Top football recruit dies in fall

By MATT GAMBER
News Writer

Irish football coach Brian Kelly said his program was “in a state of disbelief and incredible sadness” following the tragic death of top recruit Matt James, who fell from a fifth-floor hotel balcony and died while on Spring Break in Panama City Beach, Fla., on Friday.

Police said James, 17, was “drunk” at the time of the fall, which occurred around 6:30 p.m. Friday at the Days Inn Motel in Panama City Beach. An autopsy showed James died of brain injuries. He was vacationing with six parents and 40 fellow students from St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, police said.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Matt James in this most trying of times,” Kelly said in a statement Saturday. “On my personal level, I got to know Matt quite well over the past few years, and he was a wonderful young man from a great family. Matt was an extremely talented person who was very bright and possessed a great dry sense of humor. He could not wait to join the Notre Dame family.

Visitation will be held at St. Xavier High School on Friday from 4 to 8 p.m., and a funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Xavier Church in downtown Cincinnati, according to a Tuesday press release from the high school. We are united in our grief over Matt,” St. Xavier president Fr. Tim Howe said in the release. “Our community is strong, and I know that the strength we receive from our faith in Jesus’ resurrection will help us get through this difficult time. Our love and prayers are for Matt and his family as we accompany them in the coming days of shared mourning.”

James, a 6-foot-6, 290-pound offensive tackle, was set to enroll in the fall as Kelly’s first major recruit at Notre Dame. The All-American chose the Irish on National Signing Day over Ohio State and Cincinnati.

“We would like to thank Matt’s family at St. X,” James’ parents, Jerry and Peggy, said in a statement Saturday. “Matt was a very special young man, and it is gratifying to us all that you could see that as well. We are touched by this outpouring of love.”

James’ high school classmates, Matt Massa, is an Irish commit and support during this tragic time, particularly of the family at St. X,” James’ parents, Jerry and Peggy, said in a statement Saturday. “Matt was a very special young man, and it is gratifying to us all that you could see that as well. We are touched by this outpouring of love.”

“Intelligence and comity do not necessarily go hand-in-hand,” Hitchens is still a “viable critic,” McBrien said he will not be attending because both Hitchens and D’Souza represent the middle position will not be represented. The two debaters reflect, in my opinion, extreme anti-religious views, on the one hand, and an extreme right-wing view of Catholicism, on the other hand,” McBrien said. “It’s an important debate, but the religious side would require someone with a more comprehensive theological perspective.”

Junior Sy Doan, who wrote an Observer Letter to the Editor criticizing Hitchens’ aggressive debate tactics, said despite his reputation as an “intellectual bully,” Hitchens is still a “stable member of the intellectual community who Notre Dame should welcome.”

“I think it’s wrong that we expect intellectuals to be genial and mild-mannered,” Doan said. “Intelligence and comity do not necessarily go hand-in-hand.”

After President Barack Obama was invited to speak at last year’s spring concert, SUB invited The Roots to campus to play this Saturday.

Grammys, Wicht said. She said deciding on The Roots “was what took the bulk of our time.”

The concert planning process began last spring, but once an offer letter was sent out, The Roots signed the contract in about a week, she said.

“In comparison with the other contenders, they stood out as having a great, award-winning history and...
As sports fans, almost everyone can name one event that epitomizes everything they love about that particular sport. If you’re an NFL fan, there is nothing greater than the Super Bowl. March Madness thrills just about everyone for the numerous gambling opportunities it provides as well as America’s seminal love for the underdog. If you’re a soccer fan, nothing will ever compare to the World Cup every four years.

But there is one event each year that, while not providing the excitement and drama that these other events produce, represents something bigger about what it means to be a sports fan — Opening Day of the baseball season.

Many people, no doubt, would scoff at such a premise. Opening Day is only the first of 162 games to be played for all 30 Major League Baseball clubs. It is seemingly insignificant in the grand scheme of the baseball season, and very rarely are there lasting memories made during Opening Day games. But Opening Day is about so much more than that.

For a true baseball fan, Opening Day is the beginning of the best six months of the year. Because this day means getting to follow your team every day. The baseball fans lives through every pitch and every at-bat, throughout the highs and lows of their team’s season.

Opening Day is the signal that a long winter has ended, including a dreary February and half of March where there are no meaningful sporting events after the Super Bowl. It means that spring has arrived and summer is not far behind.

Most of all, Opening Day represents hope. And that is really what sports are all about. (Note: if you are a fan of the Pirates, this may not apply to you. I’m sorry, there is not much hope there.)

Opening Day means the possibility of never being bored on a lazy summer day. It means the excitement of a possible pennant race and the chance to dream of October glory on a rainy spring afternoon. It means following your team through good times and bad, day-in and day-out.

For me, Opening Day refers to my hope for the Chicago Cubs. The hope that after 102 years, they will finally be able to win the World Series for me, and more importantly those loyal fans who have patiently waited for longer than I could ever imagine. It means never having to hear my beloved team exclaim “Wait ‘til We Next Year.” It means the opportunity to go cheer on the Cubs this summer at Wrigley, what almost every Cubs fan believes is greatest place on earth. For fans of every other team, there are aspirations of their own.

So at least for one day, I can forget about the fact that the Cubs have no bullpen, that we are stuck with Alfonso Soriano for another five years, and that Carlos Zambrano may never live up to the potential. I, like countless numbers of fans, dare to think that the stars could align just this year. The baseball season is underway, and no matter what happens for your team in the coming months, for now should there be only optimism.

Baseball fans: you are now invited to sit back, relax, and dare to dream.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Luke Mansour at lmansour@nd.edu

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

IN BRIEF

“Is Religion the Problem?” a public debate between Christopher Hitchens and Dinah D’Souza will take place tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The event is ticketed.

A lecture, “Rethinking Rwanda, 1994,” will take place Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at C103 Hesburgh Center. The event is free and open to the public.

The Haiti Bonfire Party will take place Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets will be on sale at the dining halls through April 6th for $10. and $15 at the door. All proceeds benefit Haiti relief efforts.

“Bursting the Bubble,” Notre Dame’s Comm/University Day, will be Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Created to foster relationships between the community and the University, Comm/University Day will feature a Kid’s Festival, campus tours and a community picnic. The event is free and open to the public.

The annual Holy Half Marathon will take place Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon. All of the proceeds from the event will go toward Katrina Relief through the Broadmoor Improvement Association.

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

OFFBEAT

Women arrested after trying to bring a corpse onto plane

LONDON — Police have arrested two women at an American airport after they reportedly tried to smuggle a corpse onto a flight.

Police said Tuesday the women were detained at Liverpool’s John Lennon airport “on suspicion of failing to give notification of death” of a 91-year-old man.

The BBC and other British media reported that the women placed the man, a relative of theirs, into a wheelchair and covered his face with sunglasses in a bid to get him aboard a flight to Berlin.

The women, aged 41 and 66, were detained Saturday and have been released on bail. They have not been charged and police say inquiries are continuing.

Eight-year-old boy takes family van, crashes vehicle

BERKELEY, Ohio — An Ohio man says his 8-year-old son was trying to drive him to a favor and get gasoline when the boy drove the family’s minivan and crashed it. James Crouch says he didn’t even realize his son, Jordan, was out of the house Friday morning until a Clermont County sheriff’s deputy came to the family’s home in Bethel and woke him up to let him know what happened.

The boy says he used keys that he found in his mother’s purse and backed the car out of the driveway. He started going down the road at about 4 mph but could barely reach the pedals and lost control, crashing into a telephone pole. He wasn’t hurt.

Crouch says Jordan was still in his pajamas and just wanted to do something nice. He says he’s going to watch his son more closely now.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

Students participate in the annual Bookstore Basketball tournament on the Hammes Bookstore basketball courts in 80-degree weather Tuesday evening. The tournament began after Spring Break and will conclude on Blue-Gold weekend, April 25.

INQUIRY OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PERIODIC ELEMENT?

Alice Harada

sophomore

Badin

“Unobtanium.”

Jeff Steimle

sophomore

Keenan

“Au, because it’s good to be the king.”

Joe Cannova

sophomore

Dillon

“Xenon, because it sounds cool when [Professor] Lappin says it.”

Christine Kim

junior

Ryan

“What elements are there? Wait no, potassium!”

Brian Argus

sophomore

Fisher

“Silver, because I never win.”

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at obsnews@nd.edu so we can correct our error.

CORRECTIONS
College festival aimed toward stress relief

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

In honor of the original AnTostal, a College celebration of springtime in the 1960s, the Saint Mary’s Student Activities Board (SAB) will host SMC Tostal, an event featuring a free concert and a variety of other activities.

“We have it to give the students the chance to relax a bit before finals,” SAB president Michele Peterson, a senior, said. Peterson said the Tostal activities begin at noon on Thursday. Activities include inflatables on the Library Green from noon to 4 p.m., including a bounce run, obstacle course, slide and human spheres, as well as a rock wall and mechanical bull.

