring two before a double-play groundout scored Pollock.

Notre Dame allowed Seton Hall to score 19 two-out runs in a three-game series over the weekend, and Central Michigan struck right back in the second with six two-out runs, all after a throwing



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior lefthander Sam Elam delivers during Notre Dame's 14-8 victory over Central Michigan Tuesday. Elam threw three innings of one-run ball in relief of freshman Dustin Ipsas.

error by Sherry extended the inning.

Freshman starter Dustin Ipsas, who lasted just two innings, allowed three straight hits before retiring the side.

"It was a repeat of Sunday," Schrage said. "In the dugout we were like, boy, this is just a repeat. We need pitchers to either close the door and make a pitch, or we've got to make a play behind them."

Notre Dame cut the deficit to 6-4 in the bottom of the second, when back-to-back singles from Tate and Mills plated Chase, who reached after being hit by a pitch.

Senior lefthander Sam Elam came on for Ipsas in the third and threw three innings of one-run ball to keep the Irish in it.

Elam, who didn't appear in a game last year, allowed just two infield hits while striking out five and showcasing a low-90s fastball and an impressive curve.

"We've been waiting for a day like this for him," Pollock said. "He's got great stuff, he's worked hard every day, and it's great to see him come out here and actually see some results. He's got a lot of confidence now after today, so if we get him going, it's

going to be pretty scary I think."

Elam, who was once projected by Baseball America as the Big East's top Major League draft prospect for his live arm, could work his way back into the mix if he can continue to improve his command.

"Mentally, to be able to fight through that and come back like he did is a real credit to him," Schrage said. "I couldn't be happier for him and hopefully he keeps building from there."

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Knights

continued from page 28

Even though Corrigan won't talk about it, the Irish are on the short list of teams in contention for a national championship, and a win against the Knights today would only further their cause.

The Knights (5-2) are also opening their conference season today, and hope to improve on 2008's 0-5 GWLL record. Bellarmine relies primarily on three players for their offensive production — sophomore midfielder Dereck Hopcroft, junior attack Sean Doyle and freshman midfielder Jarrett Davis. In this respect, Corrigan said the Knights are comparable to Vermont, who the Irish beat 13-7 on Saturday.

"I do think they're similar in that way," he said. "They're also similar in the way they try to generate their offense. I think some of the challenges on the defensive side of the ball will be similar."

Corrigan also said he expected Bellarmine to use picks offensively, as the Knights did against the Catamounts.

"They did some things offensively with picks that could be problematic," he said. "We didn't do a great job against Vermont in the way we played picks."

In order to come out with a win against the Knights, Corrigan noted that the Irish would have to focus on their



TOM LA/The Observer

Senior midfielder Peter Christman makes a move during Notre Dame's 19-7 win over Dartmouth on Feb. 28.

own team first, before they worry about the opposition.

"While we certainly respect Bellarmine and appreciate what challenges they bring, we really need to concern ourselves with our execution right now," he said. "And make sure we're doing the things that we need to do before we worry too much what they're doing."

One part of the Irish game-plan that Corrigan said needed improvement was the "offensive fluidity."

"We've done a lot of things well at different times offensively over the course of a game, but we haven't established our identity at that end of the field," he said.

Even if Corrigan is concerned with Notre Dame's offensive efficiency, the one

positive point for the Irish on that side of the field is the team's ability to spread the scoring around. So far this year, seven different Irish players have netted hat tricks, and 16 have registered a point. Most recently, it was senior attack Ryan Hoff who netted five goals in the win over the Catamounts.

The Irish are averaging 12.33 goals per game, while giving up only 7.33. The defense is anchored by senior netminder Scott Rodgers, who has started every game for the squad. He will be faced with a Bellarmine offense that comes in averaging 11.86 goals per game.

The match begins at 4 p.m.

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NIT

continued from page 28

night because I didn't want to go over to Midway and fly to Omaha quite frankly," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "We're thrilled we get to play again in front of our home crowd."

