Students protest University investment

HEI accused of unfair labor practices, Chief Investment Officer says company is not ‘anti-union’

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Editor

Sophomore Roman Sanchez and junior Liz Furman were two of several students who distributed flyers outside the Junior Parents Weekend Mass to raise awareness about the University’s investment in HEI Hotels and Resorts — a hotel chain with alleged unfair labor practices.

“Parents were there and a lot of them are alumni,” Sanchez said. “A lot of them give money to the school.” Furman added, “And they should probably know where their money is going.”

But Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) stopped the students in their campaign and the flyers were confiscated.

The disciplinary action Assistant Director for NDSP Dave Chapman said the demonstration was terminated because the students did not have permission from the Office of Residence Life and Housing (ORLI).

Du Lac, the student handbook, states, “All demonstrations must be registered in writing with the Associate Vice President for Residence Life.”

“They were asked if they had permission and they said no, they did not. They said they didn’t know that they had to register in writing,” Chapman said.

By CARLY LANDON
News Writer

College students are infamous for being short on change. So what to do if you need a new weekend outfit or a video game?

Notre Dame offers many on-campus jobs, from food services to the Phone Center. LaFortune Student Center employs about 200 students in food services, Jim LaBella, general manager of the Huddle, said.

LaBella said over 75 percent of those students work at the LaFortune Student Center, one of many jobs outside of the Huddle Mart.

“IT’s a fun place to work, and you get to see your friends,” he said.

Student shifts are all two hours, and students can sign up for as few or as many shifts as they want. Most students work 10-12 hours per week. Students are paid according to the University’s standard pay rate, which is $7.25 basic rate, $7.65 intermediate rate and $8.15 skilled rate. Students also get a $3 meal voucher for every shift that they work.

Sophomore Alyssa Suppenfield works at the LaFortune Student Center, one of many jobs offered on campus.

A student works in LaFortune Student Center, one of many jobs

Center creates programs for social research

By CARLY LANDON
News Writer

The Center for Social Research (CSR) — located in Planner Hall — is a new center that aims to help University faculty, students and staff of all disciplines conduct research on social questions.

“Our Center strives to improve the quality and efficiency of social research at Notre Dame,” CSR director Christian Smith said. “As a University-wide resource, the CSR supports all faculty, students and staff who conduct social research across the schools, colleges and academic disciplines.”

According to Smith, a group of Notre Dame faculty and students saw many other top research universities already have social research programs in place.

They created a proposal and brought it to the Strategic Academic Planning Committee. The Center for Social Research (CSR) — located in Planner Hall — is a new center that aims to help University faculty, students and staff of all disciplines conduct research on social questions.

“The reality is that not everyone is hooking up, not everyone is getting a ring by spring and some people are dating,” Lauck said.

One audience member called Lauck the “success story of Notre Dame” and asked for her secret. She cited the importance of respect in any relationship.

“I want to emphasize the importance of balance in a relationship by showing how my significant other and I have exercised balancing in our own relationship,” Lauck said.

Patterson, an engaged grad
INSIDE COLUMN

End of absence

As we get closer and closer to the highly anticipated April 8 return of Tiger Woods to golf, the speculation of how smooth it will be continues to grow. The start of the Masters will mark the end of his leave of absence from golf, a period of time that lasted nearly four months. If he has taken his mistakes and turned them into motivation on the golf course, then the Tiger Woods of old will make a reappearance.

Ever since November when this scandal broke, people have displayed emotions of shock, disappointment and anger over Woods’ actions. With the exception of feelings of shock, all of these are quite understandable. But no one should be surprised by Tiger Woods’ actions. Just because he is one of the world’s top athletes does not mean he is a good person. Just because people thought he had a nice smile during Gatorade or Gillette commercials does not mean he is a good person.

The public had a severe case of the Kobe Bryant syndrome when it comes to Woods. Before the star Lakers guard was accused of sexual assault in 2003, the public assumed that he was as good of a person as he was a basketball player. No one considered the fact that the face of the NBA after Michael Jordan’s retirement could be an adulterer or worse. Similar parallels can be drawn between Bryant and Woods. After Bryant was acquitted, he continued to be a role model. No one considered the fact that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at owens2@nd.edu so we can correct our error.

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Mammograms offered on campus

St. Joseph Regional Medical Center’s mobile unit to visit Saint Mary’s

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary’s Editor

Encouraging women to have their yearly mammogram performed, Saint Mary’s College will offer the Mobile Mammogram Unit from St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. The unit will be available to perform mammograms from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Debby Kelly, director of Human Resources at the College, said. The unit will be located in the parking lot between the Student Center and McCardless Hall.

“It’s a unit that travels around the local area, and they go to local businesses and they allow women to come there and get their mammograms,” Kelly said. “What makes it really nice is it’s really convenient for people to work here because they don’t have to leave their job and travel to the doctor’s office or the hospital to have the test. They can just walk right over to the unit.”

Kelly said the unit resembles a tour bus but had the necessary equipment to perform mammograms. According to Kelly, this is the second year the unit has visited Saint Mary’s, and the College plans to continue offering this opportunity once per semester.

“I think we’re going to plan to have them come twice a year, every year… That way, you know usually people are supposed to have their mammograms once a year, and that way they can just schedule and have them here,” she said. “It’s just really convenient.”

A yearly mammogram is recommended for women ages 40 and up, in order to be proactive about breast cancer, Kelly said.

“The mammogram, what it does is it analyzes the breasts. The purpose is to detect breast cancer,” Kelly said. “They’re taking X-rays of your breast and they can detect cancer way in advance of when you might be able to feel it if you were doing a self-examination.”

Kelly said although students are invited to make an appointment if they feel the need, mainly faculty and staff will utilize the unit.

“I think it’s important for every woman who reaches age 40 [to start] getting them annually because like with any cancer if they detect it earlier, the odds of being able to treat it and have the woman survive are much greater,” Kelly said.

According to Kelly, faculty and staff will only have a $15 co-pay with the College’s insurance plan. Kelly said students should inquire about pricing when making an appointment due to differences in medical insurance.

“There is a cost associated with it,” Kelly said. “It’s not something the College is paying for, but it would be covered by insurance, so if a student has health insurance and they are eligible and their insurance provides for mammograms then they could certainly make an appointment.”

Women interested in obtaining a mammogram on the mobile unit should call 574-247-5400 to schedule an appointment.

“Women really are encouraged to have the mammograms annually,” Kelly said.

“Some of them are not able to take advantage of the mobile unit here, I still encourage them to get their mammograms.”

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu
Almost half of the earth does not have drinking water near their dwelling.

“Almost half of the earth does not have drinking water near their dwelling.”

David Lodge
Director of Aquatic Conservation

Lecture educates about trauma.

By MEGHAN MANNING
News Writer

Many countries embroiled in conflict are not equipped to deal with victims of trauma, a mental health specialist said Wednesday in a lecture at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Dr. Judith Bass, assistant professor at the Department of Mental Health at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health educated students, faculty and researchers on modern methods of responding to trauma in conflict societies.

Bass has participated in mission trips to the Dominican Republic, where children soldiers are the socialization of violence, and in implementing the proper solutions to assist its victims.

“Mental health of citizens fundamentally impacts all aspects of society, such as economic stability and peace-building, but is often ignored in high-conflict environments,” Bass said.

Among its proposals, the resolution targets specific offices within the University programs, calls for more resources for the Peace Studies and Services and encourages the university to “focus its promotion of minority enrollment and maintain retention rates consistent with that of the racial majorities.”

“Not only is it a unique way to help but it seeks to fulfill our Catholic mission.”

Jeff Lakusta
Chair of University Affairs

The Observer
Thursday, March 25, 2010

The US premiere of
Monsieur, the Last Journey of Omar Romero
Thursday, March 25th
8 pm, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, Browning Cinema

Ticket information: performingarts.nd.edu

For more details about the 2010 Romero events, visit: kellogg.nd.edu/romero

The Observer ◆ CAMPUS NEWS

Professors discuss water problems.

By SAM STRYKER
News Writer

Building infrastructure that is conducive to providing water and sanitation is crucial for living conditions of those in less developed nations, Notre Dame professors David Lodge and M o n t e r s o n r e s e a r c h into the importance of clean water and sanitation.

“Almost half of the earth does not have drinking water near their dwelling.”

Lodge also said while developed nations are privileged with sewage infrastructure, much of the rest of the world is not so lucky.

“For more than 30 percent of the world there is no sanitation or physical separation between human sewage and potential water supply,” he said.

Lipscomb initiated her portion of the lecture by highlighting two of the United Nation’s Millennium Development goals. One was to cut in half the number of people without access to clean water from 1990 to 2015, and the other was to do the same for sanitation.

“We are trying to identify what works in association with humanitarian organizations, and critique what doesn’t in order to improve those systems,” Bass said.

“The event is not every method works for every situation.”