“These are all free, so students can stop by between classes and have a bit of fun,” Peterson said. “There will also be a food vendor with ‘fudge puppies,’ which are basically waffles on a stick covered with chocolate and toppings, and freshly squeezed orange, lemon and lime juice.”

In the Speos Unica Hall Atrium and Student Center Atrium, henna tattoo artists will offer free tattoos. A photo booth will also be available to students in the dining hall during dinner.

The day will end with a concert featuring Josh Kelley and the opening act Jon McLaughlin. Peterson said the Tostal is a chance to allow students to provide such a fun-filled day, all for free, just for the students,” Peterson said. “They really deserve this, and SAB really hopes they enjoy all the events we planned.”

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@stmarys.edu

Macwan: Unjust caste system needs change

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

The injustices of the caste system have plagued Indian society throughout the 3,000 years the system has been in place, but scholar and activist Martin Macwan said he believes the time is coming for a change.

Macwan presented a lecture Tuesday, hosted by the Kroc Institute, at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies, titled “Annihilating Caste Discrimination: The Silent Revolution of India’s Dalits,” in which he addressed the causes and potential remedies for caste conflict and its consequences for the Dalits, the lowest caste group known as the “untouchables.”

Macwan, the founder of the Navsarjan Trust, said he hopes they enjoy all the events we planned.

“Basically the caste system is part of Hinduism — it is sanctioned by the religion and scripture,” Macwan said. “Even today, though, you’ll find separate churches for Dalit and non-Dalit Christians.”

The social element of the caste system, Macwan said, is how the caste system has been perpetuated for so many years.

“Part of it is stratification, which is how the system is taught from generation to generation,” he said. “Perhaps the most crucial of the problems fueling the caste system is the pervasive economic inequality in India, especially regarding land and employment.”

In many cases, they have legal possession, but they don’t have the actual land, it’s being encroached on,” he said. “Most people are employed by caste-based occupations, and the self-employment rate among Dalits is less than one percent.”

The solution to these pervasive and complex problems, Macwan said, is large-scale action starting from the bottom.

“We realized social movements are effective when they are led by grassroots efforts,” he said. “Our program is going from village to village, telling people they are equal and there is a law.”

Ultimately, Macwan said real change will come as more of the Dalits become aware of the backward nature of the caste system and become engaged in the movement.

“It’s very important that the change is led by the people that have suffered from untouchability,” he said. “The countervolution is coming from the value that people are equal ... the struggle is on because people believe it is their right.”

Contact John Cameron at jcamero2@nd.edu
COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES
New administration leads COR discussion

By MOLLY MADDEN News Writer

Census participation and pep rally reform were among discussion topics at the first Council of Representatives (COR) meeting under student body president Catherine Soler and vice president Andrew Bell Tuesday.

A lot can get accomplished at COR,” Soler said. “A lot of the decisions that we make as an administration are based on your feedback.”

Soler turned the discussion to the census forms currently being administered to the student body. She said student government is pushing for Notre Dame students to complete the census by sponsoring a dorm competition. The residence hall with the most participation will receive a pizza party from Hot Box Pizza.

“We can receive up to $1,200 of federal funding for each percent of the student body that completes the census,” Soler said. “It’s also incredibly helpful to the South Bend community.”

“Coach Kelly is going to set aside an hour to talk to us,” she said. “This is really important because we’re the first student group he’s going to talk to.”

COR members approved sophomores Erin Pankiw, James Kenney and Elle Metz as Directors of Special Events. Freshman Brandon Vo was approved as Director of Communication and sophomores Claire Sunderland and Ricky Lingley were approved as Directors of First University Experience in Leadership Program for next year.

Soler closed the meeting by reminding the new council of the importance of their role as members of COR.

“As leaders of student organizations, you can bring issues here to COR to discuss or get feedback, anything on the table is open to discussion,” she said.

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden@nd.edu

Debate

continued from page 1

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

BY MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

This debate has importance for all those who seek to promote an atmosphere of discourse on this campus — those who seek an atmosphere in which questions can be better resolved, positions strengthened and others’ beliefs accepted,” he said.

Grabowski said Notre Dame’s position as the preeminent Catholic university in America made it the perfect forum for the God Debate.

“There are few forums which are actually improper for the discussion of the existence of God, a University such as ours which seeks to be known as an intellectual one is certainly not among these,” he said. “Indeed, the world’s leading Catholic University is the perfect forum for the discussion of deep religious questions.”

One complaint about the event centered on its timing. Theology Professor Fr. Neil Boy said it is odd that the God Debate would be scheduled during a holy week.

“Given the splendid ceremonies of the Easter Triduum just celebrated so magnificently at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and the ongoing exuberance of faith on campus during the Easter octave, it seems somewhat awkward that this particular event should be scheduled on 7 April — Easter Wednesday,” he said.

Many students complained about the scarcity of tickets available. Both Reuvers and McIntosh said they were in class while the event sold out and were unable to get tickets afterward.

“I was also frustrated by the lack of tickets available to students,” Reuvers said. “An event of this magnitude should be held in a location that allows a large number of people to attend and I believe a majority of the tickets should be reserved for students.”

Junior Jessica Hedrich wrote a Letter to the Editor expressing her own frustration with the lack of tickets after an event organizer saw her letter.

“I am a committed Catholic, and I think rationally considering these questions can bring a deeper understanding of my faith and why I believe what I believe,” she said.

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmaho6@nd.edu
ITALY

Vatican battles ‘hate’ campaign

Church officials say accusations at the Pope are part of anti-Catholic crusade

People gather around the Vatican Thursday night amidst what the church calls a “hate” campaign targeting Pope Benedict XVI and the Catholic Church.

Association Press

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican headdely defended Pope Benedict XVI on Tuesday, claiming accusations that he helped cover up the actions of pedophile priests are part of an anti-Catholic “hate” campaign targeting the pope for his opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage.

Vatican Radio broadcast comments by two senior cardinals explaining “the motive for these attacks” on the pope and the Vatican newspaper chipped in with spirited comments from another top cardinal.

“The pope defends life and the family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, in a world in which powerful lobbies would like to impose a completely different agenda,” Spanish Cardinal Julian Herranz, head of the disciplinary commission for Holy See officials, said on the radio.

Herranz didn’t identify the lobbies but “defense of life” is Vatican shorthand for anti-abortion efforts.

Also arguing that Benedict’s promotion of conservative family models had provoked the so-called attacks was the Vatican’s former Holy See spokesman.

“By now, it’s a cultural contrast,” Sodano told the Web site of the newspaper L’Osservatore Romano. “The pope embodies moral truths that aren’t accepted, and so, the shortcomings and errors of prices are used as weapons against the church.”

Also railing to Benedict’s side was Italian Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo, who heads the Vatican City state’s government apparatus.

The pope “has done all that he could have” against sex abuse by clergy of minors, Lajolo said on Vatican radio, decriving what he described as the campaign of “hated against the Catholic church.”

Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, a Minneapolis, Minnesota-based minister in the United Church of Christ, said the pope had handled the abuse badly.

“People want to hear him say sex abuse is wrong,” she said.

Bur sexual allegations, as well as accusations of cover-ups by diocesan bishops and Vatican officials, have swept across Europe in recent weeks. Benedict has been criticized for not hailing the actions of abusive priests when he was a Vatican cardinal and earlier while he was the archbishop of Munich in his native Germany.

The main European scandals — in Germany, Italy, Austria, Denmark and Switzerland — are erupting after decades of abuse cases in the United States, Canada, Australia, Ireland and other areas.

In Germany, nearly 2,700 people called the church’s sexual abuse hot line in the first three days it was operating, a Catholic church spokesman said Tuesday. A team of psychologists and other experts have spoken with 294 people so far, ranging from several minutes to up to an hour. Trier Diocese spokesman Stephan Kronenburg said.

“Most callers reported cases of sexual abuse,” he told The Associated Press.

Benedict has ignored victims’ demands that he accept responsibility for what they say is his own personal and institutional responsibility for failing to swiftly kick abusive priests out of the priesthood, or at least keep them away from children.

But he has been protest ed by a vanguard of senior Vatican prelates who are fending off what they contend is an orchestrated attempt to attack the leader of the world’s more than 1 billion Catholics.

BRAZIL

Record rains kill 95 in Rio De Janeiro

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — The heaviest rains in Rio de Janeiro’s history triggered landslides Tuesday that killed at least 95 people as rising water turned roads into rivers and paralyzed Brazil’s second-largest city.

The ground gave way in steep hillsides slums, killing the blood in homes were crushed and hurtled downhill, only to bury other structures.

The future host city of the Olympics and football World Cup ground to a near halt as Mayor Eduardo Paes urged workers to stay home and closed all schools. Most businesses were shuttered.

Eleven inches (29 centimeters) of rain fell in less than 24 hours, and more rain was expected. Officials said potential mudslides threatened at least 10,000 homes in the city of 6 million people.