Now Notre Dame is left to wonder if any of its fans will notice. Last week the Irish drew 2,064 and 3,013 fans, respectively, for their games against UAB and New Mexico despite the incentive of free tickets for the first 1,000 students. Brey is optimistic that an opponent of Kentucky's pedigree will help put fans in the seats.

"We need a good crowd, and I feel just talking to our ticket people and being out in the community the last two days that we're going to have a good crowd," Brey said. "There's no question when our crowd is rolling we play better."

Those in attendance Wednesday night will be treated to an opponent usually occupied with another tournament held in March. The winningest team in the history of college basketball, Kentucky had made the NCAA Tournament each of the past 17 seasons.

The history of the Wildcats' program is a laundry list of accomplishments. In addition to topping any other school in all-time wins (1,988) and all-time winning percentage (.758), Kentucky also leads the nation in NCAA Tournament appearances, victories and games played. The Wildcats' seven national titles put them behind only UCLA.

"One of the famous names in college basketball," Irish forward Luke Harangody said. "That just adds to it. This is the matchup we kind of wanted, and we get to play another home game which is great."

The Wildcats have had Notre Dame's number in their meetings over the years. Kentucky leads the all-time series 41-17 and has won the past 10 meetings between the two schools. The last Irish victory over the Wildcats came on March 5, 1990.

This year's Kentucky squad doesn't possess the talent of many past teams, but it does one of the most dynamic players in the country. Meeks — who Brey paid a house visit to before watching him commit to Kentucky one week later — is sixth in the nation in points per game with 24.2.

A 6-foot-4-inch slasher with range, Meeks has topped the 30-point plateau seven times this season. He drew national attention on Jan. 13 when he scored 54 points in leading Kentucky to a 90-72 win over Tennessee.

"You have to be really aware of him at all times. You can't rest," Irish forward Ryan Ayers said of defending Meeks. "You have to be on his hip the whole time, make him feel uncomfortable. Maybe deny him the ball a little bit, so he can't have the ball in his hands. You just really concentrate on team awareness and helping out."

Wednesday's game will begin at 7 p.m. and will be televised on ESPN2. It will be the final game in the current Joyce Center, which is set to be renovated at the end of

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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across
- 1 Hits with bug spray

5 Jaguar, e.g.

8 With 61-Across, a possible title for this puzzle

13 It may be bright

14 Ex-politico with a Nobel and an Emmy

15 The Beatles produced it

16 New entrepreneur's need

17 Cadets' org.

18 English county on the North Sea

19 Home of the Sundance Film Festival

22 Dipstick coating

23 King, in Portugal

24 Debussy subject

25 Foofaraw

28 Corporate action that increases the par value of its stock

31 "And I ____."

