Grads work to expand impact of Haiti documentary

Former students try to raise money after Jan. 12 earthquake, form business operating out of Innovation Park

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

Notre Dame graduate Justin Brandon can trace the inspiration for his work on a 2006 documentary about a rural Haitian town to a summer spent doing service through the Center for Social Concerns.

Now, Brandon and two friends have taken their project back to Notre Dame through the use of Innovation Park, a technology park launched by the University that opened this fall.

Brandon, along with 2005 graduates Brian McElroy and Daniel Schnorr, filmed, directed and produced the documentary, “The Road to Fondwa.” It chronicles the Haitian people’s quest for development of the small rural town of Fondwa, Haiti.

“The film is not your standard guilt trip, tear jerking movie that tries to make audience feel sorry. Fondwa has a hopeful story,” he said.

Brandon said he, McElroy and Schnorr wanted to expand the impact of the documentary — especially in light of the Jan. 12 earthquake — so they formed a business that now operates out of Innovation Park.

“One earthquake hit, everything changed,” Brandon said.

“We needed to have a strategy to scale up the efforts of the film distribution and that’s where Innovation Park came in.”

As a student, Brandon, a graduate of the class of 2004, spent a summer in Ghana participating in an International Summer Service Learning Project (ISSLP). Through this project, he met McElroy and Schnorr. Schnorr had spent the summer in Ecuador and McElroy, Fondwa, Haiti.

“We all met through our ISSLPs, and we came up with the idea to shoot a documentary in Haiti,” Brandon said.

As a student, Brandon, a graduate of the class of 2004, spent a summer in Ghana participating in an International Summer Service Learning Project (ISSLP). Through this project, he met McElroy and Schnorr. Schnorr had spent the summer in Ecuador and McElroy, Fondwa, Haiti.

“We all met through our ISSLPs, and we came up with the idea to shoot a documentary in Haiti,” Brandon said.

Brandon and his co-founders have taken on a new business — ROOT FC — and they are continuing to work to expand the impact of the documentary.

Brandon said the business currently includes a marketing director, a business director and an operations director.

Brandon said the business could continue to expand its impact, and the business could be expanded to include additional films.

“At the end of the day, it’s all about creating real change for people,” Brandon said.

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INSIDE COLUMN
Beginning of madness

I was talking to my friend JP after we got back from break, and in the process of our conversation he revealed that he thought yesterday was the best day of the year — even better than Christmas or the day we beat USC (soon to be a yearly occurrence), and — he’s right, except for the USC thing. Why, you may ask? It’s certainly not because of the post-St. Paddy’s Day hangover you’re undoubtedly nurs- ing as you read this. St. Patrick’s Day just happens to conven- tiently fall this year as a 24-hour mid- week pregame for today, when the world’s greatest sports spectacle tips off at 12:20 p.m.

Yep, you got it. I’m talking about the NCAA men’s basketball tournament. March Madness simply has everything that a sports fan could want. First, it’s a full three weeks of almost constant action. Today alone there are 16 games — and then 16 tomorrow. You can turn on CBS at noon to catch the important bits of the pregame show and watch the same channel and be constantly enter- tained for 12 straight hours, and then do the same thing tomorrow. For three weeks, there will be one constantly developing storyline after another. They’ll all be interesting, too.

Second, no matter who you are, you’ve got some sort of rooting interest in the tournament. In addition to rooting for Luke Harangody & Co., there’s probably at least one of the other 63 teams that is your state university, your mom’s alma mater, or one that’s got a cool name (Wofford, I’m looking at you). Plus, you can root for the Cinderella team or Kentucky, if only to see Ashley Judd. The point is, you always care.

Third, the bracket is the perfect size — there’s an element of mystery as to who will make the field, there are enough games for some classic upsets, and yet one of the best teams almost always comes out on top. Plus, the time- honored tradition of filling out brackets involves even the casual fan in a friendly competition that’s inevitably won by someone who has no clue what they’re doing. And if you want bragging rights over smug Observer sportswriters like me, head on over to Facebook and enter your own brackets. And feel free to submit information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.

The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: How did you celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day?

Elizabeth Flood
sophomore
Lewis

With sunshine and smiling Irish eyes.

Ella Lozon
sophomore
Howard

I late Lucky Charms all day long.

Katie Finley
sophomore
PW

“Playing football on the quad and drinking apple cider.”

Tim Ryan
sophomore
Krenan

“Playing Irish music and drinking Irish beverages.”

Students John Wachowicz, left, Andrew Brinkerhoff, center and Tim Ryan perform traditional Irish music on Fieldhouse Mall Wednesday in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day.

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

IN BRIEF

An exhibition titled “All Art is Propaganda” will be held at 8 a.m. today in room 102 in the Hesburgh Library Special Collections.

“Caroline Chiu: Polaroids as Chinese Ink Painting,” will be held at 10 a.m. today. The exhibit will be on display in the Milly and Fritz Kaeser Mestrovic Studio Gallery in the Snite Museum of Art.

An exhibit titled “Yin Tang: A Chinese Home” will be held at 10 a.m. today in the School of Music Works on Paper Gallery in the Snite Museum of Art.

The Distinguished Speaker Series on Social Networks will offer a lecture titled “Making Sense of Politics: A Relational Approach to Public Opinion” will be held at 4 p.m. today in 210 to 214 Mekenna Hall.

“Torture, Suicide and Detremmata: The Problem with Making Law More Precise” will begin at 4 p.m. today at 1140 Eck Hall of Law.

Alsaidar MacIntyre will give a lecture titled “Happiness and Goodness.” The lecture will begin at 5 p.m. today in 145 Spee Unica Hall at Saint Mary’s College.

“Picturing Rachmaninoff: Music, Poetry and Painting in Concert” will be held at 7 p.m. today in Carey Auditorium in the Hesburgh Library.

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

OFFBEAT
Woman faces charges after sending text to police

ALTON, OKLA. — A Mangum woman has been arrested for allegedly sending a text message about illegal drugs to a drug task force agent. A warrant was issued for the woman for possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of a controlled drug with the intent to distribute. A Jackson County jailer said Wednesday the woman wasn’t in custody. Authorities said District III Drug Task Force agent Chris Counts received a text message that said, “if you want a hit of this stuff before it is all gone, you better get over here.” Counts sent a message asking for an address and determined that the suspect lived there. Officers said she thought she sent the message to a friend.

Man poses as policeman, pulls over off-duty officer

PHOENIX — An Arizona man accused adorning motorists of traffic laws while posing as a police officer apparently picked the wrong driver to pull over.

A Maricopa County jury on Tuesday found 62-year-old David Word guilty of impersonating a lawman for pulling over an off-duty police officer. Sentencing is set for May 5. Avondale police officer Matt Lydic says he was on his way to work in his per- sonal vehicle last May when Word pulled him over while driving a black Ford Crown Victoria equipped with lights and a siren. Lydic says Word told him to slow down, then drove away.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

Wednesday, March 18, 2010
Robot football game to be held

By CAITLYN KALSCHEUR
News Writer

This year’s Blue and Gold football game weekend will have more than just one football game for some students. The Engineering Department will host its second annual Collegiate Mechatronic Football Competition at St. John Center on April 23. Jim Schmiedeler, associate professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, said the competition is a one-hour football game between robots built by students.

Schmiedeler said the competition is part of a 13-week effort to design, build, test and demonstrate the skills of the robots. “The students have done a terrific job. They have progressed with the help of input from last year’s competition,” Schmiedeler said. This is the program’s second official year of competition.

“Last year’s game had an exciting finish,” Schmiedeler said. “The Blue team fumbled on a drive to the end zone with no time left that would have won them the game. The fans and students were jumping for joy—something we’ve been outside kicking field goals and throwing passes,” Schmiedeler said.

The event was started by a Notre Dame alumnus in honor of his son, Brian Hederman, who was a student in the Engineering Department. Hederman, who passed away two years ago, came up with the idea of a football-playing robot. “Alumni from the Department were interested in sponsoring the event,” Schmiedeler said. “They want to evaluate the success of the competition here at Notre Dame and investigate the possibilities of intercollegiate competition.”

The robots play an adapted version of football in which each team has eight players, and they play on a smaller field with a souvenier-sized football. A completed pass is the quarterback throwing the ball and hitting the receiver, who doesn’t necessarily have to catch the ball to complete the pass. “The robots have tackle sensors that light up to indicate a tackle,” Schmiedeler said. “Essentially it shows how hard one robot slams into another.”

Students control the robots from the sidelines, and two students are allowed on the field to control the offense. Also, on the field are three referees from RecSports. Motorola sponsors the event. Schmiedeler said, “We’ve invited faculty and students from other universities to promote the idea of a possible league someday.” Schmiedeler said. “We would love to have Notre Dame earn a national title in Collegiate Mechatronic Football.”

Contact Caitlyn Kalscheur at kalsche@nd.edu

CAT program assists, supports at-risk children

Special to The Observer

When not busy with the usual classes and homework, about 10 percent of the College’s student body take time out of their day to participate in the College of Engineering’s student group known as the Collegiate Academy of Tutoring (CAT) Program. The CAT Program links students to at-risk children in the South Bend community. The CAT Program is the only tutoring program offered in their school. Saint Mary’s students travel to Coquillard Primary Center, Warren Primary Center, and the St. Joseph County Public Library and Lincoln Primary Center. Participants in the after-school programs range from third- and fourth-graders to children with disabilities and English as a Second Language students.

The CAT volunteers provide help with mathematics, writing, reading comprehension and assistance with homework. Students gain a lot of beneficial experience from participating in the CAT Program.

“Many, it can be relaxing to spend time off campus in a productive environment, where they are helping others.”

Olivia Critchlow Director CAT

“For many children, the CAT Program is the only tutoring program offered in their school. Saint Mary’s students travel to Coquillard Primary Center, Warren Primary Center, and the St. Joseph County Public Library and Lincoln Primary Center. Participants in the after-school programs range from third- and fourth-graders to children with disabilities and English as a Second Language students.”

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Contact Caitlyn Kalscheur at kalsche@nd.edu

You are Invited!

Please join the members of the Congregation of Holy Cross for a special Mass to celebrate

The Feast of St. Joseph

Patronal Feast of the Brothers of Holy Cross

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Friday, March 19, 2010 - 5:15 p.m.