Paes urged people in endangered areas to take refuge with family or friends and he said no one should venture out.

“It is not advisable for people to leave their homes,” said Paes. “We want people to live here.”

He told the Web site of the newspaper O Globo that the rainfall was the most that Rio had ever record ed in such a short period. The pre vious high was nine inches (24 centimeters) that fell on Jan. 2, 1966.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva urged Brazilians to pray for the rain to stop.

“This is the greatest flooding in the history of Rio de Janeiro, the biggest amount of rain in a single day,” Silva told reporters in Rio.

“And when the man upstairs is nervous and makes it rain, we can only ask him to stop the rain in Rio de Janeiro so we can go on with life in the city.”

LOCAL NEWS

3 arrested in police shooting

GREENCASTLE — Police in western Indiana say three people on pre liminary charges in connection with a shooting in which a bullet struck a police car.

Greencastle Police Chief Tom Sutherland says 24-year-old Justin Hargrove of Greencastle is charged with attempted murder, and he and 18-year-old Michael Pryor of Coatesville both are charged with criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon. A Greencastle woman, 23-year old Lacey Couch, faces resisting police and assisting a criminal charge.

WORLD & NATION

Compiled from the Observer’s Wire services

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Police face protesters in Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan — Police have beat en protesters with batons and fired tear gas into crowds to disperse an anti-government demonstration in a provincial town of the impoverished former Soviet nation of Kyrgyzstan.

Hundreds of demonstrators angry over ris ing heat and power prices seized a govern ment building Tuesday, took a governor hostage and occupied a central square in a town West of the capital, Bishkek.

Local residents of the town of Talas told The Associated Press by telephone that police took over the square in a matter of minutes, and threw stones and Molotov cocktails they had prepared.

Writers quit to protest censorship

QUITO, Ecuador — Twenty columnists and contributors to the Ecuadoran state newspaper El Telegrafo said Tuesday they will no longer write for the paper because of alleged censorship.

In a signed letter sent to media outlets, the writers said they were quitting to protest “acts of censorship and the violation of rights of free expression and press freedom.”

In recent weeks, El Telegrafo’s director and sections editor were removed from their posts and the deputy director resigned amid a disagreement with manage ment over the direction the newspaper was headed.

NATIONAL NEWS

3 plead not guilty in Mass. bullying

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — Three Massachusetts teenagers pleaded not guilty through their lawyers Tuesday in the bully ing of a 15-year-old girl who committed sui cide after what prosecutors call months of harassment.

The teens were not required to appear at the hearing in Hampshire Superior Court.

Sean Mulveyhill and Kayla Narey are also accused of unreasonably using the girl’s gender.

Mulveyhill and Narey are charged with statutory rape. Mulveyhill and Narey are also accused of unreasonably using the girl’s gender.

The law, written in 1950, classifies homosex uals as “sexual deviants” and requires the cures of homosexuality.

Lajolo said on l’Osservatore Romano. “The pope embodies moral truths that aren’t accepted, and so, the shortcomings and errors of prices are used as weapons against the church.”

Also arguing that Benedict’s promotion of conservative family models had provoked the so-called attacks was the Vatican’s former Holy See spokesman.

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2014
continued from page 1

years ago," he said. "There are siblings of Notre Dame students who didn’t have a commit-
date.”

Of the 2,032 students projected
to enroll for the fall, Saracino said 23 percent will be of
ethnic diversity and 3 percent will be international students.
He said, however, statistics are only one

part of the whole package the new
incoming class will offer.

"It is appropriate
to say it isn’t fair
to boil our appli-
cants and admit-
ted students to
numbers," he said. "Involvement,
community service,
talent in music
and performing
arts is great, if not
greater, than ever before."

Saracino also said he was pleased to see tal-
eted students coming from all
over the country and the world.

"[I’ve seen] students coming
from remote parts of the United
States and the world," he said.

"It’s exciting to me to see stu-
dents coming from the North
Pole, small towns in Wyoming
and they’re just as talented as
students from New York and
Chicago."

With the struggling economy,
Saracino said more than half
the incoming class will likely
receive financial aid.

"We’re meeting 100 percent
of the full demonstrated
need of every student, a
commitment we started in 1998
and we’re not backing away," he said. "We have
leveled the playing field, and if a
student wants Notre Dame, they
can come."

Daniel Saracino
Assistant Provost of Admissions

"We’re meeting 100 percent of the
demonstrated need of every
student, a commitment we started in 1998
and we’re not backing away. We have
leveled the playing field, and if a student
wants Notre Dame, they can come."

Saracino also said alumni will
be calling admitted students to
ask if they have any questions
or concerns. The Center for
Recruit
continued from page 1

and was also on the Spring Break trip, according to the Associated Press.

SUB
continued from page 1

are known for their fantastic
live performances," Wicht said.

"Once the results from the
student body survey came in,
The Roots became one of
the student body’s clear
preference, said Wicht.

"After all that, if they say no,
than I feel comfortable. We
haven’t lost a student because of
an unanswered question," he said. "With directors, campus
ministry, if all that crosses them
then it wasn’t meant to be. We
want to make sure they don’t
choose to go elsewhere because of
some unanswered question."
Market Recap

**Dow Jones** 10,969.99  -3.56

| Up | Same | Down | Composite Volume | 2,202 | 139 | 1,573 | 320,058,050 |

**AMEX** 1,960.87  -8.70
**NASDAQ** 2,436.81  +7.28
**NYSE** 7,604.44  +5.51
**S&P 500** 1,189.43  +1.99

**NIKKEI (Tokyo)** 11,282.32  0.00
**FTSE 100 (London)** 5,780.35  +35.46

The Observer

**In Brief**

18,000 gallons of oil spill in La. refuge

NEW ORLEANS — Authorities say a pipeline has spilled 18,000 gallons of crude oil into a canal in a wildlife refuge about 60 miles southeast of New Orleans.

There was no immediate word about the extent of damage to the Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

The Coast Guard says Chevron Pipe Line Co. has closed off the leaking section and investigators are evaluating the spill from a plane.

The Coast Guard says it learned about the spill about 1 a.m. Tuesday and is investigating the cause.

The refuge covers nearly 49,000 acres of marsh in Plaquemines Parish, near the mouth of the Mississippi River. It holds a number of bird rookeries and provides a place for migratory birds to rest as well as winter habitat for ducks and other wild fowl.

Dartmouth faces worker complaints

CONCORD, N.H. — Dartmouth College on Tuesday disputed allegations that it has failed to bargain in good faith in negotiating a contract for workers at the college-owned Hanover Inn.

The union representing 65 hotel workers filed a complaint last week with the National Labor Relations Board alleging that college administrators have refused to consider the union’s contract proposals or offer any of their own. The union, which also represents 500 food service, maintenance, security and other workers, has been trying to negotiate contracts that avoid significant layoff

Recession doesn’t hamper birth rates

ATLANTA — U.S. births fell in 2008, probably because of the recession, updated government figures released Tuesday show.

The biggest drop was in those later ages, above 40,” said James Trussell, director of Princeton University’s Office of Population Research.

Experts don’t know for certain why so many are delaying having babies, though some suspect the economy is a big factor. However, “you get to the point where the biological clock starts ticking and people realize they have to do it,” said Trussell, who was not involved in the research.

The new report on births was issued Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It’s based on a review of more than 99 percent of birth certificates for the year 2008 — the first full year of the recession. Overall, about 4.2 million babies were born that year, a 2 percent drop from 2007. It’s the first annual decline in births since the start of the decade.

Experts say the most likely explanation for the decline is because it had deregulated broadband under the Bush administration, a decision upheld by the Supreme Court in 2005.

The FCC now defines broadband as a lightly regulated information service. That means it is not subject to the “common carrier” obligations that make traditional telecommunications services share their network with competitors and treat all traffic equally. But the FCC maintains that existing law gives it authority to set rules for information services.

FCC loses ruling on ‘neutrality’

Comcast Corp. victory could mean limited expansion of broadband in the U.S.

WASHINGTON — A federal court threw the future of Internet regulations into doubt Tuesday with a far-reaching decision that could give broad

FTTC opposes the FCC’s plan to expand broadband access in the United States.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that the FCC lacks authority to require broadband providers to give equal treatment to all Internet traffic flowing over their networks.

That is a big victory for Comcast Corp., the nation’s largest cable company, which had challenged the FCC’s authority to impose such “network neutrality” obligations on broadband providers.

Supporters of network neutrality, including the FCC, have argued that the policy is necessary to prevent broadband providers from favoring or discriminating against certain Web sites and online services, such as Internet phone programs or software that runs in a Web browser.

Advocates contend there is precedent: nondiscrimination rules were applied to so-called “common carrier” networks that serve the public, from roads and highways to electrical grids and telephone lines.

But broadband providers such as Comcast, AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. argue that other special regulations of dollars on their networks, they should be able to sell premium services and manage their systems to prevent certain applications from hogging capacity.