Lipscomb also said while development in the world is occurring at a rapid pace, it is not occurring at a fast enough rate.

“Almost half of the earth does not have drinking water near their dwelling.”

“Almost half of the earth does not have drinking water near their dwelling.”

David Lodge
Director of Aquatic Conservation

While legislation and funding is important to improve those systems, it is not enough to improve those systems, she said.

“We have identified specific offices ... to directly address these issues.”

Grant Schmidt
Student body president

The final resolution — proposed by Shavwnka Giger, chair of the Committee on University Affairs — was passed unanimously and was aimed to amend the student body constitution.

Lipscomb said sanitation is extremely important, as poor sanitation can result in not only contamination of surface water, but problems with roads and persistence of bacteria and pests.

“We are trying to identify what works in association with humanitarian organizations, and critique what doesn’t in order to improve those systems,” Bass said.

“The event is not every method works for every situation.”

By SCOTT ENGLERT
News Writer

Student Senate passed four resolutions during its meeting Wednesday night.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bay of Bengal island submerged

NEW DELHI — For nearly 30 years, India and Bangladesh have argued over control of a tiny rock island. Now rising sea levels have resolved the dispute for them: the island is gone.

New Moore Island in the Sunderbans has been completely submerged, said oceanographer P. S. H Das, a professor at Jadavpur University in Calcutta. Its disappearance has been confirmed by satellite imagery and sea surveys, he said.

“What these two countries could not achieve from years of talking, has been resolved by global warming,” Das said.

Scientists at the School of Oceanographic Studies of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, have found that the rate of sea level rise in the Bay of Bengal is the highest in the world.

Scientists have attributed this phenomenon to the melting of the Arctic ice caps and the melting glaciers in the Himalayas due to global warming.

Russian plan to honor Stalin

MOSCOW — The Russian government may be put up in Moscow for the first time in decades as part of the May 9 observance of Victory Day — the anniversary celebration of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

This year, the 65th anniversary of Germany’s defeat, a contingent of U.S. troops is expected to march on Red Square, a striking sign of vaunted defeat, a contingent of U.S. troops is expected to march on Red Square, a striking sign of vaunted.

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The officials said the goal was to ensure that the existing law was applied fairly and consistently across the military. The plan also is aimed at eliminating flimsy testimony supplied by third parties.

Military to scrutinize firing of gay members

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Robert Gates is going to make it tougher for service members to get fired for being gay by insisting that each case be scrutinized by more senior commanders.

The plan, to be announced Thursday, is considered a step to a bigger measure by the Obama administration until Congress decides whether to repeal the 1993 law, which bans openly gay service.

Under the new guidelines, firings of enlisted personnel who violate the ban must be approved by officers who hold a rank equivalent to a one-star general or above. Testimony provided by third parties also should be given under oath, the plan says.

The details were described by U.S. military and defense officials who agreed to speak on condition that their names not be disclosed.

The officials said the goal was to ensure that the existing law was applied fairly and consistently across the military. The plan also is aimed at eliminating flimsy testimony supplied by third parties.

Gates has said he wanted to find ways to implement the existing law more “humanely” and eliminate cases in which gay service members are vilified because of someone carrying a grudge.

In the meantime, Gates has ordered an internal assessment on how the Pentagon could lift the ban without damaging morale or hurting recruitment. That study is due Dec. 1.

Gay rights groups say the move is a step in the right direction but that Congress must still act to lift the ban.

“At the end of the day, service members would still be leaving the services under ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ every day, so what we need is repeal,” said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director, Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund.

President Barack Obama has said the ban unfairly punishes gays and has called on Congress to lift the ban. Gates agrees but says he wants to move slowly and has ordered the lengthy assessment to ensure a repeal of the ban won’t negatively impact troops or their families.

Local News

Utilities fight tree-trimming practices

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana’s main electric companies can no longer appeal to the regulations that oversee their tree-trimming practices in response to numerous complaints from property owners.

The utilities argued in a filing with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission that they have carried out tree trimming according to industry standards to keep power lines clear of tree limbs. The filing comes after the commission held several public hearings around the state last year following complaints about drastic tree cutting to keep limbs away from power lines.

Inmate hopes for exoneration

Condemned Texas man facing death penalty seeks reprise for DNA testing

Associated Press

LIVINGSTON, Texas — Texas death row inmate Hank Skinner makes a call in his visiting cage at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Polunsky Unit.

Skinner is scheduled for execution next week.

Skinner’s uncle, Robert Donnell, who died in 1997, Donnell, described in court documents as a “hot-tempered ex-con” known for getting more violent when he drank, attended the same New Year’s Eve party Bushy attended. Skinner couldn’t go because he was passed out.

Police were summoned when the mortally wounded Caler appeared on the porch of a neighbor’s home. The bodies of his mother and half brother then were discovered in their home. Officers followed a blood trail four blocks to a trailer home of a female friend of Skinner’s.

In a closet, Skinner and his lawyers said the actual killer could have been Twila Bushy’s uncle, Robert Donnell, who died in 1997. Donnell, described in court documents as a “hot-tempered ex-con” known for getting more violent when he drank, attended the same New Year’s Eve party Bushy attended. Skinner couldn’t go because he was passed out.

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The University Counseling Center

CONGRATULATES

THE FOLLOWING FACULTY AND HALL STAFF ON RECEIVING CERTIFICATION AS
QPR – SUICIDE PREVENTION ‘GATEKEEPERS’ 2009-2012

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For Information about Partnering with UCC as a Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper, Please Contact susan.steibe-pasalich.l@nd.edu
Kmart settles age discrimination suit

HONOLULU — The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission says Kmart Corp. has settled an age discrimination lawsuit involving a 70-year-old pharmacist at a Honolulu store.

In settling the suit, Kmart also agreed to pay $120,000 and furnish other relief to settle the suit filed last year in federal court. The failure to report the loans was caused by an internal error that arose after systems updates were made following changes made following the law to 2004, Citi said. In a statement, Citi said the error was unintentional, and no customers were harmed.

In Brief

Citigroup to pay for unreported loans

WASHINGTON — The consumer lending arm of Citigroup Inc. will pay $1.25 million for failing to report to federal regulators on more than 90,000 mortgage loans that it made.

Kmart settles age discrimination suit

Washington — Kmart Corp. has settled an age discrimination lawsuit involving a 70-year-old pharmacist at a Honolulu store.

Wednesday, March 25, 2010

IN BRIEF

Kmart settles age discrimination lawsuit

CHINA

Google continues to lose favor

Internet giant's decision to move headquarters offshore upsets government

Housing market still at risk of collapse

WASHINGTON — The recovery in the housing market is at risk of collapsing.

Associated Press

BEIJING — Google Inc.’s business ties in China unraveled a little more Wednesday amid a widening backlash to the U.S. Internet company’s decision to move its Chinese search engine offshore in a challenge to the country’s online censorship laws.

While the stand is winning Google praise in the U.S. and other countries, it’s threatening to turn the company into a pariah in China.

A high-profile Communist Party newspaper skewered Google in front-page story. And more of its partners and advertising customers in the country appeared to be distancing themselves from the company.

By challenging the often-fragile government, Google appears to have violated an unspoken rule of doing business in China, especially in the Internet industry — whose control Beijing sees as crucial in maintaining its authoritarian rule.

Everybody in the Internet space operates under the good graces of the government, and if the government’s not happy with your partner or probably you are going to have to change,” said T.R. Harrington, founder and CEO of Shanghai-based Darwin Markets, which specializes in advertising for China’s search engine market.

Investors already seem to have concluded that Google won’t be bringing in as much revenue as they once anticipated. And Google’s losses could turn into a windfall for China-based Baidu Inc., which already held a commanding lead in the country’s search market.

Google shares gained $8.33 Wednesday to close at $557.33, but they have fallen by more than $30, or nearly 6 percent, since the company’s Jan. 12 announcement about its intention to stop censoring search results in China. About $10.5 billion of Google’s market value has evaporated in the decline.

Meanwhile, Baidu’s U.S. shares have climbed 57 percent during the same period, closing Wednesday at $608.50 up $13.62. The surge has added nearly $8 billion to Baidu’s market value.

Setting up a search engine in Chinese soil four years ago helped Google build new business relationships. But those alliances have started to fray since Monday, when Google started to redirect search traffic from mainland China to an uncensored Hong Kong server.

Though part of China, Hong Kong has a semi-autonomous status due to its history as a British colony, and Google is not legally required to censor results there.

Tianya.cn, a popular portal that claims 32 million registered users, said it was taking full control over social networking and question-and-answer services operated jointly with Google. A company spokesman declined to say whether the government exerted pressure, but said in a statement that the takeover was being done to “guarantee each product, normal business and good operations.”

Google officials in the U.S. didn’t immediately respond to requests for comment.

