by MEGAN DOYLE

Tickets for Class Councils

Seven tickets have been approved to run for Class Council. For Senior Class Council, two tickets have been approved, Junior Class Council, two tickets, and Sophomore Class Council, three tickets.

The elections will take place online from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today.

Sophomore Class Council

By MEGAN DOYLE

Olympics offer students needed break from class

By MEGAN DOYLE

Scientists embrace their inner geek

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA

By CARLY LONDON

Chef: Notre Dame makes a difference with marine stewardship seafood

The food that you eat can be the greatest source of nourishment or the slowest form of poison, members of the Notre Dame community discussed at yesterday's Green Summit.

This year's Green Summit, titled "The Footprint of Food," was the third annual event presented by the Office of Sustainability.

Green Summit III opened with welcoming remarks from Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves, followed by a keynote address by Executive Chef Don Miller.

"An important thing to gain from today is awareness of what is happening," Miller said in his keynote address yesterday.

Miller focused on seafood and sustainability within marine life in his speech.

"At Notre Dame, we decided we do want to make a difference and lead the way with marine stewardship approved," Miller said. "Now over 25 percent of seafood purchases are marine stewardship approved."

Senior Connor Koboski gave the prayer, asking that we "show respect for the food that is our life-giving food" and remember to give food to the hungry "not just one day but every day."

Discussions about sustainability took place between participants, with attendees moving between four tables at which they spent 15 minutes each discussing new topics. The four topics discussed were seafood, food and climate change, food waste and local food. During the discussions, a different course of a sustainable, low-carbon emissions food was served at each table.

Members of the Notre Dame community who attended the event were especially interested in knowing where their food came from and knowing what they were putting in their bodies.

"I really liked the awareness in the dining halls about sustainability and healthy eating but it's a lot harder living off campus, especially because you can't go to the store every day or every two days even as a college kid so you have to settle for frozen," senior Timothy Thayer, one of the participants, said.

"Healthy choices are difficult," sophomore Connor Skelly said. "The White Foods, or as my dad calls it "Whole Sahara," it might be the best foods for you, but it's also the most expensive.

At each table, discussion leaders also had handouts for participants ranging from recipe cards for healthy

see GREEN/page 3
INSIDE COLUMN

Don’t worry, be happy

What’s a six-letter word for the one thing that permeates every aspect of a college student’s life, perpetually hangs over your head like the overcast weather in South Bend and refuses to disappear after the trials and tribulations of college life are a thing of the past? Stress.

The word itself sends chills down my spine, and yet the concept it represents remains an inevitable, integral part of my daily life as a Notre Dame student.

Planning my schedule a month in advance and attempting to write papers earlier than the night before they’re due may temporarily alleviate my stress, but generalized worry follows me around like that friend nobody likes.

We all know what stress feels like, and we’ve exhausted a wide variety of stress relief remedies: working out, eating chocolate, venting about stress to a friend, wasting our lives on Facebook, laughing about nothing for an extended period of time and embracing the blessing that is the weekend.

Unfortunately, nearly all these methods are temporary cures, lingering just long enough to catch a glimpse of what our lives would be like without stress.

Despite the futile attempts I’ve made at simplifying my life, the unending stream of tests, papers, activities and events that fill my weeks is oddly comforting, a constant reminder of my (generally) good work ethic and how it got me to where I am.

Throughout high school, I crammed my days with almost every imaginable extracurricular activity, from softball and show choir to band and student government.

Miraculously, I managed to succeed academically even though I spent the majority of my time inside the beige brick walls of my high school.

Yet right now, I haven’t found a way to accomplish that lofty goal.

I can’t call myself an expert on stress relief, but I have realized a few things about stress and how to postpone its onset:

1. Make time for yourself. Watch a movie, listen to music, read a book or exercise. Just set aside some “me” time once in awhile. I’ve applied this method to my first semester and a half of college, achieving reasonably good grades.

2. Planning my schedule a month in advance taught me to manage my time by committing my major responsibilities to memory.

3. The majority of my time inside the beige brick walls of my high school remains an inevitable, integral part of my daily life as a Notre Dame student.

Relief remedies: working out, eating chocolate, venting about stress to a friend, wasting our lives on Facebook, laughing about nothing for an extended period of time and embracing the blessing that is the weekend. Unfortunately, nearly all these methods are temporary cures, lingering just long enough to catch a glimpse of what our lives would be like without stress.

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Saint Mary’s College will show its appreciation for women and raise awareness to some of the problems they face through the annual Women’s Appreciation Week.

Saint Mary’s College Student Diversity Board (SDB) sponsors the week, which began Monday and will run through Friday.

Women’s Appreciation Week is being held to “celebrate and empower women on our campus,” Sarah Ridley, a senior and one SDB’s women’s issues representatives, said.

Senior Gretchen Moore is also one of SDB’s women’s issues representatives. The opening event for the week was a booth in the Student Center Atrium where members of SDB handed out free buttons in honor of women. Buttons were passed out from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Ridley said the events have been planned to help alert students about matters concerning women. “Student Diversity Board hopes to educate and raise awareness on women’s issues locally and globally,” Ridley said.

SDB has planned a panel discussion for Tuesday titled “What it Means to be a Feminist.” The panel will consist of Bettina Spencer, Alice Siqin Yang, Stacy Davis and Terri Russ, who will give their perspective on feminism. The discussion will be at 7 p.m. in Conference Room F of the Student Center Basement.

Wednesday, SDB will host an informational session about the Women’s Studies Program at the College featuring program coordinator Jennifer Zachman. Zachman will discuss Women’s Studies majors and minors during the session, which will be in Conference Room F in the Student Center Basement at 7 p.m. Current Women Studies students will also be present to speak with students about the program, Ridley said.

Thursday, SDB will hold an open breakfast in the Women’s Resource Center from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Ridley said she believes the week is important because it allows women to be appreciated. “The week is important because it takes time for recognition and appreciation towards the accomplishments and progressive movements women have made, and are still making today,” Ridley said. “Also, it is important to celebrate being a student at an empowering, all women’s college.”

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Rocheleau said his class would host the annual Halloween dance, a class tailgate before a home football game and a service event during Senior Week, which would include a charity ball or auction for the Class of 2011 during their last year at Notre Dame if elected as leaders of Senior Class Council.

"The main reason I want to run for this is that, for me, it’s about making sure that our class leaves this place after having the best time it possibly could and leaving it better than we found it," Castellini said.

Castellini hopes for more class events in Chicago and a networked series to help students learn how to make connections inside and outside of the Notre Dame community as they prepare for graduation.

The ticket platform also includes plans for a senior service competition to benefit the Notre Dame and South Bend communities.

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Two buses crash, killing 38
LIMA — Two buses crashed head-on along a remote stretch of highway in northeast Peru on Monday, killing at least 38 people and injuring 58, police said.

Police and firefighters used cutting equipment to reach the injured trapped inside the twisted wreckage of the buses, which collided shortly before dawn on the PanAmerican highway between Rio Hondo and Vinu, 290 miles (485 kilo-

meters) northeast of the capital.

No official cause was given for the accident, but Peruvian newspaper El Comercio posted pictures showing that the stretch of highway where the accident took place lacked an obligatory white dividing line separating the opposite lanes.

German pilots end strike
FRANKFURT — Lufthansa and its pilots are set to return to the cockpit after the German air-

line and a key union agreed to halt a four-day strike that disrupted travelers and was poised to go on through Friday.

The strike went on for more than 24 hours after it began on Monday in a Frankfurt labor court that saw both sides agree to suspend the strike and hold talks, they said Monday night.

Lufthansa confirmed the decision and said the wages talks would end at midnight (0300 GMT, 6 p.m. EST).

The parties agreed in front of the court that the strike is to be suspended through the 5th of March," Lufthansa spokesman Andreas Bartels told AFP, adding the 4,000 pilots will return to work in a day though it would take some time for normal operations to resume.