Tuesday’s unanimous ruling by the three-judge panel was a setback for the FCC because it questioned the agency’s authority to regulate broadband. That could cause problems beyond the FCC’s effort to adopt official neutrality regulations. It also has serious implications for the ambitious national broadband-expansion plan released by the FCC last month. The FCC needs the authority to regulate broadband so that it can push ahead with some of the plan’s key recommendations. Among other things, the FCC proposes to expand broadband by tapping the federal fund that subsidizes telephone service in poor and rural communities.

In a statement, the FCC said it remains “firmly committed to promoting an open Internet and to policies that will bring the enormous benefits of broadband to all Americans” and “will rest those policies on a solid legal foundation.”

Comcast welcomed the decision, saying “our primary goal was always to clear our name and reputation.”

The case centers on Comcast’s actions in 2007 when it interfered with an online file-sharing service called BitTorrent, which lets people swap movies and other big files over the Internet.

The next year the FCC banned Comcast from blocking subscribers from using BitTorrent. The commission, at the time headed by Republican Kevin Martin, based its order on a set of net neutrality principles it had adopted in 2005.

But Comcast argued that the FCC order was illegal because the agency was seeking to enforce more principles, which don’t have the force of regulations, or law. That’s one reason that Martin’s successor, Democratic FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski, is trying to formalize those rules.

The cable company had also argued the FCC lacks authority to mandate net neutrality because it had deregulated broadband under the Bush administration, a decision upheld by the Supreme Court in 2005.

The FCC now defines broadband as a lightly regulated information service. That means it is not subject to the “common carrier” obligations that make traditional telecommunications services share their network with competitors and treat all traffic equally. But the FCC maintains that existing law gives it authority to set rules for information services.

Experts say the most likely explanation for the decline is because it had deregulated broadband under the Bush administration, a decision upheld by the Supreme Court in 2005.

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The new report on births was issued Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It’s based on a review of more than 99 percent of birth certificates for the year 2008 — the first full year of the recession. Overall, about 4.2 million babies were born that year, a 2 percent drop from 2007. It’s the first annual decline in births since the start of the decade.

Experts say the most likely explanation for the decline in immigration to the United States, which has been blamed on the weak job market.

Some early birth information for the first six months of 2009 indicates a continuing decline of about 3 percent in total births, CDC officials said.

Last summer, the agency gave a first glimpse of the 2008 numbers.

The new report confirms the birth rate decline, and also gives a break of limited expansion after recent setbacks for the FCC.

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This evening, Christopher Hitchens, the famous, and sometimes infamous, British-American journalist and anti-theist will debate Dinesh D’Souza, a star of the Conservative right movement in the states. This event has been billed “The God Debate” at Notre Dame, and certainly should prove interesting for everyone in attendance.

However, many students I have talked to don’t know too much about either debater, much less what positions they generally hold and should be expected to argue tonight, so I took upon myself to do a little research and watch some of their past debates.

I’ll begin with the more well known of the two debaters, Christopher Hitchens. As a journalist he has written for The Atlantic and The Nation, and currently pens columns for Vanity Fair. In addition to his columns and magazine work, he has penned a myriad of independent works, including “God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything,” the piece in which he laid out his extensive argument against major monotheistic religions. In an age where writers and thinkers are largely expected to hold one particular view steadfastly throughout their career, Hitchens has unapologetically gone from being a socialist to somewhat of a libertarian, and from a Nader supporter in 2000 to a slightly leaning Bush supporter in 2004. He has alienated many former colleagues over his support for the Iraq War but remains at odds with other conservatives that play to the Religious Right.

Dinesh D’Souza, on the other hand, has had a fairly consistent conservative storyline from his Dartmouth days through time as a Reagan advisor and into a number of conservative fellowship positions. D’Souza is certainly an unabashed Christian apologist, with the groundwork of his argument put forth in his 2007 book, “What’s So Great About Christianity.” For his part, D’Souza argues the compatibility of religion and technology, the benefits of Christian moral values in the United States and the importance of Christianity on history. While he has inspired much controversy on numerous points, past debates have shown him to be more than capable of handling himself.

The “God Debate” tonight is not the first time these two have debated the effects of religion on society. In 2007, they debated at the decidedly religious king’s College in New York City. Again, in 2009, they debated in front of an audience of nearly 7,000 at the University of Central Florida. Both debates played out similarly, D’Souza is certainly an unabashed religious Right. However, many students I have talked to don’t know too much about either debater, much less what positions they generally hold and should be expected to argue tonight, so I took upon myself to do a little research and watch some of their past debates.

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Letter to the Editor

Respectful dialogue

Two very skilled debaters are going but heads on one of the most important questions in a world that is becoming increasingly more secular, and they’re going to do it at Notre Dame.

I cannot stress how important this event will be for Notre Dame, especially in the wake of the Obama controversy. The debate format is the ideal format for academic discussion. This debate neither supports nor condemns either speaker. In nearly all his work, Hitchens is certainly an unabashed liberal. However, would students have been lined up out the door to see two old professors carefully consider every point before moving to their conclusions? That would have been much too boring.

Jason Coleman
Man at Large

We owe our gratitude

We at Notre Dame are blessed by a large number of people who provide service which enhances our education. Many of those people are sometimes taken for granted. We owe much gratitude to the Grounds walkers, the cleaning staffs, our Security people and our Fire Department. Without these men and women, Notre Dame would not be as interesting and meaningful as it is. By saying a big thank YOU to those who serve us as their ministry to us at Notre Dame.

Jenine Meyer, C.S.C.
Assistant Director, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

Don’t waste paper!

Submit a Letter to the Editor

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“More often than not, a hero’s most bitter battle is the one you never see: It’s the battle that goes on within him or herself.”

Kevin Smith
U.S. screenwriter

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csr

Tell me about your pilot project. It seems

Nicholas Brandt

Submit a Letter to the Editor

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We have no idea for a ready thing until he believes he can acquire it.”

Napoleon Hill

U.S. author

Don’t waste paper!

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Submit a Letter to the Editor
Editors note: This is the first installment of a new column by Notre Dame faculty members exploring current scholarly research in sexuality concentration in a comparative context and related issues.

The discussion of sexuality and sexual orientation we need to have the basis of what is known about sexual behavior; we must establish a comparative context. This information is not about judicial right or wrong, but rather it forms a baseline of what occurs in the world. The information presented here is from research in biology and anthropology, and is readily available in peer-reviewed journals, scholarly books published by University presses, and textbooks used at Universities.

Our first level of comparative context: homosexual behavior is common in social mammals. Homosexual behaviors, and in mammals, the more complex the social lives of a species the higher the frequency of sexual activity outside of reproductive contexts (we call this social sex). Social sexual behavior patterns and norms are complex and variable sexually. Examples of species with complex social lives and frequent social sex are where cooperative species mate. Humans belong to the order of mammals called primates. Social sex is very complex. A number of male and ape species. In all apes (our closest relatives), and in many monkey species, homosexuality is exhibited. Interestingly, humans and other primates are the only species in which homosexual behavior is rare in non-human primate species. Interestingly, humans respond with specific aggression to individuals who are engaged in homosexual activity.

Our second level of comparative context: homosexuality is a ubiquitous feature of human kind.

Between three to eight percent of individuals in all human populations report homosexual orientations (regardless of the culture's stance on homosexuality), but the frequency of homosexual sexual activity in a given culture can be much higher. There are no data on the frequency of homosexual sexual activity in complex animals (we call this social sex). Homosexual behavior is common in complex animals and that homosexuality is a ubiquitous feature of human kind, but that different cultures view and engage with homosexual individuals in widely varying manners.

This column is meant as one of the many informational contributions to enhance our ability, as a University, to move forward with the important discussion about sexuality and sexual orientation in an informed and scholarly manner. Keep thinking and talking, the creation, assessment, and dissemination of knowledge is what academia is all about. Ignorance is not bliss, it is just ignorance.

Agustín Fuentes is a professor of Anthropology. He can be contacted at afuentes@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Memorial to Matt James

To Matt James

Love,
Notre Dame

80,000 fans cheering in delight. Highlight reels. Our Field. He would've been a friend to all, if only at that fall. We can't know how you feel, to have your son fall just like that, in no time flat. But here at Notre Dame, we feel your pain. We wish everything was still the same. We wish we could watch your son play the game. We wish we could watch him rise to fame. Instead he rose high to heaven.

High above the 7/11s, High above Memorial. High above South Bend. This morning, and every morning, our friend that never was watches over our mourning town. This morning, and every morning, our friend that never was watches over our mourning town. His memorial. He’s one of us.

He’ll be with each game, we’ll remember his name. Matt James. We will never know you. But we’ll never forget you.