Industry executives said that Google’s China revenue were diving as companies shied away from placing new ads with the search engine. Deals with China’s top two mobile phone companies were also in doubt.

In Hong Kong, executives with China Unicom Ltd., a unit of one of China’s biggest mobile phone companies, hinted that it would shelve plans to offer two cell phones running Google’s Android software.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The recovery in the housing market is at risk of collapsing.

Home sales are sliding, prices are stalling and foreclosures are rising.

And mortgage rates are likely to go up after new federal regulations.

The Federal Reserve has extended a program that has driven mortgage rates down.

The trend could threaten the broader economy, economists warn.

People whose home equity is stagnant or shrinking are less likely to spend.

It’s a move that will help at least some homeowners avoid foreclosure.

Bank of America unveiled a $3 billion plan Wednesday to help some of its most troubled borrowers. It said it will forgive up to 30 percent of their total mortgage balance. About 45,000 borrowers are expected to qualify, the bank said.

The plan is part of an agreement the bank reached in 2008 with state attorneys general involving high-risk loans made by Countrywide Financial Corp., before Bank of America acquired it.

Still, it’s the first time a lender has offered a plan that allows borrowers to walk away from their homes without penalty.

The plan is expected to help about 700,000 borrowers with $150 billion in mortgage debt.

It’s another move by the government to help borrowers and prevent foreclosures.

Home prices continue to fall while many lenders have stepped up their foreclosure process.

Still, it’s the first time a lender has offered a plan that allows borrowers to walk away from their homes without penalty.

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Jobs continued from page 1

Huddle Saturday and Sunday. It’s nice, but working behind the cash register is really repetitive,” she said. “At the same time, you get a lot of customer interaction, and some of my friends come by to visit.”

LaBella said generally the most desired place to work in LaFortune is Starbucks. He said many student baristas put their work experience from Notre Dame on their resumes, and then get jobs at Starbucks near their homes in the summer.

LaFortune is Starbucks. He said also offers a wide variety of employment opportunities at both the night club and the restaurant, including positions like market-
HEI continued from page 1

needed permission," Chapman said. "The report was filed and forwarded to ORLH, and we always do. The flyers were con-

fiscated."

As a result of the incident, the students were disciplined by ORLH and are awaiting the University's decision regarding their punishment, Sanchez and Furman said.

"We understand that as a pri-

vate institution, Notre Dame can do whatever they want, basically," Furman said. "But our question is, is that really in

line with the kind of learning experience they want students to have here, with having free-

dom of expression so restrict-

ed? The lack of freedom of expression on this campus is unreasonable."
The incident inspired several alumni to write a Letter to the Editor in the March 18 edition of The Observer.

John Lavelle, of the Class of

1987, who was one of the authors of the letter, said the University should not apply its policies to discourage student expression.

"My perspective as a lawyer and a graduated student is that there ought to be a space at Notre Dame to express these views," Lavelle said. "The University shouldn't be cracking down on students who express views just because they take a position that might be embar-

assing to the University." Lavelle also questioned whether the policy requiring permission was universally enforced.

"I think that you would look at the way this policy is kind of selectively enforced or creates the opportunity for selective enforcement, where the University is simply exercising it in a way to prohibit expressive conduct," Lavelle said.

Chapman said the only reason the policy would not be enforced is if NSP was not notified of a demonstration.

"If we were not called about it or we don't know what's going on, then we can't do anything about it," he said.

The concerned students are currently persisting in their mission to promote awareness about the University's investment in HEI by wearing orange jumpsuits to classes this week.

Issue behind disciplinary action

HEI is an investment firm that acquires, develops and operates hotels under well-known names such as Marriott, Sheraton and Hilton. The company has more than 5,000 employees, Chief Investment Officer Scott Malpass said.

Notre Dame's real estate port-

folio is invested in many proper-

ties, such as office, retail, resi-

dential and hotels, which includes HEI. The University assesses every firm it invests in and their commitment to social responsibility, he said.

"They are very good. They are a very good company. Their rep-

utation in the industry is fabu-

lous," Malpass said.

Sanchez said he and other stu-

dents are protesting against the University's investment in HEI because the company does not align with Catholic Social Teaching.

"They're all complimentary of the company," Malpass said. "UNITE HERE has filed multiple allegations against HEI, but none have proven, Malpass said.

"The filing of multiple allega-

tions is a typical practice from UNITE HERE and HEI is one of many companies the union has unfairly targeted," Malpass said. "To date, there have been no findings by any court, govern-

ment agency or arbitrator against any of HEI's hotels."

Malpass said he encourages students to pursue their mission in other areas.

"I applaud our students' inter-
est in the issues and concern for workers' and workers' rights to organize," he said. "I continue to support efforts to raise aware-

ness about unfair labor practices in general, but we have done a thorough review of HEI and it is clear that issue is simply the union."

"UNITE HERE has got to our students and convinced them the HEI is a bad company even though the evidence doesn't sup-

port that at all," said.

The bottom line — according to Sanchez — lies in Catholic Social Teaching.

"Malpass is going to say we're biased and we're going to say he's biased, but the bottom line is Catholic Social Teaching says we should be biased to the worker," Sanchez said.

Contact Carly Landon clandon1@nd.edu

Lecture continued from page 1

uate student at Notre Dame, discussed the choice to get married and highlighted the vocation of all human beings to love.

"Think about when we say, 'You're the one,'" Patterson said. "I think that is wrong because there is not just one person in the world to love us. God is the source of all love so we want to hold that unique place for God. Thus the goal for us in our relationship should be how to participate in God's love in a special way."

Both Patterson and Brown stressed humility as a neces-

sary characteristic of a work-

ing relationship.

"I think that part of that freedom in bringing God into a relationship is having that sense that I'm just a person, I don't have all the answers," Patterson said. "There is that humility piece that we have to have."

Brown offered factors of good relationships and bad relationships based on research done on couples over the past 48 years.

"How we speak to each other, how we treat each other is important in relation-

ships," Brown said. "Rolling of the eyes or putting somebody down is poison to relation-

ships. If somebody is doing this, they have to go. It is unhealthy and it is not right."

"There are seven keys to making marriage work, according to Brown. She stressed factors such as friendship, connecting every day, having a positive attitude and recognizing that some problems cannot be solved and need to be managed.

"It is difficult to walk way from a relationship that isn't bringing us closer to God, but it's something we all need to be able to do," Patterson said.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

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Observer Poll:

How is your NCAA tournament bracket doing?
Northern Iowa killed it

I'm hanging in there

Very well — I know how to 'em

I might as well throw it away

I didn't fill out a bracket

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

Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.ndsmcobserver.com

Officer: Ashley Charnley

Assistant: Rebecca"}

Three years ago, an advertising campaign hoping to bring people back to Mass featured billboards and other marketing tools asking the question, “Can’t you spare an hour a week after Jesus has done for you?” The signs more or less meant to guilt those who saw them into getting back into church on Sundays, assuming that the reader, overwhelmed with sudden appreciation for Jesus’ willingness to die for him or her, would promptly find a place of worship to attend weekly, thereby somehow evening the score with Jesus. I suppose the signs were just meant as a starting point, a way of getting folks in the door who hadn’t been regulars for a while, but I always wondered about the implied “lowest common denominator” aspect of the message. So after spending an hour a week at Mass, you’d be “square” with God? “OK, Jesus,” I imagined a billboard-Mass-attendee concluding, “Thanks so much for your sacrifice, I’ve taken care of my half of the deal. It’s all good.” Thankfully, that approach to encouraging fallen-away worship- 

ners seems to have disappeared.

Well, this year I’m going to recommend — though not through guilt tactics — that beginning this weekend you go to church for more than one hour, but for much more. You won’t be able to even the score with God — sorry about that — but you’ll have an amazing opportunity to come face to face with the reality of our salvation, and realize just how eternally powerful God’s part of the deal remains.

This Sunday begins Holy Week with the celebration of Palm, or Passion, Sunday. The time period beginning one week from tonight on Thursday night and lasting until Easter Sunday is known as the “Triduum,” a word which simply means “The Three Days.” The Three Days together make up the single most sacred, significant event of our Christian faith. And it is one event, which is why just showing up on Easter Sunday will mean that you’ve missed most of the celebration. In fact, if you participate in the worship of Thursday evening, Friday afternoon and Saturday night or Sunday morning, you will notice that these liturgies aren’t really separate events, but one continu-

ous prayer that takes us through the mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection. We “leave off” in between, keep- ing vigil with Christ until the next opportunity to come together to pray. You won’t find chocolate eggs or Peeps to help you celebrate the first two days. Holy Thursday and Good Friday have just never gotten off the ground commercially, but they remain celebrations nonetheless, expressing the unfathomable depths of Jesus’ love in all its complexity.

