Author explains humans’ relation to God

By JOHN TIERNEY

Human beings cannot be understood without understanding their relationship with God, according to Igbo novelist and poet Chinua Achebe, who delivered his second lecture of a three-part series titled "The Igbo and their Perception of God, Human Beings and Creation" Wednesday.

"Oh! [the creator] gives each one of us a meaning," Achebe, the author of the 1958 novel "Things Fall Apart," said. "It is impossible to generalize the relationship between God and humans, according to Achebe. "God reveals himself in as many ways as there are us," he said.

The personal nature of religion manifests itself in the blending of Christianity with traditional Igbo religion, according to Achebe, who added a Christian conclusion to a traditional prayer.

"It’s something that is happening in Nigeria in the Igbo language," Achebe said. "Some people don’t like it—they think their religions and their prayers should stand alone.

"But there’s no point in making rules," Achebe continued. "It’s people who make prayers.

The primary Igbo deity, Chukwu, the name of God literally means “Great Creator,” in the

Campus sponsors ‘PostSecret,’ Irish style

Anonymous messages of students’ troubles to be displayed for mental health awareness

By LIZ O’DONNELL

If you have checked your mailbox lately, you probably received a postcard blank on one side except for the words "Write it down...

These postcards were part of Notre Dame’s first "PostSecret" event: Students have the opportunity to mail secrets or personal troubles to be published anonymously. Spencer Howard, a co-founder of Notre Dame’s chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) that helped to sponsor the event, said the group’s goal was to raise awareness and advocate for better mental health.

The College Democrats, the Sophomore Class Council, the Psychology Club and the Senate Social Concerns Committee also helped with sponsorship duties.

"This was a way for student’s to get the word out and share their stories of not just mental illness, but anything that’s been on their mind," Howard said.

The postcards were filled with thoughts ranging from concern over a mental illness to worries about friends to feelings of panic.

The event had to go through a series of SAO activities as well as print off over 6,000 postcards and fliers to publicize the event.

Dorm mailboxes were stuffed with the postcards, along with a blue slip of paper describing NAMI’s mental health mission. Although the event targeted students living on campus, students living off campus were welcomed to participate in the event.

Howard said his fellow members were hopeful that students would share their personal struggles to help build a stronger sense of community and a better support system.

"If they don’t have support in the community, dealing with issues for many students is challenging," Howard said. "People will want to talk about it, and others will be able to learn more about it."

NAMI-ND was co-founded this year by Howard and Katie Dunn. Howard said he read a New York Times article in 2006 about the organization as a whole, and decided to try to start one here.

"NAMI is a national group with state and local chapters," Howard said. "It is an important organization, often referenced by top political figures. According to NAMI’s Web site, the group is "the nation’s largest grassroots organization for people with mental illness and their families. Founded in 1979, NAMI has affiliates in every state and in more than 1,100 local communities across the country."

The mission of the Notre Dame chapter is to work toward ending the stigma directed at mental illness on campus through alliance, advocacy and awareness.

Econ prof dies at 73

By AARON STEINER

Charles Craypo, professor emeritus of economics at Notre Dame, died Sunday, March 22. He was 73.

A native of Jackson, Mich., Craypo joined the Notre Dame faculty in 1978 as an associate professor of economics. After leaving to teach at Cornell University in 1982, he returned to Notre Dame in 1984 when he was named professor emeritus.

In 1993, he became the director of the Higgins Labor Studies Program on campus.

"He was a wonderful role model," Warlick said. "He walks the talk in terms of working for social justice. In particular, he worked very hard for the rights of working people."

A native of Jackson, Mich., Craypo joined the Notre Dame faculty in 1978 as an associate professor of economics. After leaving to teach at Cornell University in 1982, he returned to Notre Dame in 1984 when he was named professor emeritus.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Magna Cafeteria

There are many unwritten rules in life — no one should have to tell you, you just know. Correction — most people know, I guess, because from time to time these rules do get broken. So let's get the unwritten rules of one relevant location down in writing, where they can be broken so often — the dining hall.

1. Do not ever, ever stop backwards in the dining hall. This rule mostly applies during peak hours, but really all the time. Common sense says that when everyone is carrying a tray in front of them, and you move backwards, you're probably going to hit someone's tray. Then if the person behind you doesn't have cat-like reflexes, food and silverware will go flying, and it creates a situation more awkward than watching American Pie with your grandparents.

2. Do not talk on your cell phone and get food at the same time. Judging from every time I've seen this attempted, it is not possible. You need a hand for your tray and a hand to get any food, so I'm having a hard time where this secret phone hand is supposed to come from. Anyways, no one in line behind you should be subjected to your conversation about that guy that spilled your beer at Fever. It's not a big deal.

3. Don't invade people's space. If you have a lot of people eating with you, you may be more popular than weed at a Pink Floyd laser show. Just don't sit down at a table with people already there, and make them feel bad or move because you suddenly can't fit all your buddies.

4. Do not ever take more than two cups. Three is just too many.

5. Do not try and be Rachael Ray. You do not have to travel the entire circumference of the dining hall in order to find something to eat. What's in the home-style section? Check the buddy. It's the same thing that's there everyday, bad burgers and hot dogs and a lot of grilled cheese and some fries. It's like when parents are at the dining hall after football game, at least you should know what's where.

Steve Wonder could get his food faster than you. Say hi to the people that work at the dining hall. Most everyone does this, but really, they're ridiculously nice people and the opportunity to talk and be around you is the reason they're here and not doing a greeter at Wal-Mart (or maybe the economy, but roll with it). Seriously, they love students more than they love the Weather Channel. And damn, do old people love to talk about the weather.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHO WOULD BE YOUR IDEAL COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER?

Josh Espinoza
Sophomore
Knott Hall

Andy Hills
Freshman
Raynor Hall

Jon Rivard
Freshman
Raynor Hall

Larissa Nez
Sophomore
Pangborn

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

OFFBEAT

MIch. baseball park to offer 4,800-calorie burgers

GRAND RAPIDS — Well, at least the salsa is low-cal. The West Michigan Whitecaps, a minor league baseball team, will be offering up major league cholesterol, carbohydrates and calories in an enormous hamburger being added to the menu this year at the Fifth Third Ballpark.

The 4-pound, $20 burger features five beef patties, five slices of cheese, nearly a cup of chili and liberal doses of salsa and corn chips, all on an 8-inch sesame-seed bun.

That's a lot of dough! The Grand Rapids Press reports that anyone who orders the behemoth in one sitting will receive a special T-shirt. Saner fans can divide it up with a pizza and beer.

The Midwest League team is a Class A affiliate of the Detroit Tigers.

Huntington Beach police said Monday that a 30-year-old woman opened a line of credit in someone else’s name in September 2008 and had the procedures performed at the Pacific Center For Plastic Surgery. Employees said she never returned for follow-up visits.

The woman turned herself in Tuesday and was released on $20,000 bail. She faces charges of commercial burglary, grand theft and identity theft.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A lecture hosted by the Theology department titled "The Igbio and their Perception of God, Human Beings and Creation," will take place today at 7:30 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium of Mendoza College of Business. Nigerian novelist and poet Chinua Achebe will deliver the Third Biennial Blessed John Paul XXIII Lecture Series in Theology and Culture. The talk Thursday will focus on "Creation: Where We Stand Now." The Department of Africana Studies will host a symposium titled "Change, Hope and Expectation: The Obama Presidency in Global Perspective" today at 6:00 p.m. in the Eck Visitors' Center Auditorium. A panel consisting of the Erskine Peters Dissertation Fellows will speak.

The Hawaii Club will be kicking off "Hula Le'a: Celebrating the Evolution of Hula" on Saturday at a dinner at 5:00 p.m. in the Stepan Center. The show will start at 6:30 p.m. Costs for students is $10 at the door.

The Black Cultural Arts Council will present "Fashion Show: Evolution" Saturday at 8:00 p.m. in the ballroom of the Marriott Hotel in South Beach. Clothes will be featured from Men’s Warehouse, Man Alive, Chi-Town Fashions, Street Stylin’, Renée’s, Dee’ Vanity, Bridal Boutique and Chico’s. Tickets are $8 for students.

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

Students paint up to support freshman pitcher Steve Sabatino during Notre Dame’s baseball game vs. Oakland on Wednesday.

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

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LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH 58
LOW 40

TONIGHT

HIGH 55
LOW 35

FRIDAY

HIGH 60
LOW 37

SATURDAY

HIGH 48
LOW 29

SUNDAY

HIGH 43
LOW 36

MARCH 26

Atlanta 61 / 51
Boston 48 / 39
Chicago 50 / 44
Denver 53 / 34
Houston 73 / 63
Los Angeles 67 / 52
Minneapolis 43 / 36
New York 50 / 31
Philadelphia 49 / 31
Phoenix 81 / 50
Seattle 50 / 40
St. Louis 59 / 46
Tampa 81 / 60
Washington 51 / 33

The Observer • PAGE 2

Thursday, March 26, 2009

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

IN BRIEF

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Students paint up to support freshman pitcher Steve Sabatino during Notre Dame’s baseball game vs. Oakland on Wednesday.
Lecture discusses Jesus' humanity

By MEGAN LOONEY
News Writer

We know that Jesus ate and drank, and put up with evaporating apostles, but we do not know if Jesus laughed," said Anita Houck, Saint Mary’s College Associate Professor of Religious Studies who spoke Wednesday for a lecture titled “Did Jesus Laugh?” at 4:30 p.m. in the Student Center.

We know that there have been stories of Jesus’ laughter, but none that were accepted into the Canon with the church follows. We can’t turn to the Bible to find the answer, Houck continued.

The talk was the second installment in a three-part spring lecture series called “Hope Hard Times” sponsored by the Center for Spirituality. The topic focuses on the benefits of spirituality amid the uncertainty of the current economic crisis.

One thing is undisputed: Jesus was human. And to be fully human, Jesus had to laugh like any other human, Houck said.

Contact Megan Looney at ml0091@saintmarys.edu

15th Annual Mini-Medical School
Hosting the 9th Annual Otis R. Bowen, M.D. Lecture:
"Health Care Under President Barack Obama: An Insider's Debate"

Ralph Neas, CEO, National Coalition on Health Care, Washington, D.C.
Robert E. Moffit, PhD.
The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.

Thursday, March 26, 2009
7:00-8:00 p.m. (EST)
Indiana University School of Medicine - South Bend
Radin - Carmichael Hall
1234 Notre Dame Avenue
South Bend, IN 46617
(The southeast corner of Notre Dame main entrance, at Angola Blvd)

Free of charge and open to the general public.

For more information call Memorial Hospital: (574) 647-7381

Please recycle

1. South Thursday, March 26, 2009

Lipstadt examines Holocaust denial

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Writer

New forms of Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism present an increasing challenge, Emory University Professor Deborah Lipstadt said in a lecture at Notre Dame Wednesday night.

Lipstadt, who delivered the 2009 Provost Distinguished Women’s Lecture, is a Holocaust scholar and the author of several books about the Holocaust. She is known for discrediting Holocaust denier David Irving in court when he sued for libel in 1996.

Lipstadt spoke about the need in relation to the larger battle against anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial.

There are two types of Holocaust denial, Lipstadt said. The first, which she called “hardcore denial,” denies the very existence of the Holocaust. She defined David Irving as a “hardcore” denier.

The other kind of Holocaust denial, or “softcore” denial, is more difficult to build up in the community because it is more subtle, Lipstadt said.

“How do you fight these people without building them up in importance?” she asked. “The one way I know how to fight is to show the facts.”

Lipstadt related Holocaust denial views to new forms of Anti-Semitism, which has increased in recent years. It is most prevalent in Europe, and more worrisome than it was in the past, she said.

“It is less directed at individuals,” Lipstadt said. “It is more directed at Jews as a group. And sometimes it can be lethal.”

Anti-Semitism is equally as difficult to respond to as Holocaust denial, Lipstadt said.

“When you come to respond to these perspectives, you’re already in a difficult position,” she said.

“You’re immediatelycrediting an irrational sentiment. You’re trying to respond to it rationally. You’re never going to win.”

Lipstadt said that anti-Semitism is like all other kinds of prejudice.

“It’s the same thing as fighting racism, sexism, whatever you might be fighting,” she said.

It is a nearly impossible task to convince Holocaust deniers of the truth, Lipstadt said. Instead, she said she dedicates her time to spreading facts because she hopes to prevent the expansion of prejudice.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccryst@nd.edu

Student Senate

Senate renews ‘Chief of Staff’ title

By MADALINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

Student Senate passed a resolution to amend the constitution of the undergraduate student body to restore the title of Chief of Staff at the last meeting of the term Wednesday.

The position is currently called the Chief Executive Assistant (CEA) and is the number two position in student government, serving under the student body president and vice president.

Student body vice president Grant Schmidt officially announced that Ryan Bredemus, current chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, will take the position of Chief of Staff on April 1.

