Professor explains return of indulgences

By ROBERT SINGER
News Writer

Notre Dame is no stranger to Catholic tradition, but the renewed focus on the age-old practice of indulgences has confused many on campus.

A recent article in The New York Times said dioceses around the world are bringing back the tradition of offering indulgences, which lessen the penalties or rewards for sin after death, according to Church doctrine.

Theology professor Richard McBrien said he was surprised to read the article in the Middle Ages and the Second Vatican Council.

"The indulgence is the partial or full remission of spiritual penalties, or punishments, which still apply to sins that have already been forgiven," he said.

Even though those sins have been forgiven, they still stand to be punished in the afterlife and acquiring an indulgence would provide some level of pardon from the consequences, according to McBrien.

"A partial indulgence would remit some of those penalties; a plenary indulgence would remit all of those penalties — at least until the person on earth committed another sin before death," he said. "Then the indulgence is the partial or full remission of spiritual penalties, or punishments, which still apply to sins that have already been forgiven."
**INSIDE COLUMN**

**Support the Stache**

You may have noticed recently an influx of facial hair among some of your more outstanding classmates. And by outstanding, I mean the wonderful men of Dillon Hall, because next weekend marks the one of a kind Stache Bash. For those of you who don’t know, the Stache Bash serves two purposes, the first of which is to show off the diverse and plentiful types of facial hair. lucky enough to be invited to this dance to end all dances, I present the Moustaches of the World.

- **The Walrus** (gooo-gaa-joob): Most well-known as the stache of Josef Stalin choice of former Notre Dame offensive line coach John Latina, the Walrus is most distinctive of all staches, with a thick layer of fur to the upper lip, this stache demonstrates pure strength.
- **The Fu Man Chu**: This stache is popular in the Far East, and is common seen on modern depictions of the Chinese philosopher Confucius. It takes great skill and concentration (not to mention amazing connectors) to pull off this look, as the purest state of this stache hangs a good inch off your face.
- **The Classic Handlebar**: An American variation of the Fu Man Chu, this stache is best worn on bikers and Hulk Hogan. Either way it’s the stache of bikers and Hulk Hogan.
- **The Common Crusader**: Likely the most common type of facial hair on campus, this is the stache of choice for those who forget to stop shaving weeks ago or freshmen who can’t grow moustaches yet. (Maybe one day, Tony.) Either way it’s the thought that counts, and there’s no such thing as a bad stache.
- **The Second — and most important — purpose of the Stache Bash is to support the Center for Homelessness in South Bend. The incredibly cold winter has taxed the operating budget of the Center, and in fact it is over $45,000 over budget for this year.

Each man of Dillon has a pledge sheet for their moustache, and we encourage you to give, in the fight against homelessness, you are on the side of homelessness.

**OFFBEAT**

**Woman OK after bullet ends up in her hair weave**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Other than having a bit of a headache, a Kansas City woman was uninjured after a bullet fired at her ended up tangled in her hair weave. Police said the 20-year-old woman was in a convenience store parking lot late Wednesday when a man flagged her down and told her that her ex-boyfriend still loved her. She replied, “Well I don’t love him,” then heard gunshots. She said she looked behind the vehicle and saw her ex-boyfriend firing a handgun at her. She stopped her accelerator and fled, then turned into another parking lot and called police.

She told officers she recently had ended an eight-month relationship with the suspect.

**Masked children spark major police alert in Berlin**

BERLIN — Two masked children pretending to be members of Germy’s elite military force triggered a major police operation in the German city of Aachen, police said on Monday.

Neighbors alerted the police after they spotted two "dodgy-looking figures" clad in black balaclavas on a factory site and the police promptly dispatched eight police cars, complete with dogs, to seal off the area.

**In Brief**

David Walker, the president and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, will speak today from 10:40 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Jordan Auditorium in the Mendoza College of Business. The event is part of the Ten Years Hence lecture series. It is free and open to the public.

"Peace and Reconciliation in Uganda," featuring Archbishop John Baptist Wabiga who has played a prominent role in resolving the conflict in Uganda, will be held today at 4 p.m. in the Reshburg Center Auditorium.

The Department of Classics is presenting readings of Classical Literature in Latin, Greek, Arabic and English throughout the day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Great Room of O’Shaughnessy Hall. The event is titled "The Sound of Classics."

The Black Cultural Arts Council will host "Black Coffeehouse," a performance of African dance, song and poetry recitations. Tickets are $5 for students, and $7 general admission. Pick tickets at the LaFortune Box Office and the event takes place in the LaFortune Ballroom.

An exhibition held by the Institute for Latino Studies, "Artelist: Archeology of Memory," will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. today in McKenna Hall and is open to the public. The exhibit features work by Diogenes Ballester, a visual artist using various types of media.

**Submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.**
Tickets vie for student class council positions

Several tickets of candidates for sophomore, junior and senior class councils campaign as elections approach Monday

The Judicial Council approved eight tickets to run for sophomore, junior and senior class council.

Three tickets are competing for both sophomore class council and senior class council while two tickets are campaigning to lead the junior class.

The Observer interviewed all eight tickets to hear about their campaign and platform ideas. Students will vote Monday online.

Pulte, Kimberly compete for top spots in Class of 2011

By MADELINE BUCKLEY and LIZ O’DONNELL

News Writers

Pulte-Shine-Stayle-Castellini
Junior class council presidential candidate Caitlin Pulte said her ticket presents feasible and well-researched platform ideas that will benefit the junior class.

Pulte is running with Henry Shine, candidate for vice president, Luke Stayle, for secretary and Tim Castellini, for treasurer.

The ticket promises a CEO lecture series, a class trip to see a Cubs game, a poker tournament, and a weekly raffle, Pulte said.

"Our platform is completely feasible," she said. "We have talked to all the sources we need to make sure all the ideas are possible."

Pulte said the CEO lecture series will have the biggest impact on students.

"As we become juniors, we will be looking for jobs," she said. "Not everyone’s sure what they want to do, so different CEOs talking about different professions will really help us figure out what to do with our lives."

Pulte said the ticket’s biggest strength is experience and dedication. She added that she will give up studying abroad next year to lead the class.

Currently, Pulte is the sophomore class social chair. Shiner is a Student International Business Council (SIBC) consultant, and Stayle and Castellini are members of the sophomore Class Council.

Kimberly-Doyle-Fernandez-Rosebery
Junior class council presidential candidate Kevin Kimberly said he and his running mates decided to run to make class council more interactive.

Their campaign is focused around four large initiatives, including a Community Service Database — which would allow service to be done in South Bend on a regular basis — and a Study Abroad Transition Program.

The transition program would offer a series of send-off and re-orientation classes to help students acclimate to their surroundings abroad. Other ideas include a class retreat and a class bracket to predict March Madness winners in the NCAA basketball tournament.

Kimberly said the team also hopes to start Class Masses at the Grotto as well as “The Environmental Initiative” which would provide for the Class of 2011 to become more involved with campus efforts to go green.

"We are very excited to have this opportunity to run to make next year’s class council truly one that serves our class and not ourselves," Kimberly said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mmbuckley@nd.edu and Liz O’Donnell at edood061@nd.edu

Three tickets look to lead sophomore class

By SARAH MERVOSH and LIZ O’DONNELL

News Writers

Soler-Kenney-German-Crotty
Jay Kenney, vice presidential candidate for sophomore class council (SCC), said the ticket, comprised of four members of the current freshman class council, is running on the platform of “experience and innovation.”

"For us, the big one is experience and knowing how the process works and knowing who to go to so we can hit the ground running." Kenney said.

"Yet at the same time, I think we bring a new and exciting energy to SCC," said her ticket mate, Kevin Kimberly, who also competes for sophomore class council.

Presidential candidate Catherine Soler said she wants to plan events like class trips to a water park trip or Cedar Point, a class tailgate and a poker tournament.

Other ideas include using the class Web site to create study groups and class yoga and pilates sessions to help ease students’ stress.

The ticket also plans to have town-hall style meetings once or twice a month in which students can give feedback on what is or isn’t working.

"Responding to criticism that the current freshman class council is an exclusive clique, Soler said, "Our platform is completely feasible," and that her ticket wants to "connect with a wider range of people than this year."

"We’re genuine and we really have a passion for what we do. We enjoy being in class council and we understand the commitment. For us, this is by no means an easy platform, and we expect our class to feel all levels of involvement from SCC," Soler said.

Kenney said the experience the ticket would help bring leadership.

"I think hands down that we are the most qualified ticket for SCC because of our experience," he said. "It took us awhile to get the system down but we have it down. We know where we want to go and what needs to be done. And I think that is a definite edge over the other groups."

Kelly-Vargas-Schmidt-Kellizer
Sophomore class council presidential candidate J.C. Kelly said his ticket wants to bring strengthened “community, unity and communication” to the Class of 2012.

In order to improve communication with the class, they will strive for “openness of government,” Kelly said.

This will include meetings that are open to the entire class.

Senior's have choice of three campaigns

By SARAH MERVOSH and LIZ O’DONNELL

News Writers

Harmon-Kinsey-Bell-Hamill
Christina Harmon, senior class council presidential candidate, said her ticket has an innovative and unique platform.

“We believe our platform differentiates us from our competition from being the first ticket to think of a Senior Class Ball to the Class of 2010 Diva Crawl to the necessity of increased community and the responsibility of class officers,” she said.

The Senior Ball, one of the ticket’s top initiatives, would take place in Chicago. Other events included in their platform are a revamped senior day at a basketball game, a senior day at the Notre Dame Barbeque Tailgate Cook-off, and events included in their platform are a revamped senior day at a basketball game, a senior day at the Notre Dame Barbeque Tailgate Cook-off, and a Springtime Senior Ball to the Class of 2010 Diva Crawl to the necessity of increased community and the responsibility of class officers,” she said.

The Senior Ball, one of the campaign’s top initiatives, would take place in Chicago. Other events included in their platform are a revamped senior day at a basketball game, a senior day at the Notre Dame Barbeque Tailgate Cook-off, and a Springtime Senior Ball.

"It is our hope that people are excited about what we intend to plan if elected," said her ticket mate, Shannon Crotty, who also competes for senior class council.

In addition to these platforms, the team said it will also try to have a class of 2010 market place at the end of the school year for students to sell excess furniture and goods that they have bought to furnish their dorms and apartments.

Harmon said the team is ready to assume the responsibility for serving a sixth term after graduation in order to plan the fifth year reunion and other activities.

“We know our basic obligations as class officers and we want to go above and beyond to give our class the best and most memorable senior year,” Harmon said.

Tillett-Hwang-Molloy-Trousdale
The 2010 ticket of Chris Tillett, Joy Hwang, Elly Trousdale, and Matt Molloy has broken their campaign platforms down into three phases: tradition, transition, and innovation.

"What this translates to is that we want to accomplish the things that the senior class has always done," said Tillett.

The ticket’s presidential candidate said his ticket wants to bring strengthened “community, unity and communication” to the Class of 2012.

In order to improve communication with the class, they will strive for “openness of government,” Kelly said.

This will include meetings that are open to the entire class.