Holy Thursday specifically focuses on celebrating the Last Supper on the night before Jesus died, just as we proclaim each Sunday at Mass. You’ll notice, however, that rather than read- ing from one of the Gospel stories about Jesus sharing bread and wine with his disciples, we hear of Jesus’ washing the disciples’ feet. Jesus’ love means humble service on this night, and he reminds us, “As I have done for you, you should also do.”

Good Friday celebrates — yes, cele-

brates — Jesus’ passion and death, his innocent suffering. The one who has already given his life completely over to others now dies a lonely, appalling and humbling death, with a love we can barely comprehend even for those who persecuted him: with a love reaching out to you and to me and to all time. Whenever we feel isolated, humiliated or overwhelmed with suffering, sorrow or the presence of death in our lives, we can turn in prayer to Jesus Christ. As the Good Friday liturgy ends, it contains no hint of the joy to come. However, because we can’t pretend that we’re like Jesus’ disciples and like his mother, who grieved, thinking Jesus’ death ended the story, we keep the vigil of Friday night and Saturday morning, knowing in our hearts of the Easter joy to come on Saturday night or Sunday morning.

The Easter Vigil on Saturday night proclaims the whole story of God’s lov- ing plan for our salvation, culminating in the words to the women at the tomb, “He is not here; he has been raised.” On Easter Sunday, the readings under-

score the beginnings of the disciples’ transformation and indeed, that of the whole world, through Jesus’ resurrec-

tion. Death and darkness can never overwhelm the newness of life we find in Christ. At the Easter liturgies we hapti-

quit any attempts at divine service, allowing us to place all our suffering into the loving arms of Jesus and to sharing our whole world, through Jesus’ resurrec-

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tion.
A lack of opinions

I’m a little embarrassed to admit this, but sometimes, I eat lunch alone. Until recently, it’s actually been quite pleasant. Today, though, when I sat at my tiny little table and opened up The Observer to my regular source of mealtime entertainment, I was devastated. “WHAT?” I said. “NO VIEWPOINT WAR?” What was I supposed to do? I sadly turned to my phone and began randomly texting my friends so that I did not appear to be a social outcast. As I thought, when I sat at my tiny little table and opened up The Observer, it was No. 71 on Bob Kessler’s fabulous blog, “Things Notre Dame Students Like.” But frankly, it is something that this Notre Dame student LOVES. I occasionally find myself quoting my favorite letters to my friends, who never get my references because they are not Arts and Letters, and thus do not have the same massive amount of free time to read and re-read Letters to the Editor as I do. As repetitive and annoying as they seem on the surface, the importance that Notre Dame students place upon their obviously “correct” opinions never gets old. Just like the fact that some writers think that they will actually convince readers to take their side. Highly exaggerated and/or irrelevant personal experiences are always a good start. Or really, anything at all. Just so I don’t have to read the real news.

Jodie Sullivan
freshman
Pasquerilla East Hall
March 24

Christopher Hitchens is the next Obama

After the rampant outrage that resulted from President Barack Obama coming to campus last year, I’m surprised that no such protest has mounted against an even more egregious enemy to the University’s mission — Christopher Hitchens. Among the things that Mr. Hitchens has said and stands for:

- Called Mother Theresa the “Ghoul of Calcutta” and wrote a book, quaintly titled “The Missionary Position,” that sought to be an expose of Mother Theresa’s political opportunism.
- Is a self-proclaimed Marxist. Not like in the way that Obama is a Marxist, but like a Karl Marx Marxist.
- Considers himself not a mere atheist, but an anti-theist. He is the author of such books and articles as “God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything” and “The Great Catholic Cover-Up. The pope’s entire career has the stench of evil about it.”
- The difference between President Obama and Mr. Hitchens is not merely a difference in degree; it is a different kind. Whereas President Obama happens to be a supporter of policies that run counter to church doctrine, Mr. Hitchens is openly and vehemently antagonistic toward the institution of the Church as a whole. The God Debate is supposed to be exactly that, an open and fair debate. If, using the power of relativistic logic, Mr. Hitchens were to overwhelm his theist opponent Mr. D’Souza, could the vehement Mr. Hitchens possibly be allowed to win? Though, I suggest we bring an assortment of mirrors and shiny objects to the event so that we can distract Mr. Hitchens with reflected light in order to prevent this outcome, just in case the debate gets out of hand. So the question we have to ask ourselves is this: At what cost to the Catholic integrity of our University do we advance our liberal education, or “illiberal” as D’Souza would call it, by inviting someone who is a vainly proud enemy of the Church? Is bringing someone who deals solely in antagonistic polemics really a responsible means to bring about intelligent and open discourse on the campus of America’s most revered Catholic university? Well, yes.

Sy Doan
junior
Stanford Hall
March 24

Students deserve preference

On Wednesday, I went to the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, eager to get my hands on a ticket to The God Debate. Tickets had become available at noon to Notre Dame students, faculty and staff, but I had class until 1:40 p.m. When I arrived around 1:50, I was disappointed to hear they had run out of presale tickets about 20 minutes earlier. They told me that I could purchase a ticket at a later date. I think the University should be doing everything it can to encourage students to attend these lectures. Therefore, I think only students should have been allowed to pick up tickets Wednesday. Distribution could have been opened up to faculty and staff Thursday. The timing was particularly unfavorable for students since many faculty members begin their lunch hour at noon, making it easier for them to get tickets before students got the chance. I would also like to know why some tickets are being held on reserve for later purchase — why don’t students get preference for these tickets? If Notre Dame wants to encourage intellectual engagement on campus, they should do more to promote student access to these tickets.

Jessica Hedrich
junior
Renaud Hall
March 24

Editorial Cartoon

Do Spring right this year.
Be green.
Please recycle The Observer.
Lady Gaga is a controversial character who some might say has taken over the world. Her shocking statements, unbelievable fashions and innovative music are all responsible for her stardom. Gaga’s latest work of art is the music video for her song “Telephone” featuring Beyoncé, which premiered March 11. As explained by Gaga, the video is a continuation of the “Paparazzi” video and features Gaga being bailed out of jail by Beyoncé.

In a radio interview with Ryan Seacrest, Gaga called the music video “a real true pop event.” And an event it is. The costumes are outlandish and outrageous and the storyline is just out there. It can be classified as a short film of sorts as it is over nine minutes long and includes several scenes with dialogue. “We even said Quentin Tarantino films served as inspiration. The video opens with a shot of the barred wired fence of the prison featuring credits that reveal that Gaga wrote the video’s concept with Swedish director Jonas Akerlund. Then there is the click of her heels as Gaga, donning a couture black and white dress, is led into the jail. Gaga is then harshly stripped and thrown into her cell.

The next scene cuts to the jail yard, where Gaga is led out in chains in another ridiculous — but fabulous — outfit. She is literally covered in chains and wearing sunglasses made of cigarettes that are still smoking. Then, in a truly Gaga moment, another female inmate kisses her, adding another point to the shock value of the video.

Cut to another scene with the inmates strolling about a cell. Who is that behind Gaga’s right shoulder, bearing a striking resemblance to our leading lady? Why, that’s Gaga’s 17-year-old sister Natali Germanotta, who makes an appearance as another inmate. Suddenly a fight breaks out between some of the women as Gaga watches from the sidelines. Then the loudspeaker comes on overhead announcing, “Beyoncé on the line for Gaga.” When Gaga picks up the payphone two minutes and 33 seconds into the video, the song finally starts! Notice the。“Telephone” is incredibly unique. Granted it’s wacky, but it’s also fun and innovative. No one can claim Lady Gaga is unoriginal. The video is fresh and creative, and makes the viewer want to sing and dance along with these two femme fatales.

The song itself is off “The Fame Monster” album and is her sixth consecutive No. 1 on the chart. Gaga’s intention was to take a song that appears to be a shallow pop tune and make a meaningful video. So what is the meaning of the video? No one can say for sure. Perhaps it’s about trust. Or maybe it’s about not backing down and doing what you want. (Unfortunately in this interpretation doing what you want includes murder). If it is the latter and Gaga’s desire is a continual domination of the pop world, it’s likely nothing will stop her.

Contact Caitlin Ferraro at cferrar1@nd.edu
Pop music finds a new favorite artist every other month, as if “dispensability” were a requirement for hit songs. Tracing back to pop culture, sometimes defined by the continuous need for renewal, it’s interesting to look at pop music as a product of this phenomenon. Suddenly, it all makes sense: the 15 minutes of fame, one hit wonders, complete change of style, music and personality for the sake of “revival,” etc. That considered, I love pop music in the most superficial way possible — because that’s what pop music requires: superficial, disposable music.