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Brian Coughlin said the title Chief of Staff was changed to Chief Executive Assistant because changes made to the format of student government essentially dissolved the staff.

“There wasn’t any staff so the name was inappropriate at the time,” Coughlin said.

Last semester’s chair of the Oversight Committee, which oversees changes to the constitution, said the switch was for practical reasons.

“People usually have a hard time explaining what the CEA is,” he said.

So did current chief executive assistant Karen Koski usually referred to the title of Chief of Staff when discussing her job with student government outsiders because the title is more descriptive of the job.

The resolution passed with 25 votes for the amendment, two against and zero abeyancing votes.

Alumni Hall senator Zach Beavers and Fisher Hall senator Jon Vu opposed the amendment.

The resolution states that the Chief of Staff will assist the student body president and vice president with daily tasks and committee efforts, attend all Executive Policy Board meetings and sit on Student Senate, Council of Representatives and the Campus Life Council as a non-voting member.

The Chief of Staff will also be responsible for Student Senate press releases and general publicity, according to the resolution.

In other Senate news:

• Student body vice president Grant Schmidt said he has been preparing for the transition for when he will occupy his position as student body president on April 1, along with student body vice president-elect Cynthia Veher.

• Chair of the Academic Affairs committee Ryan Bredemus said his committee has been working with professors to obtain BSN numbers for textbooks required for University courses in order to lower the cost of books.

He said the project will continue into the next term.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

"How do you fight these people without building them up in importance?" The one way I know how to fight is to show the facts.

Deborah Lipstadt
Emory University professor

"To attribute laughter to Jesus, we cannot go straight from 'he was human' to 'he had to laugh.' We have to add the premise that it is good for humans to laugh," he said.

To support her claim that laughter is good, Houck listed a variety of reasons centering around its importance to relationships: old-fashioned joy, comic relief, inside jokes, laughter as a sign of common humanity and as a way to ward off evil and as a way to express the human side of the church.

Like Jesus, Houck practiced the lessons she preached. While speaking about the benefits of laughter, she entertained the audience by feeding them opportunities for humor throughout the lecture.

Using a video clip of MIT mathematician Tom Lehrer’s satirical “God Never Received a Tenure at Any University,” and several cartoons, Houck demonstrated the capacity for laughter, as the room erupted at inside jokes aimed at Catholicism.

“One function of humor is to build community," Houck said. Inside jokes bring people together.

But humor has had a bad reputation with religion, since the occasional mean-spirited intent clashes with virtue. This is one reason why it is difficult for us to accept that Jesus laughed, said Houck.

"It would be dishonest to say that laughter always puts to good use," Houck said.

Despite humor’s negative reputation, it is worth remembering that there are all kinds of laughter, and we can use laughter as a means of relationships," she continued.

Houck used quotes from G.K. Chesterton, Mark Twain, Albert Einstein, Thomas Aquinas and William James to transition between her points.

She concluded her lecture with a quote from G.K. Chesterton: "You must have mirth or you will have madness."

Contact Megan Looney at ml0091@saintmarys.edu

The Observer ● CAMPUS NEWS
Secrets continued from page 1

While this event has no affiliation with the university, Reish said it earned the same name as the Douglas Road location that held on other college campuses, Howard said it earned the same name. A 5-cent postcard for spreading a person.

While the location where the anonymous messages will be posted is not yet determined, Howard said he hopes it will be centrally located.

"We are looking to make a wall where people can read the actual cards we have collected," Howard said.

The group is still awaiting approval from the SAO before they can construct a wall which will display the more than 20 postcards collected so far.

Howard, a senior, will not be on campus next year, but he wants to see the event next year.

“This is a good event to continue annually," he said. "I believe that it will help students feel more welcome and no one will feel isolated.”

Contact Liz O'Donnell at 
edonnelly@nd.edu

Author continued from page 1

God who receives the least amount of praise, Achebe said.

"There are many deities for the Igbo, but Chukwu is infinitely greater and different from the others," he said. "The others are useful and may be troublesome and may demand to be at peace with shrines and worshipers which Chukwu does not generally have.

"In Igbo cosmology, Chukwu has a primary function that he does not have any creation," Achebe said. "Making people, making the world, and sustaining it until it becomes a stage." The Igbo word for "create" is "ke," according to Achebe. "There is a second meaning of 'ke' — to share, to distribute, to allow," he said.

Because of this second meaning of "ke," Chukwu "is also creating the attributes," Achebe said. "A person is only made when he has received their share of human attributes.

The perception of death is an important way to understand the relationship between humanity and the divine in the Igbo culture, he said.

"It shows the complexity of how the Igbo people comprehend the complexity of God's presence," he said. "Death is part of the world of living." When a person dies, the Igbo see the death of the person among the living," Achebe said.

The young people in the village play what Achebe described as a game of hide-and-seek in search for the dead person.

"An aground group goes around town singing calling on their member to come out from hiding and join them," Achebe said. "They pretend they no longer know where their friend is, that he is playing games. These searches last throughout the night, until all the villagers are forced to concede that their friend did pass away. These customs and manifestations of the Igbo believe that "death" is a second meaning of "life," according to Achebe.

"It is Chukwu who made death," Achebe said. "The Igbo believe that the world of living and world of the dead are connected in circular and unending manner. The finality of death is not known to the Igbo." Achebe understands that there are "people who want nothing to do with death, who want to resurrect those who died," he said. "They think they are doing something which good approves." However, for the Igbo, death is not an evil. The Igbo 

"The Igbo people would say it is god who made death," Achebe said. "I wish we appreciate the value of having the inner complexity of things around us." Achebe will present his third lecture, on "Creation." Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium of Mendoza College of Business.

Contact John Tierny at jtierny@nd.edu

Protest continued from page 1

as of press time.

According to PostSecret, Shyn Inouye, a White House spokesperson, said the president is honored to speak to Notre Dame students.

"Notre Dame is one of the first universities Obama will visit as president," Inouye said. "It is honored to address the graduating class, their families and the faculty of a school with such a rich history of fostering the exchange of ideas." Mary Beth Tinker, "President of Notre Dame Right to Life, said the coalition's Web site has already gotten a huge response. "I personally have over just 55 pages of e-mails, and the e-mail of the coalition just today has received a massive response very quickly," Daly said.

Daly said the coalition is the result of a meeting on Tuesday that was organized by Right to Life but extended to all interested groups and individuals.

"It initiated some communications among the groups and after debating, we decided it is important to collaborate on the basis of our common ground based on our beliefs," he said. "We thought that would be most effective if we worked together on the issues." Daly said she cannot comment specifically about the coalition's plans because they are in the very beginning stages, but the group's Web site lists an event slated for March 31 in which the coalition will deliver red envelopes to Jenkins representing abortion.

According to the site, the letters will say, "H. J. Jenkins, That envelope represents one child who died because of an abortion. It is empty because the fetus that was taken is now unable to be a part of our world. This envelope was going to be sent to President Obama on March 31st. However, as he is scheduled to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Laws Degree from Notre Dame on May 17th, we ask that you deliver it to him on our behalf at that time." Daly said the coalition aims to "provide concrete, solid leadership" and has students primarily leading the protests, but will tap into the resources of outside groups that have offered help.

"This is an issue that's much bigger than this University to the world, and so it affects everybody who is associated in any remote way with the University," she said. "Even people who have never stepped on campus." However, Daly said the coalition has not reached out to or made any formal alliances with any outside groups or individuals.

"Outside groups have been in contact with us, but we have not reached out to anyone because we think it's important that we are expressing a student voice," she said. "We have been receiving a barrage of e-mails, but we are not at a point to formally cooperate or organize anything." Assistant Vice President for News and Information Dennis Reish told The Observer student groups can sponsor these kinds of events and the University supports the engagement of dialogue.

"It is important to have a variety of opinions on a college campus," he said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Unions continued from page 1

to speak during the last week of his term.

Reish said his transition to leading the student body last April was difficult because he did not come to office with the experience of being student body vice president or chief executive assistant, which is traditionally the pattern. But because Reish and student body vice president Grant Schmidt "broke the tradition" of the succession of power in student government, Reish said the team brought new ideas to the university.

"We brought to the second floor of LaFortune," he said. "We changed that and that's pretty cool." Reish said he hopes the DVD rental program will continue to be a vehicle to increase dialogue between the student body and student government.

Reish thanked the senators and committee chairs for their work in help reaching the goal of strengthening the connection between student govern­­men­t and the student body.

"For all of you, I wish the best of luck," he said. "Thanks for a good year." Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Craypo continued from page 1

at Notre Dame of the needs of ordinary laboring people, as Notre Dame grew wealthier and tended to be more interested in the welfare of students. "He was a great mentor to our doctoral students, directing many dissertations and sitting on the new generation of excellents positions in academia, government and labor organizations," Wilber said.

Craypo recently taught a one-credit course on Wal-Mart, which will be integrated into his curriculum of social justice issues.

"We will miss having that course very much," she said.

Craypo served for two years in the military before attending Michigan State University where he earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in economics.

Contact Aaron Steiner at 
estiner@nd.edu

Relish said the DVD rental program his administration implemented this year also has had "a critical role in creating the visibility of student government among students."

Because the rentals are available in the student government bookstore and the LaFortune Student Center, Reish said the program brought students up to the second floor to get to know the members of student government.

"We brought people to the second floor of LaFortune," he said. "We changed that and that's pretty cool." Reish said he hopes the DVD rental program will continue to be a vehicle to increase dialogue between the student body and student government.

Relish thanked the senators and committee chairs for their work in helping to reach the goal of strengthening the connection between student government and the student body.

"For all of you, I wish the best of luck," he said. "Thanks for a good year." Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Relish said the DVD rental program his administration implemented this year also has had "a critical role in creating the visibility of student government among students."

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

‘Most-wanted’ trafficker captured MEXICO CITY — Soldiers captured one of Mexico's most wanted drug traffickers, a man accused of controlling the flow of drugs throughout much of Mexico, for the powerful Beltrán-Leyva cartel, the Mexican army said Wednesday.

The announcement came hours before U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrived in Mexico promising to do more to help Mexico crack down on drug violence that is spilling over into the U.S.

Lucia Araceli Oliver, said Hector Huerta was detained Tuesday in a Monterrey suburb, along with four men identified as his bodyguards. Soldiers also seized assault rifles and four grenades.

Huerta was arrested on an outstanding homicide warrant; the other four suspects were being held pending charges.

US journalists possibly led by guide SHIBU, India — Two American journalists being held by North Korea may have been led across the border from China by a guide promising them exclusive access to North Korean political and military officials, a Washington-based activist group said Wednesday.

The group, which said it helped arrange their trip to China to report on North Korean refugees living in border towns, said the reporters left in close contact, calling him twice daily. They followed his advice to the letter, and never mention wanting to sneak into North Korea, he said.

F-22 fighter jet crashes in desert EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — One of the Air Force's top-of-the-line F-22 fighter jets crashed Wednesday in the high desert of Southern California. There was no immediate word on whether the pilot ejected.

The F-22A Raptor crashed 35 miles northeast of Edwards Air Force Base, Pentagon spokesman Gary Strassburg said. The bureau of Rand Management identified the area as Harper Dry Lake, a vast and empty expanse of sometimes marshy flat land.

Rescue crews were at the site in the afternoon, but there was no information on the status of the pilot, said Lt. Col. Karen Platt, an Air Force spokeswoman at the Pentagon.

N.D. mayor ‘optimistic’ about flooding BISMARCK, N.D. — Mayor Arnie Gunter said he was "optimistic" about flooding that is spilling over into the Missouri River in a bid Wednesday to open a channel, like pulling out a giant plug to drain a huge expanse of sometimes marshy flat land.

"We are cautiously optimistic," Bismarck Mayor John Warford said after the string of explosions went off. He said officials would have a better assessment Wednesday night, but said water appeared to be moving.

Water backing up behind the dam of car-size ice blocks already had forced the evacuation of about 1,700 people from low-lying areas in North Dakota's capital city.

LOCAL NEWS

Lawsuit targets major polluters CHELSEA, Mass. — A Massachusetts lawsuit targeting major polluters, including General Electric and General Motors, is set to go forward, a federal judge ruled Monday, despite objections from the companies.

The lawsuit, filed by the Regional Toxic Action Center, contends that General Electric and General Motors are responsible for pollution that has contaminated soil and groundwater in the city's Abbie Lane neighborhood.

The companies have argued that the pollution was caused by activities of their predecessors and that they should not be held responsible.

The judge, however, ruled that the lawsuit should proceed.

French workers protest, burn tires 3M manager held hostage as laid-off employees demonstrate against AIG PARIS — French workers burned tires, marched on the presidential palace and held a giant mock hostage of a manufacturer 3M hostage Wednesday as anger mounted over job cuts and executive bonuses.

Rising public outrage at employers on both sides of the Atlantic has been triggered by executives cashing in bonus checks even as company coffers are kept afloat with billions of euros (dollars) in taxpayers' money and unemployment woes.