Celebrate with us as we prepare for the canonization of Blessed Brother Andre on October 17, 2010, a special moment for the Congregation and the Brothers.
Alumni continued from page 1

"We have a spiritual responsibility to the Notre Dame community and this program allows them to stay connected to that spiritual aspect," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said the idea for the program came from another online spiritual venture, the pray.nd.edu Web site she helped to create. Sullivan said in looking at prayer requests that were submitted to the site by alumni and other students, she noticed a pattern of concerns over trying to figure out how to remain steadfast in faith life during hard times.

"I began to ask why we couldn’t do to reach people and bring faith needs to our alumni," she said. "Then the idea for ‘Fondwa’ and ‘True’ began to form."

The actual plan- ning got underway in September. The Notre Dame Development Office and an advisory group that included Sullivan, Chair of the Theology Department John Cavadini and Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Richard Warner, the pilot episode aired Feb. 7, featuring a discussion on prayer and the Lenten season. The episode garnered almost 700 views for the live viewing and 238 watched the video after the viewing. The most recent edition, which aired on March 14 and featured the topic of job loss, had had over 700 views on the Alumni Association’s Web site. Heintz said each show has only minimal planning with most of the content being left up to the questions submitted by viewers.

"We meet before so we have an idea of where we want to go," he said. "But it’s not a script; we just try and engage in conversation."

Sullivan said the response has been quite positive and she hears a great deal of gratitude and appreciation. She said she thinks the series touches people in a unique way.

"This isn’t intended to be an Oprah show or a psychology show," she said. "It’s an effort to explore how we live our faith throughout our whole life and applying a faith perspective as an overlay to the challenges of life."

Sullivan and Heintz both hope the series continues to be a service not only to Notre Dame alumni, but to the Notre Dame community as a whole.

"A friend of a member of the Notre Dame family doesn’t stop at graduation," Heintz said. "This series will continue to provide a forum for the University to speak to the community beyond campus."

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden3@nd.edu

Debate continued from page 1

Relations Committee chair of Student Senate, said the community has been appreciative of Schmidt’s work for a long time.

"This might be his first formal recognition, but he’s definitely been informally recognized," Baron said.

Schmidt said he hopes this will help foster good relationships between the University and the community.

"This was a recognition by the police department," Schmidt said. "We’ve met with [members of the South Bend Police Department] and had conversations about safety issues and general good neighbor relations. It was a great recognition to represent the fact that I think we’ve come a long way in regards to the relation between students and the city."

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

Park continued from page 1

"We raised a little money, went down and didn’t know what to do with it. One of us took any film classes at Notre Dame." But the Notre Dame graduate succeeds in making the film a reality now that he’s holding screenings of the document- ary to showcase the development and culture of Fondwa.

The documentary focuses on the development of Fondwa, a rural town of about 8,000. The people work to spur growth by building a road through the town then expanding the University of Fondwa which was established in 2004. [The university] was an important first step for development of the town," Brandon said.

Brandon said he and the filmmakers looked around for groups and students who want to do screenings of the documentary in order to raise awareness and funds for the relief effort.

"We have raised a few thousand," he said. "It’s not all that much, but in the broader context of the film for free and told anyone that if they want a screening of the film, they can do that for free except that they had to buy their own DVDs.

Brandon said he and the filmmakers are hoping to launch the documentary in order to raise awareness and funds for the relief effort.

Brandon said Innovation Park is an ideal workspace for promoting the documentary.

"It’s important for me to have a place to come and work around other people that think similar way that I’m thinking," he said. "It’s an office space but it’s more than that."

Brandon said he uses the Greenhouse facility in the park, and has networking and mentoring opportunities from people also using the Greenhouse that have experi- ence launching a business.

His company was an attrac- tive option for Innovation Park as well, Brandon said.

"Our business is different from the other projects they take on. A lot are along lines of physical sciences," he said. "Ours is quite different and it’s a good perspective to bring into the park because it’s a finished product that already has a revenue stream."

Many of the other businesses launching out of Innovation Park are still in the early stages of establishing themselves, Brandon said.

"Innovation Park wishes to help Road to Fondwa, LLC, find ways to market this powerful documentary as a tool to help raise additional funds for critical earthquake relief oper- ations," David Brener, presi- dent and CEO of Innovation Park, said in a press release. Brandon said he hopes the business will help with the Haitian relief effort, but also draw attention to the positive side of Haiti.

"It’s much more of an uplift- ing story, but not contrived," he said. "People there have a hopeful spirit and have accom- plished a tremendous amount in past few decades."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

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Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu
AFGHANISTAN

Taliban launches new operation

Insurgents conduct a fear and intimidation campaign in southern Afghan base

Associated Press

MARIJAH — A month after losing control of their southern base in Marjah, the Taliban have launched a new offensive, launching a campaign of assassination and intimidation to frighten people from supporting the U.S. and its Afghan allies.

At least one alleged government sympathizer has been beheaded. There are rumors that others have been killed. Afghan officials say that the town that U.S. Afghan and NATO troops captured in a three-week assault that began Feb. 13, is about to become a hotbed of violence against security forces.

Winning public support in this former Taliban stronghold in Helmand province, 360 miles south of Kabul, is considered essential to preventing insurgents from returning.

The Marjah operation will serve as a model for campaigns elsewhere, including one expected by summer to secure villages around Kandahar, the Taliban's spiritual birthplace and the largest city in the south.

Military commanders believe the Taliban campaign is achieving some success because of questions raised at town meetings: Do the U.S. forces want to shut down the mosques and ban the Koran? Will they use look-out posts on their bases to guide the Taliban to keep farmers' land away?

Dislocating the insurgents physically was easy. Dislocating them socially — proving that we’re here to stay and to help — was a lot harder.

“My sense is that the Taliban are left in Marjah. Marine and Afghan military officials say they believe many of those still here are from the area and the foreign fighters have fled. Regardless of Taliban numbers, their influence is still felt.

New cell phone towers brought phone service to Marjah a little over a week ago. But the service doesn’t work at night because the Taliban threaten or bribe tower operators to shut off the network, presumably to prevent people from alerting troops and police as they plant bombs after dark.

Some of the workers on canal-clearing projects have been threatened or have been beaten up by insurgents.

At least one canal worker who received threats returned and said he would keep working despite the risk, said Maj. David Fennell, who oversees about 15 civil affairs troops working to win over the population.

“That’s when you know that you fought the Taliban and you won,” Fennell said.

“I tell my team time and time again: What did we just do today? We hit the Taliban in the mouth,’” the Marine said.

This is the struggle for Marjah now: winning people over with a job or a vaccination for a child. The victories are small because the Taliban already proved they can make good on its promises by enforcing harsh justice while in power.

My sense is that the Taliban will reinfilitrate in due course as the Afghan government fails to live up to the modest expectations NATO has of it,” says Mervyn Patterson, a former U.N. political affairs expert in Afghanistan. “I do not think that the Taliban have been weakened in Helmand by the loss of Marjah. They have been having ups and downs, and this was a modest defeat, but not something that is significant, in and of itself. I expect they will gradually return to Marjah.”

Many of the estimated 80,000 people here share the same fears, even though there are about 4,000 NATO and Afghan troops in and around Marjah, including two Marine battalions in the town. Some say they’re afraid to take money from the military because if they沾find them with the cash, they’ll be punished.

LOCAL NEWS

Governor Daniels signs ethics bill

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels has signed a bill tightening ethics and lobbying rules for lawmakers and the people who work for them.

The bill, one of 23 Daniels signed Wednesday, bars lawmakers from becoming lobbyists within five years of leaving the General Assembly and requires lobbyists to report gifts worth $50 or more. It also bars candidates or incumbents for statewide office from raising campaign funds during budget-writing legislative sessions.

Some provisions take effect July 1. Others do so later.

Detroit schools slated to close in June

Associated Press

DETROIT — Dozens are expected to shut more than a quarter of Detroit’s 172 public schools in June as the district fights through steadily declining enrollment and a budget deficit of more than $219 million, an emergency financial manager said Wednesday.

Three former, traditional and underpopulated high schools would be among the 44 closures. Another six schools are to be closed in June 2011, followed by seven more a year later, emergency financial manager Robert Bobb said.

Detroit already closed 29 schools before the start of classes last fall and shuttered 35 buildings about three years ago. Parents like Jena Williams, 41, call it a worrisome trend. Her 5-year-old daughter’s school is on the June list.

“I am not happy about it, but the population of the city is shrinking and the people who have the means are moving out,” Williams said after picking up her daughter, Payton, from Bunche Elementary on Detroit’s east side.

The closures are part of a $1 billion, five-year plan to downsized a struggling district also is looking to improve education, test scores and student safety in a city whose population has declined with each passing decade. The 2010 U.S. Census is expected to show that far fewer than 900,000 people now live in Detroit.

“You’ve got to give DPS a chance. You’ve got to give Detroit a chance. I’m trying to,” said Williams, an unemployed General Motors Co. contract worker.

District data show full-time, pre-kindergarteners through 12th grade enrollment has decreased from about 164,300 in 2002-03 to 87,700 for the current school year. Enrollment is projected to dip to 56,500 in 2014-15.

More than half the classroom seats in dozens of buildings are empty.
Debate continued from page 1

Professor Rea said he also feels a strong feature of the event is its present day value. “The event is about serious questions about the rationality of belief in God and about the role religion plays in contributing to the evils in this world,” Rea said.

Phelan said what makes the event truly special is the quality of the participants in the conversation and debate. “Christopher Hitchens and Dinesh D’Souza are amongst the foremost public intellectuals in the world, and are two of the best known spokespersons for their respective positions,” he said. “They have both authored numerous books and have debated multiple times on these topics, drawing crowds of over 6,000 to similar events.”

Phelan said the group of organizers drew inspiration from similar events, but the prestige of the participants was what helped convince them to put the debate together. “Daniel and I had always wanted to see one of these debates, and we thought ‘why not have one here?’” Phelan said. “We’ve had discussions of this type ourselves, but it was another thing entirely to have two of the world’s best debaters battle it out on a public stage.”

Stanfield said Hitchens in particular could prove to be a polarizing figure on the Notre Dame campus. “People might object to Hitchens, a self-proclaimed anti-theist being given a platform, but these are issues that are being debated in the larger culture,” he said. “What better venue for Notre Dame is there for the honest presentation of both sides of this controversy.”