This is not to say that the superficial and temporary nature of our music culture is praiseworthy, but it is a consequence of its time. There are, however, those artists that have managed to maintain a steady and successful career for years even in the least favorable industries. Madonna is the obvious one, and perhaps headed down a similar path was Beyoncé. Making sure to keep her personal life quiet and away from scandals, Beyoncé relies on her style and her talent to create both mass appealing hits (such as my personal favorite, “Single Ladies”) and her preferred R&B songs. After leaving Destiny’s Child, Beyoncé went on to earn a total of 13 Grammys. However, in 2008, she broke the record for most Grammys won by a female artist in one night (she won six). On the other end of the pop music spectrum is Lady Gaga. After the party favorite “Just Dance,” Lady Gaga has hit it off yet again with R&B pop. Her music isn’t necessarily mind blowing, but it’s catchy and danceable, fun and dis- p os a b l e. Perfectly pop.

And to complete this musical style comes an artist unlike anyone we’ve really seen before, who makes even a walk in the park an outrageous fashion statement. Does anyone even know what she really looks like? Either way, both Gaga and Beyoncé have managed, each in their own way, to get their names at the top of the list for today’s favorite pop artists. Both have completely different styles and know how to incorporate this style into her music and videos. So what happens when these two stars unite? I expected a glorious pop collaboration, crazy, groundbreaking and magnifi- cent. Their vastly different styles, although potentially dis- astrous, could also mean an epic mix of R&B with electropop. Almost as upsetting as “Me Against the Music” (Madonna and Britney), is “Video Phone” (Beyoncé ft. Lady Gaga) where we see Gaga complete- ly stripped of her element in a highly Beyoncé-flavored video, singing about making a film of ques- tionable material on a cell phone. Not that lyrics have always been a forte of either Beyoncé or Lady Gaga, but this isn’t just ordinarily redundant, it’s a bit degrading. Opinions aside, it’s just another pop song.

Alas! Lady Gaga and Beyoncé met again. At first when I heard people talk about “Telephone,” I thought they were talking about Video Phone. I wonder if it was naïve of me to expect something good to come out of pop music in the first place, but who knows, maybe next time?

Contact Tatiana Spragins at tspragin@nd.edu
Sweet 16 tips off tonight with four matchups

Connor looks to topple Kentucky; Xavier meets K-State again; Huskies aim to stop WVU; Butler hopes to spoil ‘Cuse run

Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Cornell looks to topple Kentucky; Xavier meets K-State again; Huskies aim to stop WVU; Butler hopes to spoil ‘Cuse run.

There is no more fascinating round of the NCAA tournament than the top-seeded Kentucky (34-2) trying to avoid another first-round upset in the first two rounds.

Butler vs. Syracuse

Butler is back where the Bulldogs may eventually want to be, capable of penetrating the seem-

K-State got payback for the 26-

Washington vs. West Virginia

The Wildcats face Thursday night in the East Regional semifinals before the final minute.

Bryant's loss depletes West Virginia's depth at the starting point guard — seemed to be a shutdown defense that

Butler is back where it matters if it's one person from you always remember that, no matter if it's one person from

Butler is unbeaten in the NCAA tournament as the higher seed. But that has only happened four times and the Bulldogs (30-4) are quite com-

The Bulldogs may eventually shed this image, but they don't seem to be in much of a hurry to do so. Actually, they really don't seem to be

“We laugh on the court, we had made all season. But we bled. “It wasn't the greatest trip to<br>

Bryant's loss depletes West Virginia's depth at the starting point guard — seemed to be a shutdown defense that held each of its five op-

The Big East champions had to be confident. Following a 68-59 win over Missouri on Tony picture that held each of its five op-

You don't ever look at the seed or the number next to the team's name, otherwise, you will let that factor in your mind,” Butler coach Brad Stevens said.

“We laugh on the court, we had made all season. But we bled. “It wasn't the greatest trip to<br>

They laughed on the court, as they carried their laundry up the stairs of the riser.

"Bill (Walker) lost his phone, I can help. For more information, visit gradrntals.viewwork.com!

If you or someone you care about needs support or assistance, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or text "SAFE" to 741741. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds. The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Norte Dame office, 624 North Dining Hall. Deadline for non-classifieds is 3 p.m. on the day of publication. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds. The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Norte Dame office, 624 North Dining Hall. Deadline for non-classifieds is 3 p.m. on the day of publication.

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Cornell looks to topple Kentucky; Xavier meets K-State again; Huskies aim to stop WVU; Butler hopes to spoil ‘Cuse run.
**MLB**

**Former MLB star Gooden arrested for DUI**

Associated Press

FRANKLIN LAKES, N.J. — Former Major League Baseball star Dwight Gooden has been charged with driving under the influence of drugs and leaving the scene of an accident.

The former pitcher for the New York Mets and New York Yankees had a child in his vehicle at the time of the two-vehicle crash around 9 a.m. Tuesday, Franklin Lakes police Capt. Joseph Seltenrich said. Police wouldn’t say whose child it was, but they said no one was hurt.

Gooden also was charged with child endangerment and motor vehicle violations, authorities said. They wouldn’t release details, including the type of drugs.

Gooden, 45, was released on his own recognizance until a municipal court hearing. It was unclear whether Gooden, who has waged a well-publicized battle with alcohol and drugs, including cocaine, had an attorney.

The owner of the other car, Ronald Schmidt, of Franklin Lakes, said he recognized Dwight Gooden right away. "I looked at him, and I knew it was Dwight Gooden," Schmidt told WABC-TV in New York. "I think he was surprised I recognized him, (and) he shook my hand." Schmidt told the New York Daily News the driver of the other car didn’t release details, including the type of drugs.

Gooden, nicknamed Doc Gooden and Dr. K because of his phenomenal strikeout numbers early in his career, had served as a senior vice president with the minor league Newark Bears baseball team, which plays in the Atlantic League. But he left in November 2009 when the Mets invited him to join them at spring training, an offer he ultimately turned down. He did great things while he was here," said Tom Cotnar, the Bears’ senior vice president. "We’re very saddened by the reports we’re hearing. We don’t have any details on what happened. Doc did right by us and the city of Newark."

Mets spokesman Jay Horowitz said the team “was aware of the situation,” but he declined to comment further. Gooden’s dominant pitching helped lead the Mets to a World Series title in 1986 and another National League East crown in ’88, and he also was a member of the championship Yankees teams of 1996 and 2000. After making his major league debut in 1984 at the age of 19, he went on to win the Rookie of the Year award that season and eventually won 194 games over his 17-year career, which included a no-hitter for the Yankees in 1996.

- Formerly a star pitcher for the Mets, Dwight Gooden was arrested in New Jersey on charges of driving under the influence of drugs and leaving the scene of an accident. The incident involved a two-vehicle crash in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey.

**In Brief**

Probation extended six months for Orioles’ Tejada

WASHINGTON — Baltimore Orioles third baseman Miguel Tejada will have to remain on probation for another six months unless he completes his required community service before then.

Tejada was sentenced last year to one year of probation, 100 hours of community service, and a $5,000 fine for misleading Congress about his past steroid use.

Tejada’s probation had been set to expire Thursday. However, prosecutors said Tejada still has 44 hours of community service to complete.

At a hearing in federal court in Washington on Wednesday, Magistrate Judge Alan Kay extended the probation for six months. If Tejada completes the remaining service hours sooner, his probation officer will recommend ending the probation early.

Twins sign lefty reliever Mahay to minor league deal

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Left-hander Ron Mahay and the Minnesota Twins have agreed to a minor league contract.

Mahay was cut by the Kansas City Royals with a 4.79 ERA in August, then signed with the Twins and had a 1-0 record and 2.00 ERA in nine innings with eight strikeouts and three walks. He made three appearances in the playoffs against the Yankees, allowing one run in 1 2-3 innings.

The Twins are reworking their bullpen bullpen following Joe Nathan’s season-ending Tommy John elbow injury, scheduled for Friday by Dr. David Altchek, a team physician for the New York Mets.

Mahay might be able to provide depth. Left-hander Glen Perkins, a candidate for a long relief role, is out for at least a few days because of a strained back.

The 38-year-old Mahay is 26-11 with a 3.86 ERA and four saves with eight teams in 13 major league seasons.

Woods plans to speak to reporters before the Masters

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tiger Woods will speak before he plays in the Masters.

Woods is scheduled to hold his first press conference in nearly five months at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 5, according to a tentative interview schedule that Augusta National released Wednesday. It will be his first press conference in nearly five months, and his first time facing a room full of reporters since he crashed his SUV into a tree on Nov. 27, setting off shocking revelations of rampant infidelity.

The Masters only recently began conducting a press conference on Monday of tournament week, usually a player with only moderate news interest because most of the media isn’t there yet.

Woods is the only player scheduled for an interview that day. Given the sensational nature of his downfall, what he says could trump the NCAA basketball championship game held later that night.

**Women’s Division I Tennis**

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**Women’s Division I Lacrosse**

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**Men’s Division I Track**

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**Men’s Division I Lacrosse**

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10 friends jammin’ to rockband in those luxury locations? no way!