See photos of senior class candidates on page 4
Event celebrates French cinema

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

Saint Mary's returns to its French roots with the annual French Film Festival taking place this week in the Vander Vennet Theatre in the Student Center.

A grant through the Tournees Program of the French American Cultural Exchange, part of the French Cultural Services, enabled the College to show five films during the week, one each evening, Monday through Friday at 7 p.m.

Senior French major Katie Lesecanin and Associate Professor of Modern Languages Mana Derakhshani chose the five films that will be shown from a catalog sent by a granting agency. Derakhshani said there was no particular theme that they tried to follow when selecting the films.

These movies had received the most acclaim and were the ones we wanted to see," Derakhshani said. "All are very recent, from the last three years."

The films cover a variety of topics, "La Fugue à Fidel (Blame it on Fidel)" is the story of a nine-year-old girl trying to make sense of key political events happening around her. "Mollie" is a historical fiction film about a young actor who is released from a mental institution. "It was a crucial role, and it was an acting lesson."

"Ne de lis à personne (Tell No One)," a man tries to prove his innocence in his wife's murder. "L'origine d'une passion, l'histoire d'amour (The Origin of a Passion)" is an animated short film that represents the diversity of the French people.

"Persepolis" is an animated film about a young Iranian girl whose parents send her to school in Vienna to ensure her safety.

Even though Saint Mary's is hosting the event, the festival is free and open to the public. "The Film Festival is something special that Saint Mary's has been able to offer its own community and the Michiana community," Derakhshani said. "It offers an additional resource to students of French in the area — from Saint Mary's and other colleges, universities and secondary schools in the area — to hear authentic language and be exposed to the cinematic art as well as the cultural contexts of the language they are studying.

Derakhshani said she is expecting a good turnout, as long as the weather allows for easy travel. In the past, the Festival has had a strong turnout with about 50 people present each night, she said.

"In the past years, attendance depended somewhat on the weather," Derakhshani said. "We often had very cold temperatures or ice and snow, which made it harder for people to come out."

Derakhshani said the Festival is important because she believes being exposed to other cultures through events such as this foreign film festival is vital.

"Foreign films are just one more way in which we can get to learn something about other cultures," Derakhshani said. "They provide an opportunity to become more aware of the world outside the borders of our nation."

Contact Megan Loney at mloney01@saintmarys.edu
International News

Bishop ordered out of Argentina

A doctrinaire bishop who refused to abide by a Vatican order that he return to Argentina within 10 days has been removed from his post.

The Argentine bishops' convention decided to order Bishop Richard Williamson to return to Argentina immediately and to have no further contact with any church body.

Williamson, who is known for his conservative views on social issues, had been ordered by the Vatican to return to Argentina in early December. He had refused to comply with the order, saying that he was not guilty of any serious offense.

A Vatican spokesman said the decision was made after the Argentine bishops' convention held a meeting on Monday night.

The spokesman said that the decision was made because Williamson had not shown any signs of repentance and had continued to spread his views in Argentina.

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National News

Terrorist released, will be deported

NEW YORK — A Black September terrorist who served only about half his 30-year sentence for planting bombs in New York City in 1973 was released Thursday into the custody of immigration officials.

The terrorist, identified as Al-Jawary, was released from the Metropolitan Detention Center in Florence, Colo., on Thursday after serving 14 years of his sentence.

In court Thursday, the terrorist pleaded guilty in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York to one count of attempting to provide material support to terrorists.

The terrorist, who is wanted by the Ukrainian government, was arrested in mid-December for hurling a shoe at Bush during a joint news conference with the Iraqi president.

He also said he had been tortured during his interrogation — allegations that al-Zeidi later denied.

A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Justice said that al-Zeidi had been released in accordance with a plea bargain.

Al-Jawary's release date was set for March 12.

Local News

Man pays property tax in change

ST. JOHNS, Ariz. — A 9-year-old boy paid a $4,079 property tax bill in coins to protest the high cost of living.

The boy, who is a member of the Pima Indian tribe, was forced to travel 70 miles to a nearby city to pay the tax.

He was due back in court on March 5 for a pre-sentencing hearing.

Iraq

Journalist did not apologize at trial

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at George W. Bush during a joint news conference last month was not going to apologize, his lawyer said Thursday.

The journalist, Al-Zeidi, was sentenced to three years in prison for his actions.

He told the court he had nothing to apologize for and that he was not going to change his ways.

He also said he had been tortured during his interrogation — allegations that al-Zeidi later denied.

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Burris loses support of black ministers

III. junior senator faces requests for resignation after accusations of questionable finances

Burris, who has fought to get his job now, is the only black U.S. senator. Current sentiment in the black community is not unanimous, but the clergy's silence as the maelstrom of criticism swells around Burris "speaks volumes," said another minister, Iris Acree, of the Greater St. John Bible Church.

"I'm a little disturbed, but because of his track record, don't want to rush to judgment," Acree said Thursday. "But neither will I attempt to defend his actions."

Blagojevich publicly turned to black ministers in times of trouble, welcoming a group that included Acree to his home for private prayer shortly after his Dec. 9 arrest on federal corruption charges.

Even before the U.S. Senate appointment became embroiled in controversy, Burris trumpeted clergy support, including a recent statement from Acree recommending Blagojevich's impeachment in January that he hadn't had contact with key Blagojevich staff of anything in return for the Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama.

"I look forward to becoming more involved with the paper in the upcoming year," she said.

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Editors
continued from page 1

Observer his freshman year, including sustainability issues, student government and other campus news.

"We're fortunate to have a talented staff at The Observer and I'm confident our team will produce an outstanding newspaper in the year ahead," Steiner said.

King, the current viewpoint editor, is a junior majoring in accounting and economics. She is most recently from Thorpe, Surrey, UK, and served as viewpoint copy editor from 2006-08.

"I look forward to becoming more involved with the paper in the upcoming year," she said.

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Write
News.
E-mail
obsnews
@nd.edu.

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JUST DANCE

Date: Friday February 27
Time: 9 pm - 12
Where: Hagger Parlour
	@ St. Marys College
Banks charge extra in times of trouble
Withdrawals, overdrafts, phone call fees add up for those hit by recession

Associated Press

First, Arthur Santa-Maria called Bank of America to ask how to check the balance of his new unemployment benefits debit card. The bank charged him 50 cents. He chose not to complain. That would cost another 50 cents.

So he took out some of the money and then decided to pull out the rest. But that made two withdrawals on the same day, and that was $1.50.

For hundreds of thousands of workers losing their jobs during the recession, there's a new twist to their financial pain: Even when they're collecting unemployment benefits, they're paying the bank just to get the money—or even to call customer service to complain about it.

Thirty states have struck such deals with banks that include Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., Morgan Chase and US Bancorp, an Associated Press review of the agreements found. All the programs carry fees, and in several states the unemployed have no choice but to use the debit cards. Some banks even charge extra overdraft fees if up to $20, though they could decline charges for money on what's on the card.

"They're trying to use my money, make my money," said Santa-Maria, a laid-off engineer who lives just outside Albuquerque, N.M. "I just see banks trying to make that 50 cents or a buck and a half when I should be given the service for free."

The banks say their programs offer convenience. They also provide a way to tap the money at no charge, such as for a single free withdrawal to get all the cash at once from a bank teller. Better yet, they benefit from human nature, as people end up treating the cards like the all the plastic in their wallets.

Some banks, depending on the agreement negotiated with each state, also make money on the interest they earn after the state deposits the money and before it's spent. The banks and credit card companies also get roughly 1 percent to 3 percent off the top of each transaction made with the cards.

"It's a racket. It's a scam," said Rachel Davis, a 38-year-old dental technician from St. Louis who was laid off in October. Davis was given a MasterCard issued through Central Bank of Jefferson City and recently notified the bank she'd need to pay two $40 withdrawals.

Neither banks nor credit card companies will say how much money they are making off the programs, or what proportion of the revenue comes from user versus merchant fees or interest. It's difficult to estimate the profits because they depend on how often recipients use their cards and where they use them.

But the potential is clear. In Missouri, for instance, 94,883 people claimed unemployment benefits through debit cards from Central Bank. Analysts say a recipient uses a card an average of six to ten times a month. If each cardholder makes three withdrawals at an out-of-network ATM, at a fee of $1.75, the bank would collect nearly $500,000. If half of the cardholders also call customer service three times in any given week, the bank's revenue would jump to more than $521,000. That would yield $6.3 million a year.

Rachel Storch, a Democratic state representative, received a wave of complaints about the fees from autoworkers laid off from a suburban St. Louis Chrysler plant. She recently urged Gov. Jay Nixon to review the state's contract with Central Bank with an eye toward reducing the fees.


delivered by

The Observer

Washington, February 20, 2009

Market Recap

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In Brief

FBI tracks down wanted financier
WASHINGTON — Texas financier R. Allen Stanford was tracked down Thursday in Virginia, where FBI agents served him with legal papers in a multibillion-dollar fraud case.

FBI agents, acting at the request of the Securities and Exchange Commission, served Stanford court orders and other documents, the FBI and the SEC said.

Stanford is not under arrest and is not in custody.

In a civil complaint Tuesday, the SEC accused Stanford, two other executives and three of his companies of committing a billion-dollar racketeering scheme.

It's not clear what's on the card.

"They're trying to use my money, make my money," said Santa-Maria, a laid-off engineer who lives just outside Albuquerque, N.M. "I just see banks trying to make that 50 cents or a buck and a half when I should be given the service for free."

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In a civil complaint Tuesday, the SEC accused Stanford, two other executives and three of his companies of committing a billion-dollar racketeering scheme.

In the suit filed in Miami, the Obama administration wants UBS to turn over information on as many as 52,000 U.S. customers who concealed their accounts from the U.S. government in violation of tax laws.

"At a time when millions of Americans are losing their jobs, their homes, and their health care, it is appalling that more than 50,000 of the wealthiest among us have actively sought to evade their civil and legal duty to pay taxes," the acting assistant attorney general, John DiGiacomo, said in a statement.

The lawsuit announced Wednesday provides access to about 250 to 300 UBS customers who used Swiss bank secrecy laws to hide assets. To avoid prosecution, UBS agreed to pay $780 million, which Justice Department officials said was the largest ever in a criminal tax case.

Layoffs hit all time high in Feb.
2012 continued from page 3

comparison to dorm unity.

"We're all the class of 2012. We're all going to be in this together. We are all going out into the world together. We want to do this together," Kelly said. "I think that's what our president said." Vice presidential candidate Courtney Vargas said the team thinks their individual involvement in different activities, like literary clubs or theater, gives them a broad range of perspectives from which they can understand the sophomore class.

"We'll work really hard to make this class the best class that Notre Dame has ever seen," Vargas said. "That is our promise." Rubiling-Mathes-Phillip-Brophy Class of 2012 presidential candidate Lauren Rubiling said the team chose to continue to run because she said the current Fightin' Irish (WWE naw! in Concert) act too much like a clique.