33 Wordsmith's ref.

34 Sari-clad royal

35 Fencing move

36 Dickensian cry

37 Makes fun of, in a way

38 Right hand

39 Monk's title

40 Like gnats

41 Bone, for one

44 Grazed, e.g.

45 One of the Manning brothers

46 Noted convert to Islam in 1964

47 Semi part

50 1999 Melissa Joan Hart movie

53 Parting word

56 Poverty, pollution and such

57 Have ____ to one's head

58 Closet filler

59 Look out for?

60 "Quo Vadis" role

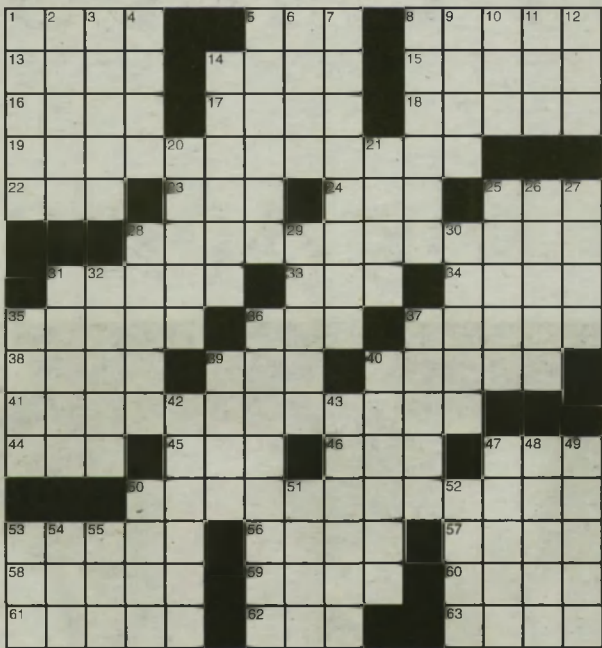
61 See 8-Across

62 Mosquito protection

63 Mushroomed

Down

- 1 Nada
- 2 First name in 1950s politics
- 3 ____ onion
- 4 Brought to ruin
- 5 Bug-building game
- 6 Pseudo-cultured
- 7 Shawnee chief at the Battle of Tippecanoe
- 8 Artists' boo-boo
- 9 Beanery fare
- 10 Favored bunch
- 11 "For shame!"
- 12 Cigarettes have it
- 14 Show sorrow
- 20 Minos's land
- 21 Ticked (off)
- 25 Word of woe
- 26 Awfully small
- 27 Porter's regretful "Miss"
- 28 Physician/synonymist
- 29 Gads about
- 30 Plain English



Puzzle by Susan Gelfand

- 31 Library sign
- 32 Excessive, as force
- 35 Clark's crush on "Smallville"
- 36 From Sucre, say
- 37 Battlefield shout
- 39 "The Persistence of Memory" painter
- 40 Most likely to sunburn
- 42 Off-season offerings
- 43 Shakespearean soliloquist
- 47 Hoops player
- 48 Like a clear sky
- 49 At this point
- 50 Animal on XING signs
- 51 Hamburg's river
- 52 Summoned, in a way
- 53 Subj. with unknowns
- 54 Go kaput
- 55 " ____ pig's eye!"

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

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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AGILE DEVO NADA
JAWED DRAW TRIX
RICHEARTH TONE
TOT AARP
CMI THEARTOFWAR
HANDSOAP TORME
UGLI STONE RAVE
ROAST REVAMPED
NOWHEARTHIS STY
TARA TAS
BROKENHEARTED
GROW NOEL URBAN
AIDE AURA LIBYA
PEEL STAN EPSON

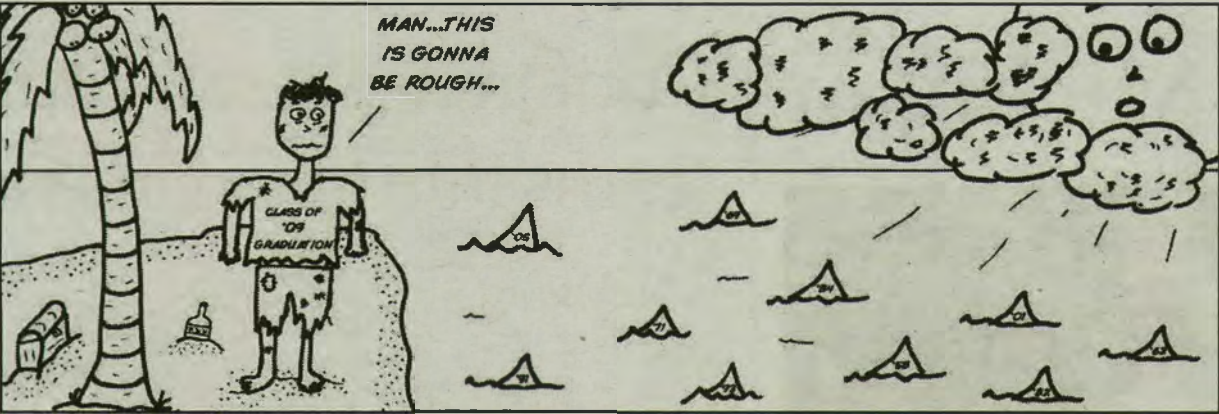
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MICHAEL MIKUSKA