Tickets for the event will be available to students at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center ticket office beginning March 24. The event is free for Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross students.

Contact Sam Stryker at strykel1@nd.edu

Archbishop Romero to be commemorated at ND

Special to The Observer

The 2010 Romero Days, a series of events commemorating the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero will be held at the University of Notre Dame March 24 to 26 (Wednesday to Friday).

Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini of San Marcos, Guatemala, will speak on the state of civil and human rights in his diocese on March 24 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 1130 of the Eck Hall of Law. An internationally recognized human rights activist, Bishop Ramazzini has been an outspoken and frequently threatened advocate for the campesinos, immigrants and landless people of Guatemala. Also on March 24, he will preside and preach at Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 5:15 p.m.

Ana Carrigan, journalist and author of the recent book “The Palace of Justice: A Colombian Tragedy,” will speak on human rights and social conditions in Colombia March 25 at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Also on March 25, a new documentary film, “Monseñor: The Last Journey of Oscar Romero,” will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The film includes extracts from Archbishop Romero’s Sunday homilies and from his personal diary, and personal interviews of a cross-section of Salvadorans: campesinos, guerrillas, soldiers, politicians, priests, nuns and catechists. Rev. Robert Pelton, C.S.C., director of Notre Dame’s Latin American/North American Church Concerns (LANACC) will travel to El Salvador to introduce the film at its world premiere in the Cathedral of San Salvador on March 19.

Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated by a right-wing death squad while presiding at Mass on March 24, 1980, in a hospital in San Salvador. His outspoken advocacy of human rights, his denunciations of U.S. military aid to El Salvador, his call for Salvadoran military personnel to disobey immoral orders, and his insistence that the Church be inseparable from the poor all made him a figure of some controversy before and after his death.

Archbishop Romero has been officially recommended for canonization by the Catholic Church in El Salvador, and he already is widely venerated as a martyr in his native country, throughout Latin America and in the United States.

Romero Days is organized annually by LANACC, which seeks to interpret Latin American Catholicism to U.S. Catholics and others through films, publications and public events.

The events of the 2010 Romero Days are co-sponsored by LANACC and Notre Dame’s Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Latin American Studies Program, the Bishop Shanahan Leadership Fund, the Center for Civil and Human Rights, the Center for Social Concerns, the Department of Theology, the Institute for Church Life, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Campus Ministry, the Institute for Latino Studies and the Department of Film, Television and Theatre.
IN BRIEF

Wachovia settles laundering case
MIAMI — Banking giant Wachovia Corp. will pay $160 million to settle a federal investigation into laundering of illegal drug profits through Mexican exchange houses in the largest case of its kind ever brought against a U.S. bank, prosecutors said Wednesday. “This is historic,” acting U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Sloman said. “There is no other case like this one anywhere.”

The probe, which began in 2005 when a brain injury suffered by an Aetna Administrative narcotics dog in Florida detected cocaine traces in an air mail shipment, revealed Mexican bank deposits were made through the Miami-based bank. These were then laundered through Mexican exchange houses and back into Wachovia, which in turn laundered the illegal drug profits and deposited the money into U.S. banks.

The largest case of its kind ever brought against a U.S. bank, it also includes forfeiture in that amount plus a $50 million in drug profits laundered from Mexico through Wachovia.

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Nike profits grow as sales rise
BEAVERTON, Ore., Wednesday that stronger sales helped boost the athletic shoe and clothing company’s third-quarter profit.

Nike said its revenue grew 7 percent to $4.7 billion, helped in part by foreign exchange rates.

Nike expects its ability to connect with consumers can drive the long-term growth of its business, and showed it in its results for the quarter.

That’s more than double the $244 million, or 50 cents per share, it reported for the same period a year ago.

Excluding those charges, Nike’s profit grew a record 7 percent to $473 million, or 50 cents per share, compared with $445 million, or 48 cents per share, a year ago.

The number of shares outstanding was 908 million, up from 906 million a year ago.

Nike’s key markets of Western Europe and the United States showed modest single-digit revenue gains.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 48 points Wednesday in its seventh straight advance to close at a new high for 2010. The gain means the Dow has joined the Standard & Poor’s 500 index and Nasdaq composite index in reaching the best levels since 2008.

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EL CAJON, Calif. — A California Highway Patrol report released Wednesday said an officer saw brake lights flashing after arriving to help slow a speeding Toyota Prius on a Southern California freeway.

The lights were on “for a period of time and would turn off, indicating the driver was possibly pumping the brakes,” CHP Officer Todd Neibert wrote in his seven-page incident report.

“I was within ¼ mile of the vehicle and could smell the heated brakes which indicated they had been used extensively,” it states.

The report offered some new details and dozens of photos about events that occurred after driver Jim Sikes called 911 on March 8 to say his gas pedal got stuck on a San Diego-area freeway.

However, it did nothing to clarify the wildly divergent versions of events from Sikes and Toyota Motor Corp.

Neibert also wrote that a Border Patrol agent in an unmarked vehicle with emergency lights flashing was trying to help guide the Toyota to safety. The report didn’t say how long the Border Patrol agent had been tracking the Prius in the Chevrolet Tahoe.

“It was staying ahead of us and it was later determined that the agent driving the Chevrolet Tahoe was aware of the situation,” Neibert wrote.

The account in the report is consistent with details Neibert and Sikes gave reporters shortly after the incident.

It said the CHP officer trailed the Prius at 95 mph on Interstate 8 east of San Diego, and the car slowed to about 50 mph before the officer told Sikes over a loudspeaker to hit the floor brake and emergency brake simultaneously. Sikes gradually came to an unassisted stop and was not injured.

The car stopped in mountainous terrain 20 miles from a steep downgrade and sharp left turn.

“If the Prius made it to that location, the ultimate result would have most likely led to a catastrophic ending,” the officer wrote.

Sikes told Neibert he had tried three times to lift the gas pedal with his hand but was unsuccessful, the report states.

Sikes, 61, was initially reluctant to speak with reporters, but the officer urged him to go to the station to “put the media at ease,” according to the report.

“I advised him the media would most likely seek him out if he did not speak to them voluntarily,” Neibert wrote.
Search resumes for mom, son

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Authorities in Washington state on Wednesday resumed their search for a woman who appears to have abandoned a van on a remote Puget Sound beach over the weekend and disappeared with her 8-year-old son.

A boat is searching the Boston Harbor area with a bloodhound on board to try to pick up the scent of Shantina ‘Kat’ Smiley and her son Azriel.

Our parents are so happy we chose Irish Crossing for our last school year. We love the convenient location and feel really safe.

Melia M., Class of 2010

Great management company, responsive and responsible. Our well is spacious, maintained in great condition clean and safe.

Sema K., Low Student

We love living here at Irish Crossing, especially after our previous house burned to the ground and we were at home.

Effy M., Class of 2010


Research monkeys die due to extreme heat

Associated Press

SPARKS, Nev. — Workers at a Nevada research lab were checking on a primate room when they came across a ghastly sight. Thirty dead monkeys were essentially cooked alive after someone left the heater on. Two others were near death and had to be euthanized.

As a lab ran by the same company, a monkey died last year after it was sent through a washer while still in its cage. The temperatures were so scalding the monkey never had a chance.

The two cases have led to calls for greater oversight and enforcement of the animal research industry after an alarmingly high number of deaths in recent years.

Critics say fines for violations at animal research labs are so puny that they do nothing to deter violations. The lab where the monkeys died in Nevada was fined a mere $14,000 for the two incidents, according to records from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“The penalties have given them virtually no motivation whatsoever to cease violating the law,” said Michael Budkie, the executive director of the Ohio-based Stop Animal Exploitation Now. “If they can determine whether any of the items belonged to Smiley or her son.

The search and rescue operation was called off Wednesday morning when detectives didn’t turn up any solid leads and turned their focus toward other segments of the investigation.

The Charles River Lab in Reno, Nev., is part of an animal research industry where 33 monkeys have died due to neglect.

The Charles River Lab in Reno, Nev., is part of an animal research industry where 33 monkeys have died due to neglect.

The dead monkeys represent a tiny fraction of the tens of thousands of primates used for research around the country.

Charles River is one of 26 registries within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that includes zoos, universities and private labs, said Christine Cianciaruso, a spokeswoman for the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Together they imported 27,388 animals in fiscal year 2008 and have averaged approximately 25,000 primates per year over the past four or five years, she said. Charles River alone reported it housed nearly 10,000 primates nationwide in 2008.

Congress first passed the Animal Welfare Act in 1966 and amended it in the 1980s to set new minimum standards for dogs used in research and the psychological well-being of primates. It was amended again in 2008, raising fines from $2,500 to the current $10,000 per violation for negligent acts.
As I sit here in my study, I write that it is Saint Patrick’s Day, a day which warms the cockles of my heart as an Irishman. All too often the great intellectual contributions of the Irish to the world languish unrecognized, despite their astounding literary, theatrical, scientific and artistic contributions. It is salutary and important, therefore, to have a day in which we pay tribute to the great Irish minds of the past.

It has not escaped my attention, however, that many people feel this day is nothing more than an excuse to indulge the baser aspects of their human nature. I look out my window over the quad and see, not the orderly procession of fellow students to their classes, but all sorts of quite unaccountable frivolity. It appears that many students have forgotten how to walk, as they stagger and stumble from place to place. Some of my schoolmates who have found comfort in the opposite sex are quite openly expressing their affection for each other by kissing, not gently but rather deeply, after the French fashion.

All this, I think, is due to the regrettable stereotype of the Irishman as a hard-drinking, potato-consuming, ugly, brawl- ing jove, swinging a shillelagh with one hand and guzzling a Guinness with the other. I even overheard a conversation yesterday in which some students were excitedly discussing their plans to create and consume a drink they referred to as “Irish car-bombs”—a most insensitively named libation which makes unacceptably light of a truly dark period in recent Irish history, the sooner forgotten the better.