Sam Deery-Schmit
Headman Morris Hall
April 3

Agustín Fuentes is a professor of Anthropology. He can be contacted at afuentes@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
ROME — Easter Mass at the Vatican is by no means for the faint-hearted faithful. The day started at 5:30 a.m. for the Saint Mary’s girls who stayed in Rome for Easter, or “Pasqua” in Italian, after the end of the Rome program’s semester. We hopped on the metro to St. Peter’s Basilica and were in line to get into the square by 6:40, and already there were at least 70 people ahead of us. Every 15 minutes after, the line seemed to grow by a hundred — luckily we were on the edge and could sneak out for cappuccinos to get us through to 8:15, when the gates opened.

When police started letting the crowd through, the force of a thousand people pushed us forward and through to the security stations. Seeing people pass through the security stations was like being at a human Kentucky Derby — as soon as they got the green light, everyone shot out toward the finish line of seats nearest to the altar set up outside on the steps of the Basilica.

This race was in no way graceful. It proceeded in a strange walk-run-skip motion meant to keep the semblance of polite, civilized people on their way to Mass, when really the “every man for himself” mentality was in overdrive. Since we were in the front, we were sitting about 20 rows back and could watch the crowd fill into St. Peter’s.

There wasn’t the kind of intense, disgruntled atmosphere you would expect when thousands of people are trying to cram themselves into one area. Excitement was the emotional current of the day.

Two hours before the Mass was scheduled to start, people started waving their country flags back and forth over the crowd, a few strung up on old fishing rods. One group was even holding up one strip of cardboard that simply had “Vietnam” written on it in Sharpie.

The weather had forecasted rain since 6 a.m. It had only sprinkled twice during the two hours of waiting, but everyone around was armed with ponchos and umbrellas. It seemed as though we might be granted an Easter miracle and escape without too much rain. Then, five minutes before Mass started, the sky opened up and it began to pour. Umbrellas went up, plastic bags got tied to heads and people fumbled into ponchos as the Pope processed out to the altar with a parade of drums and Swiss Guards. The entire Mass continued in absolutely miserable wet cold, but the weather didn’t seem to ruin the event for anyone. We sang from our booklets, listened to the readings in several different languages and tried not to get our umbrellas hooked in anyone’s hair.

The rain seemed to bring out the triumphant Catholic spirit in small but heart-warming ways. People were loaning others spare umbrellas or even passing out tissues to the people around them to wipe their wet chair seats. The rain made waving big flags a bit tougher, but it didn’t seem to hold off any of those who wanted to celebrate their country’s presence at the Mass.

Thankfully, an hour and a half in, the sky cleared and the umbrellas went down, and we were finally able to see Pope Benedict XVI up on the altar. We shook hands and exchanged peace with the people around us — some Italians, but mostly people from many different countries. For the Eucharist, priests came down the aisles every few feet accompanied by a man holding Vatican yellow and white umbrellas. Italian line rules were in effect — that is, there were no rules, except to get to the front as quickly as possible.

Before the Pope could end Mass, the rain started again, and people emerged at least spiritually stronger from the cold, the crowds and the rain, those gathered in Rome on Easter seem to feel that the Catholic Church would do the same going into the future.

From left, Saint Mary’s sophomores Nora Cusick, Courtney Eckerle and Christine Martin stake out their rain-soaked seats for the Easter Sunday Mass in the Vatican on April 4.
When it was released in 2000, the British film "Billy Elliot" was a box office success and earned three Oscar nominations. A few years later, it was adapted into a Broadway play that would prove to be, if not more, successful than the movie. The show has graced stages in London, New York and now Chicago.

Billy Elliot is a boy who accidentally discovers he has real talent for ballet. He is an 11-year-old whose mother has died, whose grandmother is old and soyng her memory (along with her sanity) and whose father and brother are both miners in a northern England mining town.

The year is 1984 and a huge strike is taking place at the mine where Billy’s father and brother work. The atmosphere is tense and Billy's newfound passion is kept hidden from his family, who would surely be unsupportive if they knew. Given this scenario, Billy tries to continue learning ballet and, with the support and encouragement of his teacher, ultimately decides to audition for the Royal Ballet School -- which means he would have to tell his family about his secret.

As a Broadway-style show, "Billy Elliot" is an outstanding display of talent and hard work. The musical does a wonderful job of adapting the movie and the dialogue into songs accompanied by beautiful ballet and tap dance performances. Children are a big part of the cast, not only for the character of Billy himself, but his friends and ballet classmates. A Broadway play whose main roles are executed by children is unusual and ultimately made for an all the more complete setting.

Another interesting and unique aspect of this play is its genre. Broadway normally deals with either comedy or more musicals, the plays usually stick to more classical pieces of animation with its all-too catchy music goes just as well with animation as do the more classical songs of Disney’s past. Though she lacks the bookish smarts and strongly-held independence of our darling Belle, Ariel’s curiosity, determination and red hair make her perfect for it. Every little girl wanted to be her for Halloween because she was the coolest. And she saved Prince Eric’s life! She’s no damsel in distress, that’s for sure.

She’s also headstrong, but in the best possible way. And everyone digs a rebellious streak. While most never went behind their father’s back to turn from mermaid to human, Ariel is easily the most realistic princess in the Disney repertoir. Yes, Jasmine is way cool, but everyone sees a little of herself in the ginger princess of the sea.

The other characters of "The Little Mermaid" are just as appealing. Ursula is easily one of the best villains in the Disney universe. She’s as scary as the evil queen in "Snow White," as funny as Captain Hook and looks like a cross between Medusa, Joan Rivers and RuPaul. Her big song, “Poor Unfortunate Souls,” steals the show and lets the bouncy haddock primp and parade herself into Ariel’s good graces, nabbing her beautiful voice along the way.

While Flounder is a great sidekick, insofar as crazy-cute animal friends go, Sebastian is just the tops. He’s witty, cynical and makes beautiful music (literally, “Kiss the Girl”, to boot). And while one might easily see him as nothing more than a wet blanket, those with a funny bone know that there’s more to this crustacean than a perfect meal (Scuttle the seagull is pretty great, too). Disney movies are chock full of Prince Charming. But are any as charming as Prince Eric? He’s tall, dark and handsome, he loves his dog and he wants to find true love. Oh, and he’s not afraid to run a broken mast into a giant sea witch in order to save said true love. He really is a true Renaissance man.

"The Little Mermaid,” released in 1989, straddles that awkward barrier between the 80s and 90s. But it does it with style. It keeps the well-coiffed hair of the 80s, but combines it with the brilliance that is children’s entertainment of the 90s. "The Little Mermaid” is considered a renaissance for Disney Studios, which, until its release, had failed to create a true classic. "Sleeping Beauty” in 1958. While “Robin Hood,” “The Aristocats” and “The Great Mouse Detective” are beloved by many, most Disney films from this stagnant period fall by the wayside compared to their predecessors and successors.

"The Little Mermaid” revitalized the brand, paving the way for brilliant films from "Aladdin” to "Wall-E.” The new Disney of the 90s also proved that princesses don’t have to wait for Prince Charming to save the day, and that pop music goes just as well with animation as do the more classical songs of Disney’s past. Where would we children of the 80s and 90s be without “The Little Mermaid”? Lost in a sea (pun definitely intended) of mediocre children’s animation, like that rubbish your little brother (pun definitely intended) of mediocre children’s animation. Or maybe we’d have "The Little Mermaid” instead.

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

Contact Majia Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

By TATIANA SPRAGINS
Scene Writer

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

"Wicked," "Mamma Mia," "Mary Poppins," "Avenue Q" and even the stage adaptation of "Sherek". The show’s creators tried to make the original film’s plot a little lighter at times and had a few (not very funny) jokes. This lighter mood would translate somewhat roughly, to very heavy scenes. A difference from the play to the movie is also the attention given to the political aspects in the background of the story.

The miners’ strike and Margaret Thatcher’s controversial labor policies in the 1980s helped to create interesting subplots to the play and were important to setting up the background. The violent demonstrations against Thatcher’s heavily-contested decision to lessen the power of trade unions were transformed into aggressive and powerful dance performances. Thatcher is repeatedly referenced and even depicted as evil and inflicting harm to the lives of the workers. This political and social aspect has been more thoroughly developed in the stage adaptation and gives Billy’s story a more complete setting.

Broadway does not attempt to merely tell a story, but to create an entire world on stage, sort of like a “live” movie. For this reason, and due to the nature of musicals, the plays usually stick to more imaginative and funny stories. "Billy Elliot," however, is very dramatic - but with the heavily dance-based plot, it managed to translate beautifully into a Broadway musical. "Billy Elliot" on Broadway cost over three times the original film’s budget, at a grand total of $18 million. After the high production values were paid off when the show won ten Tony awards.

It is interesting to note that, unlike most musicals, there were many dances with no songs and songs with no dance, a consequence of the dramatic nature of the play. This way, messages could be communicated more effectively and the technical aspects of dance were better highlighted. The progression of Billy’s dance skills is very much highlighted throughout the play. Two of the most impressive scenes are when Billy displays his anger when not allowed to audition, and later a dance with his “older” counterpart, showing Billy’s incredible talent and his complete transition to a gifted ballet dancer.

