Professor Dan Philpott describes his upcoming trip to Kashmir where he will assist in a reconciliation seminar. Cynthia Mahmood will also travel to Kashmir as an observer for the Kroc Institute.

**ND professors journey to Kashmir to promote, study peace**

By ANDREW THAGARD
Assistant News Editor

Two Notre Dame professors and members of the Kroc Institute are traveling to Kashmir Tuesday to promote and study the peacemaking process in the volatile region.

Dan Philpott, director of undergraduate studies at the Kroc and assistant professor of political science, is traveling on behalf of the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy (ICRD), a Washington, D.C.-based non-governmental organization. Cynthia Mahmood, director of graduate studies at the Kroc and associate professor of anthropology, will travel as an observer for the Institute.

The trip is centered around a three-day seminar on reconciliation in Islamabad on the Pakistani side of Kashmir but will also include meetings with politicians, militants and religious leaders. Their visit comes at a crucial time for the war-torn region, which is controlled partly by India and Pakistan. Leaders from the two nuclear powers have announced plans to host the most significant peace talks since escalating violence broke out in 1989. Control of the region has been a contentious and often bloody issue since the two nations gained independence from Britain in 1947.

While smaller in scope when compared to the work of governments and high-profile international organizations, the mission of ICRD is no less ambitious.

"We’re talking about something much more than a peace settlement," Philpott said. "Our goal is to build up a movement of reconciliation in Kashmir society."

Inverso, Philpott and Mahmood said true peace can only be achieved when the ordinary Kashmiri can change his perception of the situation and open his heart. The seminar, the sixth in a series led by senior ICRD vice president Brian Cox, includes 10 lectures each followed by group discussions.

The seminar challenges the participants to look at the suffering of their community.

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**ND questions grade inflation**

By JOE TROMBELLO
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame is not the only university to recognize the presence of grade inflation, as rising grades have been problematic at other highly regarded institutions nationwide.

"I think it’s a well-known fact that students across the nation are receiving higher grades than their peers of 20, 30 or 40 years ago," said Chuck Boboski, director of admissions operations at the Notre Dame Law School.

Grade inflation at Harvard University made national news when the Boston Globe reported in 2001 that more than 50 percent of Harvard’s students were graduating with honors.

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**Student hosts show prospects campus life**

By TRICIA de GROOT
News Writer

The freshmen who hosted prospective members of the Class of 2008 last week wanted their guests to feel like just the opposite.

Instead of merely taking the prospects on campus tours and to informational meetings — activities that any visitor could attend — the hosts did their best to expose the new students to campus life from the inside out.

These host students, selected by the Notre Dame Admissions Department because they expressed an interest in entertaining prospective students at the activities night in September or because they responded to an e-mail requesting host students, said they introduced their prospects to the Notre Dame experience by taking them to classes, showing them their favorite places on campus, bringing them to the opposite sex’s dorms and taking them to special events such as Bengal Bouts and interhall hockey games.

Freshman Joe O’Brien said that his own campus visit as a prospect last year encouraged him to pass along the tradition.

"I was one of the people who was hosted last year, and I thought it was a good experience," he said. O’Brien added that showing his visitor Notre Dame’s unique residence hall atmosphere was a first priority.

I wanted [the prospective student] to know about the dorm communities and the sense of family that we have on campus. I really emphasized the fact that here we accept everyone and that
INSIDE COLUMN

Ready to start

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't scared. After being named the 38th editor in chief for The Observer four weeks ago, my head hasn't stopped spinning. Hiring department editors, working on the budget and trying to learn everything possible from outgoing editor in chief Andrew Soukup (who took this paper to a new level, just look at the honors on today's front page) has made me feel like I'm not ready to take over running the campus newspaper. But then I look at the people surrounding me, and I know the year will be a success.

My managing editor Meghann Downes and assistant managing editor Joe Heidler have the same passion for The Observer that I do, maybe more. They know how to put in 30-40 hours a week while balancing a full class load and not go crazy.

These two talented people run the biggest two editorial departments at The Observer, and I couldn't be more blessed to have them right by my side for the journey.

The department editors in them to keep their sections running at the high quality they run each and every day.

Yes, we will make mistakes, and I know my friends along with the rest of the rest, as they say, is history.