Indeed, I have lately noticed a great decline in public civility and morals. Why, as I was walking back from a gathering of fellow mathematicians late one night, a lady on the street walked up to me and quite boldly inquired if I wanted “sex business.” “Certainly not!” I replied, offended. “I have no intention of exposing my genitals to passersby on the street. We have hardly made each other’s acquaint- ance and you wish to exchange bodily fluids and lies with me?” Get out of my sight! The nerve of that saucy wench! Yes, not for me the idle frittering away of time on pursuits of debased pleasures. I shall celebrate this distinctively Irish holiday by immersing myself in its intellectual life, perhaps unfurling passages of interest in “Finnegan’s Wake” or chuckling at certain scatological episodes in Swift which I must confess I find highly amusing. Perhaps I shall take up the study of verb declensions in Gaelic as used in the “Tain Bo Cuailnge,” the great Irish mythological epic, equaled only by the Iliad in historical importance and literary merit. Or I might comb my side- burns so as to gain a greater resemblance to James Clerk Maxwell, the great unifier of the forces of electricity and magnetism and Ireland’s answer to Einstein. What’s that? I hear a knocking at the door of my apartment. No doubt mathe- matical friends, come in, gentlemen! As it is Saint Patrick’s Day, the preeminent Irish holiday, I thought we might discuss Sir William Rowan Hamilton’s contributions to the science of the quaternions and the vector calculus.

Why, sir, your faces and cheeks are all quite red! Is it truly that cold out? I had thought it quite temperate. Please, my friends, lower your voices! There are other people in this apartment complex.

Does my nose detect the distinctive odor of cheap whiskey? Well I never—your all quite soured! What are you doing with that strange contraption, that funnel affixed to a plastic tube? Is that a canister of inexpensive beer? Don’t put that dirty tube in my mouth! Mmph! Glug—glug—glug—glug—glug—glug—glug.

Good heavens. I feel quite strange. My whole body is positively thrumming with energy. I have a truly odd urge to sing popular music of the most low and shameful persuasion, “power ballads” and “bohemian rhapsodies” and whatnot, at the top of my lungs. What’s that you say, my good fellows? You know of an establishment nearby which sells drinks and allows its patrons to sing—a “karaoke bar”? Lead me there, gentlemen, I am at your disposal. Might I trouble you to pour me another alcoholic bev- erage through your wonder tube? Glug—glug—glug—glug— “Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy …”

Brooks Smith is a junior math and English major at Notre Dame. He can be contacted at bsmith26@nd.edu.

Believing in the Irish

Ishy eyes are smiling on the Fighting Irish 2010 Men’s Basketball team. We have huge momentum going into the tournament and it is time to pull out all the stops. I see an Irish victory over Kansas in the final. If every Irish fan could visualize this result, it would occur.

Sue Lang
alumna
Class of 1979
March 18

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I am not sure about the former.”

Albert Einstein
Swiss-American physicist
A plea for Freedom of Speech to Fr. Jenkins

Dear Father Jenkins,

When I was a freshman in the University of Notre Dame who went on to graduate from this great institution of higher learning, I never imagined I would be writing a letter to you, the President of Notre Dame, expressing my concern for the actions of certain individuals and the University administration. As a student who has been involved in various campus organizations and events, I have always believed in the importance of freedom of speech and the right to peaceful assembly. It is with great concern that I write to you today about the actions taken by the University regarding the leafleting event that occurred on Saturday, March 18.

I understand that on Saturday, March 18, a group of students who engaged in free speech to inform their classmates and the public about Catholic Social Teaching and its relation to the University’s investments were summoned and confiscated the leaflets. The students tried to leaflet outside the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center, alleging that HEI Hotels and Resorts, and the Sheraton Crystal City, earn as little as $5.99 per hour. In addition, there have been reports of families who have been unjustly segregated and fired by an educational institution receiving federal financial assistance for their children.

I am concerned about the treatment of a group of students who have historically enjoyed the highest respect for their rights to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly. This is particularly concerning given Notre Dame’s mission to adhere to Catholic Social Teaching. As such, we are stunned that it would deploy resources to suppress the dissemination of basic human rights.

As a student and a member of the Notre Dame community, I urge the University to reconsider its actions and ensure that students have the right to peacefully express their views and assemble in support of their beliefs. It is only through open dialogue and the free exchange of ideas that we can build a better society.

Sincerely,

Britt Burgeson

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Workout routine

When was the first time you ever saw God? I don’t mean “saw God in the humble bee on a rose petal this morning.” I’m talking face-to-face. Was there ever a time when you actually looked into the face of your Creator?

This is a trick question.

The Psalms seem to suggest that of us, before we were born, gaze upon God, and God upon us. This seems worth pondering. Psalm 139 tells us, “From the beginning, Lord, you created my inmost being. You knit me in my mother’s womb. My body was not hidden from you when I was made in secret. When I was woven together, my eyes were upon me.”

This is an intimate prayer about our creation. There is no denying that, some time even before we were conceived in our mother’s womb, we gazed into the eyes of the Pure Love who created us from the very beginning.

This column of Liberal Studies major, I have a license — granted upon graduation — to cite scientific phenomena and processes, with no precise understanding of them, to make purely literary, philosophical and theological points, which I will now do.

You may recall from high school biology class a most unusual phenomenon called imprinting. Imprinting, as I understand it, was first discovered to occur in chickens. It describes the detail is hard to impart, but in fact, clay is the very material out of which God made the first human beings. So, just as Adam and Eve gave God, and God on them, with no obstacles, so this man will gaze on God and be on him, face-to-face, through Christ.

And sure enough, the man opens his eyes. And the first thing he sees is what? The lab technician is “Mommy.” And if the chick is left out of its nest, even if there are other hens around, including its real mom, it will follow around the lab technician. In fact, if memory serves me right, it has been shown that the lab technician can disappear for months, even years. But, if you should take out one day, the chicken will immediately start to follow her. That’s how powerful the imprint is!

Now this is where the Scriptures — from Psalm 139, in fact — come into the picture. This is why I’d like to put the story of a man “blind from birth.” This man, in other words, has never seen another person in his life. And then Jesus comes and opens his eyes. So, the very first person the blind man sees in his life is Jesus.

In order to cure him, John tells us that Jesus made clay and smeared it into his eyes. When I was a student at Notre Dame, I wrote a paper about Jesus’s statement, “I am the Light of the World.” I suppose you could say that John is the “Light of the World.”

And sure enough, the man opens his eyes. And the very first person we ever see is a longing to have a mommy is so incredibly powerful, that it makes the chicken start following the first thing that moves!

And we’d laugh at that, except that we know, that every one of us does the same thing — just in much more complex ways! This longing at the center of our being is so powerful that we very often fill it with the things that we think will satisfy this longing. As such, all of our other longings — our longing to eat and be full, to see beauty, to befriend someone and feel loved — are all instances of this one central longing at the core of our being — to see our Creator again.

During Lent, we give up something — desire, little things for which we often long. One way to think about this practice is that it is our way of reminding ourselves: All our desires in the end are just little instances of our desire for God. And only God, who we looked upon first, when we were born, will ultimately fill our deepest longings.

This week’s FaithPoint was written by Fr. Lou Defrfa, CSC, director of Bible Studies and ACE Chaplain. He can be reached at deffrfa@nd.edu if you are interested.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The daring, the beautiful and unfortunately the ugly all brought their best to the 82nd Academy Awards two weeks ago, highlighting upcoming fashion trends and sending out blaring warning signals of “Don’t try this at home” with the swish of some over-the-top gowns.

By ADRIANA PRATT
Assistant Scene Editor

Sandra Bullock:
As everyone knows, this star was a winner on every level possible on March 7. The Oscar she won was a mere accessory to the gorgeous, elegant and classy but sexy Marchesa gown she chose to clothe her fabulous figure. The sheer metallic and lacy details were perfectly balanced with simple side-swept hair and a smack of pink lipstick to add a punch of color to Bullock’s otherwise statue-like presence. She aced yet another award’s show red carpet and even has the Oscar to prove it.

Vera Farmiga:
Mixed feelings hid in every ruffle of Farmiga’s billowing fuchsia Marchesa gown. At first I loved it, then I wasn’t quite sure, then I was distracted by the beautiful Sandra Bullock and finally I reached this conclusion: Farmiga’s gown was Oscar appropriate and I appreciated that she graced the red carpet with it. It added some flavor and though it wasn’t the most flattering fit because it hid every contour of her amazing 36-year-old body, it did bring a punch of color and a fresh spring feel to the awards show.

Mariah Carey:
Mariah, Mariah, Mariah. It doesn’t always have to be about the chest. Carey disappointed once again with an obvious presence of her décolletage that left little to the imagination and an overabundance of decadent jewelry. It doesn’t always have to be “Go big or go home,” Mariah. Large earrings, stacks of diamond bracelets on both wrists and an overwhelming brooch made for an uninspiring and blatantly flashy red carpet appearance. No one, not even Eminem, is going to be “obsessed” with this look.

Sarah Jessica Parker:
You've got to give the woman props for trying to stay in character, even on the red carpet. Parker’s pale gold column Chanel gown with a silver embroidered crown at the bosom and gold drapery across the neckline screamed Carrie Bradshaw. Parker brought something new and daring to the red carpet and though it admittedly looked better on the runway, it was innovative and inspiring and helped up the couture quota for the night.

Meryl Streep:
You’re always classy, adorable and a pleasure to listen to. It almost doesn’t matter what you wear since your smile is one of the most dazzling and endearing images we’ve seen. Your white cowl neck long-sleeved gown by Project Runway’s Chris March was simple yet flattering and proved that it’s possible for a woman to age with grace.

Cameron Diaz:
Finally, Cameron, you maximized on the beauty you were given. Past red carpet appearances left critics confused as to why this gorgeous woman with a fit figure and dazzling presence constantly failed to pick a gown that matched, but this year she aced it to the approval of all. Her strapless, shimmery embroidered Oscar de la Renta gown, sideswept hair and punch of red lips made her look like an old school Hollywood muse, overflowing with elegance and glamour. Though her look resembled Bullock’s, it was refreshingly new, demure and much appreciated on Diaz.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu
‘Floor general’ Jackson heart of Irish team

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Irish point guard Tory Jackson drives for a lay-up in the second half of Notre Dame’s 65-62 win over South Florida on Feb. 7. Jackson leads the Big East in assists this season with 5.6 per game.

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Senior Sports Writer

Irish guard Jonathan Peoples handles the ball during an 87-77 win over DePaul at Purcell Pavilion on Jan. 23. Peoples has played in every Big East game during his career at Notre Dame.

Peoples a constant contributor in historic senior class

While he may not have the accolades or numbers of classmates Luke Harangody and Tory Jackson, senior guard Jonathan Peoples has been a constant contributor to the winningest class in Notre Dame history in Big East play.