"We feel kind of a disconnect between the student body and the Student Council... I couldn't name all the events, concerts, elections, things that Notre Dame has ever done," Rubiling said. "That's why we hope to bring a new spirit to that as well."
Lawmakers pass large tax increase

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers passed a massive tax increase Thursday along with making billions in spending cuts, ending a grueling week of negotiations over closing the state’s $42 billion budget deficit.

The package of bills was sent to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger after the early-morning votes in the Assembly and Senate, and the Republican governor was scheduled to sign it Friday.

Schwarzenegger called the Legislature’s work courageous, noting that Democrats compromised on their opposition to deep spending cuts and some Republican lawmakers set aside their opposition to tax increases.

"Now, instead of worrying every day only about IOUs and about red ink, we can start to forward our $42 billion deficit was difficult but courageous and just what California needs."

Both houses of the Legislature got the bare minimum of votes to reach the two-thirds requirement needed to pass the package, which includes $12.8 billion in tax hikes, $12.1 billion in cuts, billions in borrowing and measures intended to stimulate the state’s economy.

If the economy doesn’t worsen considerably, the plan is intended to balance the state’s budget through June 2010. The Senate began debating before dawn Thursday after a moderate Republican, Sen. Abel Maldonado of Santa Maria, agreed to provide the final vote.

In exchange, he won major concessions from Democrats and the governor. Maldonado was able to strip out a 12-cent per gallon gas tax from an earlier version of the package and have two measures placed on a future ballot: One seeks fully open primary elections and another would freeze lawmakers’ pay when the state runs a deficit. He also got $1 million for office furniture in the controller’s office deleted.

"This action to solve our $42 billion deficit was difficult but courageous and just what California needs."

Maldonado said he was ready for such a vote, label them guilty and close the case.

Prosecutor Vera Pasikovskaya vowed to appeal, saying the judge had committed numerous pro­ce­du­ral violations.

Not guilty verdicts are often reversed by Russia’s higher courts. But it is hard to predict what will happen in this polit­i­cally explosive case.

In the ensuing investigation, prosecutors and investigators appeared to stumble on several occasions. Authorities made unusually detailed statements about the case in the press last year — statements that may have prompted the alleged trigger­man to flee.

The defendants included two brothers, Dzhabrail and Ibragim Makhmudov, both eth­nic Chechens, as well as for­mer Moscow police officer Sergei Khadzhikurbanov.

Relatives of the Makhmudovs clapped and cheered when the forensic­woman announced the verdict.

"Thank God, thank the jury," said Dzhabrail Makhmudov, who was not present. "This is something that happens rarely in Russia. This is what I call an honest trial."
null
Project continued from page 1

affordable for community members. In the neighborhood to make University is developing houses northeast and rebuild everything, said Taylor. There has not been one person that has moved from the area that's not better off than before the move." In the early days of the project, Affleck-Grawes said there was some concern about gentrification, but the University worked with the neighborhood residents so all parties could benefit from the project. "A lot of that concern has dissipated," he said. "We don't want to go take over the whole neighborhood and rebuild everything." Luecke said while the University is developing houses to sell to faculty, the city is concerned with subsidizing houses in the neighborhood to make them affordable for community members. "Out of roughly 60 new homes constructed in the neighborhood, our commitment is that 30 percent will be available to lower income families," he said. This effort will result in a mixed-income neighborhood with an offering of affordable housing and houses sold at the market rate, Luecke said. Taylor said this effort has made it possible for many families in the neighborhood to own homes. "The first family that moved into a subsidized home were renters. They never had owned a home," she said. "Through this program, they were able to purchase a home on Ironwood." Taylor said the NNR also has a say in the design of the Eddy Street Commons. She said when the project began, there was talk of calling the University 'University Village' but the NNR vetoed that suggestion giving a name that doesn't imply a connection to Notre Dame. With concerns of gentrification mostly put to rest, Luecke said the Eddy Street Commons is a bright spot in the current landscape of an economic downturn. "The construction itself is creating jobs in the short term, and as the stores open up and the office spaces are filled, we will see additional jobs added in the community," he said. Luecke said the city is paying for the parking garage in the Commons and some other infrastructural needs such as drainage and streetlights with a Tax Increment Financing plan. Instead of taking city money from other projects, this project will be funded by the increased property taxes that will arise from the commercial entities in Eddy Street Commons, such as the retail stores and a hotel. Kile Realty, the private developer then pays for all the construction, and the University owns the land. "There has been a huge private investment in the area, which is why the city is willing to make a public investment," Luecke said. Along with creating jobs in the area, Taylor said Eddy Street Commons will bring foot traffic back to the neighborhood. "I was born in this neighborhood, and you couldn't buy a loaf of bread without getting in your car," she said. The Eddy Street Commons is the first attempt to bring commerce into the neighborhood surrounding campus, Luecke said. "I think for many years the University and the city coexisted, but students weren't always encouraged to go off campus and there wasn’t a lot of interaction with the community," he said. "So we did see some of the development that happens in other university communities." Luecke said this recent collaboration between the University and the city represents an important, emerging partnership. "I am delighted with the way people have worked together," he said. "There has been a deep recognition that our futures are linked. For each of us to succeed, we both have to thrive." The Eddy Street Commons and the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization project represent short-term development and economic stimulus, but the University is also collaborating to bring about longer-term economic development in the form of Innovation Park. Along with Notre Dame, Luecke said the city has invested money into the project, and they acted as the applicant to the state of Indiana and the Federal government to receive status as a state research park and government money. "The energy and the creativity that will focus there at Innovation Park is something that will enhance research on campus and make our community more attractive," he said. "We're seeing interest around the country in what happening in here in South Bend. Luecke said the objective of Innovation Park is to transform research done at Notre Dame into businesses that will take root in the area, and expand. Additionally, businesses will come to South Bend to use the research that emerges from the Park. For example, Luecke said researchers at Notre Dame have worked with the city to make a product that functions in the sewers and reduces pollution flowing into the river. Innovation Park would take this idea and turn the research into a business that would sell the product beyond the city of South Bend. Innovation Park sits on 13 acres, but Luecke said the vision ultimately extends beyond that. The city has funded the construction of Ignition Park, which spans about 85 acres and would complement the traffic of Innovation Park by taking the research when it grows large for the original Park. "I think the next phase in our city's growth will be to be a rising center of creativity, innovation and commercialization," Luecke said. "Innovation and Ignition Park will show people how to take ideas and make them real products that benefit the community and create jobs and investments here." Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

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Please recycle The Observer.
Food gripes

Note Dame’s dining options, while a step ahead of other schools, leave something to be desired. The fixtures require only effort, not a massive overhaul of the system. The dining halls present plenty of options for students to choose from, but they often lump them on the same nights and go works without bringing them back. Students have a multitude of choices outside of the dining hall, such as Subway, but the lack of participation in nationwide sales events detracts from the experience. Finally, some of the blame falls on students: they gum up the works in the dining hall and prolong the dining experience.

We believe simple steps will solve these problems. Not a Chipotle on campus or brand new food in the dining halls, but small changes to take the solid dining options this campus offers to the next level.

First, the dining hall isn’t hard to see which foods attract the most students. The lines for peppered flank steak and General Tso’s chicken demonstrate the level of demand. And more often than not, when the dining hall introduces a new option, it gets a good response. Same with the cookies at lunch and cinnamon rolls.

So why don’t we see some of these items on the same level? Asking someone to choose between the General and shrimp poppers just isn’t fair. Serving six-cheese sachattini and chicken fingers also asks for too much of a decision.

Once the great items have been served, they disappear for weeks, and we’re left with roast top round of beef for six days straight and the rest of the dining hall food that’s there every day.

Spacing out the good stuff makes sense. If it was offered every day, it wouldn’t be special. But space out the good things among all things we have to eat, so there are solid options at least one or two nights a week.

On another note, no more breakfast for dinner nights on the weekend. Especially, you’re eating breakfast for lunch and dinner, and nobody wants that.

Also, do the wings have to invade the dining halls on wing night? The wings occupy all three grilling stations in South Dining Hall on wing night, leaving you little choice but to take some wings.

Now to Subway. If we’re going to be barraged with five-dollar footlong commercials on television, we should be able to purchase them in Lafortune. Why spend the evening sitting in a room, watching Aqua Teen Hunger Force while students who make the, as another note, no more breakfast for dinner nights on the weekend. Especially, you’re eating breakfast for lunch and dinner, and nobody wants that.

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Fat weekend is upon us

For many who regularly fall short of intended sacrifices, today begins a "Fat weekend," or a binge run-up to Ash Wednesday. Just as Christmas decorations appear earlier each year — sometimes unsightly and out of place well before Hallo­

teen — similar­ly, Len­ten light­

weight­try to com­

promise­the mem­

ber­ship­of­Fat­Tuesday earlier. As a charter­

member of the lightweight­

ligion, this is the time to approach Lent back­

wards, beginning with the calm of Easter Sunday.

Imagine that Easter was behind us, Lent has just begun, but Fat Tuesday is still more than six weeks away. Would our mental and physical tensions to purge our weaknesses be less intense? It seems unlikely that a reverse timeline could span such a Mardi Gras atmosphere when Ash Wednesday eventually arrived. In fact, the process could become more introspective and less celebratory.

If Lent were to be reversed, today was Ash Wednesday. At the conclusion, I would think of the Bungalow Boys. My reflections would naturally remind me of Father James Flores.

Reefers madness' insalubrious

In Ben Linsky's "Reefers Madness" (Feb. 19), he argues that weed is not addictive, does not cause serious health problems, does not adversely affect the population and is a far less dangerous drug than alcohol.

I concur from San Diego, one of the most pot-infested cities on the map. I have numerous friends who have battled their drug addic­
tions, and oftentimes they'll tell me that their previous ene­
ye was to get to the bottom of the pot. The most unsafe I've ever felt in a car was when I was a passenger in a car where the driver was smoking. Smoking and driving, I would go further and say that smoking pot and driving is just as bad — impaired reaction time and altered perception being chief con­

cerns.

Linsky's assertion that weed is harmless is incorrect. One needs only to research "harmful effects of marijuana" to find the

medical consensus on its adverse effects. There's also a concept I taught when I was an anti-drug counselor back in San Diego for three­

years; a malingering syndrome — that a pothead loses his or her motivation to participate in everyday activities: sports, clandes­

tifiable relationships.

Some people say that smoking pot is natural because it is of the Earth, but should we be breathing in the fumes of a hootie, if that is also "of the Earth?" Anytime a person inhales, smoke is doing damage to their body — on both a microscopic level and a holistic level.

When I evaluate a person's argument, I look for areas where a person uses hyperbole, or conversely, euphemisms. Linsky tells of how the government is holding it's war on drugs because marijuana is deemed insalubrious. Please! Call the drug was it, and don't downplay the harm it can cause.

Like any other group of drug users keeping it in the home does not often occur in actuality. One of my former good friends back home in San Diego keeps on getting arrested, not for smoking, but for trying to break into liquor stores — a very half-baked idea.

Furthermore, Linsky is wrong in his belief that "you have no right to disturb your neighbor what he may do within the confines of his home." Obviously the government has the right to intercede in cases of drug abuse, abuse, etc., and all these cases occur in the confines of someone's home.