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FASO sponsors 10th annual Fiestang festival

Bigger, better Saturday evening cultural celebration included dinner, dancing

By KATIE MOUNTS
News Writer

Saturday night marked the 10th annual Fiestang - a Filipino cultural celebration of dinner and dancing that has advanced a long way since its inception.

Andrew Soukup, co-president of the Filipino American Student Organization (FASO), has watched Fiestang since its first show in 1995, and said that interest and attendance have "improved dramatically" since then. He remembers when place in pot to be brought in to help with the student support, and that only about 40 people attended - a number that has multiplied since.

"Everybody was really excited about the first show," Soukup said.

FASO capped the percentage of students, faculty and community members attending this year's event. "Each year, it just gets bigger and bigger," she said. "It's been a really good experience, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

FASO's next event, "Lumpia Night," will take place on March 25 as a part of Spring Violation Prevention Week.

Contact Katie Mounts at kmounts@nd.edu
Grade
continued from page 1
According to the Office of Institutional Research, the percentage of University undergraduate courses in which half or more students received a grade of A or A− has climbed from 43.6 percent in the spring of 1994 to 44.0 percent in spring 2003. The College of Engineering has experienced the most dramatic increase during this period—from 24.6 percent in spring 1994 to 39.7 percent in spring 2003—an increase of almost 129 percent. The study showed the College of Arts & Letters having the highest percentage with 74.1 percent in spring 2003, while the College of Architecture had only a 25 percent mark in the same semester.

Faculty in the College of Science, which experienced a rise in A grades from 25 percent in 1994 to 42.1 percent in 2003, said that grade inflation in this decade has tapered off. Charles Kulpa, chair of the department of biological sciences, said he believes inflation in his department flattened after increasing somewhat during the ’80s and ’90s. “I believe that the trend in courses where (the average GPA) is around a 3.0,” he said. “In some courses it’s higher.”

Faculty and students nonetheless have expressed a divergence of opinions over these statistics, with many citing the dramatic increase in student profiles—such as SAT scores and high school class rank—over the same time period—as explaining this grade increase. Seventy-nine percent of students entering college in fall 1993 were ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class and had a mean SAT score of 1218, while 84 percent of all students who entered in 2003 ranked in the top ten percent of their class. These students had a mean SAT score of 1359 (the test was re-centered in 1995, partially explaining the rise in SAT scores).

The historical perspective
Joseph Walter, chair of the department of pre-professional studies since 1971, said grade inflation began to occur at Notre Dame and across the nation in 1972 with the institution of the Vietnam War draft. If you gave students Ds and even Cs, they would come in (to your office and literally) cry,” he said. “More often than not, they were off to Vietnam. They begged you not to [give that grade]. This was true not only here, but it happened at other universities and all over the nation.

Walter said students in his Analytical Chemistry class in the 1967-68 academic year earned 19 Cs, four Ds and two Fs. By 1972-73, only one student earned a C, the lowest grade in the class with five Bs. No student earned a C or below in a similar course in 1987.

Walter said medical schools have also seen a similar rise in student profiles on applications. He said in the 1950s and 1960s, students generally applied to two or three medical schools and had an average GPA of approximately 2.7. “That student would not be admitted today,” he said. “As years have gone by, the training and caliber of students has increased.”

Walter estimated that the average GPA of a student currently accepted into medical school is 3.4. Higher caliber students
Walter said students within different colleges have expressed a diversity of opinions concerning grade inflation. Most have said the rise is primarily due to the better quality of students Notre Dame has been able to accept.

“I’m not so sure that it’s grade inflation,” Walter said. “I perceive it as, the calibrator of students are increasing, you have to have as wide a range of grades. Most students would be fairly similar.”

Sam Gaglio, assistant dean of the Mendoza College of Business, said the rise in grades makes sense with the corresponding increase in the profiles of admitted students.

“We have good students and a lot of people are working at a high level,” he said. “It’s feasible to have a lot of good students, especially given the tightening of the admission requirements,” he said.

Gaglio said faculty often choose not to curve grades so that students will receive Cs or Ds. Assessing grades in this way, he said, would unfairly penalize many.

“The assumption is that grade inflation is a bad thing,” he said. “If you give students Ds and [they] cry, we have to make sure not to penalize our good students. I’m not going to arbitrarily give someone a C.” The intent here is to make sure we give the right kind of grade.