Campus Housing at South Bend and Notre Dame Apartments—what college is. Make college, college! From the late-night study cram to the all-day tailgate slam, you’re only in college once. So, Stay up. Sleep late. Study hard. Campus Housing at South Bend and Notre Dame Apartments, your true home-away-from-home!
OWNERS change rules for vulnerable players

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — NFL players should be safer during games thanks to several rules changes passed at the league meetings. They also might be playing longer in regular-season overtimes.

The NFL passed rules Wednesday to further protect defenseless players, including ball carriers who lose their helmet during a play. Seven of eight overall rules proposals were adopted, though several owners said they also expect the modified overtime for the playoffs that passed the previous day to be revisited in May to include the regular season.

“It’s a better system, so why not have a better system every game?” Philadelphia Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said of expanding the new OT rule that allows a team losing the coin toss and allowing a field goal on the first series to then get a possession.

New York Giants owner John Mara added he expects discussion and possibly a vote on using the new OT system to occur at the owners meetings in Dallas in May. The change was proposed only for the postseason by the competition committee and was passed 28-4 Tuesday.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said the league wants to meet with the players and the networks for some input and further discuss the ramifications of expanding the OT change.

“We had a proposal for the postseason, we passed that with the understanding that it’ll be discussed for the regular season,” he said.

Goodell also mentioned scheduling only intradivision games on the final weekend of the season, and placing many such games in Week 16, as well. He said at the end of last season he was concerned about teams not playing their regulars after clinching titles and is hopeful such scheduling would help avoid that.

The 2010 schedule will be released in April.

The key rules change for player safety bars a defenseless player from being hit in the head or neck area by an opponent who launches himself and uses his helmet, shoulder or forearm to make contact. Previously, those kind of tackles were banned against receivers who couldn’t protect themselves, but now it will apply to everyone.

OBRANDO, Fla. — Losing the coin toss for overtime in the playoffs might be a little less painful next season.

Far more swiftly than anyone predicted, including the competition committee that made the recommendation, the NFL changed its overtime rules for postseason games Tuesday. Starting with the 2010 season, if a team wins the OT coin toss and then kicks a field goal, the other team gets the ball. If the game becomes tied again after that next series, play will continue under the current sudden-death rules.

If the team winning the toss immediately scores a touchdown, however, the game is over.

Team owners voted 28-4 on Tuesday in favor of the proposal at the NFL meetings, with Minnesota, Buffalo, Cincinnati and Baltimore opposing the change.

“We knew it would be a hot-button issue when we got here,” Indianapolis Colts president Bill Polian said.

Its passage was helped by commissioner Roger Goodell’s support, and by a spate of statistics indicating the coin toss had become too prominent in determining OT winners.

Since 1994, the team that won the overtime coin toss won the game 34 percent of the time on the first possession. Overall, the team that correctly called the coin toss won overtime games nearly 60 percent of the time in the last 15 years, or since kickoffs were moved back 5 yards to the 30.

Minnesota lost last season’s NFL championship game in overtime to New Orleans. The Saints won the toss, drove downfield and kicked a field goal to win.

“I really believe the more you talk about the issue and see the stats and the change in our game, the more you see need for a change (in overtime),” said Atlanta Falcons president Rich McKay, co-chairman of the competition committee. McKay and Polian, a member of the committee, cited the improvement in accuracy and distance for kickers as a major reason for the statistical differences. “Modified sudden death is an opportunity to make a pretty good rule … even better. Statistically, it needed to be changed. It wasn’t producing the fairest result.”

There was no consideration of ditching sudden-death for another OT system. And while the new rule applies only for postseason games, McKay said even that could change. Several owners expressed interest in further discussions at their May meetings in Dallas.

“Our thought is to take our time and study it a bit and make sure everyone understands the implications there would be for that,” McKay said.

Neither McKay nor Polian believes the Vikings-Saints game had much of a role in the vote to modify the rule.

“That’s interesting,” McKay said. “One of the teams that voted against was in the game and, last I checked, I don’t think they won.”

OBRANDO, Fla. — NFL play- ers are safer during games thanks to several rules changes passed at the league meetings. They also might be playing longer in regular-season overtimes.

The NFL passed rules Wednesday to further protect defenseless players, including ball carriers who lose their helmet during a play. Seven of eight overall rules proposals were adopted, though several owners said they also expect the modified overtime for the playoffs that passed the previous day to be revisited in May to include the regular season.

“It’s a better system, so why not have a better system every game?” Philadelphia Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said of expanding the new OT rule that allows a team losing the coin toss and allowing a field goal on the first series to then get a possession.

New York Giants owner John Mara added he expects discussion and possibly a vote on using the new OT system to occur at the owners meetings in Dallas in May. The change was proposed only for the postseason by the competition commit-
This page doesn't contain any specific content relevant to the questions asked.
Hawks win on Smith’s buzzer-beating dunk

ATLANTA — Josh Smith swooped in to slam through Joe Johnson’s missed shot just ahead of the buzzer and the Atlanta Hawks finally beat the Orlando Magic, clinching a third straight trip to the playoffs with an 86-84 victory Wednesday night.

The Hawks bounced back from an early 15-2 deficit and overcome going 8:45 in the fourth quarter without a field goal against a division rival that had routed them three times this season. For Atlanta, it came down to the final shot of regulation for the fifth straight game.

After Vince Carter hit a long 3-pointer with 9.9 seconds left to tie it at 84, the Hawks rushed down the court to set up Johnson for the potential winning shot. He drove the baseline and put up a one-hander, which bounced off the far side of the rim.

But the Magic failed to block out Smith, who soared through the air for a slam just before the red light went on. The officials checked the replay just to be sure — it showed Smith dunking it with 0.01 seconds remaining.

The teams combined for only nine baskets in the final period, with Atlanta enduring a drought that didn’t end until Smith hit a baseline jumper with 1:38 remaining and the shot clock running down. Orlando, after hitting six of its first 10 shots, finished 27 of 72 for a dismal 38 percent.

Carter led Orlando with 20 points, while Dwight Howard chipped in with another monster performance: 19 points and a season-high 24 rebounds. Johnson led six Atlanta players in double figures with 17 points, while Smith chipped in with 15.

Atlanta thought it had wrapped up a long-awaited trip to the postseason with an overtime victory against San Antonio on Sunday night. Then, an extremely remote scenario was discovered that could have kept the Hawks out: a possible four-way tie for the final three spots, with Atlanta losing on a tiebreaker.

But everyone knew it was just a matter of time. Besides, the Hawks have bigger goals than just making the playoffs, such as getting farther than they did a year ago, when Cleveland swept them in the second round. Atlanta had hoped to make a run at Orlando for the Southeast Division title, but the Hawks will have to make up a 3 1/2-game deficit with only 10 games remaining.
Mountaineers confident despite Bryant’s injury

Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — West Virginia’s Da’Sean Butler already was settled in his seat preparing for the news conference to begin while teammate Darryl Bryant — with his broken right foot — still was hobbling up the stairs of the riser.

“Hurry up,” Butler yelled out with a playful smile to emphasize he was kidding.

“I’m trying,” Bryant said, laughing as he carried his crutches and hopped to his seat on one foot Wednesday, a day after hearing something pop in his foot during practice.

Evidently nothing — not even the sudden news of losing their starting point guard — seemed capable of penetrating the seemingly unflappable upbeat mood of the second-seeded Mountaineers (29-6) a day before they faced the upstart 11th-seeded Washington Huskies (26-9) in the East Regional semifinal.

“I don’t see where the whole panic about everything will be. I think we’ll be fine,” Butler said.

“We’ll continue to smile and be loose and enjoy ourselves because this is, well, wow.”

The Big East champions had reason to be confident. Following a 68-59 win over Missouri on Sunday, West Virginia was on an eight-game winning streak and led by a shutdown defense that held each of its past five opponents to under 60 points. They feature a clutch senior in Butler, who has made six game-winning shots this season and proved unstoppable in scoring 28 against Missouri.

And though Bryant’s loss depletes West Virginia’s depth at the position, the team has a capable backup in Joe Mazzulla. The junior already was playing an expanded role, averaging 5.5 points and 3.75 assists and nearly 25 minutes in his past four games.

All that will be tested against the Huskies, on an impressive roll of their own since discovering their up-tempo identity. En route to claiming only their second Pac-10 tournament title, the Huskies have won 14 of 16, including nine in a row. They opened the NCAA tournament with an 80-78 win over sixth-seeded Marquette and followed with a 82-64 rout of No. 3 New Mexico.

Throughout this run, I think we have gained a lot of confidence because we’re starting to see us playing right,” senior forward Quincy Pondexter said. “It just gets you anxious to play the next game and continue for it to go on.”

In registering their fourth 25-win season in eight years under coach Lorenzo Romar, the Huskies have rebounded from a terrible start, in which they lost their first seven away from home and then got off to a 3-5 start in conference play.