I'll agree that the governmental war on drugs isn't going well — but how much worse would we be without it? There are untold and unknown numbers of how many more people would do drugs if we weren't so worried about the subject as we are. We're not the product of an education system that really showed us how bad drugs are.

For all readers out there that had considered trying weed but ultimately decided against it, you are the reason why the War on Drugs is, on some level, effective.

Footloose worthy of fight

I would like to thank Tommy Marangone ("A clear misunderstanding," Feb. 19) for bringing some sense and reason to the debate about homosexuality.

Linsky's "insalubriousness" is something that has recently featured far too much rhetoric and too little time to see why the rea­

sonable minds believe in the idea is seen to be tantamount to reject­

ing, denying, or even hating that idea. Linsky's reference to "Ally" or "Gay? Fine With Me"" is a misleading dis­
crimination against homosexuals. While this is ludicrous, it is not reasonable to believe that the University is discriminatory against homosexuals just because the mission statement does not explicitly denounce it.

The problem with the Queer Film Festival is that it does nothing to challenge the isolation described by Flores and Co. Instead, organizations and events tal­

k about sexual orientation only to highlight our differences and create the very isola­

tion that Flores so desperately wants to avoid. A gay movie

was banned or censored during a sexuality-neutral film festival, an outcry against discrimination and isolation would certainly be appropriate, but using a gay-only film festival to fight isolation is the equiva­

cent of using a male-only film festival to improve gender relations. If a demographic wishes to sepa­

rate themselves from the population with specific events just for them, they lose the right to blame the majority for that which they inevitably create.

Finally, I would like to ask: Do the various anti-gays commit any more serious acts of violence? In fact, It is the University acting on a religious foundation to not promote a "pro-gay" and "anti-gay" are not the only options. Supportive of homosexuals but not the lifestyle, the University is fulfilling its duty as a Catholic institution of higher learning.

Jonathan Jasinski

sophomore

Di­

lez Hall

Feb. 19

Dear Michelle Byrne and Laurey Cuguntings

(That's both of your names)

I would like to thank you for expressing your pro­
found sentiments concerning John Trush's five-dol­
lar song campaign ("Footloose futures," Feb. 19). You truly are an inspiration to us all.

I completely agree that the speed at which the Facebook group gathered 1550 students to support the cause is truly an accomplishment. Even if the movement doesn't raise money, it at least brings to light the significance that students do actually have a pulse and care about some sort of justice, that stu­

dents will not stand for price gouging something that is so commonplace in so many other indus­

tries and are at least nominally willing to break the stranglehold that surrounds the Notre Dame student body, trying to be at least a little more fiscally responsible.

As students and as individuals with your classification of recycling and sexual assault as "trivial issues," stereotypes and generalizations define trivial as being "commonplace or ordinary." Five-dollar footloose have occupied the front cover of The Observer for all of one day, whereas stories about sexual assault and recycling seem to be a daily occurrence.

Finally, I would like to applaud your classification of the different types of Notre Dame Students.

Indebit only that one percent of us who are "vegans and wear tie-dye" care about the rest of the world, but those of you who are diversity-fearing facists could care less. It's not as if the majority of students are involved in various student initiatives across the greater Michiana area, or that the stu­
dent government, directly elected by the students, is actively trying to make a stance in the communi­

ty and in the environment...

Give me a break! Just because you couldn't care less about a huh appears every other day situation at your own school doesn't mean that you have to attack this idea. People do get frustrated and confused by the controversy of recycling and Sexual Assault, but are sick of hearing a small and vocal minority consistently badger the greater Notre Dame community about what they think is right. We want to take care of an issue that affects each and every student, not just one. In the John Trush's research shows, really may make a difference.

Gregory Hawaiian seniors

February 19
Scene Oscar Picks for the Year

Ah, what a year to be a supporting actor. This often lower-profile category is hosting five powerhouses this year, all of whom are deserving of their nominations. Josh Brolin (“Milk”) has proven himself to be more than the pretty-boy sidekick of another pretty-boy actor, bringing gravitas and power to throwing out the baby with the bathwater. While Taron Egerton (“Kingsman”) is so perfectly cast as the younger version of Colin Firth’s right-hand man, Eggsy, he’s undone by his own stilted performance to deliver the kind of rawness, that at its end, a part of you will wish that you hadn’t seen it because of how scarred it leaves you.

The question is, are you feeling lucky, handsome! This searing love poem straight from the masterminds at Pixar studios is so heartfelt that its title character has probably become the studio’s most beloved, which is saying a lot. The only real competitor standing in the way of Penn is Penelope Cruz, who has proven herself to be more than the pretty-boy sidekick of another pretty-boy actor, bringing gravitas and power to throwing out the baby with the bathwater. While Taron Egerton (“Kingsman”) is so perfectly cast as the younger version of Colin Firth’s right-hand man, Eggsy, he’s undone by his own stilted performance to deliver the kind of rawness, that at its end, a part of you will wish that you hadn’t seen it because of how scarred it leaves you.

1. **The Wrestler:** An awe-inspiring tour de force of a film, Darren Aronofsky’s masterpiece is so deeply penetrating that it becomes a sort of beautiful requiem. Mickey Rourke’s performance as an over-the-hill wrestler trying to hold onto the false hope that he can mount a comeback is iconic at the least and entirely moving. His authentic and sensitive performance might be strong enough to kick Penn out of the ring.

2. **Wall-E:** Very little dialogue and a robot with feelings as the main character? No problem. This searing love poem straight from the masterminds at Pixar studios is so heartfelt that its title character has probably become the studio’s most beloved, which is saying a lot. The only real competitor standing in the way of Penn is Penelope Cruz, who has proven herself to be more than the pretty-boy sidekick of another pretty-boy actor, bringing gravitas and power to throwing out the baby with the bathwater. While Taron Egerton (“Kingsman”) is so perfectly cast as the younger version of Colin Firth’s right-hand man, Eggsy, he’s undone by his own stilted performance to deliver the kind of rawness, that at its end, a part of you will wish that you hadn’t seen it because of how scarred it leaves you.

3. **Waltz With Bashir:** A paradox of a film, this animated documentary about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the 1980s is a masterpiece in how every scene is so well-woven, and will at once tug and tear at your insides forcing you to want to look away in anguish, only to fail because the animation draws you in and doesn’t let you escape its

4. **The King’s Speech:** A British history film, this period drama tells the story of the standing in the way of Penn is Penelope Cruz, who has proven herself to be more than the pretty-boy sidekick of another pretty-boy actor, bringing gravitas and power to throwing out the baby with the bathwater. While Taron Egerton (“Kingsman”) is so perfectly cast as the younger version of Colin Firth’s right-hand man, Eggsy, he’s undone by his own stilted performance to deliver the kind of rawness, that at its end, a part of you will wish that you hadn’t seen it because of how scarred it leaves you.

**BEST PICTURE:** **SLUMDOUG MILLIONAIRE**

"Slumdog Millionaire" has been racking up awards from every which way this awards season. And barring any upset, it will probably receive the season’s highest honor. What was originally a film intended to go straight to DVD has truly become the Cinderella story of 2008. Only, in the process, it has become Gollum, leaving every other film to inhabit the role of David. However, the Academy’s infatuation with biopics may very well prove the wild card factor here, and may land "Slumdog Millionaire," capping off its dream run with the Best Picture award.

**BEST ACTOR:** **SEAN PENN**

This year’s Best Actor race is probably the tightest of all the major categories. The list of nominees all delivered powerful performances this year; the competition is so stiff that even Leonardo DiCaprio and Clive Owen were left out of the category. Sean Penn’s turn as Harvey Milk shows him completely into Milk’s character and delivers an utterly transformative performance that is nothing short of remarkable. For this, Penn will probably garner the Oscar; it may be Gus Van Sant’s "The Wrestler" that garners the Academy's highest honor. However, the Academy’s infatuation with biopics may very well pull it off. However, put your money on "Slumdog Millionaire," capping off its dream run with the Best Picture award.

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:** **HEATH LEDGER**

The only real competitor standing in the way of Penn is Penelope Cruz, who has proven herself to be more than the pretty-boy sidekick of another pretty-boy actor, bringing gravitas and power to throwing out the baby with the bathwater. While Taron Egerton (“Kingsman”) is so perfectly cast as the younger version of Colin Firth’s right-hand man, Eggsy, he’s undone by his own stilted performance to deliver the kind of rawness, that at its end, a part of you will wish that you hadn’t seen it because of how scarred it leaves you.

**SHANE STEINBERG**

**TOP 10 FILMS OF 2008**

1. "The Wrestler:" An awe-inspiring tour de force of a film, Darren Aronofsky’s masterpiece is so deeply penetrating that it becomes a sort of beautiful requiem. Mickey Rourke’s performance as an over-the-hill wrestler trying to hold onto the false hope that he can mount a comeback is iconic at the least and deserves placement alongside the great screen performances of all time.

2. "4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days:" This isn’t a movie about illegal abortion in the communist bloc. No, it’s a surreal, downright horrifying freefall into the confines of human suffering and isolation so washed in unbearable
81st Annual Academy Awards

By: Well, The Scene is. After a year of cinematic glory, ranging from "The Dark Knight" to lesser-known films like "The Wide Variety for Viewer's Cinematic Pleasure. Now, it's professional movie experts to pick and choose this year's Oscar winners are...

**BEST DIRECTOR: DANNY BOYLE**

This year's nominees for achievement in directing are David Fincher for "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," Danny Boyle for "Slumdog Millionaire," Ron Howard for "Frost/Nixon," Gus Van Sant for "Milk," and Stephen Daldry for "The Reader." Despite the presence of previous winners in the mix, and Daldry's unique place in Academy Award history (he's been nominated for each of the three films he's directed), the Oscar will go to Boyle. "Slumdog Millionaire" owes its creative, Bollywood-infused style of filmmaking to Boyle, along with the relentless sense of energy that pervades the entire film. In a lesser director's hands, "Slumdog" could have easily fallen into clichés, but Boyle managed to craft a film that does not shy away from harsh realities and yet retains a joyful, uplifting spirit. This movie represents a new style of international filmmaking, completely different from any of the other films nominated in this category in this and in past years, and its director should be recognized for his remarkable achievement. For those who didn't see "Slumdog" and can't understand what the fuss is about, just look at the indications from other award shows so far this year. Boyle has won a Golden Globe, a BAFTA, and an award from the Director's Guild of America. On Sunday night, he will win an Academy Award as well.

Please Contact Ellie Hall at ehall4@nd.edu.

**BEST ACTRESS: KATE WINSLET**

This is Kate Winslet's year. Twelve years ago her ship sank in the bitter battle for Best Actress, losing to Halle Berry for "What's Love Got to Do With It." But she picked up from there, creating dead-on portrayals that set to four more Oscar nods, including her slot for this year's Nominee for "The Reader." She's won for this role before already, at the Golden Globes and the SAGs, but now, she's giving it to her in the Supporting Actress category. This isn't even her most successful film at the box office this year. That was "Revolutionary Road," her kickass reunion piece with Leonardo Dicaprio. The dark horse for this category is Anne Hathaway. Long gone are the days of frizzy hair and stereotypical endings. She's nominated for her role as a recovering addict in "Rachel Getting Married," a performance that turned heads and revealed to the world this girl really does have acting chops.