Peoples has played in every conference game for the Irish during his four years with the team and is very aware of the achievement.

"It means a lot to say that we were something like that," Peoples said. "We’re always going to be remembered as the winningest senior class."

The senior captain is averaging a career-high 18.3 minutes per game this season but has played a key role for Irish coach Mike Brey and Notre Dame from his freshman year.

A Bellwood, Ill., native from St. Joseph High School, Peoples was recruited by Brey after averaging 15.2 points per game his senior year. After the Irish extended a scholarship offer, Peoples quickly accepted.

The transition to Notre Dame was both exciting and challenging for Peoples.

"It was everything I expected, everything I heard about. Beautiful campus, the people here are great," Peoples said. "I didn’t know about partites, I was kind of heated about that. It was a great experience my freshman year though."

In the basketball program, Peoples had to make adjustments to 6 a.m. practices.

"The workouts in the morning had me, I just couldn’t get through it for the first two months, and I was getting a little home sick," Peoples said. "Being around the older guys like Colin Falls, Bob Kurz, Russell Carter, they helped me adjust quickly."

While Peoples was learning from the experienced upperclassmen around him, he was still seeing time on the court as a reserve, appearing in all 16 Big East contests. Peoples played six minutes of time in Notre Dame’s appearance in the NCAA Tournament, where the Irish were upset by Winthrop.

Peoples minutes and impact continued to grow through his sophomore and junior seasons when he became one of the first players off Brey’s bench. The guard played in all 33 contests sophomore year and earned his first career starts his junior season against Marquette and Pittsburgh.

"I finally get the opportunity to start my first college game, and I was happy," Peoples said. "I was kind of nervous, but happy at the same time."

Evolving into a veteran leader by his senior year, Peoples was named a captain by Brey along with classmates Jackson and Harangody.

"He’s smooth, he can score, he can shoot the ball lights out," Jackson said. "He’s a great guy and he knows how to play basketball."

Peoples was slotted as a guard in the starting lineup at the beginning of his senior campaign but has entered into a sixth-man role since the emergence of junior forward Tim Abromaitis. Still, Peoples has played a career-high number of minutes for his career and is hitting 8-pointers at a 40.8-percent clip.

"My jump shot has gotten a lot better. I’m more of a defender now," Peoples said. "Peoples had the best performance of his career off the bench this season, scoring 23 points. "I finally got my minutes," Peoples said. "We still have to prove something."

While it looked like Peoples and Notre Dame had little shot of reaching the NCAA Tournament after a losing skid and the loss of Harangody to injury, the team has made a remarkable six-game winning streak to close out the year and return to the Big Dance for the third time in four years.

"It’s been a battle. I think we stayed together as a team but we lost games by not doing certain things," Peoples said. "We still have to prove something."

When the Irish and the Irish will look to prove they can advance to their first Sweet 16 of their careers against Old Dominion at 12:25 p.m. today.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu
Luke Harangody returned to lead Notre Dame his senior season and will leave an all-time great

By BILL BRINK
Senior Staff Writer

On March 3, Luke Harangody became the first-ever Irish player to be induct- ed into the Purcell Pavilion’s Ring of Honor. His No. 44 jersey climbed to the rafters, celebr- ating four years of awards, accolades and success. 

“Seeing some of the players involved in this University, for me to be the first one, it was a tremendous honor,” the senior forward said. “That was a very proud night for myself.”

One of many, Harangody will graduate as Notre Dame’s second-leading scorer and rebounder. His class made the NCAA Tournament three out of four years and has won more games than any other class in school history. He was named the 2008 Big East Player of the Year, was a second-team All-America 2008 and 2009 and became the first Notre Dame player to be named to the Big East first-team three times.

As a freshman, Harangody said he didn’t anticipate it. “No, there way I ever saw that,” he said.

Harangody received four varsity letters at Andrean High School in Schererville, Ind., where he won two conference and three sectional champi- onships. When he got to Notre Dame, he and then-freshman guard Tory Jackson played early in the season. “We threw them in there, both of them were key guys as freshman,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “It went to the NCAA Tournament because they were the best men in this league. They have an unbelievable mental and physical toughness, both of them, that I think has per- meated through our group. It’s helped some other guys who aren’t at their level of mental and physical toughness-wise pick it up at times.”

Harangody said he and Jackson entered their rookie seasons with a “business-like” attitude, which helped Notre Dame earn a No. 6 seed in the 2007 NCAA Tournament. The Irish lost to No. 11 seed Winthrop in the first round. Harangody averaged 11.2 points per game that season in more than 20 minutes per game and became the first freshman since Troy Murphy to score in double figures in his first five games. “The NCAA Tournament freshman year was a pretty memorable sea- son because it was my first go-around with things,” he said. “It was something I’ll always remember.”

Harangody, like any athlete, said he believed in off-season improvement, so he used the summer to hone his game as well as his fit- ness. The next season, he averaged 20.4 points and 10.6 rebounds per game. “It all has to do with work ethic,” he said. “Every summer, whether it’s been working on my body, working on another part of my game, just got better every year.”

It was that season that earned him conference Player of the Year honors. The Irish earned a No. 5 seed in the Dance that year and beat George Mason easily in the first round. Despite Harangody’s 22 rebounds, No. 4 seed Washington State took down the Irish in the second round.

Times were better. Harangody’s junior season, Notre Dame started 12-3 but lost seven straight games and were 6-8 at the out of con- tention for the Tournament. It wasn’t for a lack of production from Harangody. He led the team in scoring for 14 consec- utive games and averaged a career-best 23.3 points and 11.8 boards per game. Harangody scored 30 points against Kentucky in the NIT quarterfinals and had a dou- ble-double in the semifinal loss to Penn State.

Then came decision time. In April 2009, Harangody, then a junior, declared his eligibility for the NBA Draft. He didn’t hire an agent, however, which allowed him the opportunity to change his mind and return to school.

“I think when you are a kid shooting around at the park, every kid dreams of playing in the NBA, and this has always been a dream of mine,” Harangody said April 16, 2009. “So I mean for me, it’s neat to be standing up here and announcing this decision.”

“This is a new era,” Harangody said. “But, you know, one of the best things is that with the team I have, the team-mates I have, the team- mates I’ve told them we’re going to do and they have been so supportive of the team’s leader but the guys that are going to be on the team next year and now, I wasn’t very surprised at that because some of the best guys in the country, here in the country.

Those supportive teammates played a role in Harangody’s decision to forgo the draft and return to school to finish his senior year. “It was obvious to see that the NBA is a business,” he said on July 15, 2009. “It’s not like being at Notre Dame around the group of guys that we have. I realize it’s a once-in-a- lifetime opportunity to be with a group like this.”

Harangody said he wasn’t ready to give up one last go-around with his teammates. “Time was on me, being around the guys and get a sen- ior year,” Harangody said on July 27. “It’s something I truly hold special. Now I get a chance to catch these guys succeed in the postseason and also get my degree.”

He drove his parents and Brey helped him with the decision. “[Brey] was very helpful throughout the whole process. He wasn’t like, ‘Come back to school.’” Harangody said. “He gave me options to go out and test the NBA, to open to me, which I really appreciated. In the end, my parents and I and coach Brey sat down and talked about the whole situa- tion and I just felt more com- fortable coming back to school here.”

That senior season didn’t pan out quite like he planned. At first the Irish played well, but once they got into confer- ence play they had two rough stretches, losing three out of five and four out of seven at various points. Worse still, Harangody suffered a bone bruise in his knee on Feb. 11 against Seton Hall and missed five games because of the injury. At one point the Irish were 6-8 in the conference and the season’s funeral march was beginning.

Even with a serious injury, Harangody wouldn’t be slowed. He missed the next game, against St. John’s, but convinced everyone he would play against Louisville on Feb. 17. “He kind of talked us into he was going to try and play,” Brey said. “He said, ‘He’s one of the doctors the trainers, me. I’m going. He didn’t bring any street clothes. I’m playing.’”

It took Brey to stop him. “He wasn’t feeling good (after the shoot-around),” Brey said. “I told him after shoot- around, ‘Well I’m not playing you so how’s that? Does that make the decision easier? You’re not ready.’”

But then a funny thing hap- pened. Notre Dame slowed down its offense and had suc- cess. The Irish lost in double overtime to Louisville, but won their next three games, includ- ing two over top-15 opponents, to finish the season. All with- out Harangody.

“Maybe I’ve been really happy with, since he’s been down, how he’s been helping [fresh- man forward Jack Cooley and junior forward Carleton Scott],” Brey said. “His voice with those guys during the game, halftime, I could hear his voice in the locker room.

He’s a leader and kind of a coach for us.”

“I think you just try to keep their confidence up,” Harangody said of his approach with senior forward Luke Harangody and junior forward Jack Cooley. “At first, the first game against St. John’s, I kind of could have the guys didn’t really know how to approach it. But as it went on, they got more practice time it was like night and day.”

Harangody r e c o v e r e d enough to play in Notre Dame’s last regular-sea- son game, an overtime win on the road against Marquette. He came off the bench for 11 minutes and scored seven points. He also played in all three of Notre Dame’s Big East tourna- ment games, averaging 14 points and 24 minutes per game.

Harangody said after Notre Dame’s 50-45 win over Pittsburgh in the quarterfinals that his knee was getting bet- ter but not yet 100 percent and that he was proud of what the team had done in his absence. “I was curious to see how two games in a row would go with my conditioning,” Harangody said. “I’m not still there yet. But I think every day it’s getting a little better.”

“This run we made at the end of the season, it was pretty special. These guys have played great without me. He’s back now, ready to add NCAA Tournament success to his extraordinary career. And he got here, as we all knew, because he made us believe again,” Brey said. “He was an impact guy looking forward to what he’s done throughout his career.”

He’s been one of the great- est to ever wear a uniform here. Flat out.

Contact Bill Brink at
wbbrink@nd.edu

Luke Harangody

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Notre Dame senior Luke Harangody dunks on a UCLA defender during the Irish’s 84-73 victory over the Bruins on Dec. 19.

Mike Brey
Irish coach

H a r a n g o d y

The Observer ◆ IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Leaving a legacy

Luke Harangody returned to lead Notre Dame his senior season and will leave an all-time great
Luke Harangody and Tory Jackson will undoubtedly leave major legacies as four-year starters and the leaders of Notre Dame’s winningest senior class. While walk-on senior forward Tim Andree won’t leave the same mark on the face of the Irish program, his impact on the Notre Dame program could have long-term effects because of his work this season with freshmen Mike Broghammer, Jack Cooley and Tom Knight.