NBA

Lakers cruise past Spurs

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Kobe Bryant scored 24 points and the Los Angeles Lakers extended their winning streak to seven games with a 92-83 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Wednesday night.

Lamar Odom added 19 points and Ron Artest had 16, but it was Bryant who put the Spurs away for good. He scored 10 in the fourth quarter, including two backbreaking 3-pointers that San Antonio couldn’t shake off.

Bryant backpedaled to half-court with his shooting hand still hanging high over his head after both shots. The Lakers then eased out of San Antonio with a come-from-behind win to start a five-game road trip.

Manu Ginobili scored 24 points and George Hill had 21, but the Spurs got little help from anyone else. San Antonio had no other scorers in double figures, and got a dreadful 2-of-11 night from Tim Duncan, who finished with six points and 12 rebounds.

The Spurs led for much of the game, but after Bryant took over in the fourth, San Antonio wilted late against the best in the West. And the worst isn’t behind the Spurs: Next up is LeBron James and East-leading Cleveland on Friday.

The Lakers, meanwhile, continued coasting. Paul Gasol had 10 points and 12 rebounds as the Lakers headed for Oklahoma City on Friday on their second-longest winning streak of the season. It’s the last lengthy trip for Los Angeles before the playoffs begin next month.

The Lakers left well-rested. Having played just twice in the previous seven games, Lakers coach Phil Jackson said before the game he expected some lively legs.

Sure enough, the Lakers had all the stamina at the end.
Hilling
continued from page 24

normally solid goaltender. Five of those shots missed the cage entirely.

From here the season only gets tougher. The loss ended the nonconference schedule for the Irish as they begin Big East competition with a showdown against Louisville Saturday.

Gebert noted the importance of this upcoming matchup, stating that only four teams qualify for the Big East tournament at the end of the regular season, which heightens the importance and intensity of every regular season game in the conference.

No. 5 Georgetown, No. 7 Syracuse, No. 20 Rutgers and No. 19 Loyola are part of the Big East conference.

In order to make a strong showing in the Big East and NCAA Tournaments, the Irish will have to share their play and turn the 50 minutes of inspired lacrosse into consistent play every day to be able to reach that level of competition.

“Competing at NCAAAs and receiving an All American consideration honor was fun,” Maxwell said. “It’s nice to be able to reach that level in competition.”

Maxwell’s swim of 1:00.69 in the prelims and 1:01.09 in the finals was good enough to net her 14th place in the 100-yard breaststroke. After being named All-American at last year’s meet, Maxwell believes she has work to do to regain that status.

“My goals for next year are to do better than this year. This year I didn’t quite reach my goals, so I will try again next season,” Maxwell said.

“Since I was not as happy as I could have been with the way my season ended, I’m looking forward to getting back into a routine and working on my training to get better.”

The two individual performances by Miller and Maxwell served as the capstone to a season in which the Irish dominated their competition en route to a 14th straight Big East championship. With Miller and Maxwell coming back determined to add to their already impressive accolades, the future looks bright for the women’s swimming team.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Team to face Alma in conference opener

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

Having won six of their last eight games, the Belles face off with Alma College in a battle of MIAA opponents this weekend.

Saint Mary’s (6-3) will look to bounce back after Saturday’s 6-3 loss to Indiana Wesleyan.

Junior Jillian Hurley won in three sets at the No. 1 singles position, while junior Franca Peluso won in two sets at No. 4 singles in the nonconference match up.

The No. 2 doubles combination of Hurley and junior Mary Therese Lee also won in two sets.

Two doubles teams are coming together quickly and are close to pulling out some of the tight matches,” junior Kate Grabarek, an Observer sports writer, said. “We have gotten extremely strong play from our No. 2 doubles team in juniors Jillian Hurley and Mary Therese Lee. Junior Franca Peluso and senior Camille Gebert lost another close match.

The match against Alma will mark the beginning of conference play for the Belles. Alma enters the match 0-1 in conference play and 5-4 on the season.

“Alma lost a close match 5-4 against Alston earlier this season and have added some new players to the roster so they will be a tough opponent,” Grabarek said.

For the Belles, this time of year not only signifies the start of conference play, but also some changes to the way they practice.

“We have been working on little things and adjusting to being outside,” Grabarek said. “We are still getting better every day, which will continue to help us with a tough conference schedule quickly approaching.”

Offensive production has been key for the Belles this year. Senior outfielder Ashley Peterson and junior outfielder Haley Bojorquez have led the Belles in most offensive categories. Bojorquez is batting .417 with five home runs and 17 RBIs, while Peterson paces the team with a 457 batting average and 18 RBIs.

But the offense has some potential holes to fill, which could lead to problems later in the season. Luckily for Saint Mary’s, the team has had a full week of practice and rest as it prepares for a tough stretch of MIAA conference games.

“I am glad to have the time to work on a few key areas, especially defense and hitting with runners in scoring position,” Sullivan said. “After playing 14 games in 14 days, it’s nice to have that break to reenergize.”

In addition to the offensive production, the Belles have had consistent pitching to complement the offensive firepower. Sophomore Angela Gillis and junior Monica Palicki have thrown well all season.

The Vikings recently swept Concordia Chicago in a doubleheader.

“I got to see them play a bit in Florida and they are aggressive, but when we play as a cohesive unit, we can compete very well with them,” Sullivan said. “They have quite a few seniors and upperclassmen, so even though we are younger, we should play well against them.”

Saint Mary’s will travel to Chicago Sunday for a doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m.

Contact Tim Singler at tsnger@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL

Offense powers Belles run

By TIM SINGLER
Sports Writer

Hoping to continue their winning streak, the Belles head to North Park Sunday in a nonconference matchup.

Saint Mary’s (9-5) has been on a roll, winning six out of its last five games, including the previous two.

The Belles will face a challenge as they take on the Vikings (8-2).

“We are starting to play together really well,” Belles coach Erin Sullivan said. “We are still getting better every day, which will continue to help us with a tough conference schedule quickly approaching.”

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TOM LA/The Observer

Senior attack Gina Scioscia looks for an opening during Notre Dame’s 15-10 victory over Duquesne on Feb. 27.

SPORTS

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

Having won six of their last eight games, the Belles face off with Alma College in a battle of MIAA opponents this weekend.

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Contact Tim Singler at tsenger@nd.edu
continued from page 24

home.  

Our team did really well, we came out on fire," sophomore catcher Kristina Wright said.  

"It’s only a matter of time before they’ve got to explode.  We’re doing well, and we know we’re coming out and that we’re going to win.”  

Notre Dame is off to its best start through 26 games since 2001, and Wright said the team has been consistent in getting base hits and scoring runs.  

Wright launched a home run in the second game, one of seven for the Irish on the day.  

Game one saw junior Jody Valdivia (16-2) reign from the circle to pitch four shutdown innings for Notre Dame.  Those four innings included 34 strikes on 43 pitches and only one hit in the top of the fourth.  

Freshman Jackie Bowers relieved Valdivia in the fifth, throwing a scoreless inning with one strikeout.  

The Irish started the afternoon off strong with three runs off of three hits in the first inning.  Senior infielder Heather Johnson homered to score junior infielder Katie Fleury, while senior infielder Christine Lux followed up with a solo home run.  

“Our chemistry this year has been the best it has in a long time,” Wright said.  “We’re all close off the field and that translates onto the field.  Trust is huge, and we’re out there playing for our selves and for our team.”  

The second game proved to be more dramatic.  Toledo leapt ahead in the second inning off of a two-run home run from McKenna Smith, followed by another score off an Irish error.  

But Notre Dame came back in the fourth inning with a solo home run from Johnson.  Wright homered for the third time in five games later in the inning to drive in three more runs and put the Irish up 5-3.  

Pitzerenger managed to extend her streak by doubling in her last at bat, and later scored to bring the Notre Dame total hits to 12 for the game and 20 for the day.  

The dominating Irish have a challenge coming up for Saturday when they take on Seton Hall in the first conference game of the season.  Playing their best softball of the season, the Irish have their eyes set on a conference title and more.  

“Seton Hall is huge because it’s our first conference game,” Wright said.  “We’re really focused on keeping our hitting alive, keeping up the base hits.  Our defense is solid, and our pitching has been doing really well.  We want to keep doing what we’re doing.”  

For more on the Irish softball team, contact Luke Mansour at lmansour@nd.edu.

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Sweep continued from page 24

NCAA continued from page 24

the national tournament, many of which boast experience on the national championship and, for some, even the Olympics.  

“Among the 12, we for sure have some top guns,” Bednarski said.  “Kelli Hurley and Gerek Meinhardt were former Olympians from Beijing and Sarah Borrman was our 2008 NCAA subchampion.”  

Another fencer who seems primed for success at the national championship is sophomore Courtney Hurley, who took gold at the Junior World Cup in January.  