NATIONAL NEWS

U.S. general creates Iraq exit plan
WASHINGTON — The top U.S. general in Iraq said Monday he would allow the exit of U.S. combat forces this year if Iraq’s politics are changed following this spring’s elections.

Gen. Ray Odierno said there are no signs that the new prime minister approved by the Iraqi parliament, Nouri al-Maliki, will change plans to withdraw all combat troops by the end of the year.

Under an agreement negotiated with the United States, all U.S. forces are to leave the country by Aug. 31 although some 50,000 will remain behind as trainers and security forces.

The remaining support troops are to be gone by the end of 2011.

Students to vote on new mascot
JACKSON — Colonel Reb shall not rise again. That much is certain.

The University of Mississippi dumped the mascot, a caricature of a white plantation owner — in a 2003 effort to distance the school from Old South stereotypes. It’s been without a mascot ever since. A vote Tuesday could change that.

Students will cast two choices in the online referendum. Yes, replace the colonel with something else — perhaps a riverboat gambler or a colonial soldier — or no, retain the only school in the Southeastern Conference without a mascot.

LOCAL NEWS

Governor considers presidential run
INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels said Monday he had no interest in running for president, now says he will keep the door open to a possible 2012 presidential run.

The Republican told The Washington Post that he feels the country is divided and that a divided Congress is not helping. He also spoke with former president George W. Bush and others in recent months and agreed to keep an open mind about a White House bid.

“Just to get them off my back, I agreed to keep an open mind about a White House,” Daniels told The Post.

IVORY COAST

PM to announce new government
Move could end violent protests across the country after dissolution of old gov’t.

ABIDJAN — Ivory Coast’s prime minister said late Monday he will announce the composition of the country’s new government within 24 hours, a move that could bring an end to a week of violent protests sparked by the president’s dissolution of the former government.

After a day of marathon meetings between the two sides, Prime Minister Guillaume Soro told reporters that the country’s political leaders had come to an agreement and that he planned to announce the details of the new government on Wednesday morning.

His announcement came as at least two more protesters died Monday when an opposition demonstra-

tion turned violent, deepening the political crisis that has gripped this nation of 20 million since its government was summary disbanded by President Laurent Gbagbo earlier this month.

The protests came after top opposition leaders refused to join a new coalition government, effectively stalling the formation of the govern-

ment that had been expected to be announced Monday. Although the opposition has not yet made an official declara-

tion, Soro spoke to reporters following a meeting of a council that includes the country’s top two opposition leaders.

“I’m pleased to announce that these talks have made an official declara-

tion, Soro spoke to reporters following a meeting of a council that includes the country’s top two opposition leaders.

“They’re back on the table,” he said. “We hid in the canyon of March without my back.”

The invasion.

American forces in the country since the 1990s, when Gbagbo’s term ended. More than a thousand people have died since then, a number is likely higher.

The protests came after Gbagbo dissolved the government with Gbagbo, whom they accuse of try-

ing to cling on to power. The spat began when Gbagbo dissolved the government claiming the elec-

toral commission committed offensive.

The move will cause presidential elec-

tions to replace him, which were due to be held no later than next month, to once again be delayed.

The political dispute sparked protests in at least five cities across the country on Monday.

During a protest in the northern Abobo district of Abidjan, an Associated Press Television News journalist said he saw two dead bodies being guarded by police. Alexandre Brou, a local pastor, also said he watched police severely beat several protesters.

Bus driver Mema Camara said hundreds of young men started gather-

ing early Monday morning, building barricades, cut-

ting off all traffic and burning tires. Brou said he saw stone-throwers at approaching cars before the police used tear gas and fired into the air to disperse the crowds.

The police began beat-

ing anyone they could catch," he said. “We hid in our houses to avoid them. (Opposition supporter)

Ahmed Coulibaly said the police followed demonstra-

tors into their houses and took them away.

“We’re scared. We’re traumatized. It reminds us of the worst moments of the civil war,” he said.

The West African nation has been divided between a rebel-controlled north and a government-con-

trolled south since war broke out in 2002. The sides formed a unity gov-

ernment in 2006 and were preparing for presidential elections when President Laurent Gbagbo dissolved the government on Feb. 12. Presidential elections have been postponed every year since 2005, when Gbagbo’s term ended.

Move could end violent protests across the country after dissolution of old gov’t.

Associated Press

Debate surrounds the safety of raw milk

DES MOINES — Debate about the health attributes and risks of raw milk is spilling into statehouses and court-

rooms across the country as propo-

nents of unpasteurized dairy products push to make them easier for con-

sumers to buy.

Supporters of the raw milk cause say pasteurization, the process of heating milk to destroy bacteria and extend shelf life, destroys important nutrients and enzymes.

“We have new science today that shows raw milk contains ... enzymes that kill pathogens and strengthens the immune system,” said Sally Fallon

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Associated Press

Morrill, president of the Washington D.C.-based Weston A. Price Foundation, a nonprofit group pushing for increased access to raw milk.

“Enzymes and other nutrients are greatly reduced in pasteurized milk,” she said.

Public health officials disagree, say-

ing raw milk carries an increased risk for bacterial contamination that can lead to illness and even death.

More than 1,500 people became ill from drinking raw milk between 1993 and 2006, the most recent data avail-

able from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of those, 185 were hospitalized and two died.

The CDC said not all foodborne ill-

nesses are reported, meaning the actu-

al number is likely higher.

Morrill said there also have been illnesses and deaths related to pasteurized products and that linking illnesses to raw milk is not an accurate assessment of the nutritional benefits of drinking unpasteurized milk.

The sale of raw milk is prohibited in 21 states, although seven of them let people get milk through so-called herd-

share programs, in which customers can buy ownership in a cow in return for raw milk from the animal.

Retail sales of raw milk is allowed in nine states and 19 allow the sale of raw milk from a directly to an individ-

ual.

Supporters of the raw milk cause say pasteurization, the process of heating milk to destroy bacteria and extend shelf life, destroys important nutrients and enzymes. —

AP
Geek continued from page 1

in Jordan Hall. Senior Sarah Pastorek, the president of the Math Club, said the Geek Week provides students with an opportunity to meet others who share their interests.

"[Geek Week is] a great way to have students who are interested in different areas of science do 'geeky' activities while getting to know others," she said.

Geek Week's other activities include a Dissection Night sponsored by the Biology Club today at 5:30 p.m., a chemistry demonstration with Professor Seth Brown tomorrow at 7 p.m., and a Sudoku challenge sponsored by the Math Club Thursday at 8 p.m. All events will take place in the Jordan Hall of Science.

According to sophomore Paul Baranay, social chair of the Biology Club, one of the main objectives of Geek Week is to bring together students from different disciplines.

"As far as Geek Week goes, I think it's a really exciting collaboration between all the clubs in the College of Science," Baranay said. "It's a really exciting chance for people to get to know each other, because usually they don't really want to watch the events," Collins said. "I think sometimes people are afraid that it'll be too rigid or academic but it's not. It's really loose and laid back and fun.

Pastorek said Geek Week's events are a chance for students to learn that science is interesting and stimulating.

"Hopefully students can see the exciting side of science during Geek Week," Pastorek said.

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajikov@nd.edu

Olympics continued from page 1

those events." It's not just the competition that draws students to watch the Olympics.

"I liked watching the opening ceremonies because it's there as a spectacle," Burton said. "I liked watching all winter sports events to communicate a country's culture."

Geek Week aims to change students' perceptions of the Winter Games. "I wish I was watching the Winter Games," Burton has never participated in any of the winter sports featured in Vancouver but if given the chance to be an Olympic athlete in the Winter Games he would want to compete in skeleton events.

Sophomore Hal Mela felt a stronger connection with the winter sports going on in Vancouver because of his home in Ohio. "I like the Winter Games because they create a connection with areas that have a lot of snow and not much else," Mela said.