The only distracting factor from the “Billy Elliot” stage show was the forced accents of the American actors. The strong and sometimes incomprehensible Cockney accent in the movie is imitated in the stage adaptation and sounds odd at times.

However, in the end "Billy Elliot" is a lovely combination of different types of dance, singing and a dramatic family plot in a tense political background. While this drama makes it a little different from traditional Broadway musicals, the fun is play to watch and definitely one to consider when visiting Chicago.

Contact Tatiana Spragins at tspragin@nd.edu
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — David Duval lines up a put in last year's Masters Championship. Most of Tiger's opening round will not be covered by ESPN.

Tiger Woods has an ideal tee time for his practice round that dragged on for nearly five hours. "I was just trying to keep from going off to wander the azaleas and dogwoods," he said.

"I'm striking the golf ball how I want to," he said. "I feel like I'm swinging the golf club how I want to." He opened with an 84, then 32 on the back nine. Not nearly good enough to make the cut, of course, but a start.

David Duval sends a chip toward the green during a practice round at Augusta Tuesday. Duval has not played in the Masters since 2006.

Duval never doubted that he'd make it back to the Masters someday. Whether he can ever be the sort of player he was at Augusta National remains to be seen.

Over a four-year stretch beginning in 1998, Duval had a pair of runner-up finishes, plus a third and a sixth. He still believes those are four green jackets that got away.

"I like to see him at his best again," said Jim Furyk, who joined Duval for the practice round along with Justin Leonard. "I played a lot of golf with him back when he was the best player in the world, and he was really, really good. I guess the rest of that is: Does he really want to get back to that level again? It's difficult to do. But I really liked what I saw today in his game and I believed." That belief is that he's worked out the flaws in his swing, which were caused by injuries andwaning confidence. But he finds it difficult to keep it together from round to round, even shot to shot.

On Tuesday, for instance, he made a nifty little wedge shot right up to the flag at No. 15. Then he came back with a wild swing off the tee at the par-3 16th, his left arm flying off as he hit a screaming line through the water but skidded right through the green.

Duval was brutal there. They were playing sooo slow," he grumbled Tuesday after a practice round that dragged on for nearly five hours. "I was just trying to keep from going off to wander the azaleas and dogwoods," he said.

"I'm striking the golf ball how I want to," he said. "I feel like I'm swinging the golf club how I want to." He opened with an 84, then 32 on the back nine. Not nearly good enough to make the cut, of course, but a start.
**Women's Division I Softball USA Today Poll**

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**NCAA Men’s Basketball**

A crowd of more than 70,000 watches at Duke beats Butler, 61-59, to capture the school's fourth national title Monday.

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski tied former Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp for the second most championships in history.

**Associated Press**

> **Duke tops Butler for school's fourth national title**

> **INDIANAPOLIS —** Minute by minute, second by second, the NCAA title game got better and better. Then came the final four seconds — four ticks of the clock that produced one of the most dramatic finishes to one of the most memorable games college basketball has ever seen.

> “I’ve been fortunate enough to be in eight national championship games, and this was a classic,” said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, who has won four of those games. “This was the toughest and the best one.”

> Butler had two chances to win it Monday night — one on a 15-foot fadeaway, another on a desperation half-court shot at the buzzer.

> Both shots clanked cruelly off the rim. Near misses. Duke held off the upset Bulldogs 61-59, ending the small school’s search for the perfect, Hollywood ending.

> And though the sad, tired looks on the faces of the Butler players may not have told the story, when people look back on this magical night in sports — in a day, a year, a decade or more — it will be hard to say there really was a loser.

> “We came up one possession short in a game with about 145 possessions,” said Butler’s 33-year-old coach, Brad Stevens. “It’s hard to stomach when you’re on the wrong end of that.”

> Even before the game, there were signs that this could be a good one. The storylines were right.

> There was Butler, enrollment 4,200, the team that practices at the fieldhouse where “Hoosiers” was shot. The Bulldogs, playing six miles from campus, were on the verge of creating a sequel to the movie, based on real life, in which the tiny Indiana school goes against the big boys and comes out a winner.

> There was Duke, the uber-successful team that much of America loves to hate — good this year, but not overwhelming, a team that made it every bit as far on grit as it did on raw talent.

> For 39 minutes, 56 seconds, nobody backed down. There were seven ties, 15 lead changes and, amazingly, neither team built a lead of more than six.

> Every possession was a struggle. Every point came at a price.

> Butler guards Ronald Nored and Willie Veasley made life hell on Duke’s outside players, Jon Scheyer and Nolan Smith. But Scheyer and Smith worked off picks, worked to get open, and got their shots and their points.

**Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski tied former Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp for the second most championships in history.**

**In Brief**

**MLB players may file collusion grievance against owners**

NEW YORK — Baseball players may file a collusion grievance charging owners with conspiring against free agents last winter.

“We have concerns about the operation of the post-2009 free agent market,” new union head Michael Weiner said Tuesday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. “We have been investigating that market. Our investigation is far along but not yet complete.”

> The sides reached a standpoint agreement last year giving the union additional time to decide whether to proceed with a grievance against teams alleging misconduct after the 2008 season.

> Management denies any violation of the collective bargaining agreement, which states clubs may not act in concert with respect to free agents.

**Former Lion Rogers must repay $6.1 million to team**

DETROIT — A judge says former Detroit Lions receiver Charles Rogers must repay $6.1 million to the team.

Rogers was suspended for substance abuse in 2005 and was released by the Lions the next year. The team has been trying to recoup two-thirds of his $9.1 million signing bonus.

> U.S. District Judge Julian Abele Cook said Monday the money must be repaid. An NFL arbitrator made the same conclusion in 2008.

> Lions attorney Thomas Bruetsch (BROOTCH) declined to comment on Tuesday. Michael Cafferty, a lawyer for Rogers, says his client would like to play football in Canada and share some of his pay with Detroit.

**Vikings’ Favre and wife Deanna become grandparents**

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings may have finally found their quarterback of the future: Brett Favre is now a grandfather.

His 21-year-old daughter, Brittany, has given birth to a boy — Parker Brett. The little gunman weighs in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces.

**Favre has yet to announce whether he will return to the Vikings and play a 20th season in the NFL. Last year the 40-year-old enjoyed one of his best years and helped lead the Vikings to the NFC title game.**

**The baby’s arrival was first reported by the Minneapolis Star—Tribune. The NFL says it knows of no other grandfathers among current players.**

**around the dial**

**MLB Baseball**

Yankees at Red Sox

7 p.m., ESPN2

**NHL Hockey**

Blues at Blackhawks

8 p.m., CSN

**USA Today Poll**

**Men’s Division I Baseball**

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**Men’s Division I Lacrosse USILA Poll**

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Wednesday, April 7, 2010
McNabb looks forward to new role with ‘Skins

Associated Press
ASHBUR, Va. — The quarterback holding the burgundy No. 5 Washington Redskins jersey was Donovan McNabb. From everything that was said, it might have been simpler to just go ahead and call him John Elway II.

The six-time Pro Bowl star was introduced Tuesday at Redskins Park. All things being equal, he would rather be preparing for a 12th season with the Philadelphia Eagles, but an Easter Sunday trade between NFC East rivals has opened what he called “a new chapter in the book of Donovan.”

“I’ve always believed in finishing where you started,” McNabb said. “I think there’s a lot to be said with that. Not a lot of quarterbacks in this league are able to do that these days. Sometimes it’s better. Sometimes you’re forced into change. I would have loved to (stay in Philadelphia), but it didn’t happen.”

Instead, he is with the Redskins, who fired Mike Shanahan, and both went to great lengths to say that trading two draft picks for a 33-year-old quarterback with a few nicks is a solid investment. They did so because, “I feel like I was coming home,” he said. “Maybe a slight dig or two thrown in. 

Surprisingly, McNabb said he has spoken “not much” about the trade with Andy Reid, his coach for his entire tenure with the Eagles. He portrayed himself as fallout from a team youth movement.

“They’re rebuilding, and they’re going young,” McNabb said. “So I never knew 33 years old was old, but I guess I’m too old.”

And, while Shanahan’s offense will have new personalities, McNabb said it will be hard to jell with the Redskins, McNabb cited what he thinks will be one substantial difference.

“It starts with the run game,” McNabb said. “I know probably a lot of you come from Philadelphia, but I think it was trying to jell, we were mixing guys in, and some guys were hurt.”

McNabb said he expects “hopefully cheers” when he returns to the Philadelphia with the Redskins next season, yet he refused to portray it as special on his mental calendar.

“I don’t look at it any different than playing the Giants or Dallas,” McNabb said. “Nothing like I’m going to run my head through a locker or start throwing stuff through my house. It’s an opportunity for us to play another team.”