As the U.S. administration seeks ways of recouping some of the $165 million in bonuses paid to executives at insurance giant American International Group Inc., kept afloat by $70 billion in taxpayer bailout money, French President Nicolas Sarkozy is threatening new laws on bonuses and golden parachutes.

Sarkozy is also trying to deflect anger against his government's failure to ward off the job losses and economic hardship (that comes with recession).

The 43.2 million ($4.3 million) exit bonus paid to the former head of Valeo SA, an auto parts maker that recently filed for bankruptcy, has fueled outrage in France. Controversy also grew Wednesday over bonuses at brokerage company CHEVRON PARIS, a French bank that got state handouts.

"The risks of repercussions of ill-feeling from employers' and workers' political backlash are real if excesses continue to be compensated at pre-crisis levels," said Guibelas Ding, a senior analyst at financial research firm Ceteron.

"Bonuses which are now seen as the politically correct thing to do." Rising public outrage at employers has led to kidnappings, marches and strikes in France, a country with a long tradition of labor unrest.

A French 3M executive was being held hostage for the second day at a plant in Pithiviers, south of Paris, as workers protested layoffs. The situation was calm, however, with labor talks taking place there Wednesday.

Detained 3M manager Luc Rooselet told an AFP reporter "Everything's fine" and workers planned to bring him mussels and French fries for dinner.

In Paris, rage boiled over into an angry march on the presidential palace and a bonfire of tires set alight by French fry workers protesting layoffs.

In France, rising public outrage at employers is leading to violence in protest marches, vandalism and strikes.

As the law is a covenant with society. Big companies like General Motors and French companies are expected to avoid higher levels of airborne toxins than elsewhere in the United States.

N.H. votes to repeal death penalty CONCORD, N.H. — Three months after a man was sentenced to die for killing a police officer — New Hampshire's first death sentence in 40 years — voters Wednesday to repeal capital punishment.

The chamber voted 193-174 to repeal the bill to the Senate, where it is due to debate. Gov. John Lynch, a Democrat, said he would veto the bill if it reached his desk.

"There are some crimes so heinous that I believe capital punishment is warranted," Lynch said after the vote.

Michael Addison was sentenced to death in December for killing Manchester police Officer Michael Briggs in 2006. No execution date has been scheduled because Addison is appealing the sentence.

A law enforcement official has lined up against the repeal, led by Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, who prosecuted Addison. But the New Hampshire Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers says death penalty sentences are unfairly applied.

Hampton Democrat Benny Gushin, whose father was shot to death in 1988, led the fight to repeal the death penalty. After his father's murder, Gushing founded Murder Victim's Concern, a national organization to support families of murder victims.

"No matter how many times you kill, that doesn't bring anybody back," he said. Gushing asked the House to repeal the law "in the name of my father.

But Wolfeboro Republican Stanley Stevens, who supports the death penalty, cited law enforcement officials to killed in the line of duty over the years. The law is a covenant with them that their deaths would be avenged, he said.

"We ask them to stand between us and lawlessness," Stevens said.

Associated Press
Two hundred killer whales seen in Gulf

Associated Press

It was a fish story that even veteran boat captains found fascinating. As many as 200 killer whales feeding on tuna in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

"It was like being at Sea World because they'd come right up to the boat," said Eddie Hall, captain of the Shady Lady, the 60-foot charter boat that spotted the shiny black sea beasts with white eye patches and undersides. "It was pretty neat."

It was also hard for some skeptics to believe. Orcas, as killer whales are also known, typically are thought to live in cold water and eat seals.

But Hall's description of what he saw last Oct. 31 was no tall tale. A government biologist who saw video taken from Hall's boat confirmed the captain had spotted the creatures. And last week that same scientist, Keith Mullin, explained at a public meeting in Orange Beach, Ala., that yes, contrary to common perceptions, killer whales really do live in the Gulf, far from land.

Mullin, whose outfit has been working for years to get an accurate count of the Gulf's whale population, said it may be time to dramatically increase estimates on how many killer whales are lurking in the deep waters off the Gulf Coast. He's taking part in a research expedition this summer that could determine if his hunch is right.

Scientists believe the whales have been in the Gulf for years. Mullin said, and that their presence — though startling to some anglers — isn't a sign of climate change or other manmade condition. Their relatively small population and the speed at which pods move make them difficult to count, which could have led to lower estimates.

"We've got good records of them in the Caribbean. We see them almost exclusively in deep water, 600 feet and more," Mullin said. "I think they've always been there. 5% just in the last 15 to 20 years that we've been trying to study them."

Hall told The Associated Press on Monday that the Shady Lady was 95 miles off the coast of Alabama when anglers and crew saw scores of the marine mammals feeding near an offshore rig in water more than a mile deep.

"There were four different pods. We estimated there were about 200 maximum. One pod had 75 in it," said Hall, who runs charters out of Zeke's Landing in Orange Beach, about 40 miles east of Mobile.

People on the boat took video and photos, including some with the offshore rig in the background to identify their location. But Hall said they got laughed off the dock when they returned.

"It was a joke because no one would believe us," he said.

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — President Barack Obama seemed to have as much fun Tuesday talking to the 10 astronauts in orbit about e-mailing, fitness and Tang as the children who surrounded him at the White House and took part in the call.

Obama, making his first call to space, even asked the only woman aboard the shuttle-station complex whether she was tempted to cut her long hair while she was up there. She said no, and the president called her flyaway curls "a real fashion statement."

He started the call off joking with the astronauts.

"I told you that you're cruising at about 17,000 mph, so we're glad that you are using the handsfree phone," he said.

After getting a big laugh in orbit and on the ground, the president got right down to business, telling the astronauts that he was extraordinarily proud of them for their work at the international space station over the past year. He wanted to know how they installed the new solar panels and what the impact of that green power would be.

"We're investing back here on the ground a whole array of solar and other renewable energy projects and so to find out that you're doing this up at the space station is particularly exciting," Obama said.

Last week's addition of the last set of solar wings doubled the amount of power available for science experiments and will help support a larger crew in a few months, the astronauts said.

The half-hour call came as the astronauts were enjoying their last full day together. Shuttle Discovery departs with its crew of seven Wednesday afternoon.

Obama made sure the middle school students got first crack at the astronauts. Several members of Congress in attendance — "who are like big kids when it comes to talking to astronauts," according to Obama — had to wait in the queue.

One boy asked whether the astronauts can play video games in space. The answer: They can, but there isn't much free time. Other children wanted to know what the astronauts eat and whether they have found any life forms up there. The astronauts said they haven't found anything yet. "I think we'll have much more success at finding new types of life and different structures when we go to places like moon and Mars," said astronaut Sandra Magnus, the only woman aboard.

One of two former middle school teachers who flew up on Discovery, Richard Arnold II, said the food was pretty good, consisting mostly of dehydrated and on-the-ground, the answer: They can, but there isn't much free time. The president was interested in the fitness requirements of the job, too. "Some of us remember watching The Right Stuff," he said. The 1983 movie depicts how the seven original Mercury astronauts competed strenuously for their jobs.

Fincke flexed his muscles for the president. "That's pretty impressive," Obama said.

Later in the day, Magnus told reporters she can't wait to go outside when she's 1 1/2-month mission at the space station ends. She will return to Earth aboard Discovery.

"You just can't get tired of looking at the views" of Earth, Magnus said. "But part of you wants to be down in the view, in nature, walking through the woods or enjoying the breeze or enjoying the sun on your face."

She's also yearning for sushi, pizza and a chocolate milkshake.

Obama makes first call to space

The Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Presents the 24th Annual Philip Doris Clarke Family Lecture on Medical Ethics

A Moral Foundation for the Helping Professions: Medicine, Law, Ministry, and Teaching

Edmund Pellegrino, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Medical Ethics
Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University Medical Center

Friday, March 27, 2009
4:00 PM
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Sponsored by the Notre Dame Alumni Association and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture
Democrats stand behind Obama on the Hill

WASHINGTON — In a springtime show of unity, congressional Democrats welcomed President Barack Obama’s plan to spend nearly $2 trillion to pull the U.S. economy out of recession as “the road to hell” that the Republican governors must avoid.

The blunt comments by Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek and his remarks are still mounting and home prices are still enough to stimulate demand.

Furthermore, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the chief executive met privately in the Capitol with rank-and-file Democrats.

Earlier, White House Budget Director Peter Orszag told reporters the congressional budgets “may not be identical twins to the president submitted, but they are certainly brothers that look an awful lot alike.”

Neither house included the $250 billion that the administration seeks for a broader financial industry bailout. Additionally, Senate Democrats assume in their version that Obama’s middle class tax cuts will expire after 2010, and the House blueprint allocates $200 billion in tax cuts over five years, far less to tax cuts over five years than the president.

Some of those revisionists say the tax cuts can’t be kept in place in 2011 and beyond, only that legislation would have to find offsetting revenue to pay for them, said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg, R-N.H., who was briefly the chief of the executive branch’s at the Capitol with rank-and-file Democrats.

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Post office proposes major cutbacks

If the Postal Service does run out of money, the lingering question, Potter told the House Oversight post office subcommittee, in which bills will be paid and which will not. Ensuring the payment of workers’ salaries comes first, he said, but other bills may have to wait.

Postal Service facing delivery cutbacks in January, but the idea has not been warmly received is in camouflage.

Without a change we will exhaust our cash resources,” he said. “We can no longer afford business as usual.”

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 Asked if layoffs would occur. Potter said it is possible but he hopes avoidable.

Last week, the postal service said it planned to offer early retirement to 150,000 workers and is eliminating six of its 80 district offices in cost-cutting efforts. Potter said he expects 10,000 to 15,000 workers to accept the early retirement offer.
Pharmaceutical residue found in fish across U.S.

Associated Press

Fish caught near wastewater treatment plants sharing five major U.S. cities had residues of pharmaceuticals in them, including medicines used to treat high cholesterol, allergies, high blood pressure, bipolar disorder and depression, researchers reported Wednesday.

Findings from this first nationwide study of human drugs in fish tissue have prompted the Environmental Protection Agency to significantly expand similar ongoing research to more than 150 different locations.

"The average person hopefully will see this type of a study and see the importance of us thinking about water that we use every day, where does it come from, where does it go to? We need to understand this is a limited resource and we need to learn a lot more about our impacts on it," said study co-author Bryan Brooks, a Baylor University researcher and professor who has published more than a dozen studies related to pharmaceuticals in the environment.

A person would have to eat hundreds of thousands of fish dinners to get even a single therapeutic dose, Brooks said. But researchers including Brooks have found that even extremely diluted concentrations of pharmaceuticals in fish, frogs and other aquatic species because of their constant exposure to contaminated water.

The research was published online Wednesday by the journal Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and also was presented at a meeting of the American Chemical Society in Salt Lake City.

Brooks and his colleague Kevin Chambliss tested fish caught in rivers where wastewater treatment plants release treated sewage in Chicago, Dallas, Phoenix, Philadelphia and Orlando, Fl. For comparison, they also tested fish from New York City’s Catskill Mountains and Gila River Wilderness Area, an area isolated from human sources of pollution.

A prior research has confirmed that fish absorb medications and hormones they live in are contaminated with traces of drugs that are not meant for sewage treatment plants. Much of the contamination comes from the unmetabolized residues of pharmaceuticals that people have taken and, in some cases, unused medications, Brooks said. The chemical released to the environment can not be flushed down the drain also contribute to the problem.

The researchers, whose work was funded by a $51,000 EPA grant, tested fish for 24 different pharmaceuticals, as well as 12 chemicals found in personal care products.

They found trace concentrations of seven drugs and two soap scent chemicals in fish at all five of the urban river sites. The amounts varied, but some of the fish had combinations of many of the compounds in their bodies.

The researchers didn't detect anything in the reference fish caught in rural New Mexico.

In an ongoing investigation, the Associated Press has reported that traces of pharmaceuticals have been detected in drinking water provided to at least 46 million Americans.

The EPA has called for additional studies about the impact on humans of long-term consumption of minute amounts of medicines in their drinking water, especially in unknown combinations. Limited laboratory studies have shown that human cells failed to grow or took unusual shapes when exposed to combinations of some pharmaceuticals found in drinking water.

"This pilot study is one important way that EPA is increasing its scientific knowledge about the occurrence of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in the environment," said EPA scientist Suzanne Rudzinski. She said the completed and expanded EPA sampling for pharmaceuticals and other compounds in fish and surface water was part of the agency’s National Rivers and Stream Assessment.

The Rev. John Skohan, 81, was sentenced Tuesday to 14 months in prison after pleading guilty to stealing more than $370,000 from the same church. He will also serve seven years probation and will pay more than $700,000 in restitution.

Authorities claimed the two priests took the money to fund lavish lifestyles, including upscale homes, gambling trips and rare Whiskey collections. They believed the money stolen over the years was in the millions, but a statute of limitations kept them from pursuing charges on the larger theft.

An anonymous parishioner tipped prosecutors in April 2005, prompting police to contact the church, which was already conducting its own investigation.