Mark Roche, dean of the College of Arts & Letters, said grade inflation isn’t necessarily a problem if it means students are simply receiving better teaching or more attention from instructors, but that the grades should not simply serve to differentiate students but rather to assess the knowledge that students have obtained.

Roche said it is important for grades to document whether a student has achieved the learning goals of a course, he said. “(And) to demarcate differences.”

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The downside of grade inflation
Sunny Boyd, associate professor of biological sciences, says rampant grade inflation can severely impact the credibility of an institution, and believes that distinguishing students who have worked very hard in a given course and thoroughly understand the material is important.

“When we have larger courses with a diversity of people, I’m sure there are differences in knowledge and effort, and these differences should be reflected in grades,” she said. “It’s also important to our credibility as an institution that grades reflect knowledge. ... We want to maintain our reputation as being a demanding institution.”

Boyd said artificially inflating grades in order not to damage a student’s chance of graduate school acceptance ultimately proves detrimental to all parties.

“My approach is making the course rigorous enough that I can feel comfortable that students who get As deserve them,” she said. “I have not been influenced by the idea that I should help students get into medical school by giving them higher grades. Giving people that are not academically strong [artificially high grades] is not doing anybody a favor.”

Contact Joe Trombello at jotrombel@nd.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iraqi council misses deadline

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's U.S.-picked leaders failed Monday to meet a new deadline for adopting an interim constitution but were expected to find compromise soon on contentious issues including the role of Islamic law and the status of women.

Earlier Saturday, the top U.S. advisor in Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, met with members of the Governing Council in an attempt to overcome the differences. An official in the U.S.-led coalition, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a charter could be completed Sunday.

At issue are efforts by conservatives to ensure the text remains inclusive in terms of the role of religious law and the status of women. Iraqis also have until late Monday to submit amendments to the proposed charter.

Israeli gunship targets militants

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — An Israeli helicopter fired missiles at a car in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, killing three people — including an Islamic Jihad militant — and wounding 15 others, doctors said.

One of the dead was identified by his family as Islamic Jihad militant Aymen Dabouh. The other two victims were not immediately identified.

The car was pulverized, and Palestinian security officials strained to keep order around the scene as surging crowds jumped on the wreckage and called for revenge.

The coming of February seeking mates for the annual convention is not something skunks’ fancy turns to thoughts of other than a residence address by Hargon, whose wife is the beginning of a new chapter," President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said at the White House. "I would urge the people of Haiti to reject violence to give this break from the past a chance to work. And the United States is prepared to help."

After word spread of the president's departure, angry Aristide supporters roamed the streets armed with old rifles, pistols, machetes and sticks. Some fired wildly into crowds on the Champ de Mars, the main square in front of the National Palace.

On the main John Brown Boulevard, Aristide followers armed with shotguns set up a roadblock; after some spot, later, they had disappeared — behind the bullet-riddled bodies of three men sprawled inside an all-terrain vehicle.

The head of Haiti's supreme court said he was taking charge of the government, and a key rebel leader said he welcomed the arrival of foreign troops.

"I think the worst is over, and we're waiting for the international forces. They will have our full cooperation," Guy Philippe told CNN.

The U.N. Security Council planned consultations for later Sunday, and the United States hoped it would approve a resolution to authorize international peacekeepers for Haiti, which erupted into violence 3 1/2 weeks ago when rebels began driving power from towns and cities in the north.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, would not say how many Marines were expected in the speedy deployment, which President Bush ordered hours only after Aristide fled under pressure from the United States and former colonial power France.

France decided to send a detachment of between 120-140 soldiers to Haiti, said Catherine Colonna, spokesman for President Jacques Chirac. She said the troops would arrive Monday and they would work "in coordination with the United States."

A 50-member Marine anti-terrorist security team has been in Port-au-Prince for several days helping secure the U.S. embassy, Canadian troops were seen guarding the airport in Port-au-Prince.

Though not aligned with rebels, the political opposition also had pushed for Aristide to leave for the good of Haiti's 8 million people, angered by poverty, corruption and crime.

Haiti

Aristide resigns, flees into exile

Top judge assumes power as capital descends into anarchy; U.S. wants U.N. aid

Cops grill kin of missing family

TAYLORSVILLE, Miss. — Investigators searching for a family of three who disappeared and were questioned one of their relatives Saturday and searched his property in southern Mississippi.