McNabb was clearly relieved to have constant trade speculation behind him — “I’m just so happy that it’s over” — and that he ended up playing with a team among those at the top of his wish list. His agent, Fletcher Smith, said he and McNabb didn’t end up having to object to an undesirable destination.

“He and Andy have a special relationship, and he did right by Donovan at the end of the day,” Smith said. “There wasn’t a time when we had to tell a team we weren’t going to come.”

The next priority is a contract extension for McNabb, whose current deal expires at the end of the upcoming season. McNabb and Shanahan both said the quarterback has a lot left in the tank — again citing Elway as an example — but the coach wouldn’t rule out taking a quarterback with the No. 4 overall pick in this month’s draft. Given the woeful state of the offensive line, however, it would seem the Redskins would now want to target a player to protect McNabb. 

Another bit of housekeeping for McNabb was a talk with his former team and city.

“Sometimes you’re forced into change. I think there’s a lot to be said with this,” McNabb said. “I know probably a lot of you come from Philadelphia, but I think it was trying to jell, we were mixing guys in, and some guys were hurt.”

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*Info available to in-state students only.*
After defeating Alma and Trine, two of the weaker teams in the conference, Saint Mary’s will face Calvin, its first formidable opponent in MIAA play, at home today.

In order to place well in the conference tournament, the Belles (8-3, 2-0) need to win matches against top teams like the Knights.

“This match could have an impact on seeding for our conference tournament,” Belles coach Dale Campbell said. "Calvin is a very strong team, so it will be good to see where we stack up with them." Campbell has seen steady improvement this season, something that every coach loves to see in his players. "Our growth has been substantial," Campbell said. "We are a more mature team than we were last year. We think more between points and on changeovers and seem to adjust our styles of play better than last year." Early on, the focus was on doubles play, attacking the net and shot-making. Now, the Belles are just trying to iron out the kinks as they head into the heart of their MIAA schedule.

“Our focus has not been on one particular area," Campbell said. "We are working to improve all aspects of our game.” The Belles have a definite strategy every time they step on the court. When they adhere to the plan, the result is usually in their favor, Campbell said. "We need to continue to move forward in doubles and attack the ball," he said. "In singles, we need to play an offensive, yet high-percentage strategy to prepare for our toughest opponents.”

The 37-year-old Brodeur improved to 10-2-2 against Atlanta. He was pulled after allowing three goals in the first period in Atlanta on Dec. 19, but the Devils still beat the Thrashers 5-4. McAmmond scored on a pass from Dainius Zubrus in the first period, and the Devils padded the lead with goals in the opening minute of each of the next two periods. Parise pushed the puck past Johan Hedberg 51 seconds into the second period, and Zajac scored 10 seconds into the third. Hedberg stopped 24 shots.

Kovalchuk will become a free agent after this season.
Men's Tennis
Irish win one, drop one in Texas matches

By KATE GRABAREK Sports Writer

The No. 36 Irish split the two matches they played in Texas over Easter break, defeating SMU, 5-2, before falling to No. 12 Texas A&M, 6-1.

"We played a pretty complete match against SMU on Saturday," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "They have a great stadium, but the courts were pretty quick and I thought our guys did a good job of adjusting to them." The Irish started off the weekend with a victory over SMU, led by winning two out of the three doubles matches to claim the doubles point.

Singles wins by juniors Stephen Havens and Dan Stahl, sophomore Sam Keeton and sophomore Mitchell Gormley in fourth and fifth, respectively. Freshman Kendra Jennings qualified for the Big East meet.

Sophomore Casey Watt and junior David Anderson were the only two Irish players to drop a match, as they lost close matches at No. 1 and No. 3 singles, respectively.

In the second match of the weekend the Irish lost to Texas A&M. Moros secured the only win for the Irish on the day. The Irish fell behind early and were not able to recover after dropping the doubles point.

"Blas Moros played more aggressively [Sunday night] against A&M," Bayliss said. "He stayed up tight on the baseline and played a very gritty match."

The Irish will attempt to regain their momentum at home today, facing No. 2 Ohio State at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

"We know Ohio State well," Bayliss said. "Despite their ranking, I think we can have a shot at that match."

Sophomore Casey Watt and junior David Anderson were the only two Irish players to drop a match, as they lost close matches at No. 1 and No. 3 singles, respectively.

"I basically had nothing to lose. I got involved early in the race and I raced less conservatively than I normally would," John Shawel Irish sophomore said.

Track & Field
Four athletes win at Purdue

By MEAGHAN VESELIK Sports Writer

Instead of going home for Easter, the Irish traveled to Purdue to the Mike Poelein Invitational. Despite rain and lightning days throughout the weekend, four athletes took first place and 23 athletes finished in the top-five at the event.

The winning times and distances came from senior Eric Quick in the men's triple jump with a distance of 15.12 meters, junior Theresa Cattuna in the women's 5,000 meter with a time of 17:11.11, senior Joanna Schultz in the women's 400 of 54.10 and sophomore John Shawel in the men's 800 at 1:53.11.

Shawel in particular was happy with his performance, considering his focus usually centers around the 1500.

"I basically had nothing to lose and got involved early in the race and I raced less conservatively than I normally would," Shawel said.

The Irish next travel to Louisville, Ky., to compete in the Louisville Invitational on Saturday.

"I am looking forward to a couple more races before Big East to improve my kick and build on today," Cattuna said.

In addition to these top finishes, the Irish earned multiple successful results across the board. In field events, the Irish had a huge turnout for men's hammer, where junior Greg Davis took third, closely followed by junior John Bolicher and sophomore Mitchell Gormley in fourth and fifth, respectively.

"The men also had a series of top finishes. Junior Matt We Brown took third in the 400 hurdles, junior Edward Mitchell took fifth in the 400, sophomore Mitch Lorenz took fourth in the 800, junior Greg Kiley took fourth in the 1,500 and senior Thomas Noel took fourth in the 3,000 Steeplechase.

"The men's hammer, the 800 and the 400 hurdles were strong for the Irish," Cattuna said.

"Over the next couple of weeks I'll work on becoming more mentally and physically ready to compete with [other runners] in the race and hopefully earn some points for our team," Cattuna said.

"The Irish next travel to Louisville, Ky., to compete in the Louisville Invitational on Saturday."
Knights continued from page 20

only giving up two hits.

Valdivia also had plenty of offensive help as the Irish scored eight runs off of 12 hits. Six of those runs came in the final inning to seal the deal for Notre Dame.

It was a total team effort,” said Wright. “We all contributed in one way or another to the win.”

The Irish’s second win was a little harder to come by, however. The back half of the doubleheader stopped three times due to the weather, and the game was not completed until two days later.

Despite the inconvenience, Wright said that the game was a blessing in disguise for the Irish.

“You showed us that our team can work through adversity,” Wright said. “We all contributed in one way or another to the win.”

Valdivia was on the mound again for Notre Dame on Monday, pitching another scoreless outing while giving up six hits. Once again, she also had plenty of offensive help. Four of the Irish’s five hits were homovers.

The complete game shutout was the 10th of the season for Valdivia, who improved to 20-3 on the year. The junior has won 14 straight Big East contests over the past two seasons, and in her career in 15-0 in the conference with a 1.34 ERA.

Notre Dame will look to continue its hot streak as the Irish look forward to their doubleheader with Bowling Green (6-12).

Despite the Falcons’ losing record Wright emphasized the team’s continued need for focus.

“We need to stay consistent. We can’t take anybody for granted. We need to go out there and play our game.”

Today’s contests will take place at 4 and 6 p.m. at Melissa Cook Stadium.

Contact Bobby Graham at rgbahas@nd.edu

Bats

continued from page 20

we still have to shore up our defense. Our guys have been working really hard on their approaches, extra hitting. It’s paying off for them.”

The Irish bats came alive in the third inning against Oakland starter Aaron Wick, as senior designated hitter David Mills followed DeSico’s home run with a triple to right-center. Senior first baseman Casey Martin knocked in Mills with a sacrifice fly, and center fielder Bill Warrender followed with a walk. Senior right fielder Brayden Ashdown capped the Irish rally by clearing the bases with his first home run of the season.

The biggest surprise of the game came from Irish starting pitcher Adam Norton (1-0), the regular starting third baseman. In his first career start on the mound, Norton tossed four innings, allowing only two hits.

The Belles never looked back during Game 1 as they blasted 20 hits off the Hornets pitching staff. This offensive explosion propelled the Belles to their first MIAA victory of the season.

Saint Mary’s actually trailed after the first inning 2-1, in its rout of Kalamazoo. In the next two innings, the Belles scored nine and 14 runs, respectively. This put the game out of reach for the winless Hornets.

Junior Hayley Bojorquez had a phenomenal game as she belted a pair of home runs and drove in seven RBIs. With the victory, Bojorquez marked the end of a stellar week for Bojorquez, as she was named the MIAA Position Player of the Week.