THE DOME PIECE

DAVID CAVADINI



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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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peyton Manning, 33; Alyson Hannigan, 35; Sharon Corr, 39; Tommy Hilfiger, 58

Happy Birthday: Keep a clear head if you want to take advantage of what's coming your way. Not everything will be obvious, so do your research. An opening you've been hoping for will emerge and the chance to do something great will be possible. Never give up and you will reach your goals. Your numbers are 7, 10, 16, 27, 33, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can afford to be a little impulsive if you are also ready to go the distance. Being sure of your next move will enhance the confidence that others have in you. Look for any opportunity for greater financial security. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's a slow, steady pace that will lead to achievement. A sensitive issue can now be brought out in the open and fixed to your liking. Don't back away from change when that's what's required. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone will take advantage of you if you are too open about your plans and ideas. Be a little more discreet if you want to get the credit you deserve for the work you put in. Stand up for your rights and your beliefs. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Surprise everyone by bringing about some much-needed change. If you are the one who is stepping out on the limb, you will also be the one to benefit in the end. A trip will reinforce how important a role you play in both your personal and professional life. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Changing your mind too much may be costly. When it comes to finances, you have to be precise and willing to say no to any deal you don't like. Love should be high on your list. You can have fun but make sure your work is complete before hand. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Kick back and have a little fun. Participate in some activities that will get your heart pumping and enable you to make some new friends. A change in the way you think and do things will set the standard for the future. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Uncertainty and adversity at work should push you in a new and creative direction. Believe in yourself. Before you know it, you will be looking at your options a little more optimistically. Love is on the rise. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't confuse matters by feeling you have to explain everything you do. Step into the real world and don't be afraid to do things the way you feel they work best for you. A creative outlet will turn into a moneymaker. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Reconsider your position and the people with whom you are sharing information. There may be someone trying to sabotage something you are trying to get off the ground. Don't let your emotions take over. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may want to make a few adjustments to a deal you are involved in. Protect your position and your assets from anyone who is pushy or aggressive. Don't be afraid to back away if you are uncertain. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A memory about someone from your past may be an eye-opener. Don't be too quick to give out personal information or let this person have access to your home or belongings. Take the safe route. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be able to manipulate a situation you face, helping you get ahead. Don't be afraid to make some dramatic changes. You can rely on someone who has the experience to carry matters you want finished to the end. ★★

Birthday Baby: You have stamina and are compassionate, emotional and interested in others. You are forever looking for something new and unique to learn or try.

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

JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

FEZOR
HYNIS
CEEDOD
GAYCEL

NEW JUMBLE NINTENDO www.jumble.com/ds

Ans: _____ ON THE " _____ "

Yesterday's Jumbles: SOGGY AVAIL PIGEON CANOPY
Answer: When they married in haste, they ended up — ELOPING

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



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

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Back to the Big Apple?

Team can advance to New York with victory

By GREG ARBOGAST
Senior Staff Writer

In an odd bit of symmetry, the finish of Monday's Kentucky-Creighton game ensured that this year's seniors would go out in style.

Just days after Tory Jackson's last-second shot put Notre Dame one game away from the NIT semifinals in New York City, Jodie Meeks' last-second basket ensured that its next game would take place in the Joyce Center — and that it would be against Kentucky, arguably college basketball program's most storied program.

"I was trying to rally the spirit of Adolph Rupp throughout the



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish junior guard Tory Jackson runs the point during Notre Dame's 74-62 loss to West Virginia in the Big East tournament on March 11 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

see NIT/page 26

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish take 6-0 record into league

By SAM WERNER
Associate Sports Editor

The No. 3 Irish will go into today's matchup against Great Western Lacrosse League (GWLL) foe Bellarmine sporting a 6-0 record for only the second time in school history, but don't expect Notre Dame coach Kevin Corrigan to get caught up on his team's record.