But if Winslet doesn't win, it will most certainly go to Meryl Streep. Always a safe bet, Angelina Jolie, like her co-pilot Brad Pitt, is just a novelty nomination, and Melissa Leo is the Academy's way of proving it tries not to play favorites. No, but this one belongs to Hollywood's proven goddess, Winslet.

Please Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu.

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: PENELOPE CRUZ**

Penelope Cruz will take home the Oscar her role in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." With Katie Holmes out of the way for the second year, she was nominated in this category for "The Reader," but at Academy Awards, this role earned her a Best Actress nomination. Cruz looks like she will be the winner. She has received eight nominations from the major awards circuit and has won five of them for her role as the unstable ex-wife of Javier Bardem's artist. Winslet was easily her main competition. Amy Adams and Taraji P. Henson, although deserving of their nominations, don't seem to be serious contenders for the award. The most likely to keep Cruz from the award are Viola Davis for her brief role in "Doubt" and Marissa Tomei for "The Wrestler." People just love Davis as the mother of a potentially abused boy, and Tomei easily wins Mickey Rourke's heart, and the audience's, as a caring stripper. However, the odds are still in Cruz's favor. She will likely walk away with her first statue for her second nomination. She was previously nominated Best Actress in 2007 for the Spanish-language film "Volver."

Please Contact Marita Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu.

**BEST ACTOR: LEONARDO DICAPRIO**

This year's nominees for Best Actor are Heath Ledger for "The Dark Knight," and Michael Fassbender for "Shine." Heath Ledger's career-defining performance as The Joker is the single reason why he's in the race. Not only is he an A-list movie star, but a gifted actor. David Fincher's time-driven, wildly imaginative love story may not only be a bit long and sloppily edited, but overall it succeeds in being what so many other movies try to be but fail short of being - epic.

7. "The Curious of Benjamin Button." It's the "Forrest Gump" of 2008, with Brad Pitt showing once again that not only is he a A-list movie star, but a gifted actor. David Fincher's time-driven, wildly imaginative love story may be a bit long and sloppily edited, but overall it succeeds in being what so many other movies try to be but fail short of being - epic.

8. "The Dark Knight." Undoubtedly the audience favorite of 2008, "The Dark Knight," is one of those once-in-a-blue-moon films that unite both general audiences and critics alike. Although many factors make up the film's success, Heath Ledger's career-defining performance as The Joker is the single reason why "The Dark Knight" manages to be the accomplishment that it is.

9. "Slumdog Millionaire." A critical darling that has left audiences cheering all across the country, "Slumdog Millionaire" is, in essence, this year's "Juno," or if you want to go a step further, a "ruits" and an award from "Sunshine." Only, for some reason, it has succeeded in dominating this awards season. It's a loveable film and a great one at that, but when it really comes down to it, this is probably this year's most overrated film.

10. "Shotgun Stories." A truly American story of redemption and family rivalry, this small, hardly seen Southern masterpiece is as subtle as they come, which is both its greatest success, and the single greatest obstacle keeping it from being a trueGoliath among films.
Charles Krzyzewski's Blue Devils snapped a two-game losing streak that was part of them losing four of six. "We just have to find that edge and tonight we were closer to it and Elliott helped in that regard. It was a collective response on the defensive end."

Freshman Elliott Williams, who Krzyzewski said added some "verve" in recent practices, made just his second start of the season and he was the early spark Duke needed on the defensive end, pressuring the ball and improving the team's shooting. "I found out I was going to start two days ago after a couple of good practices," said Williams, who had a career-high 11 points on 5-for-6 shooting.

The Blue Devils (21-5, 9-3) converted turnovers into 14 points, Duke was able to take a lead as big as 32-18 with 4:48 left and the Blue Devils led 37-26 at halftime. They led by as many as 16 points in the second half, the last time at 60-44 on a jumper by Thomas with 10:09 to play.

St. John's (16-11, 6-6) had 20 turnovers, seven by Malik Boothe with 15.6 seconds to go, and Elliott helped in that department, converting turnovers into 14 points. Jon Scheyer had 18 points, Kyle Singler scored 15 and Lance Thomas added nine for Duke.

"This has been a tough time for us, the last couple of weeks but that's what the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big East does to its members," Krzyzewski said. "We were knocked back a little bit and we have to recover. This was a big step in the right direction."

The Blue Devils finished 7-for-15 on 3s (46.7 percent), the first time since Jan. 24 they shot better than 40 percent from the arc. They were 3-for-16 in the loss to Boston College on Sunday.

"We weren't in a slump, it's a game of percentages and they came around," Singler said, sounding like the shooter himself. "We got good shots tonight and we made some of them." D.J. Kennedy had 20 points for the Red Storm (12-14), who have lost six in a row to Duke. The Blue Devils hold a 17-5 lead in the series to 5-1.

With Singler and Scheyer both going 2-for-3 on 3s in the first half and St. John's matching its season average for a game with 14 turnovers, Duke was able to take a lead as big as 32-18 with 4:48 left and the Blue Devils led 37-26 at halftime.

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St. John's guard Quincy Roberts drives over Duke's Jon Scheyer.

"We didn't just get some shots down," Scheyer said. "Coach Norm Roberts whose team shot 54 percent (27-for-50), its second-highest percentage. He did explain the turnovers. "Youth and inexperience and trying to make something happen when it's not there."

"It's why they needed the five points," Scheyer said. "We're not in a slump, it's a game of percentages and they came around," Singler said, sounding like the shooter himself. "We got good shots tonight and we made some of them." D.J. Kennedy had 20 points for the Red Storm (12-14), who have lost six in a row to Duke. The Blue Devils hold a 17-5 lead in the series to 5-1.

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PGA

Tiger Woods watches a drive during a practice round at last year's U.S. Open. Woods announced that he will return to PGA Tour competition after an eight-month hiatus by defending his title in the Accenture Match Play Championships next week.

Associated Press

Woods to return after knee surgery

LOS ANGELES — Eight months after winning the U.S. Open on one good leg, a healthy Tiger Woods is returning to golf.

Woods said on his Web site Thursday that he will defend his title next week in the Accenture Match Play Championship, believing his reconstructed left knee and his game are good enough to win.

"I'm now ready to play again," Woods said.

The Match Play Championship begins Wednesday in Tucson, Ariz.

Players whom Woods has beaten so often while compiling 65 victories were happy to hear he was coming back.

"He was ready to go weeks ago," Stuart Appleby said at Riviera. "I don't think he needs to do a couple of laps around the track. He'll be on that horse and he'll be whipping it."

The timing for Woods to end his 254-day break from competition could not be better for the PGA Tour, which has seen television ratings plunge after the world's No. 1 player had to miss the second half of the season, including two majors, the Ryder Cup and the FedEx Cup playoffs.

"We are delighted that Tiger is returning to competition and look forward to watching him compete next week," commissioner Tim Finchem said in a statement.

The last shot Woods hit for real was a short par putt on the 18th hole of the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, where he defeated Rocco Mediate in a playoff to capture his 14th major, which Woods described as "probably the best ever" under the circumstances.

He had surgery after the Masters last year to repair cartilage damage in his left knee, and suffered a dual stress fracture in his left leg while preparing for his return.

He limped badly after the final five days of the U.S. Open, later saying the swelling was so bad at night that he couldn't see his knee cap. A week after winning, he had reconstructive surgery, the third operation on his left knee in five years.

What to expect?

"He's human," swing coach Hank Haney said. "He has played one tournament in 10 months. I would think he would be a little rusty, but I really don't know what to expect. Nothing with Tiger ever surprises me."

Woods began hitting short irons toward the end of December, and friends such as Mark O'Meara and John Cook said he had been playing plenty of golf over the last few weeks at his home course in Florida.

In Brief

Spurs Ginobili out 2-3 weeks with ankle injury

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Manu Ginobili started the season dealing with an injury to one ankle. Now the San Antonio Spurs super-sub is sidelined because of the other one.

Coach Gregg Popovich said Thursday before the Spurs played in Detroit that Ginobili is expected to be sidelined for 2-3 weeks.

"It's a stress reaction, not a stress fracture, which is important," Popovich said. "If it had been a stress fracture, there's no way he could have been playing, and certainly not as well as he has been."

Ginobili had X-rays, an MRI and a CT scan, and Popovich said the results were encouraging.

"The new bone is already starting to lay down, which means the healing process is underway," he said. "We're thinking that it will be 2-3 more weeks from tonight."

Rodriguez refuses to speak further on steroid claims

TAMPA, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez ducked follow-up questions about his drug use, refusing to address a report identifying the cousin the Yankees star claims injected him with a banned substance.

"I'm not talking about it anymore," Rodriguez said Thursday.

The slugger also wouldn't discuss Major League Baseball's attempt to interview him about his tainted past.

"I'd rather not get into that," he said. The three-time AL MVP met with Yankees owner George Steinbrenner and worked out on the main field at New York's spring training camp. 

Associated Press

Guard Alston traded from Rockets to Magic at deadline

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets traded point guard Rafer Alston to Orlando and acquired guard Brian Cook and Memphis guard Kyle Lowry on Thursday, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

Memphis also received the Magic's first-round draft pick, a potential. The three-team swap came one day after Rockets star Tracy McGrady announced on his Web site that he'll have season-ending microfracture surgery on his troublesome left knee.

The Magic, meanwhile, needed an experienced point guard after Jameer Nelson suffered a potentially season-ending shoulder injury Feb. 2.
Leach agrees to new contract with Texas Tech

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Tech and coach Mike Leach agreed Thursday on a new contract after months of contentious negotiations.

Leach signed the contract shortly after he and Kent Hance, the university's chancellor, met for about two hours Thursday afternoon to hammer out an agreement. Hance said the negotiating part lasted only about 15 minutes.

"Me and my family are thrilled that we're going to be in Lubbock for another five years," Leach said at an evening news conference. "I appreciate Chancellor Hance and Gerald (Myers') efforts to allow us to stay here and the opportunity to be here to coach the Red Raiders for many years to come."

Weeks ago, Leach and Tech essentially settled on the financial terms of a five-year, $12.7 million deal. But Leach took issue with several clauses the school added when the sides were trading proposals. The proviso that bothered Leach the most would have triggered his firing and a $1.5 million penalty if he interviewed for another job without getting permission from Myers, the athletic director.

Leach's existing contract had no such restrictions.

In the new contract that keeps Leach at Tech through 2013, Leach only needs to notify Myers in writing to interview at another school.

The contract also includes a $250,000 bonus if Leach and Tech win the national championship, a $75,000 bonus if Tech participates in a BCS bowl and a $50,000 bonus if Leach is picked as national coach of the year.

If Tech terminates the contract, the school must pay Leach $400,000 for each year remaining on the agreement. And there is no buyout amount.

Hance said he is confident in Leach will stick around for many years.

"We'll just make that zero on the buyout," Hance said, recalling his conversation with Leach earlier in the day. "I know he's not leaving."