Skohan argued at his trial that he believed a priest could spend as much as $50,000 on any one item without reporting it to the diocese.

Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Krista Marx said it was "extremely troubling ... that a reasonable person" could believe spending the church’s money was justified.

Before his sentence, five people testified in support of Skohan, noting that he has suffered enough by the church having revoked his ability to practice as a priest.

"He has been denied of the priesthood which is everything to him," the Rev. Anthony Mulder told the judge, "I would ask you ... to think that he has already suffered enough."
Thursday, March 26, 2009
The Observer • NATIONAL NEWS

Florida govt.’s debates tanning restrictions

RALEIGH, N.C. — John Hope Franklin, a towering scholar and pioneer of African-American studies who wrote the seminal text on the black experience in the U.S. and worked on the landmark Supreme Court case that outlawed public school segregation, died Wednesday. He was 94.

David Jarmul, a spokesman at Duke University, where Franklin taught for a decade and was professor emeritus of history, said he died of congestive heart failure at the school’s hospital in Durham. Born and raised in an all-black community in Oklahoma where he was often subjected to humiliating racism, Franklin was later instrumental in bringing down the legal and historical validations of such a world.

As an author, his book “From Slavery to Freedom” was a landmark integration of black history into American history that remains relevant more than 60 years after being published. As a scholar, his research helped Thurgood Marshall and his team at the NAACP win Brown v. Board of Education, the 1954 case that barred the doctrine of “separate but equal” in the nation’s public schools.

“It was evident how much the lawyers appreciated what the historian could offer,” Franklin later wrote. “For me, and I suspect the same was true for the others, it was exhilarating.”

Franklin himself broke numerous color barriers. He was the first black department chair at a predominantly white institution, Brooklyn College; the first black professor to hold an endowed chair at Duke; and the first black president of the American Historical Association.

He often regarded his country like an exasperated relative, frustrated by racism’s stubborn power, yet refusing to give up. “I want to be out there on the firing line, helping, directing or doing something to try to make this a better world, a better place to live,” Franklin told The Associated Press in 2005.

In November, after Barack Obama broke the ultimate political barrier, Franklin called his ascension to the White House “one of the most historic moments, if not the most historic moment, in the history of this country.”

Obama’s achievement fit with Franklin’s mission as a historian, to document how blacks lived and served alongside whites from the nation’s birth. Black patriots fought at Lexington and Concord, Franklin pointed out in “From Slavery to Freedom,” published in 1947. They crossed the Delaware River at Christmas and explored with Lewis and Clark.

The book sold more than 3.5 million copies and remained required reading in college classrooms. It was based on research Franklin conducted in libraries and archives.

It didn’t allow him to eat lunch or use the bathroom because he was black.

“He was working in a profession that more or less banned him as the outfit and ended its leading practitioners,” said Talmadge Hayer, a biographical politica­list, Franklin’s former professor at Duke. “And yet, he always managed to keep his grace and his dignity and his shining intelli­gence.”

Late in life, Franklin received more than 130 honorary degrees and the National Association for the Advancement of Color’s Spingarn Award. In 1993, President Bill Clinton honored Franklin with the Charles Frinkel Prize, recognizing scholarly contributions that give “eloquence and mean­ing ... to our ideas, hopes and dreams as American citizens.”

Clinton awarded Franklin the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian prize, in 2001 and gave him the role for which he was perhaps best known outside academia, as chairman of Clinton’s Initiative on Race. It was a job of which Franklin said, “I am not sure this is an honor. It may be a burden.”

As he aged, Franklin spent more time in the greenhouse behind his home, where he nursed orchids, than in libraries. He fell in love with the flowers because “there are full of challenges, mystery,” the same reasons he fell in love with history.

In June, Franklin had a small role in the movie based on the book “Blood Done Signed My Name,” about the public slaying of black man in Oxford in 1970. Tyson, the book’s author, said at the time he wanted Franklin in the movie “because of his dignity and his shining intelli­gence.”

Franklin attended historically black Fisk University, where he met Aurelia Whitman, who would be his wife, editor, help­mate and rock for 38 years, until her death in 1999. He planned to follow his father into law, but the lively lectures of a black professor called him away, he said.

It wasn’t healthy for a young person to be in a tanning booth, so allowing it with a parent’s consent isn’t going to protect them,” she said.

Many of the bills being debated in state legislatures this year were promoted by California-based Aim at Melanoma, which supports research and education on the most serious form of skin cancer. 

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Florida govt.’s debates tanning restrictions

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Miss Florida Teen USA Kayla Collier was 15 when she first visited a tanning salon so the stage lights at a local pageant wouldn’t make her fair skin look ghastly white.

Later that year, as she tried on homecoming dresses, her mother noticed what looked like a scar on her back. It turned out to be skin cancer.

And though she didn’t definitively link the tanning to the cancer, Collier, now 18 and healthy, wouldn’t be back under the bulbs. On Wednesday, her voice catching, she asked Sunshine State lawmakers to ban people under 16 from using tanning beds.

“I know teenagers who go every day, every week, even a day sometimes to tanning beds,” said Collier, who wore her ivory t-shirt open at the front.

“I do believe that it did play a part in my skin cancer.”

Florida is among 17 states, including Hawaii, considering laws this year that would restrict indoor tanning by minors. Minnesota passed a similar law in 2002.

Franklin was a job of which Franklin called his ascension to the White House said he died of congestive heart failure at the school’s hospital in Durham. Born and raised in an all-black community in Oklahoma where he was often subjected to humiliating racism, Franklin was later instrumental in bringing down the legal and histori­cal validations of such a world.

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Many of the bills being debated in state legislatures this year were promoted by California-based Aim at Melanoma, which supports research and education on the most serious form of skin cancer.
Randall Terry is the Al Sharpton of the anti-abortion movement, but with a few more arrests.

That is, Terry — who runs the criminally real pro-life group Operation Rescue — makes incendiary statements that, for better or worse, garner far more media attention than they deserve. It’s no surprise, then, that some — whether left-leaning President Obama speaking at Commencement to the “cultural rape of true Catholicity” and warning that he will “load an assault on the ground” in South Bend, Terry told The Observer this week. “We will recruit people from all of the country, and we will make this a circus.”

Bad news for you, Randall: We’re way ahead of you. Anytime Fox News puts your story on the front page, P.T. Barnum’s got nothing on you. This is what it must have been like to go to school in the 60s and 70s. Of course, graduation is a day to celebrate my class and those who have supported us for four years. But it’s also a day to celebrate our education, this University and its unique place in American and Catholic culture.

My education at Notre Dame has been the social, political and Catholic controversy that we consistently witness and participate in. We’re supposed to be the place where the Church does its thinking. And whether it’s the “Vagina Monologues,” our non-discrimination clause or white crosses on the Quad every year, a thinking Church has been controversial and, at times, vitriolic. This is what Notre Dame has forced me to realize. The dichotomy between being “Catholic” and being a “University” is false. We don’t have to pick one. We serve our Catholic mission by living our University mission.

Graduation is not a time to celebrate the end of our education. It’s a day to continue it. That’s why we need to embrace the idea that President Obama should be welcome to speak before our graduating class. But that’s also why we need to welcome the scores of protesters, Viewpoint letters and anti-Obama public statements by professors, alumni and, most importantly, seniors alike. To silence either side would be to undermine the experience of unique education we’ve gotten for four years and fundamentally misunderstand the relationship between being Catholic and being a University.

Contrary to a number of the letters we’ve seen on these pages in the last few days, we shouldn’t be “embarrassed” by the presence of a pro-choice politician on our graduation stage, nor should we be “embarrassed” by the calls to keep a pro-choice politician off our stage. We shouldn’t view protesters as “hijacking” our graduation. Yes, I want protesters yelling at me on the day of my graduation, showing graphic pictures of aborted fetuses, because Notre Dame has taught me that to avoid debate — as visceral as it may be — is to lack strength in my own convictions.

This isn’t an easy lesson in relativism and tolerance. I have no problem picking a “right” side; of course President Obama should speak at my graduation, and — like it or not — like many of my fellow graduates, I believe in most things he stands for. But that’s not the point. Welcoming all to our campus and allowing this critical Catholic debate to play out here are not just numb tolerance. They are an all-too-rare opportunity to live out the mission of our University in a prominent, public way.

This shouldn’t be dismissed as a “Viewpoints War,” as if we were debating the relative merits of pirates or anti/ pro-color comic about Saint Mary’s. On both sides, this is Notre Dame at her best — actively navigating the place of the Church in education, and the role of religion in a world too often ignorant of its extraordinary power for good and for evil.

We should welcome organized, graphic protests outside, someplace students, guests, and, yes, media can’t miss them.

We should welcome it when kids turn their backs to the President and boo, as some inevitably will.

We should welcome parents, scholars and Bishops to denote the very existence of the speech as embarrassing and un-Catholic.

But for the same reason, we should welcome President Obama to stand at the podium and speak to us.

We should welcome Mary Ann Glendon, a pro-life Catholic and Harvard Law professor, to stand next to him and speak to us.

We should welcome Notre Dame to recreate its rightful position as a public place where the Church does its thinking.

I will walk at graduation proud, armed with the knowledge that the “circus” around me is exactly what makes this University so important, and so special.

Andrew Nesi is a senior American Studies major from Fairfield, Conn. He’s eager for your response. He can be reached at anesi@nd.edu

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

Unfortunately, this is another letter to respond to the response to the president’s upcoming visit to Notre Dame. However, I have noticed something underlying the group of students who have appreciated the Notre Dame. My initial reaction was horror and dread when I saw the news of President George W. Bush delivering the commencement speech at Notre Dame. But if there really was an upset to ruin “the happiest day of my life,” or the happiest day of my 2009 fellow classmates by showing us pictures of dead babies? Really? Do you? Not even that, I’d like to see you try. I issue this to all alumni — you probably remember a little book called “du Lac.” It basically says what you can.

Defending the senior legacy

In her Letter to the Editor (“Money talks,” March 24), Kelly Kaspeshyky expressed her shock and disappointment at President Obama’s decision to deliver the 2009 Commencement speech. However, I would argue that there is no need to be so self-absorbed. Just because it is not what you think it should be, does not mean it is unacceptable.

Politics, not religion

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops 2004 statement, “Catholics and Political Life,” states that “it is not acceptable to give a political campaign, or platform, or any other political action.” The students of Notre Dame, and the student experience is made possible through the continued donations. The students of Notre Dame, and the student experience is made possible through the continued donations. The University, and the student experience is made possible through the continued donations.

Unity, please

Frankly, Obama as a Commencement speaker has done little but divide Notre Dame. Whether or not you believe it is a scandal or an honor, the only effect I have seen is in the student body’s behavior. All overear, in conversations from the dining hall or on campus, people are strong on views on how ignorant or disrespectful the other half of the student body, based on politics, has been. I have heard scorching arguments between friends, and all manner of disrespect and behavior.

We say we want dialogue, yet the judgments made by the stronger personalities in a group are preventing students don’t want to be labeled by their friends, especially by saying. There are, of course, exceptions, and I applaud them. I might have a moderate to strong view on the issue. In fact, I do. But if I told you what I said and why I believed it, would it change your mind? No. You would either agree with me because I said something you already liked, or disagree with me and think I am ignorant. Why? Simple because you place a lower priority on the things that are dear to me, and care deeply about things I find false or irrelevant. And as Joey Kuhl (“Just embrace,” March 24) so accurately said, nothing is wrong.

This speech has implications for the University (you disagree on what they are), but they will choose to handle them or not. Enough sentiment has been expressed on both sides for the administration to know how the student body feels. So if we really plan on acting like a united or Christian institution, we should not. If they ignore, disrespectful and callous.

But if there were no such divisive issues, viewpoint would be a lot less fun for everyone, I suppose.

Laura Berlage
senior of campus
March 24

Take a stand

I read a letter entitled, “Don’t Hijack Our Day” (March 24). I would counter, “Don’t be so self-absorbed.” Just because it may not be your battle, trusting politics is all too possible through their continued donations. The students of Notre Dame and the student experience is made possible through their continued donations.

Barbara Vomert
alum of Class of 1991
March 24
heartwrenching but not life-changing

By ERIC PRISTER
Scene Writer

Wm. Paul Young’s bestselling novel “The Shack” claims to “twistlel with the timeless question: Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain,” but seems to fall short of its recent release in March. With the final day of the camping trip, Mack receives a mysterious note in his mailbox, requesting his presence at the shack, and signed “Papa.” Despite reason telling him not to, Mack journeys to the shack and is thrown into a world of self-discovery led by the three persons of the Christian Trinity: God, in the form of a large black woman known only as “Papa,” Jesus, in all of his humanity, and the Holy Spirit, who takes the form of a mysterious Asian woman who goes by the name of Sarayu.

Throughout his time at the shack, Mack comes to understand many things about himself, about religion, and most importantly, about what it truly means to be in a relationship. “The Shack” has a heartwrenching effect on his readers as the experience had on Mack, or at least for it to open the eyes of the readers to the reality in which he believes.