Not all students, however, have had the time to avidly follow the Games. Freshman Alison Collins admitted that she has not been able to watch the Games. "I do not really want to watch people run or row a boat in the Summer Olympics, but I like pretty much everything from the Winter Games," Collins said.

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu

Mendoza announces conservation speaker

Special to The Observer

Prompted by concerns over urban sprawl and loss of open land, "I think it's a really exciting chance for students to learn that science is interesting and stimulating.

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Announcing the Year 2010 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2010 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed $3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame. Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola U of Chicago, Boston University, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall. Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:

1) a personal statement indicating how the proposed project or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame;
2) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;
3) a budget indicating the costs involved;
4) two letters of recommendation from professors who have taught the student and are familiar with the student's abilities;
5) a list of other sources of funding (being sought or confirmed) for the same project (i.e. Office of International Studies, Nanovic Institute, etc.)

Application Deadline: Friday, February 26, 2010
Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship
Program in Italian Studies
343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
University of Notre Dame
MARKET RECAP

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Market Recap

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- -18.97

**AMEX**

- 1,963.37
- 16.94

**NASDAQ**

- 2,242.03
- -1.84

**NYSE**

- 7,078.53
- -4.72

**S&P 500**

- 1,108.01
- -1.16

**NIKKEI (Tokyo)**

- 10,400.47
- -20.90

**FTSE 100 (London)**

- 5,358.17
- 0.00

### In Brief

**Doctor pleads guilty to fraud**

**Toyota Motor Corp. subpoenaed**

**In the Future**

**Interest rates remain low to aid economy**

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**Toyota Motor Corp. subpoenaed**

Federal prosecutors suspect misleading of consumers, criminal investigation underway

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Federal prosecutors have launched a criminal investigation into Toyota Motor Corp.’s safety problems and the company said it planned to launch an internal review of its partnership deals to Sanyo, Sharp, Toshiba and Vizio. And it said it planned to launch an internal review of its partnership deals to Sanyo, Sharp, Toshiba and Vizio.

The twin developments created new public relations challenges for Toyota plus the prospects — however likely or unlikely — of hefty federal fines or even indictments against executives in the United States and Japan.

They also complicate Toyota’s ability to discuss details driving its recall of 8.5 million vehicles because anything executives say could be used against the company inside a courtroom.

Top Toyota executives were expected to testify at hearings Tuesday and Wednesday on Capitol Hill. One lawmaker said he believed Toyota misled owners about the repairs and relied upon a hastily-arranged study to reassure them the vehicles were safer.

In a new filing with the SEC, Toyota said it received the grand jury request from the Southern District of New York on Feb. 8 and got the SEC’s requests Friday.

It wasn’t immediately clear what U.S. laws Toyota might have broken. A subpoena would specify why prosecutors sought company documents, but Toyota would not comment beyond its disclosure with the SEC.

A spokesman with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Southern District of New York declined to comment saying it was campaigning to reassure owners about the repairs and relying upon a hastily-arranged study to reassure them the vehicles were safer.

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Indiana Senator Evan Bayh shocked Democrats and Republicans alike last week by suddenly announcing his retirement from the U.S. Senate. The moderate Democrat has held the seat since 1999, and most analysts agree that he was not at significant risk of losing reelection. ‘‘There is much too much partisanship and not enough progress,’’ he declared in a statement accompanying his announce- ment, ‘‘too much narrow ideology and not enough practical problem-solving. Even at a time of enormous national challenge, the people’s business is not getting done.’’

Bayh’s given rationale for retire- ment strikes me as coming a bit late, given the fact that he has served as a senator for nearly a dozen years. Anyone who has spent that much time in either the Senate or Congress should have realized long ago that the partisan divide is deeply entrenched in our national consciousness and pervades our institutions. Not even Barack Obama has managed to forge consensus, and for good reason. His definition of bipartisanship requires Republicans to either do his liberal agenda or be criticized for stubborn obstructionism and subsequently labeled ‘‘the party of no.’’

To be fair, the Republican Party still has yet to propose substantive alter- natives to Obama’s policies that gain national attention, mainly because it lacks coherent leadership. But because the Democrats control both houses of Congress and the presiden- cy, it makes it virtually impossible for the opposing party to set any sort of agenda, and thus Republicans are forced to muster what little power they have to defeat what they see as a dangerous encroachment by the national government into the lives of Americans.

Ironically, however, it isn’t the Republicans who are blocking Obama’s legislative agenda. If that were the case, Democrats should have had no problem pushing through their bills with the overwhelming majorities they hold in the House and the Senate. Centrist, fiscally-conservative Democrats like Evan Bayh are the real stumbling blocks to proposals like the health care overhaul and cap-and-trade, which says something about Obama’s vision of bipartisanship. If members of his own party cannot swallow his far-left policies, how can he expect any Republicans to do so? Pundits and the public alike are apt to look at the gridlock in Congress and declare that the system is broken. Yet oddly enough, they forget that the Founders deliberately designed the legislative process in a way that would make it difficult for bills to reach the president’s desk. They did this specifically to promote reasoned deliberation rather than the hasty passage of legislation based on the fickle whims of the masses that can easily be swayed by demagogues, especially in times of crisis. Obama tried to take advantage of his popularity early in his term, but squandered his political capital on a massive stimulus package that has received mixed reviews at best, leaving him little momentum to push his health care plan through Congress. The system is working, just not quite the way those who wish to expand the national government would like it.

In light of their stalled efforts at health care reform, liberal pundits, in typical condescending fashion, have begun lashing out at the American people. They insist that their prob- lems stem from conservative misinfor- mation campaigns, poor presentation of their arguments, or, to use the words of Jacob Weisberg of Slate Magazine, ‘‘the childishness, igno- rance and growing incoherence of the public at large.’’

Excuse me, Mr. Weisberg, but didn’t that same group of ‘‘childish,’’ ‘‘igno- rant,’’ ‘‘incoherent’’ Americans elect Obama to the presidency just over a year ago? My how things change so quickly!

Instead of pointing the finger of blame at Republicans and the public, perhaps Democrats should take time to reexamine their policy proposals and reevaluate their dismissal of con- servative ideas. Senator Bayh’s part- ing words of advice are especially pertinent to this undertaking.

‘‘Most strident partisans must learn to occasionally sacrifice short-term tactical political advantage for the sake of the nation. Otherwise, Congress will remain stuck in an endless cycle of recrimination and revenge. ... What is required from members of Congress and the public alike is a new spirit of devotion to the national welfare beyond party or self-interest. In a time of national peril, with our problems compounding, we must remember that more unites us as Americans than divides us.”

If Obama truly wants to promote bipartisanship, he must be just as willing to compromise as he expects Republicans to be. Otherwise he will be fighting against not only the American public, but the very system of government he has vowed to uphold.

Christie Pesavento is a senior who is majoring in political science and sociology. She can be reached at cpesaven@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

To the wage ‘experts’

In the “living wage” debate, I had decided to sit in silence and laugh at all the silly college kids thinking they know all about the real world and a “living wage.” But I can’t hold it in when an alumnus with clearly insufficient experience of his own implies Mr. Easley’s lack of experi-
ence is a counter-argument (“Get some real experience,” Feb. 22).

My name is Jack. I attempted to debunk Mr. Easley based solely on his (lack of) experience. Where, may I ask, do you get that from? I am assuming from your let-
ter that you have a good “9-to-5” job. But I did not glean from your letter if you understand that the food industry is not on “9-to-5” shifts. Working the eight-hour block makes it much harder to take a second job. Hence, it often pays a living. But it doesn’t have to be that way. People work the eight-hour block so that they have a good “9-to-5” job. But I did not read any of the rest of you. Times will be harder to take a second job. Hence, it often pays a living. But it doesn’t have to be that way.

To say that one has a problem leaves that one has a problem leaves one in silence and laugh at all the silly college kids thinking they know all about the real world and a “living wage.” But I can’t hold it in when an alumnus with clearly insufficient experience of his own implies Mr. Easley’s lack of experi-
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Germany embraced a different VW this weekend—an American export that proved just as polished, just as quick and perhaps more dependable than anything circulating the autobahn of late.