“There are a couple of others who are close in aspiration, maybe not experience yet but certainly dreams,” Bednarski said.  “The competition is a team format, so it will be very important.  They all obviously want to play well.”  

Bednarski said he was dis-appointed by the format of NCAA Tournament.  He said the limit of 12 players does not allow the Irish to showcase their depth, but rather limits them to the No. 1 ranking this season.  

“We are not happy about this format.  We’d like to take more kids and show off our depth,” Bednarski said.  “During the season we showed we are top in the nation but how we must go into the different format, which leads to a more unpredictable result.”  

Despite all the Irish have accomplished this season, in addition to the experience of many Irish adding to the NCAA Tournament brings a different type of pressure.  

“Fencing is a sport that is not individual in nature, you are fencing for a whole university, which builds excess pressure,” Bednarski said.  

Despite having a target on their backs heading into the tournament as the No. 1 team in the nation, Bednarski said he is confident his team is prepared for the biggest stage.  

“This group is extremely ambitious,” Bednarski said.  “I would say as a group this is one of the strongest I’ve coached in my 15 years here.”  

One of those groups included the 2005 team, which made history when it won the University’s third national championship in fencing since the combined national championships began in 1990.  This year’s Irish will hope to make some history of their own when they begin NCAA tournament play today at Harvard University.

Contact Luke Mansour at lmansour@nd.edu.

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Defense continued from page 24

and right now it’s not.”  

Freshman pitcher Patrick Veerkamp (0-2) took the hard-luck loss, yielding five runs — three earned — in two and one-third innings of work.  Veerkamp’s addition to the rotation comes after senior Cole Johnson was sidelined with a costly error that led to four Flames runs.  

Senior left fielder David Mills paced the Irish in his first appearance since offseason surgery.  The lefty threw seven scoreless innings, giving up just one hit, but walked three and committed a costly error that led to four Flames runs.  

Despite the lack of intensity in the field, Schrage said he was pleased with the effort put forth by his team, even including a pick-off at first base of freshmans Frank Desco that ultimately ended an Irish rally.  

“Hey he’s a freshman, he’s trying to be aggressive,” Schrage said.  “We talked yesterday about being aggressive and taking the extra base, so he was just following suit.  He’s a freshman just trying to make things happen.”  

The Irish travel to Tampa, Fla., to take on South Florida in the Big East opener Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu.

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Sweep continued from page 24

Olympians and former Olympians who took gold at the Junior World Cup in January.  

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Your Brain in: Middle School
Comics

College
Prejudices: a.k.a. Politics/God
Girls / Beer

Retirement
Prejudices: a.k.a. Stuff
Custard or Pudding

Make your own crossword puzzle with your name and dates in the center. How great would that be?

HOROSCOPE
EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patricia Manning, 34, Alyson Hannigan, 34, Sharon Corlett, 40, Lucie Andreasen, 37

Happy Birthday! You will face personal challenges that you must deal with if you are going to stay happy. There is a later date that you must be handled with self-control, integrity and the desire to bring about some needed changes. Take opportunities seriously, especially a new job opportunity that's expected of you will all play. Your numbers are 3, 7, 12, 15, 16, 18

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Money and family are highlighted. You can buy or sell property you want to change some space. You may plan to get out your boxes but you will still come out ahead of the game and be well positioned for future opportunities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your sexual or romantic affair will die off this month. Until you know how to order by presenting yourself and partnering will be a priority for you. The more you expect more from yourself, the more you will be so much better. Your numbers are 1, 5, 9, 13, 14, 20, 22, 27, 31

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You will be on your own this month or even more so. You will be on your own this month or even more so. You will be on your own this month or even more so. Your numbers are 8, 12, 17, 26, 33

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will have to figure things out before you move on or create any function with anyone at home or at work. A critical, negative attitude will be towards you in a partnership now will lead to greater leverage in the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Nothing will go according to plan but it will be an exciting time to make some personal decisions for your life. Don't let emotions lead you off course.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Don't be afraid to present yourself to the public how you want to be. You will be very successful, no matter what you do, as you take advantage of every opportunity. As you help someone else, your offer suggestions or adjustments will change the way you think and do things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Love is on the stars and you will win with your mix. Make your mix work for you. Don't let procrastination cause you to make a mistake. Furnish one thing before you move on to another.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Consider your options carefully and your personal future in mind. Some of the people in your life may be looking on you too much and your personal future off. Problems with friends, relatives and neighbors must be dealt with promptly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You can be in a hurry to look at a new partner with more interest than you have. A logical approach to projects will lead to successful partnerships. An emotional issue with someone from your past should be cleaned up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You should consider your personal and professional options in mind. You should consider your personal and professional options in mind. Some of the people in your life may be looking on you too much and your personal future off. Problems with friends, relatives and neighbors must be dealt with promptly.

Birthday Quote: You are always up for a challenge. When it comes to house, family and friends, you are sensitive to their concerns.

T.I.N.D.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

JUDGE
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each word, to form four ordinary words.

INNGO
GLHIL
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TODAY

Thursday, March 25, 2010
ND SOFTBALL

Double Trouble

Sophomore Valdivia throws pair of gems

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame kept its win streak going Wednesday as it won its seventh and eighth straight games in a doubleheader against Toledo at Melissa Cook Stadium. The Irish pounded out the hits, including seven home runs to win the first game 11-0 in five innings and overcome a 3-0 deficit to win the second game 8-4.

Junior utility player Sadie Pitzenberger tied a school record Wednesday by extending her hitting streak to 21 games, the same mark sophomore infielder Duni Miller set last season.

Coming off a home opener sweep Tuesday against Eastern Michigan, the Irish (21-5) were excited to keep the win streak going, especially at home.

By LUKE MANSOUR
Sports Writer

Playing a team they had not beaten in the regular season for three years, the No. 11 Irish came out of the gates on fire but could not keep up the pace, falling to No. 19 Vanderbilt Wednesday. Irish coach Tracy Coyne said the pace, falling to No. 19 fire but could not keep up the for three years, the No. 11 beat in the regular season that were costly,” Coyne said. “But we couldn’t win the a possession game,” Coyne said. “We tried to go into more of a possession game,” Coyne said. “But we couldn’t win the draw. In a game as close as Wednesday’s matchup, the draw is crucial, and Vanderbilt capitalized when it mattered most. The Irish also missed a few opportunities to strike late.

“We had a couple turnovers that were costly,” Coyne said. “And we missed a wide-open opportunity on offense.” Coyne said she was happy with the way her team performed for most of the game, but was disappointed they did not play a complete game. “We came out and dominated for the first 50 minutes,” Coyne said. “But it’s a 60-minute game.” A late run by the Commodores sealed the victory, as they scored three goals between the 3:45 and 4:15 marks in the fourth quarter. Heading into the matchup, the Irish were focused on improving attacking, a facet of their game they have not done particularly well most of the season, especially in their losses. But they managed nine goals from five different scorers against the pack-it-in defense of the Commodores.

Coyne said she has been impressed with the collective effort of the defense and goalkeeping of freshman Ellie Hilling. Senior Gina Selocia added two goals and an assist, junior Kailene Abi had three goals, junior Ansley Ivey had two goals and an assist and sophomore Maggie Tomastik tallied three assists. Junior Shayln Blaney and sophomore Megan Sullivan each added one goal. Hilling saved five of 20 shots, a lower percentage for the seeing SWEEP/page 22.

ND WOMEN’S SWIMMING

Juniors find success at NCAA Championship

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Seeking their first winning streak in over a month, the Irish came up short in their final nonconference game before the start of Big East play. Notre Dame fell to the University of Illinois at Chicago 10-5 and committed three errors in the first as the miscues on defense continue to play a deciding factor in its latest home stretch.

“That’s been an overwhelming theme as far as making our pitchers throw extra pitches,” Irish coach Dave Schrage said. “I think we threw 15 pitches to the first hitter of the game. It was disappointing as far as how we play defense because I’m hoping that’s part of our game that’s getting better, seeing DEFENSE/page 22.

BASEBALL

Defense struggles, ND falls

By CHRISTOPHER
Sports Writer

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WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Squad takes lead into final minutes before falling to Vanderbilt

By MATT ROBISON
Sports Writer

Playing a team they had not beaten in the regular season for three years, the No. 11 Irish came out of the gates on fire but could not keep up the pace, falling to No. 19 Vanderbilt Wednesday. Irish coach Tracy Coyne said the final seven minutes decided the game — which ended in a draw.

Heading into the matchup, the Irish were focused on improving attacking, a facet of their game they have not done particularly well most of the season, especially in their losses. But they managed nine goals from five different scorers against the pack-it-in defense of the Commodores.

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FENCING

Irish send 12 to Tournament

By LUKE MANSOUR
Sports Writer

Sporting a 68-0 combined career record and being recently crowned Midwest Regional champions, Notre Dame has met every test it has faced through every test it has faced.

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SPORTS

Thursday, March 25, 2010