Young clearly means to put forward. "The Shack" to have a similar effect on his readers as "The Shack" has a heartwrenching effect on his readers as the experience had on Mack, or at least for it to open the eyes of the readers to the reality in which he believes.

Unfortunately, for conservative Christians, and especially for those who are truly struggling with the question of evil in the world, it seems that “The Shack” does very little. For conservative Christians, the characters of the Trinity are too anti-religious and too anti-establishment. For those who have suffered pain and are doubtful as to the existence of God, the theology of “The Shack” is simply too powerful without giving any evidence as to why one should believe in the existence of God in the first place.

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu

By PATRICK GRIFFIN
Scene Writer

For a trio who “don’t care about our own faults,” as they proclaim in their hit “Young Folks,” the release of their new album could not come sooner for Peter, Bjorn and John. The Swedish pop group’s latest full-length offering, “Living Thing,” drops next Tuesday, March 31.

Famous for the song “Young Folks,” which features an infectious yet unforget­table whistling track, Peter, Bjorn and John have been riding the popularity of this single for two years. Since their last album, “Writer’s Block,” was released in 2006, “Young Folks” has been featured in popular television shows and even sampled by Kanye West. It has not had the same underground success for the Swedish trio. Since 1999, the amalgam of Peter Moren’s vocals and guitar, Bjorn Ytling’s bass, keyboard and vocals, and John Eriksson’s percussion and vocals have been striving for musical recognition.

Recently, however, the trio’s fortune has begun to run out. The single’s cult popularity has begun to wane and at the recent SXSW festival in Austin, Texas, Peter, Bjorn and John suffered through a set that was referred to as “an awful show,” by Moren.

Peter, Bjorn and John’s latest effort arrives in a timely matter, and with critical acclaim to boot. The album is recognized by all of the major music and entertainment publications as a sweeping success.

As a whole, “Living Thing” is a slight departure from the band’s familiar indie territory. With the frequent use of effected percussion tracks, along with the hollow aura present in most of the songs, “Living Thing” calls to mind the sparsely visited music atmosphere. The band acknowledges the ’80s influence on the album, citing bands such as A-ha, Fleetwood Mac and Depeche Mode from the era as major influences.

The leisurely pace of the album incites varying moods throughout its duration. At times during “Living Thing,” the cadence of the tracks is deliberate and enjoyable, evoking the necessary foot-tapping. “Don’t Move Me,” “Lay It Down” and “Living Thing” remind the listener of the glory that continues to ripple from Peter, Bjorn and John’s infamous “Young Folks.” Other instances leave the audience questioning where the band’s direction went. Several songs drag, offering nothing more than mundane beats and aimless vocals.

While the album as a whole lacks continuity, “Living Thing” nevertheless presents the keen indie fan with plenty of appreciable music. Though the conventional musicality typical to mainstream collections has clearly been neglected on the album, Peter, Bjorn and John salvage the audience’s attention with their dedication to the distinct ambience of their style.

For now, “Living Thing” exhibits enough musical ingenuity to keep listeners waiting for the next eurosum.

Contact Patrick Griffin at pgriffin@nd.edu
Weekend Events Calendar

**THUR.**

- The Animated Films of Georges Schwizgebel, "From Glass to Celluloid"; Browning Cinema; 6:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Recognized as one of the most important Swiss animated filmmakers ever, Georges Schwizgebel will make a stop at the University of Notre Dame to introduce the screening of a piece that delves into 12 of his short films. His unique approach to creating each individual frame involves painting images directly onto acetate film, a talent that has won him awards at both the Cannes and the Zagreb Film Festivals. Visit Browning Cinema for an inspirational introduction to the man who brought innovation to animation and for a unique opportunity to follow him on his creative journey.

- "Doubt." 101 DeBartolo; 8 and 10:30 p.m.

If the Obama-come-to-ND scandal has run its course with you and is no longer doing the trick for your scandal-loving life, travel back to the 1960s with Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Streep plays a nun and principal of a Catholic grade school who becomes convinced that the parish priest (Hoffman) molested a young boy student — but no one, not even the audience, knows for sure. Amy Adams plays a young nun who stood up to Roux's vision. In fact, the eggs at Uptown Kitchen are positively satisfactory. Non-egg dishes are positively satisfactory. The 12-inch pizza made for a tasty but well-run restaurant finds a way to do it all. Everything many people would want out of a circus — and some children. Any restaurant tied so closely with its owner is bound to be well-run.

Clear evidence of this is in the food. The "breakfast all day" shack can be easily phoned in, but as Roux would have it, Lutz seems to have devoted himself to it. The three "House Specialties" indicated on the menu are the Stuffed French Toast ($8.49), The Breakfast Burrito ($8.99) and the House Made Corned Beef Hash ($8.79). This burrito's size gives the diner a run for its money. With spicy chorizo, perfectly scrambled eggs, avocado, potato, jalapeño, red onion and melted cheese, all stuffed in a jalapeño tortilla, this dish is everything many people want out of a burrito — any time of day. The salsa on the side was a fine addition to the taste, but really only got in the way of this amazing burrito.

- "Stomp." Morris Performing Arts Center; 2 p.m.

Though the ticket price might seem a little high for your budget ($10-$15), seeing "Stomp" is not something you'll regret. With an instrument selection boasting 30 brooms, four blocks of athletic chalk, eight bananas and more, the vibrant and eccentric cast will amaze audiences with their quick hands, invigorating beats and flashing lights that bring an extra bit of magic to the show. As they move across a stage jumping from bungee cords and pounding out sounds on their junkyard assemblage of rhythm tools, make sure to not cover your eyes because every second is worth watching.

**SAT.**

- Uptown Kitchen

303 Florence Ave. (574) 968-3030
Hours: 7a-2p Su-T, 7a-9p W-Sa
Prices: Breakfast $5-11, Entrees $5-15
10 Words or Less: Exceptional, moderately priced breakfast food; fresh ingredients and atmosphere

By J.J. Rees

"When I hold an egg in my hand I feel that it represents the image of the universe, and it awakens and increases my respect for life." This citation, taken from the world-renowned chef Michel Roux, is the first thing to greet customers at Uptown Kitchen, located in the new Toscana Park Shopping Center, just off Gunwood and north of Cleveland St/Highway 23.

Welcoming patrons in with such a comprehensive quote, painted onto the wall in front of the door, is a bold move. The first thing to greet customers at Uptown Kitchen, located in the new Toscana Park Shopping Center, just off Gunwood and north of Cleveland St/Highway 23, just off Gumwood and north of Cleveland St/Highway 23.

Welcoming patrons in with such a comprehensive quotation, painted onto the wall in front of the door, is a bold move. The words give the impression of intellectual chefs and cerebral menus. To invite the judgment to lie on just one ingredient, the egg, is a potentially dangerous game. If the eggs aren't prepared just right, the chef (or at least decorators) look foolish. Even if the eggs are worthy of reference, it could undermine dishes without it.

Fortunately, the eggs at Uptown Kitchen stand up to Roux's vision. In fact, the eggs were perfectly prepared — scrambled and cooked not a minute too early or late. Furthermore, just about everything was well-executed throughout the restaurant. The biggest indicator was the owner, Jonathan Lutz. It is not incredibly uncommon to see owners or managers chatting with patrons every once in a while, but Lutz maintains a steady presence in the restaurant and visited almost every table. On top of that, within a one-hour span, Lutz acted as busser, host and sommelier. But most impressive of all was his eating dinner at the restaurant with his wife and three children. Any restaurant tied so closely with its owner is bound to be well-run.

Clear evidence of this is in the food. The "breakfast all day" shack can be easily phoned in, but as Roux would have it, Lutz seems to have devoted himself to it. The three "House Specialties" indicated on the menu are the Stuffed French Toast ($8.49), The Breakfast Burrito ($8.99) and the House Made Corned Beef Hash ($8.79). This burrito's size gives the diner a run for its money. With spicy chorizo, perfectly scrambled eggs, avocado, potato, jalapeño, red onion and melted cheese, all stuffed in a jalapeño tortilla, this dish is everything many people want out of a burrito — any time of day. The salsa on the side was a fine addition to the taste, but really only got in the way of this amazing burrito.

- Desserts are finely presented. Specialty brewed coffee will suit a casual or serious drinker; and the bagels aren't haphazardly presented, like so many Midwestern offerings. Simply offering lox with the bagels shows that Lutz, raised in Chicago and influenced by San Francisco culinary arts, has some qualification.

The décor was fitting for Lutz organic, fresh focus. Soft, faded colors covered walls and paintings that surrounded a well-lit dining area and a clean, surprisingly small open kitchen. The lofty ceilings gave a sense of open space.

The room would be a sight to see in candlelight, and there's an excellent opportunity coming up. On Saturday, March 29 at 8:30 p.m., Uptown Kitchen will be one of the few restaurants participating in Earth Hour. Besides the changed menu specials, the restaurant will also adopt a more environmentally friendly lighting system with candles.

With food like the restaurant's — with a focus on organic and fresh ingredients — Uptown Kitchen won't find itself lacking business. The restaurant finds a way to provide high quality food and an superior atmosphere while avoiding pretentiousness. Its attention to detail and genuine care for food come through in every bite.

Contact J.J. Rees at jrees@nd.edu
NBA

Clippers knock out Knicks 140-135 in OT

Parker scores 42 in defeat over Hawks; Nuggets end Hornets winning streak; Young puts up 29 in Sixers win

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Taylor more than doubled his career high with 35 points, Zach Randolph added 33 against his former team, and the Los Angeles Clippers dominated the New York Knicks 140-135 in overtime Wednesday night.

At one point in the first half, Eric Gordon had 19 for the Clippers, who finished with 31 points off the bench and were able to hold off a late New York rally. The Knicks ended two games worth of losing season. Wilson Chandler added 33 against his former team.

Harrington gave them a 1-point lead on a dunk with 25 seconds left in the game and one of his seven 3-pointers in the second half to help the Nuggets pull away after halftime.

Harrington finished with 38 points for the Knicks, who matched a season high with their 15th straight loss.

New York raced to a 19-point lead in the first 6:01, heard boos after blowing all of it before halftime, and ended up with another embarrassing loss against one of the NBA's worst teams as it limps to the finish of its eighth straight losing season. Wilson Chandler hounded Harrington with 22 points and 10 rebounds.

The Knicks know Randolph well. He played a key role in Clipper losses to the New York Knicks in November in a deal that helped them clear cap space for the summer of 2010 but weakened them for a promising start.

Taylor is much less known, coming into the game with 39 points in his rookie season. Yet he did as good a job as coach Mike D'Antoni did against Chandler.

Taylor had 19 for the Knicks and Chandler added 15 of his 31 points in the first quarter alone, with his 3-pointer giving Denver a 24-14 lead at halftime.

The Hawks answered with a 13-2 run to pull even at 74-74 with 7:38 left, and the Nuggets ended up being outscored 76-69 in the fourth.

Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points and the Denver Nuggets beat New Orleans 101-88 on Wednesday night, snapping the Hornets' three-game winning streak.

Chauncey Billups scored 26 points, hitting four of his five 3-pointers, and Caron Butler each scored 19 points for New Orleans, which played an unusually sloppy game. Paul turned the ball over six times, and Denver wound up converting 19 Hornets失误 into 18 points.

Denver's second half, Anthony and Billups combined for 33 points.

Anthony started quickly, scoring Denver's first four points of the game on a jumper and a driving layup. He had 13 points in the first quarter alone, with his 3-pointer giving Denver a 24-14 lead.

Smith's 3-pointer to open the second quarter gave Denver a 31-21 lead. Then the Hornets' shooting woes continued as a line of young, enthusiastic reserves on the floor, Jamal Crawford, Eric Gordon, Sonny Weems.

Butler each scored an 11-0 run and Philadelphia took over 7 minutes to go in the third quarter.

The Sixers closed the quarter on a 9-0 run, thanks to five free throws, to give them a 65-62 lead into the fourth.

Parker scored 42 points and the San Antonio Spurs, playing without Tim Duncan, ended Atlanta's eight-game home winning streak with a 102-92 victory on Wednesday night.

Despite the loss, the Hawks finished second in the Southeast, play off spot, after losses by Milwaukee, Charlotte and New Orleans.

Parker enjoyed his second best scoring total of the season. He set a career high with 55 points at Minnesota on Nov. 5. Joe Johnson had 30 points, including Atlanta's first 11 points of the fourth quarter, but he had too little help as the Hawks suffered their first loss at Philips Arena since March 7. Another Atlanta player scored in the period until Mike Bibby's 3-pointer with 1:54 remaining and Josh Smith added a jam 30 seconds later to cut the Spurs' lead to 96-90.

Parker, who had 23 assists, averaged 13.8 points for the Spurs.

Harrington stuffed Popovitch Sunday as the home win over Golden State. Denver had back-to-back games earlier this month to rest.

Rogers Mason had 18 points and Michael Finley added 13 for the Spurs.