"The record is about what you've done in the past," he said. "And if we're focused on the past then we're missing something."

see KNIGHTS/page 26

ND SOFTBALL

Solid defense keys nonconference win over Ball State

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame used a pair of crucial double plays and a three-run homer by freshman second baseman Dani Miller to top visiting Ball State 5-1 Tuesday.

"We put the ball in play hard and consistently, we put constant pressure on their defense, and we capitalized on mistakes that they made,"

sophomore right fielder Erin Marrone said.

Neither team managed to score in its first inning, as Irish (12-11) senior Brittney Bargar and Cardinals (9-13) pitcher Elizabeth Milian each started strong.

In the bottom of the second, an overthrow from Cardinals shortstop Alicia Barkley moved Irish runners to second and third. Senior Brianna Jorgensborg hit a grounder that brought in junior

Christine Lux for an RBI and put the Irish in the lead, which they kept for the remainder of the game.

"Defense is where we took control of the game," Marrone said. "We shut down any momentum that they had."

The game was a defensive gem for the Irish. A double play from junior third baseman Heather Johnson to Lux at first base and back to Johnson gave the Irish a little defensive momentum. Later in

the game, a double play from Miller to sophomore shortstop Katie Fleury at second to Lux showed that defensively, the Irish were on top of their game.

"The double plays just pump us up. They were big plays, and they ended innings," Marrone said. "It switched the momentum in our favor."

Notre Dame's big inning came in the third. Both senior designated hitter Beth Northway and Johnson singled

early on. Shortly after, Miller hit a home run, bringing Northway, Johnson and herself around the bases for a 4-1 Irish lead.

In the fourth inning, the Irish found a big hole in left field as Jorgensborg, freshman Kristina Wright and Fleury each placed the ball just out of the reach of the Cardinals' left fielder. Freshman Alexa Maldonado's sacrifice fly

see CARDINALS/page 25

BASEBALL

ND tops Central Michigan

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

A three-run seventh inning, capped by junior center fielder A.J. Pollock's two-run blast to left, turned a one-run deficit into an Irish lead as the hosts piled on late to beat Central Michigan, 14-8, on Tuesday afternoon.

Notre Dame (14-7, 1-2 Big East) snapped its first two-game skid of the year by scoring at least two runs in each of its last three at-bats. Pollock's four hits, two stolen bases, three runs and three RBIs paced an Irish attack that ripped 20 hits against the Chippewas (9-13).

"A.J.'s such a versatile player," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "He's just such a talented player, and what can you say — he showed all his tools today at the plate."

He did it in a big situation,



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Junior center fielder A.J. Pollock finishes his swing during Notre Dame's 14-8 win over Central Michigan Tuesday.

see CMU/page 26

HOCKEY

Conference sends four teams into tournament

By DAN MURPHY
Senior Staff Writer

With four CCHA teams in this year's NCAA Tournament, Notre Dame and its conference mates are one of the most dangerous groups in this year's postseason.

Ohio State and Miami both received No. 4 seeds despite failing to make the semifinals of the conference tournament. Both of them have wins over Notre Dame and Michigan this year. If not for their early exits in the CCHA playoffs they most likely would have received a better draw. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said they will be a tough challenge for any No. 1 seed.

"I think Boston University is going to have their hands full against Ohio State and we know what Miami can do. We saw that first hand in the

beginning of the year," Jackson said.

Miami swept the Irish at home back in October, and the RedHawks are the only team in the country to beat Notre Dame more than once.

Notre Dame and Michigan, which met in Saturday's CCHA Championship game, were both given No. 1 seeds. Michigan is playing out of the Bridgeport, Conn. bracket, and Notre Dame is staying close to home in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Neither of those teams will have to face off against the tough CCHA No. 4 seeds because the NCAA rules prevent a team from playing someone in its own conference in the first round.

Each team is in separate brackets, giving the opportunity for an all-CCHA Frozen

see CCHA/page 25