Myers said he has always wanted Leach to be Tech's coach.

"I think that got lost with all the rhetoric and speculation," Myers said. "To put it mildly this has been a tough negotiation, and it's good to get it behind us."

On Tuesday, the school's Board of Regents scheduled a special meeting hours before a second deadline passed without Leach accepting Tech's "last and final" offer. The board planned to meet Friday but that meeting was canceled once the deal was sealed.

The meeting was to have been in private to discuss Leach's status, but the coach requested a public hearing late Wednesday. Under state law, the board had to grant his request. Leach then met with Hance to discuss his contract.

The termination clause that led to the stalemate had been added last Thursday. Myers wrote to Leach's agents that he didn't want the coach interviewing elsewhere, then returning to Lubbock without commenting to reporters.

He said he didn't want to unreasonably withhold permission for Leach to talk to other schools, just that he wanted to know when Leach was doing it.

In their ninth season under Leach, the Red Raiders reached unprecedented heights in 2008. They went 10-4 for the first time and beat top-ranked Texas to secure the highest ranking in school history at No. 2. Texas Tech was knocked out of BCS contention with a blowout loss to Oklahoma, then fell to Mississippi in the Cotton Bowl to finish 11-2.

Public opinion seemed to favor Leach as the drama unfolded. A few dozen supporters rallied on his behalf Tuesday, the day before a Texas Tech alumna and another fan took out a full-page ad in the Lubbock newspaper blasting the Texas Tech administration for its stance.

Andy is one of fourteen Churchill Scholars, and the first Churchill Scholar from Notre Dame since the program began in 1963. He will study for the Certificate of Advanced Study in Pure Mathematics at the University of Cambridge where he will pursue his interests in algebraic and differential geometry and algebraic topology.

A Goldwater Scholar, Andy has participated in two National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates, and he is the recipient of the Balles Award for the outstanding senior honors mathematics major, the Taliaferro Prize for first place in the mathematical essay competition for sophomores, and the Aumann Prize for first year students in mathematics. In addition to his mathematical interests, Andy has a deep passion for music: he plays percussion, saxophone, oboe, English horn, and piano. He is a member of the Marching Band (Drum Captain), the Symphonic Winds Ensemble (saxophone section leader), the Orchestra (oböe) and the Chorale. After Cambridge, Andy plans to do his PhD in theoretical Mathematics in the United States.

The Churchill Scholarship encourages the exchange of knowledge and the sharing of ideas in science and technology between the US and Great Britain. This program enables outstanding American students to do graduate work in engineering, mathematics and the physical and natural sciences at Churchill College, Cambridge University.

See http://winstonchurchillfoundation.org/ and the Office of Undergraduate and Post-Baccalaureate Fellowships (www.nd.edu/~f-fellows) for more information on the Churchill Scholarship.
ND SOFTBALL
Irish travel to Nike Invitational

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will head west this weekend to take on another top team.

The Irish (1-2) began their season Feb. 13 with a 10-1 loss against top-ranked Alabama in the Bama Bash. Today, the team will begin the three-day Nike Invitational in Palo Alto, Calif., with games against the Sacramento State Bandits and the No. 5 Stanford Cardinal.

On Saturday, the Irish will take on Sacramento State and Stanford again. The team will finish the weekend by facing the Western Kentucky Lady Toppers on Sunday morning. Though the beginning of the season did not go Notre Dame's way, several bright spots shone through.

A 2-1 win over East Carolina on Feb. 14, sophomore Katie Fleurty's home run and a single, tallying both RBI. Sophomore Sadie Citzenberger also had two hits in the game.

The two lead the Irish with batting averages of .364 and .444, respectively.

Senior pitcher Brittany Barger also got off to a strong start. In 13.2 innings at the Bama Bash, she compiled a 2.56 ERA with 12 strikeouts. Barger will have her hands full with Stanford (8-1). The Cardinal has already defeated several ranked teams and averages 8.6 runs per game. Their offense has been sparked by freshman Ashley Hansen, who leads the team with a .531 batting average and two home runs.

In a 2-1 win over East Carolina, sophomore Missy Pena is 6-1 with a 1.02 ERA in seven starts. She has struck out 68 batters and walked only eight in 41 innings.

The Irish take on Stanford today Sunday, Feb. 13 with a 5:30 p.m. doubleheader.

Sacramento State (2-0) has not played as much as Stanford, but already shows signs of offensive prowess. The Bandits hit five home runs in their two wins over Pacific, three of which came from the bat of senior Jamie Schloredt.

Notre Dame will play Sacramento State today at 1:00 p.m. and Saturday at 7:45 p.m.

Western Kentucky (5-2) comes to Palo Alto following a successful campaign at the Auburn Invitational, which ended with a 13-0 victory over Eastern Kentucky.

After that performance, Toppers junior Lindsay Antone was named co-Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week. Antone hit for a .637 batting average in three games with two doubles and three RBI. She leads the team with .480 overall batting average.

The Irish do not face the Lady Toppers until Sunday, and will play them at 12:00 p.m.

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TRACK & FIELD
Top athletes travel to Big East finale

By DOUG FARMER
Sports Writer

From the first days of fall practice, the Irish coaches have focused the team on this weekend.

"Where we really want to run is the Big East championships," coach Joe Piane said from the start. After each meet along the way, he repeatedly said, "This was just one small step in getting the team ready for the Big East."

Those long-awaited Big East Championships have finally arrive. The team departed for New York City on Thursday for the competition this weekend.

A couple of seniors lead each the men's and women's squads across the country. For the men, senior Bill Buzaid will compete in the 5000 m, 1,500 m, and the distance medley. Patrick Smyth will race in both the 3,000, and the 5,000, and Dan Clark will do his part in the mile, a notoriously difficult Big East event.

"The mile is a bear. There are two guys seeded under four minutes," head coach Joe Piane said. "Distance running has always been pretty darn good in the Big East."

As for the women, the dominating field events duo of seniors Anna Weber and Mary Saxer expect to headline the women's performances. Weber hopes to place in both the shot put and the weight throw, while Saxer will try to keep her incredible pole vault season rolling.

The deep underclassmen hope to follow the seniors' examples. In the mile, freshmen Jordan Carlson will join Clark, while junior Buzaid in the middle-distance events are both freshmen Jordan Rincon and junior khalaiz Muhtar running the 400, and junior Jack Howard will represent Notre Dame in the 800.

Sophomore Justin Schneider finished second in the multi-events on the card and will have a chance to improve on that this weekend, with strong Irish participation throughout the field events supporting him. The Schipper brothers, Matt, a junior, and Kevin, a freshman, have already qualified for the NCAA Championships, and will pole vault this weekend as well. Meanwhile, Eric Quick is jumping in both the triple and long jump.

All the competitors face strong competition at the Big East championships. The stiffest opposition will come from Connecticut and Louisville, as both are anticipated to fight for the first and second team places in both the men's and women's results.

"People don't understand how good the Big East Conference is in track and field," Joe Piane Irish coach

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No. 11 Irish face off against No. 1 Wildcats

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's campaign for a championship continues as it opens its home season this weekend. It has hit the ground on its 12-2 home record, its 13 seasons — the Wildcats hold a 7-2 advantage. Last year, Northwestern ended Notre Dame's season with a 15-7 win in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Against the Buckeyes, the Irish won 7-2 in the two teams' history, going 3-1 at home. In their last meeting, Notre Dame took the 14-11 game, led by junior Gina Shaylyn Blaney, each with four goals.

All 13 of Notre Dame's seasons have been coached by head coach Tracy Coyne, who is in her 22nd season of coaching. Ten different Irish players scored in the game, led by junior Gia Sciscia and sophomore Shay Blaney, each with four goals.

7 -foot freshman broke his hand during the game of the year. "It wasn't long ago that North Carolina was expecting to be the emergency replacement for our season. He's been scrambling to come to terms with Gross before the start of last season, but a deal has not been reached because the injury had a nor­mally allows the Panthers to trade for him without a franchise tag. The moves mean that all five offensive linemen are locked up for at least two more years.

It is one of those things where I am losing half a season, but I think it was much better than what I had before. I wasn't long ago that North Carolina took another hit when two other players were ruled out for the remainder of the season. The Tar Heels (24-2, 10-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) regained a measure of their once unrivaled depth with the earlier-than-expected return of 10-7 win in the seventh annual game of the year.

The Tar Heels (24-2, 10-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) regained a measure of their once unrivaled depth with the earlier-than-expected return of leading the Irish this season in ground balls (33) and draw controls (51), and led the team in caused turnovers (25). Byers has been a unanimous selection on the all-Big East team for the last three seasons. Having locked up Gross, the Panthers then placed the non-exclusive tag on Peppers, who said he would request a trade under that scenario.

"Julius was expecting to be franchised," Peppers' agent, Carl Carey, wrote in a text message, "We will continue to work toward a resolution that is in line with professional goals."

Under the non-exclusive franchise tag rule, Carolina offered Peppers a one-year guaranteed deal worth $16.7 million that will immediately count against the salary cap. While Peppers can still solicit offers from other teams, any club signing Peppers would have to surrender two first-round draft picks to Carolina. Placing the tag on Peppers theoretically allows the Panthers to trade for him for something less than two first-rounders and get some compensation instead of letting the cornerstone of their defense walk away for free. But Peppers has power because no team would likely trade for him without first securing a long-term contract agreement.

A person close to Peppers on Wednesday said he would agree to be traded to only four teams, including the Dallas Cowboys, who do not hold a first-round pick. So the Panthers face the prospect of not being able to work out a trade and then having Peppers either hold out or be dealt while eating up a giant portion of their salary cap.

But while Peppers has been adamant that he won't sign a long-term deal with Carolina, general manager Marty Hurney wouldn't rule out Peppers returning and said the team would not immediately seek a trade.

"We've said many times how many times we value Julius," Hurney said. "We would like him to stay here.

NFL teams can place the franchise tag on just one player, so the Panthers were scrambling to come to terms with Gross before the Thursday afternoon deadline. Carolina's first-round pick in 2003 played last season under the franchise tag in a one-year, $7.45 million deal. His new contract makes him one of the NFL's highest-paid offensive linemen.

"Jordan is one of the top tackles in our league and our offensive line was one of our strong points of our team last year," Hurney said. "Jordan's a very big part of that. ... We're so glad we were able to come to an agreement and be able to have Jordan here for another year."

Gross, who made his first Pro Bowl and was voted a first-team All-Pro last season, said he had said he wanted to stay in Carolina and was the key cog in an improved offensive line that helped running backs DeAngelo Williams and Jonathan Stewart have break­out seasons.

The moves mean that all five starters on the line are locked up in long-term deals. The defensive line, meanwhile, is in flux — and Gross' contract has made the Panthers play hardball with Peppers.

"He actually told me con­gratulations after I signed and said you deserve it," Gross said of Peppers in a brief phone interview Thursday night. "I think it was much easier on the team dealing with him.

Peppers, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2002 draft, is a freakish athlete and Carolina's career sacks leader. But Peppers has also been criti­cized for inconsistent play — he had a career-high 14 sacks this past season, but a career-low 2½ the year before.