Earnest Lee Hargon, an adopted cousin of the missing family, was in custody and was being questioned, said Warren Strain, a state Highway Patrol spokesman.

Authoritative sources have said off a county road on both sides of Leaf River Veterinary Services as part of the investigation. The clinic was given as a residence address in Hargon, whose wife is a veterinarian, Strain said.

Ethanol tanker explodes in Atlantic

Blast kills at least 3 crewmen off Va. shore; Coast Guard searches for survivors

U.S. steps up bin Laden search

WASHINGTON — The United States is preparing to drop air bombs on a "known, wanted" Bin Laden and his top deputies.

The car was pulverized, and Palestinian security officials strained to keep order around the scene as surging crowds jumped on the wreckage and called for revenge.

The other two victims were not immediately identified. One of the dead was identified by his family as Islamic Jihad militant Aymen Dabouh. The other two victims were not immediately identified.

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Kashmir
continued from page 1

and [decide if] they want to see
good words of encouragement.
While this seminar is geared to a mostly Muslim crowd, prev-
ious ones have included Hindu, Islamic and Buddhist par-
ticipants. To date, 350 people have attended the seminars and 100
graduates have continued to discuss reconciliation within "mutual	knowledge of violence, particularly widows
and orphans.
While the results of its work are
generally less visible, IC2D has
found a great degree of suc-
cess in a movement with elite
groups and gross roots elements.
By meeting with regional politi-
cians, militants and religious
leaders, Philpott said he hopes
to further develop relationships of
trust and create
important net-
works. The trip is of interest to
Mahmood in part,
because it comple-
ments her work
focusing on war
and peace and
conflict resolution.
Although the
two praised the
potential benefits
of the trip, they
also acknowl-
edged the possibil-
danger of getting
traveling to the
region despite the
group not
encountering problems in the
past.
"We've all
accepted that a cer-
tain degree of
risk taking is
inherent to this work."
Cynthia Mahmood
Kroc Institute

Editors
continued from page 1

previously worked as an assis-
tant news editor.
Van Hoegarden, a sophomore
from Pasquerilla West, is an
accounting major from Burr
Ridge, Il. She has covered
women's basketball and volley-
ball.
Saud is a junior majoring in
English writing with a minor in
history from South Bend, South
Dundie, and is currently working
as an intern for The Observer.
Kelley, who is currently
abroad in Rome, began
reporting on sports and news last year.
Although the
knowledge and approval of
the group was not
required for them to
attend, Mahmood
said it was important for
them to know about the
difference in India and Pakistan.
"All of the work we've
done over there has been done
with the knowledge and approval
of both governments," Philpott
said.
Contact Andrew Thagard at
athagard@nd.edu

Come and join the Campus Bible Study

Learn what Jesus taught by reading and discussing His words.
1 day a week-1 hour per session
Attending CBS would be a solid Lenten practice.
Meeting every Tuesday at 7:00 pm
in room 114K Coleman - Morse Center
If needed, Bibles provided.
For more info call Fr. Al 631-5955
Campus Ministry

**Market Recap**

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**Company Briefs**

**Disney shareholders await vote**

LOS ANGELES — Michael Eisner probably won't lose his job at the annual Walt Disney Co. shareholders meeting this week in Philadelphia but his boss intends to make sure he at least feels nervous about the possibility.

Ex-board members Roy E. Disney and Stanley Gold hope Wednesday to persuade at least 20 percent of shareholders to withhold their approval for Eisner and three other board members. The company is preparing for a dissident vote as high as 30 percent.

Eisner's re-election to the board is not in doubt because he is running unopposed.

Sprint to combine tracking stocks

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — Sprint Corp. announced Sunday that it will combine the company's two tracking stocks into a single common stock under the symbol PIM on the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1998, the company created a tracking stock for its wireless business, Sprint PCS, which trades on the NYSE under the symbol PCS. Sprint has just over one billion PCS shares and about 906 million PIM shares outstanding.

PCS common stock will be eliminated and each share of PCS common stock will be converted into one share of common stock on April 23, 2004, leaving about 1.4 billion total shares outstanding after the recombination.

**Visa to expand car rental coverage**

NEW YORK — Visa USA announced that it will provide car rental insurance to all of its credit card holders, effective today.