Vampire Weekend took center stage in East Berlin Friday night as the band continued its month-long European tour. The tour includes 19 stops in all and will wrap up before March in preparation for a similar series of shows in the U.S.

Vampire Weekend burst onto the college music scene in early 2008 with their self-titled debut. They grew to alternative prominence as a Brooklyn-based indie band characterized by Afro-pop melodies, orchestral backing and lead singer Ezra Koenig’s Paul Simon-like warble. With the recent release of their critically acclaimed second album, “Contra,” the band regulated its bag of cross-cultural influences and clean guitar sound and poured out an album that is, if possible, far more contours and charm than its predecessor.

“I am an admitted nerd,” Vampire Weekend frontman for a couple of reasons, the first of which is a question in their music that suggests they lack an identity. Their youth (an even more pronounced realization in person) and their eclectic array of genres, instruments and stylistic nuances epitomize a band that leaves a lot at its listeners with the hope that something different will resonate with everyone.

Two albums down, Vampire Weekend covers much ground in terms of sound and theme, but a difference exists between confident musicianship and youthful expression. The second reason lies in the fleeting nature of success in the race of alternative rock, and a question of the band’s staying power. Vampire Weekend came into 2010 in the indie music pole position with its collegiate prominence as a Brooklyn-based indie band characterized by Afro-pop melodies, orchestral backing and lead singer Ezra Koenig’s Paul Simon-like warble. With the recent release of their critically acclaimed second album, “Contra,” the band regulated its bag of cross-cultural influences and clean guitar sound and poured out an album that is, if possible, far more contours and charm than its predecessor.

“The Academy Is … is a hard band to define. Once dubbed emo, thanks to some concerts played with fellow Illinois rock band Fall Out Boy, sometimes called pop punk, and now considered a part of the broad “alternative rock” movement (and what does that really mean any more?) these spunky rockers have been on the back burner lately, recently playing a special concert in Chicago featuring only songs from their first album “Almost Here.”

But that’s a good thing. Their first album is an awesome tribute to unadulterated rock and roll, especially when you consider their more recent efforts have gotten lost in efforts to be more musically sophisticated, or something like that. Too bad their original formula was just fine as it was. No one ever said good music has to be clever or hightowered, it just has to be good. Just ask Ke$ha.

The Academy Is … has that great ability to create rock music you just want to sing along to. And to “Almost Here” is full of that. I dare you to listen to “The Phrase That Pays” and not hop your head to it, at the very least. And William Beckett’s oddly soaring vocals add that something special to all their songs.

While many of his emo contemporaries also tried to ridicule the boy’s text to create something (was it supposed to be emotion?) in their songs, ala Patrick Stump of Fall Out Boy, Beckett is actually good at it — in real life too.

ND student catches a VAMPIRE WEEKEND concert in Berlin

To a moderate fan, the show exceeded expectations, and all loyal Weekenders would do well to try and catch their upcoming show circuit in the United States.

While Stump’s vocals are a quick, lively ear-busting in live concert (no offense, beckett) Beckett pulls it off with swagger in performance. For more evidence of this, check out Beckett’s cameo work on Cobra Starship’s “Bring It,” that song from “Snakes on a Plane.”

“Almost Here” is a compilation of awesome tracks, none of which sound all that similar. Or at least not similar beyond reason. This ain’t Nickelback, after all. “Attention” is pretty much just unadulterated pop fun. “Season” is a little slower, but has a killer guitar hook and some brooding, but not too brooding, vocals.

The Academy Is … takes on a slower, more melodic tone in “Slow Down,” at least until the second verse. Then they pick things up in a lament about “Hollywood hills and suburban thrills.” Like I said before, “The Phrase That Pays” is a heart-bother, pure and simple. And though short, “Black Mamba” ups the ante with a little acoustic guitar love.

“Skeptics and True Believers” opens on a different note, highlighting Beckett’s vocals above all else. And “Classifieds” is just awesome, running through a range of different sounds in one song. “Checkmarker” is one of their “harder” songs. It relies on heavy guitars and drums and has Beckett singing in his lower register.

But “Down and Out” totally changes things up, sounding something like what you might hear at an intimate acoustic set. Except that it’s not acoustic. But that’s beside the point. It’s one of those show-closing songs that seems to wrap up a perfect night. “Almost Here” ends with, appropriately, the song “Almost Here.” Another quick one, it seems to sum up, in the best way possible, the entire album as a whole. Definitely one of their best songs ever recorded.

Another instant toe-tapper.


Feel free to give these other albums a chance. But do yourself a favor and just take some time soaking up the greatness that is “Almost Here.” Don’t be embarrassed. Don’t be guilty. Just do it. You won’t regret it. Allow yourself to float back to the yesteryears of high school when all your care about was cruising the highway, blasting some sweet tunes. The Academy Is … will definitely do it for you.

Maja Gustin can be reached at mgustin@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
I must admit that I have been a long-time Motion City Soundtrack fan. Ever since I heard Justin Pierre crooning about his heartache and quirky obsessions, I was hooked. I have a feeling it’s his extreme honesty that makes him most endearing. From his obsessive compulsive behavior to his touching, though seeming-perpetual, heartache, Motion City Soundtrack can’t be described as anything less than my guilty pleasure. I would rarely admit to enjoying a band so strikingly punk rock. Yet sometimes everyone needs a little bit of angst and heartache. It keeps us all human.

Motion City Soundtrack’s new album “The Dinosaur Life” is no exception to my general affection for the band. If asked, I would likely name “Even If It Kills Me” as my favorite album of theirs, but “The Dinosaur Life” does not disappoint.

Overall, the album delivers exactly what MCS fans will be looking for. There is enough variety to keep the listener interested, with driving melodies and sing-along lyrics. Because they haven’t produced anything particularly unique, I wouldn’t say this album is an accomplishment for the band. Still, as it is their fourth album, MCS can’t be expected to have completely redefined their sound.

Their previous album, “Even If It Kills Me,” was the paramount of a break-up album. It was about love and sadness, the recovery from drug addiction, the end of relationships and the emptiness that comes along with it. “The Dinosaur Life” seems to be a new beginning for the band, a new stage in its life. With songs about triumph and starting over, it appears that their inspiration has come from a better, perhaps happier place this time around.

The album certainly has its highlights and lowlights. The first track starts off with the upbeat, reflective song, “Worker Bee.” Pierre belts out, “It’s been a good year, a good new beginning,” signaling the beginning of a new era for the band. In the following track, “A Lifeless Ordinary,” Pierre sings, “I think I can figure it out, but I’m not sure.” With ‘The Dinosaur Life,’ capturing the same heavy “Makh”-instead-of-“Mark” Boston accent as he did in “The Departed”), the album’s foggy sounds are introduced to Teddy’s cold, suspicious stare as he looks outward to the foreboding island ahead; a journey that should be remembered come Oscar season.

The score plays underling to deliberate camera work to parallel Teddy’s mental freefall, and it’s not until the very end of the film that it starts to make sense that it is if you haven’t correctly guessed what that something is.

“Shutter Island” is the work of a master showcasing his love and knowledge of the medium, yet it falls short of its lofty aspirations. Its fatal flaw is that something is). The puzzle that is “Shutter Island” — that something is). The mystery you might say improbably disapparition of the elusive Rachel Solando, an inmate convicted of drowning her three children. However, as they question and start to learn about the institution and its rather perplexing, seemingly villainous director (Ben Kingsley), it becomes increasingly appar- ent that there may be more to this than just the disappearance of a murderer.

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Special to the Observer

**Squash**

Our Dame finished 1-2 at the CSA National Squash Tournament at Yale from Feb. 19-21. The Irish competed in the Hawthorn “G” division alongside Bard, Bryant, Bucknell, College of Charleston, Fordham, Lafayette and Vassar. At No. 7 in the “G” division, the Irish lost to the Rams, losing 8-1 to Bard and to Bucknell 5-4. Notre Dame did come back to defeat Charleston 5-4.