Even in 2008, Peppers didn't record a single tackle against Denver and was shut down in Carolina's upset loss to Arizona in the playoffs.

Peppers, who turned down a lucrative contract extension before the start of last season, has said he would like to stay in Carolina's 4-3 alignment. There is precedent to slapp­ing the franchise tag on a player and then dealing him. Kansas City traded defensive end Jared Allen to Minnesota last year for a first-round pick and two third-round choices.

Chapel Hill, N.C. — Tyler Zeller couldn't pass up a chance to play a meaningful role in North Carolina's drive to another national championship.

The 7-foot freshman broke his wrist two games into the sea­son, but instead sitting out and playing another year of eligi­bility, 26 games into the Tar Heels' season Zeller played in his first game in the Carolina Blue and White earlier this week.

"I'm glad we were able to get where we are today," Hurney said. "We're so glad we were able to have Jordan here for another year."

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The moves mean that all five starters on the line are locked up in long-term deals. The defensive line, meanwhile, is in flux — and Gross' contract has made the Panthers play hardball with Peppers.

"He actually told me con­gratulations after I signed and said you deserve it," Gross said of Peppers in a brief phone interview Thursday night. "I think it was much easier on the team dealing with him.

Peppers, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2002 draft, is a freakish athlete and Carolina's career sacks leader. But Peppers has also been criti­cized for inconsistent play — he had a career-high 14 sacks this past season, but a career-low 2½ the year before.

Even in 2008, Peppers didn't record a single tackle against Denver and was shut down in Carolina's upset loss to Arizona in the playoffs.

Peppers, who turned down a lucrative contract extension before the start of last season, has said he would like to stay in Carolina's 4-3 alignment. There is precedent to slapp­ing the franchise tag on a player and then dealing him. Kansas City traded defensive end Jared Allen to Minnesota last year for a first-round pick and two third-round choices.
Glavine agrees to one year deal with Braves

Associated Press
KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Tom Glavine has returned to the Atlanta Braves for one more season, reaching a preliminary agreement on a $1 million, one-year contract.

The deal is likely to be announced Friday, a person familiar with the negotiations said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Braves had not yet confirmed it. It will contain $1.5 million in bonuses based on roster time.

"It's very close," Braves spokesman Brad Hainge said Thursday night. "They're going to talk again in the morning."

The left-hander, who turns 43 next month, said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Braves apparently had a change of heart. He informed the Braves late Wednesday he was returning to the city where he played his first 11 big league seasons.

Glavine will likely serve as Atlanta's fifth starter behind Derek Lowe, Jar-Jar Jair Jurrjens, Javier Vazquez and Kenshin Kawakami. The lefty will have some extra time to rehab his elbow and shoulder, since the Braves won't need a fifth starter until April 19 because of days off.

"It would be great to get Tommy back," manager Bobby Cox said. "It's always better to have one more option."

Glavine's return likely ensures that top prospect Tommy Hanson gets a little more seasoning in the minors. The 22-year-old right-hander has never pitched above Double-A, and the Braves would like him to get at least a half-season at their top farm club.

"There's no question he will benefit from more time in the minor leagues," general manager Frank Wren said. "He will continue to develop and grow from his experiences."

One deal early in the month. Freshman Casey Watt tacked on a second point with a win at fourth singles. Northwestern's Joshua Graves kept it close, winning No. 6 singles over Notre Dame's freshman Samuel Keeton.

The teams went back and forth on No. 2. Daniel Stahl winning at third singles followed by a three-set Northwestern win at second singles. No. 18 Brett Helgeson then ended his personal three-match singles win streak by dropping a three-set match to the Wildcats' Marc Dewey.

With the score deadlocked at three, Niall Fitzgerald pulled through and ensured the victory for the Irish. After dropping the first set 1-6, Fitzgerald came back to win the second and third sets 6-2 and 7-5, respectively. The win is his third straight at singles.

The schedule does not get any easier for the Irish as they next travel to Columbia to face Ohio State. The No. 3 Buckeyes are currently 9-1 and coming off a victory over UCLA. The Buckeyes have a number of skilled tennis players. Their top-three have all been ranked in the top-five in the country at some point in their careers. It will be a major challenge for the Irish, as coach Bobby Bayliss considers them the "sends-on favorite to win this year's NCAA tournament."

First serve is noon Sunday.

Contact Chris Michalski at jmichalski@nd.edu

SPORTS

MLB

Glavine agrees to one year deal with Braves

men's tennis

Irish net fifth straight win

By CHRIS MICHALSKI
Sports Writer

With a come-from-behind singles victory by freshman Niall Fitzgerald, No. 25 Notre Dame knocked off previously undefeated Northwestern University yesterday with a hard-fought 4-3 victory. The win marks the fifth straight Irish victory, bringing their overall record to 6-4.

The match began with Steven Havens and Casey Watt falling to Northwestern's Alex Sunhord and Joshua Graves 8-2 in second doubles. The 13th-ranked doubles team of Brett Helgeson and Tyler Davis then won first doubles followed by a third doubles win by Niall Fitzgerald and Matt Johnson. The win gave Notre Dame a 1-0 lead early in the meet.

Freshman Casey Watt tacked on a second point with a win at fourth singles. Northwestern's Joshua Graves kept it close, winning No. 6 singles over Notre Dame's freshman Samuel Keeton.

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Contact Chris Michalski at jmichalski@nd.edu

ND Women's Tennis

Irish set to take on BYU, Utah

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Fresh off a 7-0 thrashing of in-state rival Iowa on Wednesday, the Irish will travel cross-country to take on Brigham Young and Utah in a dual-match road trip this weekend in Provo, Utah.

No. 14 Notre Dame is currently 7-1 on the season, including six victories over ranked opponents. The Irish's only loss came against top-five Northwestern in the semifinals of last weekend's ITA Indoor National championships.

Freshman Shannon Mathews has led the Irish so far this season matching a 6-0 record at the No. 6 singles spot. Mathews' 3-0 record at the Indoor National championship tournament resulted in her being named to the All-Tournament team. She becomes the first Irish player to receive this honor.

"Shannon has come up with big wins for us this season," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "She's really been able to build on her success as the season has progressed."

Louderback has been very pleased with his team's performance so far.

"I feel really good about where we are right now," he said. "At this point, I believe we can compete with any team in the country."

Even with two early victories over top-five teams Baylor and Stanford, Louderback is still looking for his team to continue improving with every match.

"We have plenty of tough matches on the next few weeks and winning some close ones against top-five teams has definitely helped our confidence," he said. "But we have some things that we have to improve on to do well at the end of the year."

As for the stretch of matches that will give the Irish a bit of a break after facing the top-five teams in a row, Louderback won't be taking the weaker opponents any lighter.

"Doing well last weekend puts a bigger target on your back," he acknowledged. "So we really have to be ready for every team we play."

After this weekend's long road trip, the Irish will return home for a three-game stretch at the Eck Tennis Pavilion starting with...
There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and

a time to heal

a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew;

a time to be silent

and a time to speak

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Friday, February 27

“A Time To Heal” Dinner with Speakers

5–7:30 pm Legends

John Cavadini, Department Chair and Professor of Theology
Carolyn Nordstrom, Professor of Anthropology
Tim Latham, President of Men Against Violence
Kyle A.C. Rocca, Survivor of Sexual Assault
Anonymous Student, Survivor of Sexual Assault

All are welcome and the dinner is free, but you need to RSVP by February 23 to grc@nd.edu or 631-9340.

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Grain Rescue Center

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Tourney finishes Saturday

Lytle and Hoffman set records on Thursday

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

At the halfway point of the 2009 Big East Conference Championships, Notre Dame finds itself in a familiar position, leading the field with 296 points after two days of competition. The Irish followed up their strong performance on Wednesday as two Notre Dame records fall on the day. In the consolation round of the 50-yard freestyle, Irish junior Andrew Hoffman recorded a time of 20.39, besting 2005 Notre Dame graduate Frank Krakowski’s record by 0.6 seconds. Krakowski had originally set the record during the 2002-03 season, making it Notre Dame’s longest standing record.

However, Hoffman’s record wouldn’t last, as junior John Lytle bested his classmate one heat later in the event final with a time of 20.05. Lytle’s performance was good enough for fifth place in the event, as Cincinnati’s Josh Schneider held onto first place after breaking the Big East record in the morning session with a time of 19.17.

Lytle and Hoffman later teamed up to form the front half of Notre Dame’s 200-yard freestyle relay team to further cement their status in the Irish record books. The Irish sprinters teamed with sophomore Joshua Nosal and senior Danny Lutkus to break the Irish record with a time of 1:39.42, which was good for second place and an NCAA B-cut time.

Arguably, the most impressive Irish performance of the day came in the 500-yard freestyle, as a dominant performance in the preliminaries put six Notre Dame swimmers into the event finals. Sophomore Steven Brus won his first career conference title in the event with a time of 4:23.99, which earned him an NCAA B-cut time. Fellow sophomore Michael Sullivan finished in second place to garner all-conference honors while senior Jeff Wood finished fourth. Juniors Jeff Wood and Andrew Deiers finished fifth and sixth, respectively, while Lutkus scored for the Irish in the eighth spot. In the consolation final, Nosal led the event for the first 400 yards but was overtaken by Connecticut’s John Hogan in the final 100 to finish in second place.

In either action, senior Bill Bauman finished third in the consolation finals of the 200-yard individual medley after a strong surge in a time of 1:50.63, the team’s best of the season. Heading into the final two days of competition, Notre Dame leads Louisville by 25 points. The Irish will look to extend their lead on Friday, when the Big East Championships resume at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis at 10 a.m.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

Please recycle The Observer.

ND Women’s Swimming

Irish in good shape to win lucky number 13

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Coming into the second day of competition of their Big East Championship title defense, Notre Dame was in good shape. The No. 25 Irish were in led the field with 80 points, 12 ahead of second-place No. 23 Louisville.

Shaking off the jitters from the first day, Notre Dame continued to increase its lead over the Cardinals and the rest of the field Thursday with 209 points to bring its overall score to 209. Louisville held onto second with 242.5 points.

Irish sophomore Amywren Miller had a record-breaking performance in the 50-meter freestyle. Her time of 22.37 made her the fastest swimmer in Notre Dame history, but couldn’t earn her a win. She was out-touched by one one-hundredth of a second by Louisville junior Whitney Campbell.

Sophomore Lauren Sylveste started the day off well for the Irish with a third place finish in the first race of day — the 500 freestyle. She finished with a time of 4:50.32. Junior Megan Farrell and freshman Emily Barton placed next for the Notre Dame in the 200 individual medley. Farrell came in second and Barton finished less than a second behind her for third. The Cardinals once again took first place in the race. Notre Dame’s Ashlie Edgell finished just outside of the top three with a time of 2:01.77.

The Irish divers dominated the 1-meter springboard, with junior Natalie Stitt and sophomore Heidi Grossman grabbing the top two spots with scores of 290.15 and 268.05, respectively.