The company, based in San Francisco, said the insurance — also known as collision damage waiver coverage — was previously available only for select cards.

"As a result of these changes, an additional 75 million Visa card holders, and more than 185 million in total, will now benefit," said Al Haines, senior vice president for Visa's consumer credit products.

To get the coverage, consumers must use their Visa card when renting a car and decline the rental car company's offer of collision damage insurance.

**Entertainment**

"The Passion" pulls in $118M

Religious furor, debate fuel massive box office receipts; already year's top draw

Actor Mel Gibson talks with Jay Leno about his new movie "The Passion of the Christ" during a Thursday taping of "The Tonight Show." The film has become a dark horse box-office blockbuster, raking in $117.5 million in less than a week.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mel Gibson's gamble on "The Passion of the Christ" paid off enormously, drawing a storm of religious debate to a $117.5 million haul in its first five days, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"The Passion," which debuted on Ash Wednesday, rocketed to the No. 1 box-office slot for the weekend with $76.2 million from Friday to Sunday.

It was the seventh-best three-day opening ever, behind "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace" at $113.4 million and such Hollywood franchises as "The Matrix Reloaded" and the first two "Harry Potter" movies.

"The Passion" put up the second-best five-day figures for a movie opening on Wednesday, behind last year's "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" at $124.1 million and ahead of "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace" at $105.5 million.

The first movie released in 2004 to cross the $100 million mark, "The Passion" easily passed the weekend's No. 2, "50 First Dates," at $88.7 million, as the year's top-grossing film.

Once considered the film that would appeal mainly to conservative Christians, the bloody chronicle of Christ's crucifixion and block-buster proportions as Gibson railed church groups to support it and accusations of anti-Semitism brought mainstream attention.

"It's an event movie," said Bruce Davey, Gibson's partner in his film company leased out to production companies when he began with the grass-roots campaign we started, but the controversy has obviously helped in creating awareness.

Jewish and Christian leaders have said they fear "The Passion" will revolve the notion that Jews collectively were responsible for Christ's death.

Gibson has denied such accusations, and key cast members — including Jim Caviezel, who plays Christ, and Maia Morgenstern, a Jewish actress who plays Mary — said Gibson approached the film with great respect for Judaism.

Gibson put up the movie's $25 million budget and will reap most of the returns.

Hollywood studios passed over or were put off by the movie's "R" rating for its violence, which included a one-time bonus but no raise.

People union stood in lines to vote, said Barbara Mynard, a UFCW representative.

"The Passion" provided a box-office jolt for theaters, whose ticket sales were running 7 percent behind last year's.

"The Passion" took in more money than the rest of the top 12 combined, with other new movies making barely a ripple.

The Ashley Judd crime thriller "Twisted" debuted at No. 3 with $9.1 million from Friday to Sunday. "Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights," a prequel to the 1980s hit, opened in fifth place with $5.9 million. The horror spoof "Broken Lizard's Club Dread" premiered at No. 10 with $3.3 million.

**Labor Relations**

**Grocery workers vote on contract**

LOS ANGELES — Grocery workers spent a second Sunday voting on a tentative contract that would end a strike and lockout that has crippled Southern California's grocery industry for nearly two years.

Thousands of members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union spent the day voting, said Barbara Maynard, a UFCW spokeswoman. They had until mid­night to vote, which requires them to pay for health bene­fits for the first time since the strike includes a one-time bonus but no raise.

The tentative agreement between the union and grocery companies covers 70,000 employees of Albertsons Inc., Kroger Co. and Safeway Inc.

Since Oct. 11, about 59,000 workers have been on strike or locked out. The companies continued working at markets by special agreement while the contract was negotiated.

The 4 1/2-month dispute gained national attention because it was seen as a referendum on affordable employee health care. Presidential candidates John Kerry and John Edwards were among those who railed behind the grocery workers.

Many employees said Sunday they were eager to return to their jobs and voted to ratify the deal, although some observed that the offer was not much different from one the union rejected in October.

It was unknown whether replacement workers would be immediately released if the contract was approved by union members.

An agreement was reached Friday. Workers said the contract offer included a ratification bonus of 30 cents for every hour worked in the year before the strike-lockout began.

Under the expired contract, workers paid no monthly premiums for health benefits and a $10 copay for doctor's visits and prescriptions.