Individual performances were exciting and fast paced. Senior first seed Peter Caruthers led the team from a shutout in his final CSA tournament when he defeated Bard’s top player 14-12, 11-2, 11-2. Gallagher also had a valiant victory against Bucknell, but it was not enough for the Irish to get the win. No. 2 seed fresh- man Ryan Gallagher played three hard matches, each time coming up short in four games. Third-place sophomore Ken Pernetto played higher than usual and met the challenge, but lost three close matches. No. 4 Mark Hincapi, a senior, playing in his first and last CSA National tournament, overcame rookie nerves to finish with a three-game win over the University of York and the College of Charleston.

Gallagher, Griessel lead squash squad at nationals

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To our Dame/Saint Mary’s exhibitors, the 2010-11 Off-Campus housing season includes victories over then-No. 3 Villanova last week. No. 2 seed freshman Tom Dougherty lost at No. 5, but won three straight over then-No. 1 Texas last month and includes victories over then-No. 3 Villanova last week.

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WEST VIRGINIA quickening its pace in the NCAA tournament, over- took its first and last CSA National tournament, over- came rookie nerves to finish with a three-game win over the University of York and the College of Charleston.

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WANTING TO FIND A ROOMMATE? OR ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ROOMS TO SHARE?

**CLASSIFIEDS**

For Rent

- Off-Campus housing 2010-11 and 2011-12
- 18 W. Cork Ln., Westwood Village, Westwood. Also a few houses and Villas. Some furnished. Call 574-298-4206. CES Property Management.

Wanted

- Off-Campus housing 2010-11 and 2011-12
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**Special to the Observer**

**Bucknell, but it was not enough for the Irish to get the win. No. 2 seed freshman Ryan Gallagher played three hard matches, each time coming up short in four games. Third-place sophomore Ken Pernetto played higher than usual and met the challenge, but lost three close matches. No. 4 Mark Hincapi, a senior, playing in his first and last CSA National tournament, overcame rookie nerves to finish with a three-game win over the University of York and the College of Charleston.

**Squash**

Our Dame finished 1-2 at the CSA National Squash Tournament at Yale from Feb. 19-21. The Irish competed in the Hawthorn “G” division alongside Bard, Bryant, Bucknell, College of Charleston, Fordham, Lafayette and Vassar. At No. 7 in the “G” division, the Irish lost to the Rams, losing 8-1 to Bard and to Bucknell 5-4. Notre Dame did come back to defeat Charleston 5-4.

Individual performances were exciting and fast paced. Senior first seed Peter Caruthers led the team from a shutout in his final CSA tournament when he defeated Bard’s top player 14-12, 11-2, 11-2. Gallagher also had a valiant victory against Bucknell, but it was not enough for the Irish to get the win. No. 2 seed freshman Ryan Gallagher played three hard matches, each time coming up short in four games. Third-place sophomore Ken Pernetto played higher than usual and met the challenge, but lost three close matches. No. 4 Mark Hincapi, a senior, playing in his first and last CSA National tournament, overcame rookie nerves to finish with a three-game win over the University of York and the College of Charleston.

To our Dame/Saint Mary’s exhibitors, the 2010-11 Off-Campus housing season includes victories over then-No. 3 Villanova last week. No. 2 seed freshman Tom Dougherty lost at No. 5, but won three straight over then-No. 1 Texas last month and includes victories over then-No. 3 Villanova last week.

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The Observer's Wire Services

**MLB**

Hank Aaron, the former all-time home run leader, offered his support Monday for disgraced slugger Mark McGwire. McGwire returned to baseball as the Cardinals hitting coach after steroid allegations forced him into obscurity.

Associated Press

A resume that included a year in which he hit 209 home runs earned McGwire a prominent role with the Cardinals, but the 76-year-old Aaron says McGwire should have a clear conscience after his recent admission he used performance-enhancing drugs as a player.

Aaron said other players still harboring similar secrets also should come clean.

“I think baseball is cleaning up its act a little bit, I really do,” Aaron said Monday during a visit to Atlanta Braves camp. “I’ve been saying for a long time that I think the ball is cleaner now than it has ever been.”

Aaron did not mention Bonds.

Bonds hit a record 755 home runs for the Braves and Brewers. His record was broken by Barry Bonds, who also eclipsed McGwire’s mark with 73 home runs in 2001. Bonds has pleaded not guilty to charges of lying when he told a federal grand jury in 2003 that he never knowingly used steroids.

Aaron did not mention Bonds.

Aaron said he would have loved to have been manager of the Cardinals and he still harbors similar feelings for the team. “I appreciate some fans still referring to him as the home run king. Regardless of what happened, I’m not going to hit another home run,” he said. “Not in this world. I may do it somewhere else.”

IN BRIEF

**Patriots to place franchise tag on tackle Wilfork**

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots put the franchise tag on Pro Bowl nose tackle Vince Wilfork on Monday, providing more time for negotiations toward a long-term contract.

The six-year veteran said he hoped the team would use the tag for that purpose.

The Patriots placed a non-exclusive tag on Wilfork, which means that if another team’s offer or let Wilfork go for two first-round draft picks. An exclusive tag would have tied Wilfork to the Patriots for the season.

However, as a non-exclusive franchise player, if a long-term deal is not reached, his 2011 salary with the Patriots would be $7 million, the average of 2009 salary of the top five paid players at his position.

**Outfielder Gomes signs deal to return to Red Sox**

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Free agent outfielder Jonny Gomes signed a one-year deal with Cincinnati on Monday, providing the right-handed power hitter the Reds wanted in the outfield.

General manager Walt Jocketty said the 29-year-old Gomes will compete for the job in left field. His contract includes a club option for 2012.

Gomes appeared in 98 games for the Reds last season, batting .267 with 20 homers and 51 runs batted in. He started 33 games in left field, 33 in right and nine as a designated hitter during interleague play.

**Cubs’ Soriano recovering well from knee surgery**

MESA, Ariz. — Alfonso Soriano came to spring training Monday with his typical big smile and offered up a question mark about his surgically repaired left knee.

Soriano underwent arthroscopic surgery on the knee on Sept. 15. Four months later, he said he isn’t sure when he’ll be able to go full speed on it — not what fans were hoping to hear from a guy who played in only 117 games with the Cubs in 2009, batting .241 with 20 homers and 55 RBIs in the third season of an eight-year, $136 million contract.

Soriano said he has been working out in his native Dominican Republic. He said he’s probably at about 80 percent or 85 percent but hasn’t completely tested the knee by running the bases or chasing fly balls. He said he doesn’t want to push things too quickly with a goal of being ready for opening day.

AROUND THE NATION

**Compiled from The Observer’s Wire Services**

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

around the dial

NCAA Men’s Basketball
Illinois at Michigan
7 p.m., ESPN

Olympic Men’s Hockey
Russia vs. Latvia
9 p.m., NBC
Chargers release Tomlinson after nine years

Associated Press
SAN DIEGO — The slashing, dazzling runs came less frequently. The yards didn’t pile up as easily as in previous seasons. LaDainian Tomlinson was slowing down because of injuries and age, becoming less and less the face of the franchise as his role was reduced in a pass-happy offense.

The move had been expected for some time. Tomlinson, one of the most beloved athletes in San Diego sports history, got the word in a meeting with team president Dean Spanos.

“I told him that in the 26 years that I’ve been in this business, it was probably the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do,” Spanos told The Associated Press. “I’m not close to a lot of the players, but there’s a hand-ful that I’ve been close with, and he’s probably the closest. It was really difficult to tell him. But out of respect, I wanted to tell him earlier rather than later.”

Tomlinson was due a $2 million roster bonus in early March, which all but guaranteed the franchise he helped revive with brilliant nine-year run in which he became one of the NFL’s greatest running backs.