In the final race of the day, the 200 freestyle relay team snagged second in 1:31.01, just shy of Louisville’s winning mark.

Under the direction of first-year head coach Brian Barnes, the young Irish squad will continue their quest for a record-extending 13th consecutive Big East Championship. Barnes is used to winning after spending three seasons as an assistant at perennial powerhouse Auburn University.

The meet will conclude Saturday.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker@nd.edu

FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 1

2/22–3/1 “Giving a Voice” Poster Campaign featuring
GRC FIRE Starters
2/23 Take Back the Night
Prayer Service, 7:00 pm at Log Chapel
March around campus
Speak Out at Bonfire: 8:00 pm at Holy Cross Hill
(with hot-chocolate, smores and free t-shirts)
2/24–26 Resource Tables from 11:30 to 1:30pm in LaFortune
and the Dining Halls
2/25 Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention (CSAP) Student Forum
7:00 pm in Reckers Hospitality Room
2/27 “A Time to Heal” Dinner with Faculty and Student Speakers
Carolyn Nordstrom Professor of Anthropology
John Cavandini Department Chair and Professor of Theology
Kyle A.C. Rocca Survivor of sexual assault
Tim Latham President of Men Against Violence
Anonymous Student Survivor of sexual assault
5:00–7:00 pm at Legends. All are welcome and the dinner is free, but you must RSVP by February 23 to grc@nd.edu or 631-9340
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Boards continued from page 28

could end up being a metaphor for Notre Dame's season. Despite many chances to get its season back on track, Notre Dame keeps letting them slip away and is in grave danger of missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time in three seasons.

Saturday's game at Providence (tie-10, 8-6) represents one of Notre Dame's final chances to keep its Tournament hopes alive and prevent the metaphor from being complete for now.

A win over the Friars would keep a 9-9 conference record a realistic goal for Notre Dame's Big East slate. On the rest of their schedule, the Irish have four home games, the most challenging coming against No. 14 Villanova on March 2. After Providence, Notre Dame has one road game left on its schedule when it travels to No. 1 Connecticut on Feb. 28. That's a good thing for Notre Dame, who has been absolved on the road this season. The Irish have a grand total of two road wins this season — against 2-25 Loyola Marymount and 8-18 DePaul — usually wins they can brag about.

Assuming a loss at Connecticut, Notre Dame could get in the NCAA Tournament with a 5-0 Big East record.

Last season, both Syracuse and Villanova finished 9-9 in conference play and faced each other in the first round of the Big East Tournament. In a virtual play-in game for the Big Dance, the Wildcats won, and played on in March, while Syracuse was relegated to the NIT for the second straight season.

But this scenario would likely require Notre Dame to overcome its road woes and beat the Friars Saturday.

Providence, who sits in sixth place, has done what Notre Dame has failed to do this season — beat the middle of the pack teams in the Big East. Its biggest win came against Syracuse, and it has a record of 8-2 against teams below it in the standings. Providence returns many players from last season, when it took Notre Dame into overtime at the Joyce Center before falling 81-74. Guard Vincent Efejuku, who averaged 13.7 points per game, is its leading scorer. But if Notre Dame wants to remedy its rebounding problems from Wednesday, when West Virginia out-rebounded Notre Dame to a 44-32 victory on the boards, it will likely have to keep a body on Geoff McDermott, who's averaging eight points and 8.88 rebounds per game this season.

In Notre Dame's win last season over Providence, McDermott nearly had a triple-double, scoring 10 points, grabbing eight rebounds and dishing out eight assists. Even with Notre Dame's numbers, forward Luke Harangody continued to put up points of the year numbers, averaging 24.4 points per game and 12.7 rebounds. But down the stretch Wednesday, the rest of Notre Dame's offense disappeared. Notre Dame had 24 points in the second half against West Virginia — Harangody had 16 of them.

Notre Dame will also need to play the defense that it played in home wins over Louisville and South Florida last week, when it allowed just 57 points in each contest. But a requirement for good defense is good rebounding, something that Notre Dame needs to improve for Saturday, or it could end up disappointed on selection Sunday.

The game will start at 12 p.m. and will be broadcast on ESPNU Full Court.

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

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu.

The Observer • SPORTS

Friday, February 20, 2009

Huskies continued from page 28

its season rests largely on the hands of sophomore forward Maya Moore. In her freshman season she was named the Big East player of the year, the first time a freshman player garnered the award on the women's or men's side. She is one of the most well-rounded players in the country.

"She's an amazing player," McGraw said. "She's somebody that you enjoy watching because she's a hard worker, she's a really great kid. She's just a great person and I think everybody likes her. And when you watch her play you just have to kind of smile and when you watch her play other teams, it's fun to watch. I'm not sure I'm going to enjoy it as much on Sunday. But there's so many things she can do. She can control the game at both ends of the floor. She's a great defender. She can score in so many different ways and she's just pretty unstoppable."

"Moore can control the game at both ends of the floor; she's a great defender. She can score in so many different ways and she's just pretty unstoppable."

Muffet McGraw Irish coach

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Opener
continued from page 28

expected to switch to shortstop this season after starting at second base for three years. He hit .307 with right home runs and 50 RBIs last year and was named a second-team all-Big East player.

Two Irish football players will also help lead the baseball team this season. Senior Evan Sharpley led the team in home runs with 13 last year, and he is expected to start at first base. Sophomore Golden Tate started only nine games last year but is expected to start in left field.

Junior outfielder A.J. Pollock was named to the preseason honor roll by Baseball America. Pollock started all 55 games last season and hit .352 with four home runs and 42 RBIs.

Sophomore catcher Matt Sciolisci, son of former major league catcher and current manager of the L.A. Angels of Anaheim Mike Sciolisci, is expected to split time this spring with sophomore Cam McConnell. Both will have to fill the gap left by Sean Gaston, the fifth-year senior and tri-captain who graduated this spring. Gaston batted .301 and committed just nine errors in his four-year playing career.

Baseball America also predicted that Notre Dame would make the NCAA tournament as a No. 4 seed and finish second in the Big East. The Big East coaches picked the Irish to finish third in the conference. Notre Dame went 16-10 in the Big East last season. The Irish lost three straight games to South Florida to end the regular season, then lost another to USF and one to West Virginia to exit the tournament.

Notre Dame lost six players to the MLB draft last year, including Mike Zaglouh, a right-hander from Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., went 3-0 with two saves and a 0.77 ERA in conference action in high school. Steve Sabatino, a lefthander from Lockport, Ill., had a 1.79 ERA his junior season at Lockport Township High School. He had 57 strikeouts in 47 innings, an average of 10.9 strikeouts per nine innings, and also hit .327.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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PSU continued from page 28

Sophomore Chris Hogan netted four goals for the Nittany Lions, but the Colonials racked up a 4:14 shooting percentage from the field.

Penn State received significant contributions in the opener from a pair of freshmen. Redshirt freshman Matthew Mackrides had an assist and two goals. Penn State finished 5-7 in 2008, with a 2-9 record in conference play.

The Irish received some good news Thursday, as Hoff was named to the Tewaaraton Trophy watch list. The trophy is presented annually to the most outstanding player in college lacrosse.

Hoff is 60th all-time in goals for Notre Dame with 103 in his career. He became the first player in program history to record back to back 40 goal seasons after scoring 41 last year, barely eclipsing his mark of 40 from his sophomore year.

The Irish and Nittany Lions will face off at 1 p.m. Sunday at Holuba Hall. Notre Dame will then open at home Feb. 28 against Dartmouth.

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UNO continued from page 28

Irish coach Jeff Jackson said while he'd like the league crown for seeding purposes, he didn't want his team to get hung up on it.

"I'm not going to put a ton of emphasis on winning the conference championship because there's a lot more to play for after the facts," Jackson said.

First, Notre Dame will need to take care of business against the Mavericks, who currently sit in sixth place in the conference with 26 points. Recently, though, Mike Kompa's squad has struggled, going 0-2-2 since Jan. 9.

The Mavericks are led by power-play unit, which ranks fourth in the CCCHA with a 15.2 percent efficiency. Irish captain Erik Condra, though, was confident in his team's ability to step up defensively.

"Northern [Michigan] had a great power play last year, and we stopped them," he said. "And I think that's what we need to do this weekend.

Early in the season, Nebraska-Omaha had one of the most explosive offenses in the country, and notched several impressive wins, including an 8-3 non-conference thrashing of No. 7 Yale on Dec. 29.

"They've got good depth offensively," Jackson said. "I'm afraid of them right now because they haven't scored a lot of goals in the last month, and that's hurt them, but they have the potential to break out at any time."

Notre Dame has played the role of road warrior all season, currently riding an 11-2-1 record away from the Joyce Center this season. Prior to a Feb. 8 loss at Ohio State, the Irish hadn't lost on the road since a season-opening defeat to Denver.

"The big thing about playing on the road is momentum," Jackson said. "And you control the momentum by what you do, not taking bad penalties, not giving up odd-man rushes."

"We just turned everything up a notch."

Scott Rodgers
Irish senior

"I'm not going to put a ton of emphasis on winning the conference championship because there's a lot more to play for after the fact."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

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TAPES 'N TAPES
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37 Prefix with -pod (7)
39 Bead, also a kind of glass (5)
40 Cul-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__-
**BASEBALL**

**Batter up!**

Irish kickoff season in Florida this weekend

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Notre Dame can escape the snow this weekend when it heads to Florida to play Ohio State, Illinois and Purdue in the inaugural Big East/Big Ten Challenge.

The Irish, who were 33-21-1 last season, send righty Brian Dupra to the mound in the first game, against the Buckeyes, tonight at 7:30. Dupra was 3-3 with a 5.44 ERA last season. Notre Dame faces the Illini Saturday and the Boilermakers Sunday.

The tournament, which features eight Big East teams and 10 Big Ten squads, starts a 15-game stretch away from home for the Irish. Their first home game comes on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 against Ball State.

**ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

Irish take momentum into UConn territory

By DEIRDE KRASULA
Assistant Managing Editor

Winning on the road against South Florida was a huge confidence booster for the Irish, but Connecticut has had win like that game after game. That's why the Huskies are the No. 1 team in the nation.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the Irish are up for the challenge. The trip to Connecticut is always one the team looks forward to, and with Connecticut fans that treat basketball like Notre Dame does football, the Irish women know they'll be respected no matter what the outcome.

"We always like playing there because the crowd is always so great. They have a lot of energy and it really is an educated crowd. They cheer for good basketball and certainly their seeing a lot of it the way Connecticut has been playing all year. They're an outstanding team," McGraw said.

Coming of a huge 86-79 win over South Florida Tuesday, the Irish know they can play with teams at the top of the Big East. But Connecticut is a different story. The Huskies picked up an 83-37 win in January and defeated Louisville 93-65 later that month. The smallest margin of victory for the Huskies was 11 points in their 82-71 win over Georgia Tech back in November.

One of the main reasons Connecticut has been able to win so defensively throughout the season is the team's defense is always so great. They have a lot of energy and it really is an educated crowd. They cheer for good basketball and certainly their seeing a lot of it the way Connecticut has been playing all year. They're an outstanding team," McGraw said.