Flip Murray, who had a season-high 30 points against Minnesota on Sunday, scored 13 points in his first 8 minutes off the bench in the first half. Murray, who finished with 15 points, helped the Hawks stay close despite Parker's 20 first-half points.

With Parker making 10 of 13 shots, the Spurs led 53-48 at halftime and stretched the lead to 20 with 4 minutes remaining in the third period.

Manu Ginobili had two points in 13 minutes as he returned in a game for the first time since missing 19 games with a right ankle injury.

Nuggets 101, Hornets 88

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ITAS Women's Tennis Division I
Top 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>2. Georgia</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. NOTRE DAME</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Baylor</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Miami (Fla.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Georgia Tech</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Duke</td>
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<td>8. California</td>
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<td>9. UCLA</td>
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<td>10. Southern California</td>
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<td>11. Stanford</td>
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<td>12. Clemson</td>
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<td>23. Arkansas</td>
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<td>24. SMU</td>
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NCAA Men's Lacrosse
Division I Top 20

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<td>4. Duke</td>
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<td>10. Duke</td>
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<td>12. North Carolina</td>
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<td>20. Albany (N.Y.)</td>
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USCHO Men's Ice Hockey
Division I Top 15

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<th>Team</th>
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<td>1. Boston U.</td>
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<td>2. NOTRE DAME</td>
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<td>3. Michigan</td>
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<td>6. Northeastern</td>
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<td>8. Minn. Duluth</td>
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<td>11. Vermont</td>
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<td>14. Ohio St.</td>
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<td>15. St. Lawrence</td>
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NCAA Basketball

UConn coach Jim Calhoun gives a stern look as he watches his team play in the second half of a game against Pittsburgh on March 7. Pitt defeated UConn 70-60.

UConn looks into NCAA violations

Associated Press

Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said he and the university are looking into a Yahoo! Sports report claiming the school broke NCAA rules during the recruitment of former basketball player Nate Miles, but added Miles is not at UConn and his team remains focused on the NCAA tournament.

Yahoo! reported Wednesday that Miles, a 6-7 guard from Toledo, Ohio, was given lodging, transportation, meals and representation by sports agent Josh Nochimson, and a UConn assistant coach knew about the relationship between the player and the agent. The story cited interviews, documents obtained under Freedom of Information laws and other sources.

Nochimson, a former student manager for UConn, was considered a representative of UConn's athletic interests by the NCAA and was prohibited from having contact with Miles or giving him anything of value, Yahoo! reported.

Records also show that five UConn coaches called Nochimson and text-messaging him at least 1,565 times during a nearly two-year period before and after Miles' recruitment in 2006 and early 2007. Calhoun had 16 of those communications, Yahoo! reported.

Miles was expelled from UConn in October without ever playing a game for the Huskies after he was charged with violating a restraining order in a case involving a woman who claimed he assaulted her. He is now attending the College of Southern Idaho and plays for the school's basketball team.

Miles could not be reached for comment. A cell phone number used by The Associated Press to contact him in the past was answered Wednesday by his uncle, Thomas Pettigrew of Toledo, Ohio, who said the NCAA needs to do more to prevent recruiting violations.

"I just think he got mixed up with the wrong people," Pettigrew said.

"There was a whole bunch of adults who have been doing their job instead of doing what they did."

"That's how society is," he said. "They chew you up and spit you out. If they can use you, they use you. I think the whole situation is funny, because I'm sure there are people who are supposed to be looking over this."

IN BRIEF

Pacers Murphy injures MCL, misses game

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers forward Troy Murphy missed Wednesday night's game against Miami because of a sprained ligament in his left knee.

Coach Jim O'Brien said Murphy injured his MCL at the end of a shot around early in the day.

"We think it's a mild sprain, but it's not my knee," O'Brien said. 

"It's very painful and he can't cut. He tried to go, he tried to warm up, but he couldn't do it."

The 6-foot-11 Murphy, who is averaging 14.1 points and is third in the NBA at 11.8 rebounds, will have an MRI on the knee Thursday.

O'Brien said the injury would not affect the team's workout routine on days games.

"You've got to practice if you want to get better, and you have to practice to get ready for games. That's what we do," he said.

Armstrong still recovering from collarbone surgery

AUSTIN — Lance Armstrong was recovering Wednesday from surgery on his broken collarbone.

Surgeon Doug Elenz inserted a steel plate and 12 screws to stabilize the collarbone, which was broken in four pieces. The surgery was on a scale of one to 10, from easiest to most difficult, Elenz said Armstrong's procedure was an 8.

"This was a challenge. It was a hard case," Elenz said in a conference call with reporters.

Armstrong broke the collarbone Monday when he crashed during the first stage of the Vuelta of Castilla and Leon race in northern Spain. He flew home to Austin on Tuesday and went straight to visit Elenz.

The 37-year-old American cyclist has said he still hopes to ride in the Giro d'Italia, which begins May 9, and the Tour de France in July.

College Hall of Fame inducts ten players

LUBBOCK, Texas — Former World Series star Joe Carter of Wichita State and Mississippi State's Dan Polk, who hit 569 home runs in the major leagues, are among 10 inductees into the College Baseball Hall of Fame.

Carter was a two-time MVP of the Missouri Valley Conference with the Shockers. The outfielder won the 1993 World Series for Toronto with a home run in the bottom of the ninth inning of Game 6 against Philadelphia closer Mitch Williams.

Other 2009 inductees announced Tuesday include pitchers Darren Breffield of Wichita State and Kirk Dresendendorf of Texas; shortstop Barry Larkin of Michigan; second baseman Todd Walker of LSU and catcher Keith Merland of Texas.

Longtime coach Ron Polk also made the list. He's the only coach to lead three teams to the College World Series: Mississippi State, Georgia and Georgia Southern.

around the dial

NCAA Basketball

Connecticut vs. Purdue
7:07 p.m., CBS

Villanova vs. Duke
9:57 p.m., CBS
ACOUSTICAFE
10 PM THURSDAY: BEST OF. PRESENTED BY SUB.

POKER
MIDNIGHT THURSDAY: DOOR PRIZE

OPHIRA EISENBERG
10 PM FRIDAY: OF COMEDY CENTRAL & BEST WEEK EVER FAME

MASQUERADE NIGHTCLUB
MIDNIGHT FRIDAY: COME IN MASK OR GET ONE HERE

THE HOOD INTERNET
10 PM SATURDAY: THE BEST IN THE MIX SCENE

MASH-UP NIGHTCLUB
MIDNIGHT SATURDAY: ALL YOUR FAVORITE SONGS TOGETHER

NO COVER. EVER. ND/SMC/HCC ID REQ'D. LEGENDS.ND.EDU
Vick accused by Dept. of Labor
Suspended NFL star allegedly spent his pension plan funds illegally

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — The U.S. Department of Labor filed complaints Wednesday accusing suspended NFL quarterback Michael Vick of illegally spending about $1.3 million in pension plan funds for his own benefit, including paying restitution owed in his dogfighting conspiracy case.

The department filed the complaints in federal district court and bankruptcy courts the same day Vick left a federal lockup in Kansas, apparently bound for Virginia to appear at a bankruptcy hearing next week. Vick was at the Federal Transfer Center in Oklahoma City late Wednesday afternoon.

Mark Lichtenstein, one of Vick's bankruptcy attorneys, declined to comment on both the Labor Department allegations and the details of Vick's apparent temporary move to Virginia for the April 2 hearing.

The Labor Department said Vick made a series of prohibited transfers from a pension plan sponsored by MV7, a celebrity marketing company owned by Vick and two other former MV7 employees.

"This action sends a message that the Labor Department will not tolerate the misuse of plan money and will take whatever steps necessary to recover the assets owed to eligible workers," Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis said in a prepared statement.

The department also accused two of Vick's former financial advisors, Mary R. Wong and David A. Talbro, of participating in some of the transfers.

The filing further complicates Vick's bankruptcy case, which has gradually moved along in bankruptcy court in Richmond, Va., since he filed his plan in early 2009. The Labor Department alleges that Vick violated his employment agreement with the NFL and used his pension plan to meet financial obligations.

"Vick's plan for paying his creditors is based largely on his intention to resume his NFL career," said Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.

Vick's bankruptcy plan was defeated in March after Labor Secretary Hilda Solis rejected the idea of allowing Vick to keep the first $785,000 of his annual pay. Vick's bankruptcy plan would allow him to keep the first $750,000 of his annual pay,

Vick and his three former MV7 employees were charged in March 2008 with participating in an illegal dogfighting ring.

The Labor Department's legal action could jeopardize Vick's ability to ultimately receive money from the bankruptcy plan that covered his annual pay if the Labor Department's case is successful.

The Labor Department's case is separate from Vick's efforts to convince a judge to release him from a federal lockup in Kansas. Behind bars, Vick has been seeking to return to the football field he once dominated.

The judge presiding over the bankruptcy case has ordered Vick to testify in the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan. The judge offered to help, but said she could not disclose the inmate's ultimate destination until he arrives.

After that, a percentage would be released from custody over the next 10 years.

"This is a major development in the case," Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said.

The Labor Department's filing accuses Vick of using his retirement plan to make prohibited payments to his ex-wife and a few other people.

"I am hurt, frustrated and confused by her actions. I have and will continue to cooperate with law enforcement officials in any way I can. Until I have all of the facts, I cannot comment any further," Vick told reporters Wednesday.

The Pirates also said they could not further discuss the incident.

"Due to the nature of this ongoing investigation, we cannot discuss any details of the case, other than to say that, like Jose, we are extremely thankful the young child was safely returned to her family," club early last season. Tabata

The incident partly led to the Yankees including Tabata in the deal, in which the Pirates dealt outfielder Xavier Nady and left-binder Damaso Nava to the New York Yankees for prospects last year, only to have them underperform.

"We are impressed the Pirates this spring with his line-drive power, borrowing arm and ability to learn quickly."

After the trade, Tabata hit .348 in 22 games with the New York Yankees — or 100 points higher than he hit in 2007 — and had three homers and 13 RBIs in 89 at-bats. Tabata also impressed the Pirates this spring with his line-drive power, borrowing arm and ability to learn quickly.

"Upon making the trade, the Pirates certainly were unaware that Tabata was married to a woman more than twice his age who, according to the St. Petersburg Times, was only two years more than two years in a state prison about 10 years ago for rape. Officers who talked to the woman's family members told the newspaper that, according to the St. Petersburg Times, it has four children of her own, all of them teenagers or older.

The woman apparently has used at least four names in the past, and the name given to police does not match the one she gave to the Pirates in their media guide.

Tabata and the woman were married in December 2008 in Hillsborough County.

The woman known as Janet one of Tabata's four children.

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"Our decision was a product of the New York Yankees' top prospects last year, only to have them underperform. We are impressed the Pirates this spring with his line-drive power, borrowing arm and ability to learn quickly."

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The woman known as Janet one of Tabata's four children.
Goodell looking for more season games

Associated Press

DANA POINT, Calif. — More games that count, perhaps as early as August 2011? That’s exactly what NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith, the union’s negotiating points chief, said Wednesday in what was the most direct indication yet that Roger Goodell wants more.

The NFL owners are set to meet this week for the league’s annual spring meetings after spending the winter considering the possibility of adding more games. While the owners will get a chance to consider Goodell’s proposal, the onus is on the NFLPA to present a new proposal that might satisfy both sides.

In 2010, Goodell was quick to say that the NFLPA’s insistence on an extra regular-season game was a non-starter for him. But on Wednesday he said more games should be part of the upcoming negotiations.

“I think the NFL is one of the most underserved industries on television,” Goodell said. “I think it’s a chance to grow the business. And I think it’s a chance to increase the revenues.”

There are several hurdles before the league can expand its regular season from 16 to 17 or 18 games. Among them is reaching a new collective bargaining agreement with the players’ union.

Still, the commissioner hopes to present a proposal to the owners in May after the matter was discussed at length this week at the owners meetings.

“It’s possible that we could vote in May, but we want to have as much time as possible,” Goodell said Wednesday. “Anyway you have change, there is some reluctance. But it’s clear we don’t need four preseason games anymore.”

Goodell said the league has not seriously discussed the subject with its broadcast partners. He couldn’t imagine them not being interested in more meaningful games.

“I think the quality of NFL programming, that every one of our network partners would say, if they have the chance to have more regular-season programming, they’d be interested in it,” Goodell said. “A key point is the fans also recognize players they want to see are not in those preseason games; that’s why they are not attractive. They want to see those players play.”

As for those players and their union, Goodell recognizes an expanded schedule will be part of CBA negotiations. Owners opted out of the current deal last year, and it expires after the 2010 schedule, which would be an uncapped season.

“Under the current agreement, additional regular-season games would not be covered,” Goodell said. “I think our most important priority after we get done with CBA talks is talking to our key partners, and that includes the players. I think we want to make sure that the right dialogue takes place before we open any new deal.”

DeMaurice Smith, the NFLPA’s incoming executive director, wants a new CBA that affords better options that allow the players to happen collaboratively.