During a somewhat tumultuous period last offseason, Tomlinson’s performance dropped, and he was still had two years left on his contract, which was reworked during a somewhat tumultuous period last offseason. L.T. wasn’t immediately available for comment. He said after the Chargers’ playoff loss to the New York Jets that he felt he could still play for a few more seasons.

“He was one of the greatest players and people that I’ve ever had a chance to be around and he will be missed,” outside linebacker Shawne Merriman said in an e-mail to the AP. “General manager A.J. Smith called it ‘a tough day, a sad day for everybody in the organization. But it’s always tough to part ways with great players who helped you win games. It’s not a pleasant day, but we’re working through it.”

Agent Tom Condon said he’ll spend time at the forthcoming NFL combine in Indianapolis determining interest from other teams.

“I think they did us a favor in terms of releasing him before we go to the combine. That part of it was positive,” Condon told the AP. “L.T.” during Super Bowl week had indicated it was time to move on, and they accommodated him. He’s had a Hall of Fame run there as a Charger.”

Tomlinson, who turned 30 last summer, was injured early in the 2009 season and finished with 730 yards on 223 carries for an average of 3.3 yards per carry, all career lows.

Condon doesn’t think Tomlinson is finished.

“It’s one of those things with the very, very special players, like Emmitt Smith, Marcus Allen, guys like that,” Condon said. “You can’t predict what they’re going to do. They seem to defy the odds. He keeps him- self in tremendous condition. I think he feels like he can go forward for several more years.”

Tomlinson ranks eighth on the all-time rushing list with 12,490 yards. His 128 career rushing touchdowns rank second, and his 153 total touchdowns rank third.

He was the NFL’s MVP in 2006, when he set league single-season records with 31 touchdowns, including 28 rushing, and 186 points. Tomlinson won the NFL’s rushing title in 2006 and ’07.

Perhaps his most memorable moment as a Charger came on Dec. 10, 2006, when he swept into the end zone late in a game against the Denver Broncos for his third touch- down of the afternoon to break Shaun Alexander’s year-old record of 28 touchdowns.

His linemen hoisted him onto their shoulders and carried him toward the sideline, with Tomlinson holding the ball high in his right hand and carrying his left index finger, while the fans chanted “L.T. L.T!” and “MVP MVP”.

“He’s just been a great player for us,” Smith said. “Also, the character, integrity, work ethic, along with his talent, have been unbelievable. He’s a Hall of Fame right now. He will be a first-ballot Hall of Famer.”

Coming off a 1-15 finish in 2009, and trying to dig out from the nightmarish Ryan Leaf years, the Chargers held the No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 draft. They sent that pick to the Atlanta Falcons on the day before the draft began for a package that included the fifth pick, which they used to select Tomlinson. The Falcons took Michael Vick with the top pick.

“When he came here in 2001, we were a struggling fran- chise,” Spanos said. “It’s clear that we are where we are today because of him. He truly has been the heart and soul of our team all these years, and just done an outstanding job and helped turn this franchise around into a winning fran- chise. It couldn’t have been done without him.”

Spanos said he and Tomlinson expressed disapp- ointment that the player never got a chance to win a Super Bowl title.

“We came close but just never quite got there,” Spanos said.

The Chargers made five play-off appearances during Tomlinson’s time here. They advanced to the AFC champi- onship game following the 2007 season but lost to the New England Patriots.

Tomlinson’s squeaky-clean image took a hit during that AFC championship game. Forced out early with a knee injury, Tomlinson watched glumly from the sideline, huddled in a parka and his face hidden behind the tinted visor on his helmet.

The Chargers gave an overly optimistic prognosis about his injury, announcing that he “can return,” which caused fans and commentators to question his toughness.

Tomlinson was always the most brutally honest employee in the Chargers’ organization. When he sustained a groin injury in the 2008 regular-season finale, he was more forthright with the media about its severity, causing Smith to bris- tle.

That groin injury sidelined Tomlinson in a divisional-round loss to Pittsburgh, the first time he missed a game due to injury in his pro career. He had been slowed earlier that season by a toe injury.

He sprained his right ankle in the 2009 season opener against Oakland and missed the next two games.

Spanos said Tomlinson “was very, very gracious and very respectful” during their meet- ing. “He had his typical smile, was just as good as could be, as respectful as could be. Just really, like he is, first class.”

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The Associated Press
Bogut scored 14 points on 7-of-9 shooting and grabbed nine rebounds in the first quarter as Milwaukee opened a 27-20 lead. The Bucks pushed the lead into double digits early in the second while the Knicks continued to misfire, and they led 47-41 at halftime after limiting New York to 37.5 percent shooting.

Despite its woeful shooting, New York was within six with under 9 minutes. Jerry Stackhouse then made a 3-pointer before consecutive baskets by Luke Ridnour and Salmons made it 74-61 with 7:49 left. Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni promised his team would speed up for the Bulls.

The Bucks answered immediately with three straight baskets, including consecutive layups by Bogut, to open a 64-53 advantage with 5:20 remaining in the third quarter.

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The Bucks, who came in a game out of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, swept the series for the first time since going 4-0 in 1990-91.

Milwaukee never trailed in the first half, but the Knicks put together their only prolonged stretch of good offense with a 12-0 burst that turned a 10-point deficit into a 53-51 lead on Wilson Chandler's layup with 5:20 remaining in the third quarter.

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Damon admits Detroit Tigers were first choice

Associated Press

LAKELAND, Fla. — To Johnny Damon, the Detroit Tigers represented the perfect puzzle piece. “This is where I wanted to be,” he said Monday after completing one-year, $11.5 million contract. “The Tigers were my first choice. I love it here and I think I am a good fit.”

Let go by the World Series champion New York Yankees, Damon also drew interest from the Atlanta Braves and Chicago White Sox. When it came time to choose, he darted back to the Tigers’ lineup besides switch-hitter Carlos Guillen.

“It was a hard decision,”Damon said. “It is where I wanted to be.”

Johnny Damon, the Detroit Tigers’ fifth team. He also played for the Kansas City Royals and Oakland Athletics before his stints in Boston and New York. “This is so much different than the last time,” Damon said. “This is the first time I feel at home.”

He said he knew his days in New York were numbered after he was informed by Yankees general manager Brian Cashman that he was the second choice behind free agent Nick Johnson, who signed with New York in December.

The Tigers will be Damon’s fifth team. He also played for the Kansas City Royals and Oakland Athletics before his stints in Boston and New York. “This is so much different than the last time,” Damon said. “This is the first time I feel at home.”

“I’m happy for him that he’s gone to Detroit,” Yankees manager Joe Girardi said Sunday. “I think I am a good fit.”

For the Tigers, it means a proven winner.”

“This is where we wanted to be,” Damon said. “It is where I wanted to be.”

Dombrowski has said Damon has always been truthful and straightforward on where he could win right away. “Johnny Damon is a guy who has always been honest and he was honest with me about where he wanted to be,” Dombrowski said. “He makes us better,” Damon said. “It is where I wanted to be.”

Contrary to what has been reported, I wanted a place where I could play right away. I have always been truthful and Detroit was always my first choice,” Damon said. “It’s a plane ride away and I am going to love it there.”

Dombrowski said he’s more comfortable now than when he made the awkward transition from Boston to rival New York before the 2006 season.

He grew up in Orlando, about a 30-minute drive from the Tigers’ spring training home in Lakeland. The Tigers will be Damon’s fifth team. He also played for the Kansas City Royals and Oakland Athletics before his stints in Boston and New York.

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Ilgauskas, Cavs may reunite

Associated Press

NEW YORK — An official within the league told The Associated Press on Monday the NBA has not threatened to stop a potential reunion between the Cleveland Cavaliers and Zaza Ilgauskas.

The Cavaliers traded their longtime center to Washington last week in the three-team deal that brought Antawn Jamison to Cleveland. The Wizards may decide to buy out Ilgauskas, allowing him to become a free agent.