“Hayley has been so consistent all year long, every time she goes to the plate she just has the mindset that she’s going to get a hit,” Belles coach Erin Sullivan said. “She’s a great leader, the only junior on the team, getting ready to be the only senior and leading by example.”

Sophomore Kate Mitchell came up big at the plate, going 6 for 6 and showing a great deal of improvement over previous games.

“Absolutely needed her to hit and we just kept putting her out there,” Sullivan said. “She’s batting 1.000 in conference. She looks like a completely different hitter, very confident.”

The Belles repeated their performance in the second game as they easily handled the Hornets a second loss. Saint Mary’s record is now 14-5 and scored 17 runs in the first two innings. This allowed the Belles to gain an early advantage and never look back.

With the success the Belles had against Kalamazoo, the Belles have snapped a four game skid. They hope to continue that success as they travel to Albion today.

Saint Mary’s now enters a stretch of MIAA action and looks to keep its success rolling. Albion will prove a formidable opponent. The Britons’ record does not speak for the danger that they pose for the Belles. Saint Mary’s will need to not become overly confident after two blowout wins.

“It’s a great start, it’s always good to be 2-0 and its helpful for our hitters to keep getting at bats but every team is so different,” Sullivan said. “(The Britons) are hungry for a win… they can’t be underestimated.”

The Belles will travel to Albion today with first pitch set for 3:30 p.m.

Contact Kevin Baldwin at khalde32@nd.edu and Tim Singh at tsingler@nd.edu

Bats

continued from page 20

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles dominate Hornets in sweep

By KEVIN BALDWIN and TIM SINGER

Sports Writers

Saint Mary’s stormed out to a 30-6 win in five innings at Kalamazoo on Saturday and dominated 23-5 in Game 2, which was delayed until Tuesday due to inclement weather on Saturday.

The Belles never looked back during Game 1 as they blasted 20 hits off the Hornets pitching staff. This offensive explosion propelled the Belles to their first MIAA victory of the season.

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Wildcats

continued from page 20

scores in the first three minutes of the second quarter to take a 4-1 lead, its largest of the game. The Irish scored just once in the second quarter and headed into the intermission trailing 4-2.

The defensive character of the game continued after halftime, with nearly 10 scoreless minutes passing before freshman midfielder Steve Murphy cut the Villanova lead to just one. The Wildcats responded quickly, however, and took a 5-3 lead into the fourth quarter.

Despite the dominance of both defenses in the first three quarters, the offenses would steal the show in the final period and provide a thrilling end to the game. Notre Dame reeled off five consecutive goals to open the fourth quarter, including a highlight-reel score from senior defenseman Mike Greighton, who intercepted a pass when the Irish were a man down and took the ball the length of the field to score.

At the end of the Notre Dame run, the Irish held an 8-5 lead halfway through the final period, but Villanova had an offensive explosion of its own in store. The Wildcats scored just 14 seconds after the Irish took their biggest lead and then added another 30 seconds later to cut the Notre Dame advantage to one. Villanova’s Paul Weber then scored with 5:07 left to tie the game and then added the decisive goal with 2:10 to play.

Though the Irish peppered the Wildcats goal with shots in the final seconds, goalie Billy Hurley maintained his position in two sets for Notre Dame with its 4-3 victory.

After the Irish took their biggest lead midway through the final period, the Irish held an 8-5 lead, its largest of the game.

split

continued from page 20

we were able to pull through.” In singles play, each Irish player lost their competition in two sets, with the exception of second singles player sophomore Shannon Mathews, whose third set loss was decided in a tiebreaker. The 16-2 Bears handed the Irish their third loss of the season.

“I hope we play them in the NCAAs so I can try to redeem myself,” Frilling said.

Monday, the tables turned for the Irish. The Irish defeated the Aggies in all six matches clinching the win for the Irish.

Cosmina Ciobanu in fourth singles clinched the win for the Irish. From Frilling in first singles and Rafael in third doubles team of Frilling and Krisik received their 15th consecutive win.

Krisik finished first in singles play for the Irish as she shut out her opponent in the sixth singles position in two sets for Notre Dame’s second point. Though the Aggies claimed the next point after Rafael fell in the fifth singles spot, the next singles victories from Frilling in first singles and Cosmina Ciobanu in fourth singles clinched the win for the Irish.

“Doubles is only one point, so we need to work on our singles play for the Irish,” Frilling said. “They were vocal and intense.”

Texas A&M boasts a large fan base with more viewers than the women are used to, which proved to be a challenging aspect of playing in College Station, Texas.

“Going into the homestretch of the season, Corrigan hopes his team will find the consistency in avoiding errors it has been searching for throughout the campaign.

“ar it’s as simple as this: We’ve got to stop giving away goals at the defensive end and wasting opportunities on the offensive end,” Corrigan said. “We’ve got to play smarter consistently.”

The Irish look to snap their two-game losing streak and find their first Big East victory when Georgetown visits Arlotta Stadium on Sunday in a clash televised on ESPNU.

Coyne

continued from page 20

Coyne said. “We played great defense at the end of the game. We had great passing and finishing. We totally played well. Our jump shots were very good.”

As the Irish head into a three-game homestand, Coyne said the Irish will continue to improve after getting through a grueling road portion of their schedule.

“Certain goals wanted to be in a different place than being 6-4,” Coyne said. “But we’re totally looking forward. We have no bad losses on our schedule, as we lost to top-10 teams. We’ve had disappointing close losses, but it’s helped us out in close games like the Loyola game and we’ll continue to focus on making the Big East tournament and achieving our goals.”

The Irish will get back on the field at Arlotta Stadium against Villanova at 4:30 p.m. on Friday.
THE OBSERVER

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Notre Dame returns to fundamentals in win

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Taking a break from a rigorous schedule can be the best thing for a struggling team. With the Irish coming off a 1-5 run against Big East foes South Florida and Georgetown, Oakland provided that relief, as Notre Dame took full advantage of the non-conference matchup to get back to the fundamentals.

Notre Dame (10-17, 1-5) pounded out 12 hits against the Golden Grizzlies (6-15) en route to a convincing 13-6 victory. The Irish were paced at the plate by senior second baseman Frank DeSico, who went 4 for 4, including a towering solo home run in the third inning to bring the Irish even at the time.

“I thought we really started swinging the bats in Georgetown,” Schrage said, “so hopefully that will continue, and see BATS/page 17

WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Team splits pair of close contests at Georgetown, Loyola

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

The No. 15 Irish recorded plenty of experience in close end-game situations over Easter weekend as they split a pair of games, losing to No. 14 Easter weekend as they split a pair of games, losing to No. 13 Loyola, 11-10, and pair of games, losing to No. 14 Easter weekend as they split a pair of games, losing to No. 13 Loyola, 11-10.

The game against Georgetown (5-5) featured runs by both teams, as the Irish (6-4) rallied from a 6-1 deficit in the first half, scoring five of the final six goals of the period to close the deficit to 7-6. The teams traded goals in the second half, but after junior Kailene Abt’s fourth goal of the game tied it 10-10 with 11.27 left to play, Georgetown netted two goals over the remaining minutes to pull out the close victory. Georgetown outshot the Irish 32-21 and won 18 of 24 draw controls in the contest, which gave the Hoyas a decided edge.

“The draw controls against Georgetown were horrible,” Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. “We’ve struggled with that, and the girls know that. We worked on it on Sunday, and there was a huge improvement in the second half against Loyola.”

While the Irish struggled with draw controls, they lowered their turnovers to six against the Hoyas. Coyne was happy with her team’s effort on the road against a ranked opponent.

“It is traditionally this kind of game against Georgetown,” Coyne said. “They had great looks and converted them. We had two yellow cards and that can always hurt you in games like this. Overall, I think it was a well-played game on both sides.”

The Irish found themselves yet again in a late-game situation with the score tied 10-10 against the No. 13 Greyhounds (8-4).

Junior Ansley Stewart scored a goal with six seconds left in the game to give the Irish the 11-10 victory. Coyne had nothing but praise for her team’s effort.

“Playing two nationally ranked programs on the road, back-to-back, in the heat, this was a huge weekend for us,” see COYNE/page 18

WOMEN’S TENNIS

Squad falls to Bears, defeats Texas A&M

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

The No. 6 Irish won their 13th consecutive doubles point but split two matches over the long weekend, winning 4-3 over Texas A&M and losing 6-1 to No. 2 Baylor.

“They were tough matches with tough conditions for both of them,” sophomore Kristy Frilling said. “To summarize both of them, I think overall as a team we played really well.”

Saturday, the Irish fell to the Bears despite winning the first point of the game.

“Baylor is always tough because they have all talented players,” Frilling said. “When we played them we expect a tough match from them every year.”

After falling in the second doubles competition, third doubles players freshman Chrissie McGuffin and junior Kristen Krisik decided the highly sought after doubles point in favor of the Irish as they beat their No. 12 Baylor opponents, 8-6.

“Krisik and I had a really tough match,” Frilling said. “We lost to them a few times last season, and we’re all really glad