“His hope is that the concerns and interests of the players will be seriously considered,” said George Atallah, a director at the public relations firm Gorvis Communications and a spokesman for Smith during his transition. “He was elected by the players to be their advocate on such issues and is more than ready to serve them.”

Among the issues team owners must discuss is when the regular season would begin; how many bye weeks would be scheduled; how deep into February the playoffs and Super Bowl would go; and when the offseason programs — including the combine and the draft — would be held.

Plus, where would the extra games be played, particularly with 17 of them?

One possibility, an idea Goodell and senior vice president of sales and marketing Mark Waller first mentioned several years ago, would be 17 neutral-site games, including some abroad. That would enable the league to broaden its efforts internationally, a particular goal of Goodell’s.

“There’s been some discussion about that,” Goodell said. “That’s been one of the appealing features of converting pre-season games into regular-season games is it gives you more inventory, more games that you can take to neutral sites, either internationally or domestically. So that is a compelling feature.”

Another idea Goodell would be having one conference play nine home games during a season, and the other conference does the next year.

An 18-game schedule, obviously, would eliminate such concerns. It also would mean dropping two preseason contests.

Smoltz pitches in Red Sox uniform

Right-handed pitcher throwing for first time from mound since surgery

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Right-hander John Smoltz pitched from the mound Wednesday for the Red Sox uniform for the first time Wednesday, testing his surgically repaired shoulder by throwing 40 pitches in the bullpen.

Smoltz, who turns 42 in May, threw to a throwing catcher for just the second time since having surgery to repair a torn labrum on June 16. His first mound session was in December for Red Sox pitching coach John Farrell Smoltz then signed with Boston in January, ending his 20-year tenure with the Braves. He has played catch off a mound this spring, throwing to a standing catcher, and standing.

"It was the first time I'm throwing down to a catcher," he said. "It's totally different than throwing to a catcher standing up. I didn't think it was going to be that big a deal and it was. It's just getting used to it all over again. Now I'm getting used to all the components, the mound, the height of the mound, all those things that you take for granted.

"I can't explain the awkwardness. I didn't think it would be that awkward," Smoltz said. "I'm just getting used to this for a long time, but it was awkward. But, I've not gone that long without being on the mound."

Smoltz, who threw 30 pitches from a windup and 10 from the stretch position, is scheduled to throw 10 from the stretch position, is scheduled to throw another bullpen session Saturday with approximately the same number of pitches, but he should add his off-speed pitches to the workout.

"It was more of a matter of repeating his delivery, controlling his intensity level, which I think he did very well," Farrell said. "He felt good coming away from it, and he's dealing with the subtleties in adjustment in his deliveries, but today was the first day he's thrown a bullpen of this structure since early December."

So there's going to be some familiarity to get with the mound, and the intricacies of his delivery.


On what would have been Smoltz's 125th pitch, the ball slipped from his grip during his windup and fell behind him, initially giving Farrell reason for pause — until he saw the look on Smoltz's face.

"I probably have that happen once a side session," Smoltz said. "I'm trying to not grip the ball, trying to grip it as light as I can, and once in a while that happens. It's never happened in a game. Thankfully Josh said I made a nice adjustment on the next pitch, probably the best adjustment he's ever seen anyone make." Smoltz said he was throwing with about 70 percent of his normal intensity.

"Not that that bothers him," he said. "I intentionally did it. And even if I wanted to turn it up, I had already set my brain in motion that I wasn't going to go after it. That's for time to come."

He had to remind himself, he said, that hi purpose in this session was to throw, and not to think like a pitcher.

"All I cared about was getting the ball to the catcher. But in my mind I was trying to hit the outside corner," Smoltz said.

"But in my mind I was trying to hit the outside corner, the inside corner. That's for times to come, I got to remind myself."

For the next two weeks, Farrell said, Smoltz will throw bullpen sessions every third day, leading into throwing batting practice and simulating games before a potential rehab assignment.

"I think every day he has a goal, coming away from it," Farrell said. "I probably have that happen once a side session." Smoltz said. "I'm trying to not grip the ball, trying to grip it as light as I can, and once in a while that happens. It's never happened in a game. Thankfully Josh said I made a nice adjustment on the next pitch, probably the best adjustment he's ever seen anyone make."

But, I think today signifies a step in the right direction."

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MLB

Mets' pitching struggles in 10-6 loss to Tigers

Pavano bounces back in Indians' defeat over Padres; Reyes pitches scoreless relief in Cardinals loss to Astros

Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Oliver Perez’s outing Wednesday alarmed his manager, not because he gave up six runs but because he walked six in 3 2/3 innings of the New York Mets’ 10-6 loss to the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday.

Tigers starter Nate Robertson left the game with a sprained thumb on his pitching hand. Robertson, competing for the No. 5 spot in the rotation, was hit by a throw while trying to cover first base in the bottom of the first inning.

Mets manager Jerry Manuel said he will watch Robertson’s first base in the bottom of the first inning. “I was getting frustrated with some things,” he said. “It was the perfect situation, it was the perfect situation, it was the perfect situation, it was the perfect situation, it was the perfect situation.

Indians manager Eric Wedge has penciled in Pavano as the No. 3 starter in the rotation this season, and you don’t have a throw before the spring training, but maybe not this hit. “I felt really good today,” said Pavano, who complimented his defense — in particular two sparkling plays by second baseman Asdrubal Cabrera in the fifth inning. “I was able to get it back down and it was good to see him make the adjustments,” said Indians manager Manny Acta.

After allowing a home run to Henry Blanco, a double to Luis Rodriguez and an RBI single to David Eckstein in the third, Pavano rebounded to retire the next three scoreless innings.

Indians pitcher Matt Capps hit a two-run homer in the fourth, and Kelly Shoppach and Trevor Crowe each homered in the eighth to pace a 12-10 attack for Cleveland.

The Padres had 11 hits, including three singles by Eckstein, who raised his batting average from .462 (18-for-39) before departing in the fifth inning. Eckstein is one of two former Arizona Diamondbacks second basemen who will start at that spot for NL West Division rivals this season — Orlando Hudson in Los Angeles, the other.

“I’ve done stuff like this before in the spring, but maybe not this hit,” Eckstein said. “I was very disappointed with my swing last year, and that’s what I work on with my brother during the whole offseason. I’ve tried to simplify my approach and it’s been going well.”

San Diego starter Kevin Correia pitched into the sixth inning, but wasn’t happy after allowing nine hits and six runs.

“I felt like I threw the ball well, but I’m looking for some results at this point,” Correia said. “We reset to zero when the season starts, but any time you go out there you want to pitch well. You’re not always going to feel good out there. I got to 90 pitches (actually 92) and now I need to get some kind of a springboard into the season.”

Astros 4, Cardinals 3

Denys Reyes made his debut in a St. Louis Cardinals uniform Wednesday, pitching a scoreless inning of relief in a 4-3 loss to the Houston Astros.

Reyes, who is with his 10th club after signing a two-year deal with the Cardinals earlier this month, showed little signs of rust after having not thrown since making three appearances for Mexico in the World Baseball Classic. Mexico was eliminated in the second round March 16.

On Wednesday, he entered the game in the top of the eighth with the score tied at 3 and faced four batters, surrendering only a double to Hunter Pence.

“You wanted to throw strikes,” said the 31-year-old Reyes, who spent the last three seasons with the Minnesota Twins.

“It was the perfect situation, just like during the regular season in the eighth inning of a tie game. You have to go out there and throw strikes and I concentrated on that and on locating my pitches over the plate.”

This game was a showcase for pitchers on both sides.

Houston’s starter Russ Ortiz is competing for the fifth spot in the starting rotation and had a two-hit shutout going into the fourth inning before giving up back-to-back, two-out doubles to Ryan Ludwick and Khalil Greene. Ortiz left after the fifth inning and allowed one run on five hits with two walks and four strikeouts. His delivery and routine on the mound were hampered because of a stomach illness.

Thursday, March 26, 2009

The Observer • SPORTS
Aztecs hold on to defeat St. Mary's

Associated Press

SDSU SAN DIEGO — The fans stormed the court and Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" blared over the sound system.

The biggest game in San Diego State's 94-year history ended with Steve Fisher's Aztecs evening trip to the Apple and sending Patrick Mills into his offseason.

The Aztecs raced to a huge lead at noisy Cox Arena, blew it all, then came back to beat the Gaels and the Saint Mary's Gaels 70-66 on Wednesday night to reach the semifinals of the NIT.

"It's an undersatement for me to say that this was an important victory for our program," said Fisher, who arrived at SDSU in 1999 and revived its sad-sack program.

Billy White scored 17 for the Aztecs (26-9), who will play Baylor (23-3) in the semifinals on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden.

Fisher was part of two MIT championship teams while at Michigan, as an assistant to Bill Frieder in 1984 and as head coach in 1997. Fisher coached Michigan to the NCAA title in 1989.

SDSU and Saint Mary's (28-7) both felt they should have been in the NCAA tournament. As it is, the Aztecs are the last Mountain West Conference team still playing in the postseason.

This is the deepest SDSU has advanced in a national post-season tournament in its Division I history.

SDSU is the only 13-point second-half lead, but Saint Mary's never took the lead.

Tim Shelton posted up for the go-ahead basket with 48.6 seconds left and Richie Wilmott made the free throws in the final 26 seconds as the Aztecs held off the Gaels.

The fast, normally exciting Mills had a miserable end to his season. He was on the bench at the final buzzer, having fouled out with 10.8 seconds to go. He scored a game-high 18 points but had a horrible night shooting, going 7-for-24 overall and 4-for-13 on 3-pointers.

"It was one of those days," said Mills, the Australian Olympic star who is widely expected to turn pro following his sophomore season.

Mills — who came in shooting 56.7 percent from the free throw line — missed the front end of a one-and-one with 2.9 seconds left and the Gaels trailing 66-64. SDSU's Kyle Singler rebounded and Mills fouled Williams, who made both ends of a one-and-one for a four-point lead.

Mills made a layup with 14.9 seconds left and Williams answered by making the second of two free throws to make it 69-66. After a timeout, the Gaels inbounded the ball to Mills but he inexplicably lost the ball out of bounds.

Mills drew his fifth foul and Williams again made the free throw for a 70-66 lead.

The Aztecs were just 4-of-8 from the line in the final 1:42.

"I was proud of our pitchers for staying in two tight games," said Steve Fisher Aztecs coach.

"In 10 years I've never been here. I have not heard a louder crowd for the duration."
**Hoosiers**

continued from page 24

Katy Zapadalova, who compet-
ited in the NCAA singles tour-
ament last year as a
freshman.

Notre Dame enters the final
stretch of its regular season
schedule with only seven
games remaining until the Big
East championship tourna-
ment. After the Irish host
Baylor next week at home,
they will head on a four-game
road trip where they will play
four games in five days, simi-
lar to the pace they will run
into at the NCAA tournament
in May.

**NBA**

Pacers stymie Wade, squeak out home win

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's home-court mastery of cold-
shot-shooting Dwyane Wade and the Miami Heat came down to one
possesion, one last shot and one big scare.

The 98-88 victory Wednesday night was Indiana's 17th straight home win against the
Heat, but it wasn't certain until Wade's desperation 3-point
shot went halfway down and rimmed out at the buzzer.

"I thought it was (going in) for a quick second, then I saw
he shot it a little to the left and that's why it rolled out," said
Danny Granger, who led Indiana with 24 points. "Fortunately, he missed it."

Wade, the NBA scoring leader at almost 30 points a
game, had 21 points but was just 5-of-24 from the field,
including 2-of-11 in the second half.

"I think it was good defense collectively," Granger said. "A player
like Dwyane Wade, he scores out of this world, he
does it on a regular basis.

Indiana trailed by four early in the fourth but took control
with a 13-1 run midway through the quarter and held
off despite going scoreless for nearly four minutes.

The Heat then had
the Irish added an extra
four runs in the bottom of the sixth.
Jorgensborg began the
inning with a single and
advanced to third on a walk
and a wild pitch.

The Irish added three more
on two walks, a sacrifice fly
and an error.

Notre Dame will have two
days' rest before traveling to
Greektown and South
Florida this weekend to play
in their first conference road
games.

Contact Laura Myers at
lmyers2@nd.edu

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**Freshman infelder Dani Miller bats during a 4-3 loss to Big
East opponent St. John's on March 22.**

---

**Morrissey Manor Medallion Hunt**

Abandon all hope

The Medallion has been found

Thanks for playing

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**Thinking about Grad School?**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT**
Open to all Arts & Letters Undergrads
THURSDAY, APRIL 2
6:00 PM
Hammes Student Lounge (Como Lounge)
With Speaker:
Valerie Aguilar, ND grad, 2008
OAP, Visiting Assistant Professor of English
Notre Dame of Maryland
Free Pizza

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**Hoilers**

continued from page 24

slow pitchers," Gump said.
"But what was really impor-
tant was when their pitchers
missed, they took advantage."