The Los Angeles Times quoted an unnamed source Sunday saying the NBA had told other teams it wouldn’t let Ilgauskas go back to the Cavs. However, the official said the AP the league would only step in if there was proof of an agreement before the trade was completed.

The person was granted anonymity because he was not authorized to comment publicly about the Ilgauskas situation.

“Questions are coming up,” NBA officials seeking comment. “A buyout is reached with the Wizards, Ilgauskas would be placed on waivers. No team is far enough under the salary cap to absorb his $11.5 million salary for this season, so he would become a free agent eligible to join any team for a pro-rated share of the veteran’s minimum.

NBA rules allow a player being traded and then waived to

rejoin his old team after 30 days, as long as that wasn’t planned before the deal was completed. Last season, Antonio McDyess went back to Detroit after the Pistons dealt him to Denver along with Chauncey Billups for Allen Iverson, and it placed such as Brent Barry (San Antonio) and Gary Payton (Boston) have also gone back to clubs that dealt them in recent seasons.

Though he lost his starting job this season after the Cavs traded for Shaquille O’Neal, a return to the Cavs could be attractive for Ilgauskas. He’s spent his whole career in Cleveland after he was drafted in 1996, and the Cavaliers are one of the few franchises to win the championship this season.
Big East continued from page 20

Irish will face in their new conference is the number of top-ranked teams. Syracuse sits in first in the most recent USILA Coaches Poll as Georgetown moves to No. 13. “The Big East gives us a great national profile and name recognition in the lacrosse world,” Corrigan said. “Not many people really know about a team from Denver, but they know teams like Syracuse and Georgetown. I think that having them come out here every other year will really attract attention and help us build rivals in all the sports we play in.”

Despite the challenges set by the other teams in the conference, Corrigan has been playing in the Big East with a full team in the long run. “We need the challenge of Big East play to prepare for the NCAA Tournament,” he said.

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Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach

“Without playing a conference match, the Irish have already made a name for themselves on the Big East stage. Senior goalie Scott Rodgers was named the first-ever Big East defensive player of the week and junior midfielder Zach Breneman was named to the weekly honor roll as a result of their performances at Duke. Scottie Rodgers isn’t any more a team from Denver, but they know teams like Syracuse and Georgetown. I think that having them come out here every other year will really attract attention and help us build rivals in all the sports we play in.”

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Within 16 shots of one another between 27-2 and 43-over par, I think we are really looking to just get comfortable again,” Holt said. The first tournament of the spring season has characteristically been a tough one for the Irish, as the team has had a tough time starting with a solid round and typically performs better as the year progresses. But this year may be different for Notre Dame. “I think the girls realize what’s ahead of them,” Holt said. “We don’t have time for what’s ahead of them,” Holt said. “We don’t have time.”

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mevasel01@saintmarys.edu

NBA

Hawks beat Jazz to end 17-year drought

Brendan Haywood tied a season-high with 20 rebounds and the Dallas Mavericks improved to 4-0 without its leading scorer. Haywood was a close-up to finish with seven.

The Hawks haven’t won in Utah since Feb. 13, 1993, when Dominique Wilkins scored the 43 points to lead Atlanta to a 121-112 victory. Paul Millsap scored 20 points and Ronnie Price and Kyle Korver each scored 17 points for the Jazz, who missed a chance to catch Denver for the Northwest Division lead and the second position in the Western Conference standings.

A night after a 22-point, 23-rebound effort, Carlos Boozer had 10 points, 10 rebounds and a personal-high eight assists but missed a couple of late shots and dropped a rebound out of bounds when the Jazz had a chance to tie it in the final minute.

Williams briefly left Sunday’s game at Portland with a leg injury, but returned to help the Jazz complete a 93-89 overtime victory after trailing by 25 points. Williams had 18 points and 12 assists, while playing tenacious defense against Brandon Roy in the final minutes.

Kirilenko left the game against the Trail Blazers in the first quarter with back pain, an injury he suffered in the lanky forward. His recent play has been critical in Utah’s surge, but he has now sat out seven games this season with the ailment.

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Some of the Pacers’ shooting woes were self-inflicted. They missed plenty of open 3-pointers, finishing 3 of 23 from beyond the arc.

Coming off a 23-point night during a win in his home- town of Houston, Ford played despite a sore groin and kept the Pacers close in the first half. But the Mavericks improved to 4-0 since the All-Star break and the trade, taking advantage of their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their other their 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Hofstra
continued from page 20

tect the ball in transition," she said.

Despite working on this in practice, Hofstra will still pro-
vide a test of the Notre Dame’s progress as it opens its season.

“We need to see what we can do,” Coyne said. “Because we’ve only played ourselves.”

The first game will be no easy win, either. Notre Dame has faced the Pride twice before, holding them off 14-13 in 2008 and prevailing 17-15 last season. Hofstra returned a strong contingent from last year’s 10-6 campaign and opened the season with a impressive victory.

“They always play us really tough. They’re a very quick, athletic, feisty and physical team,” Coyne said. “This is one

Rematch
continued from page 20

under control and keep Albion off the foul line.”

Not only will Saint Mary’s need to provide ample offen-
sive firepower, but they also will need to step up on the
defensive side of the ball as Albion has a few players who
could pose as a real threat to the Belles.

“Albion is a good team,” Henley said. “They have some very good shooters who are able to take over a game at any point.”

Junior guard Melissa Shaw led the Britons with 13.9 points per game, playing a vital role in Albion’s guard play as she leads the team in assists and steals by a large
margin for the season.

The Belles will need to come out ready to play against Albion in order to advance in the playoffs and a team can no longer expect to win with-out full energy on both offense and defense. The Britons are looking for an opportunity to upset Saint Mary’s on the Belles’ home court after losing at home Saturday.

“We are going to need to play more than just one half of solid defense as well as create second shots for us with offensive boards,” Henley said.

Belles senior Anna Kammrath has become a vital asset in grabbing rebounds as she recently set the Saint Mary’s career rebounding record, surpassing the previ-
ous mark of 330. Sophomore Kelley Murphy has been adding an average 7.2 rebounds per game as well for the Belles.

Saint Mary’s will take on Albion at 7:30 p.m. in the first round of MIAA playoff action in the Angela Athletic Center.

Contact Tim Singler at tsingler@ud.edu

The Belles’ career rebounding record of 330.

The game will be played in weather conditions that emphasize one-on-one attack-
ing and ball possession, areas where Hofstra has been tradi-
tionally strong.

“Defensively, we’ve been working on our one-on-one defense,” Coyne said. “Draw control will also be huge.”

Coyne said she believes that no one player on the team will have to play well, but rather the entire squad as a whole, especially since this is the first game of the season in which the Irish will cement their line-
up changes from last year.”

“We’re trying a different

The Golden Eagles (14-12, 5-8) are led by junior Angel Robinson, an aggressive point guard averag-
ing 13.3 points and 4.5 assists per game. Complemented by sopho-
more forward Jessica Pachiko in the post, McGrav said she believes Marquette has developed an effec-
tive inside-outside offense that may pose a potential mismatch.

Senior guard Melissa Lechlitner said she is optimistic, and believes Schrader’s return and a renewed focus at practice will deliver an Irish victory.

“Anything you get a player back that’s been injured or has been out for a little bit, it’s always an extra boost, always going to help,” Lechlitner said. “We just need to get back to rebounding and play-
ing defense and getting big stops, just playing Notre Dame basket-
ball.

Playing in the Purcell Pavilion will be a welcome advantage, but going out with a win on Senior Night should also be a motivating factor for the veteran-heavy squad.

“We have some of the best

attendance in the nation, and our fans are the absolute best in the country,” Lechlitner said. “Anytime that we start getting on a little run, we feed off their enthusiasm. It’s not really our last home game, but it’s still really sad the season is coming to an end. Four years are coming to an end. It’s definitely going to be an emo-
tional night.”