“I’ve done a lot of stuff in this offseason with the freshmen,” Andree said. “Just a lot of getting extra workouts with them and helping them get in shape. We haven’t really had a true group of freshmen in a while like this. They’re all really good players and fun to be around.”

As a walk-on, Andree knew his biggest role wouldn’t necessarily be on the court during games. His primary role as a practice player has taught him “to let the little things go,” he said.

“I know going into every year what the deal is,” Andree said. “Basketball’s a fun game, and it’s been fun having these guys in. They’re all really good players and fun to be around.”

Andree’s father, Tim, played at Notre Dame under legendary coach Digger Phelps from 1979-83. While Andree’s career obviously didn’t follow that of his father, he said he has enjoyed his Notre Dame experiences, especially those with the Irish team.

“My dad came in here in a totally different situation than I did. He was a McDonald’s high school All-American. I clearly wasn’t,” Andree said. “I’ve just tried to come out and play hard and be my own person. It’s sometimes tough living in the shadow of it, but it hasn’t been too hard.”

Andree’s mother also attended Notre Dame, and so accepting a role with the Irish program was almost a no-brainer, Andree said.

“I grew up always wanting to come to Notre Dame, so when [Irish coach Mike Brey] told me I had the opportunity to play here, it was tough to turn down,” he said.

Andree has formed a close bond with Harangody and senior guard Ben Hansbrough.

“When we’re not here on the court, we’re just friends,” Andree said. “We’re not really thinking about basketball, but living a normal life.”

A management consulting major and theology minor, Andree said he is waiting to hear from law schools. While his future almost certainly won’t be in basketball, he said he will miss his experiences with the Irish basketball team, and especially with Brey.

“Coach Brey treats us all like men. There’s a lot of mutual respect between us,” Andree said. “He’s very funny, he’s got a great personality, and he’s a lot of fun to be around. He’s given me a lot more confidence.”

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Walk-on Andree makes impact leading underclassmen
By STEPHANIE DEPREZ
Scene Writer

Once every year, there comes a day when all the cobwebs of this simple life wash away and we as a human race come face to face with real dreams coming true. It is a col- lective experience, shared by those across the country and across the world. Warriors lay down their weapons and feuds subside, even if only for a few hours. For those three hours (or so) in March, the entertainment world stands still, takes a deep breath and congratulates itself for continuing to exist. This, ladies and gentlemen, is Oscar Sunday.

It has been my favorite day of the year for some time. I think it was the moment I realized Bjork could wear a swan as a dress and get the privilege of being on the stage of the Academy Awards offer a most unique opportunity for anyone to pull out pretty much whatever they want - or don't want - to wear. The moment I realized Bjork could wear a swan dress is one of the most memorable moments in the history of the Academy Awards. It is a moment that is not likely to be forgotten by anyone who was there. The moment was so shocking and unexpected that it has become a legend in its own right.

Pretty auspicious start, don't you think? He said that his favorite part of the Oscars is sitting back and thinking. As soon as my name magically transformed into "Deprue, Stephanie" I did the only thing I could do after watching the audience’s faces. In an extreme highlight moment, he told me specifically after a few seconds of silence, "you want to talk about the Academy Awards?"

Pretty much what I was expecting moments that make the telecast the Academy Awards is sitting back and watching the audience's faces. In an extreme highlight moment, he told me specifically after a few seconds of silence, "you want to talk about the Academy Awards?"

The chance to participate in the performance was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It was a moment that I will never forget. The moment was so shocking and unexpected that it has become a legend in its own right. The moment was so shocking and unexpected that it has become a legend in its own right.
MLB
Jones has four RBIs in Sox win over Dodgers

Despite comeback attempt, Royals fall to Padres; Rockies defeat Indians but lose pitcher Flores to an arm injury

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Andrew Jones hit his first spring home run and added four RBI against his former team, and the Chicago White Sox beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 on Wednesday. White Sox starter Jake Peavy pitched five innings, giving up a run on three hits.

Jones hit a three-run home run to left field in the fifth inning off Ronald Toreno. He also had an RBI double in the third off Ross Ortiz.

James Loney delivered the only run off Peavy, a solo home run in the second inning, his first of the spring. It was Loney’s first game since returning from a goodwill series in Taiwan.

Manuel Humirez, who went 0 with a walk, was also playing in his first game since returning from Taiwan.

Loney’s home run is the only run Peavy has given up in eight innings this spring.

"Today was a lot better intensity-wise," Peavy said. "That’s a big league lineup... a great lineup. It was a good balance of lefties and righties in there and I was able to throw all my pitches. It was good work and the guys behind me did well.

Ortiz, in the battle for the No. 5 slot in the Dodgers’ rotation, gave up two runs on six hits in four innings. The veteran right-hander opened the season with seven scoreless innings before the White Sox scored twice in the third.

"I want to keep building on the way I have been pitching so far," Ortiz said. "Timing was off today just a little bit and half by half I was trying to get it back at the same time trying to get out big leaguers." Ortiz was trying to keep pace with namesake Ramon Ortiz, who already had pitched nine scoreless innings for the Dodgers this spring.

The Dodgers’ Carlos Monasterios, a Rule 5 pickup from the Phillies, pitched three scoreless innings in relief to also remain in the first-starter battle.

"He has a nice presence out there and has a good offspeed pitch," manager Joe Torre said of Monasterios. "He’s aggressive, which is what I like.

White Sox relievers Matt Thornton, Tony Pena, Scott Linebrink and Carlos Torres held the Dodgers scoreless over the final four innings, giving up a combined three hits.

White Sox catcher Ramon Castro received a glancing blow off the top of his helmet by an Ortiz pitch in the fourth inning and left the game. He was sent to a local hospital for a CT scan that came back negative.

"He was kind of diary when he got to the hospital," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "I don’t think we have a doctor to check that big ol’ head good enough. It takes seven MRIs to check it out good. I expect him to be fine.

Padres 16, Royals 14
San Diego left-hander Clayton Richard spent more time in the dugout watching the Padres score than he did pitching.

The Padres put together five three-run innings as they out-hit the Kansas City Royals 16-4 on Wednesday. Tony Gwynn and Lance Blanks each drove in three runs.

The game included 31 hits, 10 doubles, three triples, six walks, a wild pitch, five errors, a passed ball and 12 unearned runs — and lasted three hours and 27 minutes. The Padres led 16-4 entering the seventh, but the Royals scored nine runs in the inning to make it interesting.

"I don’t like the result," Royals manager Trey Hillman said. "I thought we were the way we came out.

Richard watched San Diego score five runs in the second and five in the fourth. In both innings, the Padres sent 10 men to the plate.

"You wish there was a way for your team to score a lot of runs and do it quick," Richard said. "I’ve been thinking of that for a long time on how to make that happen. You love the offense do well, but it’s tough to sit for so long and go back out there.

But you’d definitely rather have that than your team not scoring runs.

While Richard was credited with the victory, he permitted four runs, two earned, on four hits and a walk in a 3-2-3 innings.

“Even when I was missing with my pitches, I was missing where I wanted," Richard said. "I think it was definitely a positive outing. I know the stats don’t really relay that message. I was definitely around the strike zone more. I felt my command was a little bit better, especially just a few balls hit hard. That’s the way baseball is.”

Luke Hochevar gave up five unearned runs in the second inning, which included an Alberto Callaspo error. He also walked four, including Everth Cabrera with the bases loaded.

Gonzalez tore them with a three-run double and scored on a Jerry Hairston Jr. double. "Walks always come back to bite you," Hochevar said. "The only pitch I was disappointed in was the first pitch to Tony Gwynn, the double. With that pitch, I’m trying to be finer in that situation and make a very quality pitch, especially with the bases loaded. I did miss that pitch. That was the at-bat I was most upset with.

Callaspo went 3 of 3 for 3 to raise his average to .448, while Billy Butler drove in three runs for Kansas City.

Rockies 6, Indians 3
All morning, Rockies reliever Randy Flores took part in a drill designed to stretch the dexterity and reflexes of the pitchers.

Still, the exercise couldn’t prepare him for the line drive off Cleveland’s Chris Gimenez. Before Flores even had time to flinch, the ball hit squarely on the left forearm, leaving behind quite a bruise.

Following the Rockies’ win over the Indians on Wednesday, Flores walked out with his pitching arm wrapped in white gauze.

Just another member of Colorado’s battered and bruised bullpen.

The knot on Flores’ arm comes on the heels of the news concerning Huston Street, who could miss the season opener after experiencing tightening in his right shoul- der during a recent throwing ses- sion. Street will find out the results of an MRI in the next day or so.

Should Flores’ arm remain ten- der in the morning, he could be next in line for an MRI.

“When I came in, they did the test that would indicate if they thought it was broken — if I shrieked or something,” Flores said. “I passed. So, it basically feels like a monkey bump times 100... Looks like just a bruise.”

Cleveland third baseman Andy Marte hits a double during the Indians’ loss to the Padres Wednesday.

Street and Flores aren’t the only ones banged up in the bullpen. Set-up man Rafael Betancourt has an inflamed pitching shoulder — although he had an encouraging pitching session Wednesday — and Jimmy Gobble recently strained a muscle.

The health of the bullpen remains a question mark with opening day just one week away.

On April 5, Colorado received solid outings from relievers Matt Belisle and Justin Speier against Cleveland as each pitched scoreless innings. Belisle earned the win while Speier picked up the save.

Neither one is thinking about the state of the bullpen, just trying to do their jobs.

“[I’ve played this game long enough to know that you go out there and pitch with the same intensity regardless if it’s a spring training game or a regular season game,” Speier said. “Whether you’re pitching in the sixth or the eighth, whether you’re pitching with the game on the line or not. You still have to have that compete- tive edge regardless.”

Belisle has the same approach.

“My mind-set is to be ready to rock, be aggressive when they tell me to,” he said.

And so La De La played it turned in his longest outing of the spring Wednesday, throwing five innings and striking out six. He only got stronger as the game went along, striking out the side in the fifth.

Cleveland's Andy Marte hits a double during the Indians' loss to the Padres Wednesday.
**NBA**

Former NBA great and Hall of Famer Michael Jordan’s bid of $275 million to purchase Bobcats was approved by the NBA’s Board of Governors. The Bobcats are currently sixth in the Eastern Conference.