Jorgensborg sparked the
offense four times more with an
RBI single in the third inning
and a home run to left center
in the second game of the
doubleheader as well.

"But
of the season to a starting
way she approaches the
playing time at the beginning
force for the Irish during
Gumpf said.

"She
really deserves
the other team.
Wade has never
in Comcus Field.

"I don't know why we are so
dominant here against them, I
really don't," Granger said.

"But it's a good streak.

Granger had seven points,
and T.J. Ford six during
Indiana's big run, and a 3-
pointer by Granger gave the
Pacers their biggest lead at 90-
80. Former Pacer Jermaine
O'Neal had two baskets during
an 8-0 run that brought Miami
within two. The Heat then had
two chances to tie, but neither
Udonis Haslem nor Wade could
convert in the closing seconds.

"It's just one of those nights,
man," Wade said. "Now, I got a
lot of good shots. I've played
against the Pacers many times,
I know how to defend them. I
just missed a lot of shots I
normally hit. It's just one of
those nights."

Haslem finished with 18
points and 14 rebounds, and
O'Neal had 13 points and three
blocks but only two rebounds.

Ford added 20 points and
Jarrett Jack 13 for the Pacers.
Jeff Foster, starting in place of
injured Troy Murphy, had a
season-high 15 rebounds.

The bulk of the defense on
Wade throughout the game was
by Indiana rookie Danny
Rush.

"I just tried to challenge him
on every shot he took and tried
to stay in front of him," Rush said.
"I tried to contest every
thing he put up and make sure
I got a hand up every time he
left his feet."

Wade hit only three of 13
shots in the first half but kept
Miami close from the free-
throw line.

He hit all six of his first-half
foul shots, including the
first two during a 10-2 run that
erased an early seven-point
Pacers lead. A 3-pointer by
James Jones and a basket by
Michael Beasley put the Heat
up 29-27 early in the second
period.

Wade pushed Miami's
lead to 49-45 with two more
free throws with 13 seconds
left in the half, but a 3-pointer
by Jack with 2 seconds to go
got the Pacers within one.

Miami took its biggest lead at
74-70 on two free throws by
Mario Chalmers before a bas-
ket by Ford started Indiana's
decisive run.
Corrigan was not pleased with offensive execution in particular. "In the first half we were too quick, offensively and not very good," Corrigan said. "We didn't take advantage of opportunities from the outside." The Knights remained within striking distance for much of the game, and the Irish (7-18-4, 1-0 GWLL) only had a 7-5 lead with 1:15 left in the third quarter. However, senior attack Duncan Swezey scored three of his four goals in just over 1 1/2 minutes at the end of the third and at the start of the fourth period to give the Irish a 10-5 lead and squander any hopes of a Bellarmine rally.

Corrigan thought that Swezey had an even stronger performance, but he was pleased with it nonetheless. "Duncan was like a lot of our guys," Corrigan said. "He should have had seven goals, but I'm glad he had four." Bellarmine scored the first goal of the game at the 14:47 mark when Knights sophomore midfielder Derick Hinkle made a shot. The teams remained tied until Irish sophomore midfielder Zach Bronnenman scored with 2:35 left in the first quarter. Senior midfielder Dan Gibson scored 29 seconds later to make the score 2-1, but a goal by Bellarmine sophomore Derek Hopcroft made the score 3-2 at the end of the period.

Bellarmine tied the game at three with a goal from junior Brian Doyle nearly two minutes into the second quarter. However, two goals from junior midfielder Grant Krebs put the Irish on top 5-3 with just over 11 minutes to play in the half, and a tally from junior attackman Matt Grosso put the Irish up 9-5 heading into the final period. McAlarney said of his four goals in just over 3 minutes of game action, "It's what we do, it's what I can do. I know I can do it. It's really screening really freed us up a little bit but I think we were ready [to go]."

Irish senior forward Patrick Patten said of Meeks' performance, "He's a great atmosphere in there," Brey said. "One thing about the Kentucky fan base, man, they travel. And they made us feel comfortable too. It was tough to make a run or a big moment there." A dunk by Ayers in the final minute put an exclamation point on the Irish victory. The Irish return to action on Thursday.

"We're extremely excited and we're looking to cut down the nets there in the Garden, so it's not over yet," McAlarney said.

Senior Kyle McAlarney is greeted by classmate Ryan Ayers and junior Luke Harangody in his final home game Wednesday. Meeks scored with 2:35 left in the half to make the score 6-4 at the break. Doyle scored his second goal of the game to narrow the gap to one just 50 seconds into the third quarter. The teams remained tied until Irish sophomore midfielder Dave Earl at the 10:49 mark. The teams remained tied until Irish sophomore midfielder Zach Bronnenman scored with 2:35 left in the first quarter. Senior midfielder Dan Gibson scored 29 seconds later to make the score 2-1, but a goal by Bellarmine sophomore Derek Hopcroft made the score 3-2 at the end of the period. Bellarmine tied the game at three with a goal from junior Brian Doyle nearly two minutes into the second quarter. However, two goals from junior midfielder Grant Krebs put the Irish on top 5-3 with just over 11 minutes to play in the half, and a tally from junior attackman Matt Grosso put the Irish up 9-5 heading into the final period. McAlarney said of his four goals in just over 3 minutes of game action, "It's what we do, it's what I can do. I know I can do it. It's really screening really freed us up a little bit but I think we were ready [to go]."

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Thursday, March 26, 2009

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Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sheryl Swoopes, 1968; Sarah Jessica Parker, 1965; Elena Andrea, 1947.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Don't get all worked up over something. It's the thinking lion who will win the year and has others marveling at the way you can magically make things happen. You communicators will be so inspired. Your ability to turn your capricious passengers will help keep them what you want. Your number is 6, 16, 26, 36, 46.

ASTROLOGY (March 21-April 19): You need to get off of anything or someone holding you back. Organizations will be expected to fulfill responsibilities that you promised you would take care of. A new beginning in your work or career is in order. It is exciting what you can take hold of. Make a serious look at the changes needed in your household.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's time to expand your awareness: your new ways and special opportunities are here. You have never considered the idea of getting together with people who have similar interests will help you attract love and attention in new ways.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't expect to speed up your cash on something as you usually do. A long, careful look at way you are putting your money will be enough for something you really want or the way you have gone through before. Take a serious look at the changes needed in your work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to network with as many people as possible about your plans for the future. Someone will take an interest and help you find the perfect outlet for your ideas. You can take something you really enjoy doing and turn it into a viable commodity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have to offer them than you realize, as your talents to work for you. A change of plans will be your advantage. An honest, emotional attempt to your Cap will win you their friendship.***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Before you move forward with anyone or with a deal you are involved, be sure everyone is involved — then the right one. We will do nothing wrong or gave in or got it wrong, we don't want to promise anything.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A personal conflict will leave you wondering if you should make some changes in your life. A different job or project will help you give them some ideas where to go and spiritually and vacationally. Don't go to past promises.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can't say no to everyone and manage to change them. A job offer you don't understand. Make arrangements that don't give you a good or process you don't want to. Do your work and get the change.***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It will be unhappy and irregular in your affairs and in this case you work hard emotionally and financially. It is very important for you to trust in someone where you expect. Keep busy and avoid arguments.***

BIRTHDAY: You are into everything and always curious. You are compelling, persuasive and will never give up or give in.

THE OBSERVER

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

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**Men's Basketball**

**Big Apple Bound**

Team advances to NIT semis, seniors get win in final game at JACC

By FRAN TOLAN

Senior Staff Writer

For the four Notre Dame seniors who led the Irish to a 52-3 record at home the past three seasons, the final game at the old Joyce Center could not have been any better.

The hosts never trailed and held off a late Kentucky rally to beat the Wildcats 77-67 on Wednesday night. The Irish advance to the semifinals of the NIT, which will be played in New York City's Madison Square Garden starting next Tuesday.

"What a way to go out. We really wanted to be a part of the program in college basketball, and to get a W," Irish senior guard Kyle McClanahan said.

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**Baseball**

Eights walks, hit batter doom ND in 6-5 loss to Oakland

By BILL BRINK

Sports Writer

Eight walks and a hit batters doomed Notre Dame (14-8), who lost 6-5 to Oakland at Eck Stadium Wednesday.

"That's the difference in the ballgame," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "We talk about it all the time.

Junior Andrew Estes (2-0) picked up the win for the Grizzlies (6-11), going two-thirds of an inning and giving up no runs on one hit. Oakland's starter, sophomore Greg Welke, went 6 2-3 innings, giving up five runs on six hits. Freshman Matt LaMothe picked up his first save.

Freshman Joe Spano took the loss for the Irish, dropping his record to 0-1. Spano relieved freshman starter Steve Sabatino after four innings and allowed three runs on two hits. Sabatino had trouble locating his breaking pitches, something Schrage said allowed the Grizzlies to wait for their pitch.

"When our pitchers can only throw one pitch for a strike, obviously they're sitting on a fastball and they're going to hit it," Schrage said.

Senior Grizzlies shortstop Andrew Stafford went 3-for-5 with two runs and an RBI, and sophomore second baseman D.J. Jarrad went 2-for-4 with a double and two runs scored.

The Grizzlies took Welke out later, sophomore second baseman Tommy Chase reached after he got hit by a pitch and junior center fielder A.J. Pollock's double down the third-base line scored him.

Pollock advanced to third on a passed ball and scored on Grosso's single to make the score 5-4.

Down 5-2 in the seventh, the Irish tied the game with a two-out rally. Freshman second baseman Tommy Chase reached after he got hit by a pitch and senior center fielder A.J. Pollock's double down the third-base line scored him.

Pollock advanced to third on a passed ball and scored on Grosso's single to make the score 5-4.

The Grizzlies took Welke out and replaced him with sophomore Matt Grosso and sophomore first baseman David Casey each had two hits for the Irish.

"I've been pretty spoty the last couple weeks now," Grosso said. "I was just getting up there trying to get something in the zone and swinging at it. I just tried to be a little more patient today.

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ND Women's Tennis

Team hits courts at local rival Indiana

By ALEX BARKER

Sports Writer

No. 3 Notre Dame will try to continue to rebound from a loss to Georgia Tech and stretch its win streak to three today when the Irish travel to Bloomington, Ind., to take on No. 37 Indiana.

This past weekend, the Irish were able to bounce back from their second loss of the season against the Yellow Jackets to defeat No. 12 Tennessee and No. 29 Vanderbilt, posting scores of 5-2 in each match to push their record to 16-2 on the season.

Irish coach Jay Louderback touted the wins as steps in the right direction for his team.

"They were very big wins for us because we always have trouble with both Vandy and Tennessee, especially at Tennessee," he said. "Getting the win at Tennessee (playing outdoors) really helps our team's confidence."

Even with all of their experience playing and beating high-ranked opponents this season, the Irish are making sure they aren't overlooking the lower profile foes like Indiana.

"Indiana has had a solid year and it always a tough team to play. They make you finish points in doubles and don't give away any free ones," Louderback said. "We have played a tougher schedule than Indiana up to this point and so I think we will be tough to beat."

The Hossiers are led by two-time all-Big Ten selection Alba Berdala and sophomore Christine Lux.

**ND Softball**

Long balls propel two victories

By LAURA MYERS

Sports Writer

It was a windy evening, but the Irish bats didn't need any extra help to clear the fences at Melissa Cook Stadium.

Notre Dame (14-11) hit five home runs to fuel its 6-1 and 8-1 victories over Western Michigan (6-12) on Wednesday.

"They crushed those balls," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "Every single one was legit."

The Broncos jumped on senior pitcher Brittany Bargar (6-2) early, scoring one run on two singles in the top of the first. However, it was all they would get, as Bargar gave up only four hits for the rest of the game.

The Irish answered with one of their own in the bottom of the frame on a sacrifice fly by junior first baseman Clay Cook.

Then the show really began.

Senior leftfielder Brianna Jorgensborg got the Irish started in the bottom of the second with a one-out walk. Junior catcher Alexa Clay followed with a two-run blast to left that put the Irish on top. One out later, sophomore second baseman Katie Fleury added another run with a solo homer.

"We usually struggle with hitting in the early innings, so to hit five home runs was a great way to start the game," Bargar said.

**Men's Lacrosse**

No. 3 Irish net victory vs. Knights

By MIKE GOTTIMER

Sports Writer

The No. 3 Irish put their undefeated record on the line on Wednesday at the Loftus Center in its GLW opener against Bellarmine and needed a late run to defeat the Knights 11-6.

Irish coach Kevin Corrigan was thankful for the win after what he thought was a lackluster performance by his team, who was playing its second game in four days.

"I wasn't real pleased with our effort," Corrigan said. "Our execution wasn't good, our preparation wasn't good, and that's on me."

The Hoosiers are led by seniors Michael Bargar (9-6) and Andrew Stafford (5-4), who combined for 11 goals.

"They're big guys," Corrigan said. "They lead the team, and they're doing a great job of getting the ball and setting up our offense.

"They're really good at getting the ball down the line and creating opportunities for us."