The Irish tip-off against the Golden Eagles is at 7 p.m. in the Purcell Pavilion. Notre Dame’s seven seniors (five players, two managers) will be honored prior to the game.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

Seniors
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much-needed spark as they look for a return to the win column.

“Getting Lindsay Schrader back is going to be a big part of that,” McGrav said. “It’s Senior Night, we’re playing at home, we have a lot of things going our way right now. I think we just need to gain our confidence back, and just go out and concentrate on the funda-
mentals.”

Schrader brings a special set of skills with her every time she steps on the court, namely the ability to score, rebound and play lockdown defense when the game is on the line. Nevertheless, Notre Dame features a talented cast that many believed would be able to carry the slack in Schrader’s absence.

“I think it was definitely a shot, shook our confidence a little bit knowing we’ve lost two games without her,” McGrav said. “I think everybody knows we didn’t play well, individually or as a team. It’s disappointing for all of them to be able to look at them-

seniors and know they kind of let the team down.”

Schrader’s return comes at a pivotal point in the season. The Irish have slipped to fourth in the conference standings and face a desperate Marquette team that must win to keep its NCAA Tournament dreams alive.

“It’s always a good game with them,” McGrav said. “They’ve beaten us a couple of times now up there. Every game’s tough, every game. Their backs are against the wall. They want to really try to win this game and we feel kind of the same way.”

Marquette has developed an effec-
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Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu
The Observer apologizes for the absence of Schad & Freude. It will return tomorrow.
ND WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Ready to attack

Irish travel to Hofstra to open spring season

By ALLAN JOSEPH  
Sports Writer

The Irish traveled to Hempsted, N.Y. for today’s 3:30 p.m. clash at Hofstra to open their spring season. It will be the Pride’s second match after opening the season with a 21-3 dismantling of Saint Mary’s (Calif.).

Notre Dame has been practicing hard throughout the off-season and in the preseason. The Irish traveled to Lake Buena Vista, Fla., to scrimmage both the U.S. National Elite team and the U.S. National Developmental team in January at the Disney World of Sports in the Champion Challenge. The trip to Florida revealed important areas to focus on in practice, Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. “Playing the U.S. team exposed that we need to practice hard throughout the off-season and in the preseason.”

As part of the new conference schedule, Notre Dame has moved up as one of seven teams in the history, but Notre Dame is the national polls in program history. The Irish (1-0) will join Rutgers, Providence, Rutgers, St. John’s, Syracuse and Villanova as the 11th men’s team sponsored by the Big East conference. Notre Dame earned 12 GWLL regular-season titles and won two back-to-back league tournaments in 2008 and 2009. To be involved in such a big conference is great for our team,” Corrigan said. “Syracuse has five national championships. No one in the Great Western Lacrosse League had been in the Final Four except us.”

Senior guard Lindsay Schrader is set to return to the court tonight for Senior Night. Notre Dame’s fall in the polls and conference standings comes on the heels of senior Lindsey Schrader’s ankle injury that has sidelined the guard for two games. Irish coach Mark McGraw said she believes Schrader’s return Tuesday will give the Irish a newly-formed and highly competitive Big East men’s lacrosse league.

“Syracuse has five national championships. No one in the Great Western Lacrosse League had been in the Final Four except us,” coach Tracy Coyne said. “We are going to need to keep our fouls to be a battle,” Belles coach Jenn Henley said. “We are going to need to keep our fouls

ND WOMEN’S GOLF

Schneider returns to the course

By CHRIS MASOUD  
Sports Writer

With a two-game losing streak hovering over its head, No. 7 Notre Dame finds itself in unfamiliar territory heading into the last week of the regular season. Fighting for a top seed in the Big East Championship, the Irish (23-3, 10-3 Big East) will have their first chance to exercise their demons as they host Marquette tonight for Senior Night.

Notre Dame’s fall in the polls and conference standings comes on the heels of senior Lindsay Schneider’s ankle injury that has sidelined the guard for two games. Irish coach Mark McGraw said she believes Schneider’s return Tuesday will give the Irish a newly-formed and highly competitive Big East men’s lacrosse league.

“One of the good things is the quality of the teams,” Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. “At the top of this league is excellence with Georgetown, Providence, Rutgers, St. John’s, Syracuse and Villanova as the 11th men’s team sponsored by the Big East conference. Notre Dame earned 12 GWLL regular-season titles and won two back-to-back league tournaments in 2008 and 2009. To be involved in such a big conference is great for our team,” Corrigan said. “Syracuse has five national championships. No one in the Great Western Lacrosse League had been in the Final Four except us.”

As part of the new conference, the teams will play a six-game single round-robin regular season schedule. Notre Dame’s first conference match will take place March 27 when it plays host to Rutgers.

“It’s a very competitive group of schools,” Corrigan said. “The league’s teams are in all areas of the country in which we recruit. It’ll be great for recruiting and playing in front of the kids we’re trying to attract.”

The Irish grabbed the pre-season No. 2 spot in the Big East by the conference’s head coaches. Syracuse was chosen in front of the Irish with six first-place votes to Notre Dame’s four. Georgetown was ranked third.

One of the challenges the

see BIG EAST/page 17

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Schrader returns to the court

By ALLAN JOSEPH  
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s earned the No. 3 seed in the MIAA playoffs and will play host to Albion in the first round.

The Belles are looking to build up their two-game win streak to close out the regular season, winning their final two games by a combined total of 55 points. The two teams last met Saturday when the Belles were able to keep their composure and handle the pressure from the Britons. But Saint Mary’s committed a number of fouls that helped to build up points for Albion, but not enough as the Belles won 62-47.

“Tuesday’s rematch is going to be a battle,” Belles coach Jenn Henley said. “We are going to need to keep our fouls

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SCHRADE/CHARLESTON CHRONICLE

Junior midfielder and co-captain Shaslynn Blaney takes on an Ohio State defender in a Feb. 22, 2009 match. She will look to help the Irish open up the spring season at Hofstra today in Hempsted, N.Y.

Men’s LACROSSE

No. 3 Notre Dame ready for new Big East opponents

By MEAGHAN VESELIK  
Sports Writer

With the beginning of the 2010 season comes a number of firsts for the No. 3 Irish. Not only did they take down now-No. 8 Duke in the season opener, the first time the Irish have defeated a team that was ranked in the top two of the national polls in program history, but Notre Dame is also one of seven teams in the history, but Notre Dame is the national polls in program history. The Irish (1-0) will join Rutgers, Providence, Rutgers, St. John’s, Syracuse and Villanova as the 11th men’s team sponsored by the Big East conference. Notre Dame earned 12 GWLL regular-season titles and won two back-to-back league tournaments in 2008 and 2009. To be involved in such a big conference is great for our team,” Corrigan said. “Syracuse has five national championships. No one in the Great Western Lacrosse League had been in the Final Four except us.”

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One of the challenges the

see BIG EAST/page 17

ND WOMEN’S GOLF

Huffer leads the way for Irish in Florida

By JOHN HELMS  
Sports Writer

After a few months spent practicing in the Rolls Golf Facility, the Irish are happy to be competing in the Central District Invitational in Parrish, Fla., in a two-day event at the River Wilderness Country Club. Notre Dame came out of Monday’s competition in 11th after two rounds of play.

In Monday morning’s first round, the Irish opened with a 310 and followed with a 308 in the afternoon. Sophomore Becca Huffer leads the Irish with a 149 two-round total, 5-over par, to place her her in 14th overall. Going into the competition, the Irish were excited about the chance to play outside again.

“It’s been a while since we’ve actually gotten to play golf,” Irish coach Susan Holt told und.com. “I think the biggest thing is getting back out there and starting to hit some shots and feel comfortable again.”

Notre Dame has not competed in an event since the Alamo Invitational in October 2009, the finale of a fall season that was characterized by improvement.

“We made a lot of great

see FLORIDA/page 17