**Jordan’s purchase of Bobcats approved**

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Former NBA great and Hall of Famer Michael Jordan became a basketball star at North Carolina. Now he’ll try to turn around the state’s money-losing NBA team by becoming the first ex-player to be a majority owner in the league.

The NBA’s Board of Governors on Wednesday unanimously approved Jordan’s $275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats from Bob Johnson. Jordan will take over the team immediately after serving as a minority investor with the final say on basketball decisions since 2006.

“Purchasing the Bobcats is the culmination of my post-playing career goal of becoming the majority owner of an NBA franchise,” Jordan said in a statement. “I am especially pleased to have the opportunity to build a winning team in my home state of North Carolina.”

“I plan to make this franchise an organization that Charlotte can be proud of, and I am committed to doing all that I can to achieve this goal.”

The six-time NBA champion and five-time league MVP said Jordan’s purchase is a “great deal” for the franchise and for the city of Charlotte. He said the franchise will become more competitive and will be a “force to be reckoned with” in the Eastern Conference.

**Nats release potential starting outfielder Dukes**

VIERA, Fla. — Outfielder Elijah Dukes was released by the Washington Nationals on Wednesday, a sudden move with 2 1/2 weeks left in spring training.

“I don’t know what to say. I feel a little funny,” Dukes said told The Associated Press as he packed his car at the team hotel Wednesday afternoon. “I guess I wasn’t expecting it. That’s part of baseball. No big deal, no hard feelings. Just part of the game.”

The Nationals’ release of Elijah Dukes could give the outfielder a fresh start elsewhere. It could also give another player a chance to make an impact, writes Eric Karabell. Blog

The highlight package will illustrate popular highlights of the season and the latest news and developments.

**NHL hoping to adopt new rule against blindside hits**

TORONTO — The NHL wants to adopt a new rule against blindside hits to the head before the end of this season, according to two reports Wednesday.

The league is hoping to fast-track the proposed rule and is preparing a DVD package after a number of players suffered concussions this season. The highlight package will illustrate what would, and wouldn’t, be allowed under a proposed rule change adopted by general managers at meetings in Florida last week.

The NHL plans to circulate the high-light package to all 30 teams within the next week or so, according to the reports.

“It’s a process that has never been done before in the season,” NHL senior vice president of hockey operations Colin Campbell told the Globe and Mail in a story published online early Wednesday.
The Observer

SPORTS

MLS

Donovan makes plans to avoid possible strike

Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Landon Donovan will attend the resumption of Major League Soccer bargaining and says he might return to Everton if players go on strike next week.

Donovan had two goals and three assists in 13 games during an impressive 10-week loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy to Everton that ended Saturday, helping the Toffees beat Manchester United and Chelsea, the top two teams in the Premier League.

He rejoined the Galaxy on Tuesday ahead of their March 27 opener against New England.

“There’s nothing concrete set up,” Donovan said at a news conference Wednesday. “I think we’ve all been very clear about the possibility that I could go back if something happens. It’s crossing that bridge when we get it, to right now.”

Negotiators for MLS and the MLS Players Union met Tuesday and talks are set to resume Thursday in Washington, D.C.

Meyer also has a new starting quarterback (John Brantley) and several other new starters.

Nonetheless, he believes he has enough talent to avoid a drop-off in the Gators' offense. Donovan said his return was permanent.

Meyer also announced his resignation in late December. He changed his mind the following day, deciding instead to take an indefinite leave. He finally got away after that.

“Nobody wants to go on strike if it can be avoided,” Donovan said. “We’ve made it very clear from the beginning that we’re not trying to bankrupt the league and ask for tons of monetary increases. But we need basic rights if we’re going to continue playing. We want rights afforded other players in other countries that we don’t have. We’re very unified on the way we think.”

The union said last week that it will strike if an agreement is not reached by March 25, when the expansion Philadelphia Union plays the league opener at Seattle.

The league notified the union that medical, dental and vision insurance would expire March 31 in the event of a strike, and players would have to continue coverage under the federal COBRA program. Life insurance would end on the start date of a strike, and players could convert to individual coverage.

If and when the Galaxy start the season, Donovan said his role would not substantially change because of Beckham’s Achilles’ tendon injury. The English midfielder was hurt Sunday while on loan to AC Milan and will be sidelined about six months, causing him to miss the World Cup.

“It is a kind of rebuilding I envisioned,” Meyer said. “It’s going to be a rebuilding effort for sure.”

In 2006, the Gators finished 13-1 and lost the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner (Tebow), their top three receivers (Riley Cooper, Aaron Hernandez, and David Nelson), and their best three defenders (Carlos Dunlap, Joe Haden and Brandon Spikes).

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The Women of Howard Hall and ND Glee Club Unite to Save Lives!

Howard Hall’s biannual marrow donor drive is in honor of members of the Notre Dame Family who are, or ever have been, in need of a marrow transplant to treat or cure their life threatening blood disease.

Carl “Chip” Starn was the ND Glee Club and Chorale Director from 1981 – 1991. In the Spring of 2007 he was diagnosed with non-hodgkins lymphoma. Today he is looking for a marrow donor through the Be The Match Registry of the National Marrow Donor Program.

Help us help him and many others. It just takes a cheek swab to get registered.

You have the power to heal, the power to save a life. Take the first step. Join the registry.

JOIN THE MARROW REGISTRY

March 18th
11:00 am – 9:00 pm
LaFortune-Dooley Room
- 7:00 pm Undertones performance!
- Free food!
- Free t-shirts!

March 19th
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

To join, you only need to be between the ages of 18 and 60, be willing to donate to any patient in need, and meet the health guidelines.

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Can’t make it to a drive above?
Join online at: http://join.marrow.org/CarlStam2010
SURPRISE, Ariz. — Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington apologized Wednesday for his behavior, eight months after he told Rangers president Nolan Ryan, who turned down the manager's offer to resign.

"I made a huge mistake and it almost caused me to lose everything I have worked for all of my life," Washington said at a news conference Wednesday. "I am not here to make excuses. There are none."

Washington said he used cocaine only once and called it "stupid" and "shameful."

The failed test first was reported by SI.com. Washington said he told the commissioner's office and Rangers officials about using cocaine before he had a routine drug test.

"He came forward and said he would resign," Ryan said. "He understood the consequences. We had a lot of discussions and a lot of soul-searching on it."

"He stood up to it. We felt like he was sincere and forthright," he said. "We are very disappointed by this. We are upset we were put in this position."

Washington met with his players earlier in the day and told them about testing positive in July.

"He was very emotional, you could tell that he's a broken man from this one bad choice he made," Texas star Josh Hamilton said.

Hamilton has a long history of drug abuse and was suspended for the 2004 season when he was in the minors for Tampa Bay. The All-Star outfielder is the most prominent player in the last decade to be disciplined for a so-called recreational drug.

Hamilton has been outspoken about his crack cocaine habit. He said there were no parallels between his problems and Washington's admission of one-time use.

"I was addicted to drugs. All I cared about was getting more and using more drugs. I didn't care who I hurt," Hamilton said. "This was something of a weak moment, a decision of choice ... Our stories are nothing alike. The fact is he made a mistake. He learned from it very quickly. I made a mistake a few too many times and didn't learn from it."

Hamilton said he could understand how a 57-year-old man could use the drug only once.

"You either like it or you don't like it. Either you do it once or you do it more than once," Hamilton said. "That's the way it is. I know people from my past that have done it once with me and have not liked, have not cared for it."

Six-time All-Star Michael Young said his Texas teammates were behind their manager.

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**Rangers manager apologizes**

Associated Press

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Associated Press
NBA

Jackson comes alive in second half for Bobcats

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Stephen Jackson scored 18 of his 20 points in the second half and Charlotte rallied to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 100-92 on Wednesday night to give Michael Jordan a victory in his first game as Bobcats majority owner.

Hours after the NBA's Board of Governors approved Jordan's $275 million purchase, he watched his team stage a dramatic recovery from a horrible start. The comeback from a 19-point, second-quarter deficit matched the largest in franchise history.

Stephen Graham matched a career high with 19 points filling in for the injured Gerald Wallace, and the Bobcats won for the seventh time in eight games. Kevin Durant had 26 points and 10 rebounds, but was 9 of 26 from the field for the Thunder, whose five-game winning streak was snapped.

Jeff Green had 17 points, and Russell Westbrook added 15 points and 10 assists, but the Thunder became undone after dominating much of the first two quarters to lose for only the fourth time in 21 games.

While the loss prevented the Thunder from clinching a winning record and putting heat on Utah for the fourth seed in the West, the victory helped the Bobcats maintain sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Jackson's 3-pointer with 4:48 left put Charlotte ahead 89-85 and the Thunder never threatened again as the Bobcats got contributions from many.

Raymond Felton had 17 points and seven assists, Boris Diaw added 13 points, and rookie Derrick Brown scored 11 points to make a smiling Jordan 1-0 since becoming the first former player to be a majority owner.

The new ownership regime meant few immediate changes, although Bobcats coach Larry Brown joked before the game that at least he was "still working" after Tuesday's loss to struggling Indiana. He added that Jordan "picked a tough night to be his first night as owner" with the Bobcats facing the surging Thunder.

Associated Press
Tebow impresses at Pro Day

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Tim Tebow took a significant step Wednesday in the slow, methodical process of convincing teams that he’s worth drafting with a relatively high pick in April’s NFL draft.

Joe Haden did the same thing in 4.39 seconds.

Tebow and Haden, the star quarterback and cornerback of the University of Florida, both put on impressive displays at the school’s annual pro day on Tuesday. Both made alter- 
ations in areas that have been questioned in recent days and reassured those teams inter-
ested in drafting them that they’re good bets.

For Tebow, the key to improving his draft status has been working hard to improve his previously elongated throwing motion, which had been greatly criticized.

“People said to me, ‘Why not wait until you get drafted to make these changes?’” said Tebow, the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner and two-time national champion. “I’m not a person who wants to wait around to fix something. I want to show that I’m going to listen to people and make changes and work on things. That I’m coachable and not be the type of person who says that my way is the only way.”

Tebow had three primary problems in college. First, he often held the ball too long. Second, he looped his arm back and low as he went through his motion. Third, his stride was too long as he threw.

That trifecta made for a brutally long delivery for Tebow, who still has issues just reading complicated defenses.

On Wednesday, Tebow unveiled his improved deliv-
ery, which came from working with former NFL assistant coach and quarterback guru Zeke Bratkowski. The motion was decidedly faster with Tebow keeping the ball high from the start and eliminating the loop.
Bleacher tickets 50% off on select dates

To Order:

1. Go to cubs.com
2. In the Ticket Center box, click on college discount to view select dates available
3. Type in your promo code: FIGHTING IRISH

CALL 773-404-4242 FOR GROUP ORDERS OF 20 OR MORE.
Monarchs continued from page 24

past six seasons. The CAA has a history of teary-eyed upsets in the tournament. In the past, notably Virginia Commonwealth’s last-second defeating Duke in 2007 and George Mason making a historic run to the Final Four in 2006.

One of the few weaknesses of this Old Dominion squad is their shortcoming from the free-throw line, where the team has converted just 64 percent of its opportunities.

After a season missing the tournament, senior forward Luke Harangody said he was thrilled to return to March Madness.

"Especially as a senior, it’s a great feeling to see your name pop up on the board on Selection Sunday."

He knows that making it to the NCAA Tournaments, that’s tremendous.

Senior guard Ben Hansbrough said the team’s patient offensive strategy of waiting for the shot clock to run down before creating shots has been effective for the team throughout the win streak.

“We’ve been controlling the ball, making great decisions. It’s almost like we’re comparing our decision making to theirs in a way, with us leading the country in assists in turnover, I think that gives us the advantage," Hansbrough said. "With the decision makers we have on the team and the people that have the ability to make shots like we do.

If the Irish are able to make it past the Monarchs, they will advance to play the winner of Baylor and Sam Houston State on Saturday. The No. 3 seeded Bears could prove a tough test should both teams meet for the chance to move on to the Sweet 16.

Tip-off in New Orleans will be at 12:25 p.m., with television coverage on CBS.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

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their double-overtime loss at Louisville on Feb. 17 dropped the Irish to 6-8 in the Big East, it looked unlikely Notre Dame could reach the 9-9 record that Irish coach Mike Brey traditionally sets as the bar for NCAA considerations.

Considering the opponents - Pittsburgh, Georgetown, Connecticut and Marquette - it would have taken an incredibly improbable run for a team that hadn’t won three straight Big East games all season.

Sure enough, the Irish won six in a row — four against tournament teams — and jumped all the way to a No. 6 seed.

I’d admit I declared this team dead right after the Louisville loss, and I didn’t even watch the upset over Pittsburgh a week later — give me a break, it was midterms week.

But after the Irish went on the road and pulled another upset at Georgetown the next Friday, I couldn’t help but feel like something special was going to happen. I had never seen a Notre Dame team play with the discipline and patience it did in that game, and hearing Brey talk about his team’s new approach, it sounded like the Irish were going to stick with it — with or without Harangody.

Connecticut turned out to be the worst team (by final record) during the six-game stretch, but Notre Dame’s March 3 victory over the Huskies was the most impressive.

With the student section rejuvenated and NCAA Tournament hopes revived, the Irish didn’t disappoint despite falling behind by double digits in the first half.

Everything seemed to go right for Notre Dame in the earlier victories over Pittsburgh and Georgetown, but it was clear from the get-go the Connecticut game wouldn’t be pretty. In the past, the Irish might have folded, but they kept grinding away, held the Huskies to 35 percent shooting and pulled out a huge victory.

These are the kind of games teams need to win to post a sustained NCAA run, and we saw the same kind of game from the Irish in their Big East semifinal loss to West Virginia. Notre Dame had no business being in that game at the end — it couldn’t defend the Mountaincaines’ De’Sean Butler, and Ben Hansbrough was the only Notre Dame player who could get anything going offensively.

I kept waiting for the Irish to disappear down the stretch, but they kept plugging away, to the point that Tori Jackson had a decent look at a game-winning shot.

Watching from the NCAA Tournament, you know teams that make deep runs don’t often have a smooth ride the whole way. But judging from their play in recent weeks, the Irish have what it takes to handle the adversity they’ve have to conquer if they want to advance out of New Orleans this weekend.

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

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Martin continued from page 24

“Just knowing this is my last year of college baseball, I’m just trying to go out there and have fun.”

Casey Martin senior first baseman

“Especially as a senior, it’s a great feeling to see your name pop up on the board on Selection Sunday.”

Luke Harangody senior forward

Hansbrough said the team’s patient offensive strategy of waiting for the shot clock to run down before creating shots has been effective for the team throughout the win streak.

“We’ve been controlling the ball, making great decisions. It’s almost like we’re comparing our decision making to theirs in a way, with us leading the country in assists in turnover, I think that gives us the advantage," Hansbrough said. "With the decision makers we have on the team and the people that have the ability to make shots like we do.

If the Irish are able to make it past the Monarchs, they will advance to play the winner of Baylor and Sam Houston State on Saturday. The No. 3 seeded Bears could prove a tough test should both teams meet for the chance to move on to the Sweet 16.

Tip-off in New Orleans will be at 12:25 p.m., with television coverage on CBS.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

Irish 34

Safe continued from page 22

their double-overtime loss at Louisville on Feb. 17 dropped the Irish to 6-8 in the Big East, it looked unlikely Notre Dame could reach the 9-9 record that Irish coach Mike Brey traditionally sets as the bar for NCAA considerations.

Considering the opponents - Pittsburgh, Georgetown, Connecticut and Marquette - it would have taken an incredibly improbable run for a team that hadn’t won three straight Big East games all season.

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Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Unplanned Pregnancy?

Don’t go it alone.

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- Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, Student Affairs, 631-7819
- Ann Feith, Student Affairs, 631-2080
- Sylvia Dilkes, Campus Ministry, 631-7468
- John Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7406
- Dr. Susan Stelte-Paushel, Counseling Ctr., 631-1893
- Ann L. Kleve, Health Services, 631-2986

South Bend Community Resources:

- Women’s Care Center 234-0893
- Catholic Charities 231-8111

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Crossword

Across

1 Spherical beginning?  
5 1960s top tanker  
10 Third-place presidential candidate of 1912 who ran his campaign from jail  
14 Handle user  
15 Character in all six “Star Wars” films, informally  
17 2009 Golden Globe winner for best actor  
19 Home for “A Prairie Home Companion”  
20 Tropical trees  
22 Hoot  
23 Pub pour  
24 What unicorns  
25 ___ Hunter, standard jargon for a first responder  
33 DH’s often have  
36 First responder, for short  
37 Moon of Jupiter  
41 Galore  
42 Lock  
43 Classic Mercedes models  
44 Song from “Mamma Mia!”  
45 See 62-Down  
46 Nadirs  
47 Mich. neighbor  
48 Bowl game  
50 He wrote lyrics, for example  
51 Ambassador of alma mater: old autodom  
52 Japanese chess  
53 Cry at a canyon  
54 Venus de Milo  
55 Caulk  
56 H. Ross Perot’s nickname  
58 Yens  
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Time to Dance

Win streak propels Irish to New Orleans

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Senior Sports Writer

A No. 6 seed in the NCAA Tournament seemed impossible just a month ago. But today the streaking Irish will open as a favorite in their opening round matchup against No. 11 seed Old Dominion.

A six-game win streak to conclude their regular season and to begin the Big East Tournament made Notre Dame a lock to make their third NCAA Tournament in four seasons. And while Notre Dame was surely happy to play its way into a higher seeding than anyone would have expected, it will face a tough test against the Monarchs, the regular season and tournament champions in the Colonial Athletic Association.

"I think it's a heck of an honor,” coach Mike Brey said. “Obviously, we feel it's a very good run. We feel it's a very good run. It's better than we thought. Obviously, we feel it’s a very good run. It’s better than we thought inside the locker room to be happy to play its way into a higher seeding than anyone would have expected, it will face a tough test against the Monarchs, the regular season and tournament champions in the Colonial Athletic Association.

"I think it’s a heck of an honor. We've been caught up in the midst of the run to finish the season," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "Obviously, we feel it’s a very good run. It’s better than we thought inside the locker room to be happy just a month ago. But today, it looked like Notre Dame had a better shot at a No. 6 seed in the NIT than in the NCAA Tournament. After

New-look Irish a safe bet in opening round

It's always tough to handicap the NCAA Tournament chances of "your" team, and I've especially never been good at separating what I hope will happen from what I think will happen. So, naturally, I'm heading to New Orleans this weekend with the mindset that the Irish will advance to the Sweet 16. With the way Notre Dame has played over the last few weeks, though, it doesn’t feel like I’m making the homer pick. Watching this Irish team, you can’t help but see a gutty group that clawed its way back into the NCAA Tournament by playing its best basketball without its best player — and then showed its versatility by reintegrating that player back into the lineup when he was ready.

A month ago, it looked like Notre Dame had a better shot at a No. 6 seed in the NIT than in the NCAA Tournament. After

BASEBALL

Senior Martin leads offense

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

The art of hitting can take years, even decades to perfection. Plate discipline, a consistent approach and balance can even elude professionals from time to time. But if the season ended today, Casey Martin could make a pretty good case for having mastered his craft.

Leading the team in nearly every offensive category, Martin has emerged as the Notre Dame's most dangerous threat at the plate. Martin has put together an impressive midseason résumé that features a .434 batting average, nine home runs and 16 RBIs.

ND SOFTBALL

Streaking Irish travel to Western Michigan

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Coming off an 8-1 Spring Break trip to California, the Irish are back on the road today to face the Broncos of Western Michigan. Notre Dame (16-5) ended its road trip Sunday with a 3-0 defeat over Purdue in a non-conference match at the Long Beach Invite to cap a successful trip. They face a Broncos team struggling to find the win column.

"It was a great stretch for us over the past 10 days on our Spring Break road trip to Southern California," Irish assistant coach Kris Gansevort said. "The team stepped it up in all areas including offense, defense and in the circle for us. We had some nice wins over good programs and really created a sense of confidence for this team."

Junior pitcher Jody Valdivia (12-2) picked up her 11th straight win as she pitched a one-hitter, complete with nine strikeouts. Seven of those came in the first three innings.

Valdivia will lead the effort from the circle against Western Michigan (5-7). Utility fielder Lexi Jager, a solid hitter with power to all