The new offer includes no premiums for the first two years of the contract. Beginning in the third year, however, workers would pay $5 a week for individual coverage and $15 a week for family coverage, according to a union fact sheet given to workers.

Employees said their co-payments would increase to $25 for a doctor's visit and $100 for treatment at a hospital emergency room.

The proposed agreement differential between current workers and those hired after Oct. 5, when the old contract expired. New employees would receive a lower wage rate, and it would take them longer to get raises, according to the fact sheet.
Emerging from the sea of apathy

One of the greatest legacies bestowed upon the Baby Boomer Generation is the wave of apathy and cynicism embodied by Generations X and Y. Baby Boomers are our parents, our professors and our politicians. While they exposed the true nature behind the postwar American utopia, their deconstructive legacy has left a philosophical void in our generation’s souls. Only recently have we begun to turn the tide.

Political correctness became the shining light of the disenfranchised; moral relativism, the cornerstones of academia; and divorce, the natural consequence of marriage. American leaders, once revered for their strength, turned into one-liners for talk show hosts. Now the largest religion in America can hardly be discussed openly, much less expressed outwardly.

Their minds were opened, now ours are closed—not to the plurality of moral codes and personal philosophies, but to the adoption of a single one that can serve to define the self. Why such reluctance? Perhaps the parallel trend of diminishing personal responsibility offers clues.

“The it’s not my fault” mantra is now celebrated by everyone from trial lawyers to psychiatrists to opportunistic civil rights leaders with quick-fix solutions for problems that in part could be solved through a bit of personal contemplation and self-motivation. In such an atmosphere, the most difficult thing one can do is develop a personal philosophy that might be blamed for personal shortcomings at some point in the future. Defining oneself on purely situational grounds to maximize short-term gains seems to be the only rational path to follow.

Scourged for their purportedly narrow-minded or intolerant world views, some say that the greatest sin one can commit is to insult another’s views converted towards this ambiguous center, where comfort generated apathy.

Dissatisfied at every level only fed this apathy by instructing their students to deconstruct their hollow views and embrace a shallow bynnm of multicultural understanding that discouraged ideological pluralism in favor of ethnic and cultural diversities. The latter is an essential component of modern society, but the prospect of celebrating philosophical diversity causes many to recoil in fear of offending those with conflicting views shaped by something as fundamental as ethnicity.

Today our generation faces the task of redefining itself through individual rather than collective means. Focusing on how cultural identity helps shape the self is a small step in the right direction, but overcoming the fear of expressing a firm ideological or political view is the most crucial component. We cannot rely on an educational system to teach critical thinking; instead, we must look inward and confront the voice in our head that says the easiest path is that of least resistance.

After regaining confidence in our values, the next step is outward expression in a more public forum. Remember that kid in your first-year classes who asked all of the stupid questions, knowing his professor would mercifully shoot him down every time? Despite his ignorance and stubbornness, he was still the bravest one in the classroom. Taking a lesson from his example might prove more enlightening and worthwhile than it previously assumed.

While a few professors relish the ability to sweep their students’ values away as a misguided strategy for opening their minds, you must not fear expressing your opinions, particularly if they diverge from the professor’s view. In fact, a professor’s challenge to your opinion as merely an opportunity to discount it, take the challenge as an opportunity to question and possibly reaffirm your own values. If you do decide that your previous biases and opinions were flawed, then find a revised view to fit in its place rather than falling into the sea of apathy.

The tragic events of September 11 will define our generation as we decide whether or not to overcome our indifference and engage ourselves in the surrounding world. Being forced to use an incident of such tremendous magnitude as an opportunity to explore one’s personal identity is regrettable but completely necessary. This year’s election will afford us an opportunity to decide the future path of the nation, domestically and internationally.

Disregarding individual perceptions of President George W. Bush, he threw down the gauntlet to the international community by considering terrorist attacks against the nation an act of war. His subsequent foreign policy decisions attempted to address the root of the problem both directly and indirectly. As a nation, we must either fully commit to his vision or replace the playbook entirely.

Do you support the path of the nation, or should we make a drastic revision? Make up your mind, raise your hand, voice your opinion and defend it vigorously. Otherwise, the sea of apathy is wide enough to fit anyone who’s up for a swim.

Bill Rinner is a junior economics major studying abroad at the London School of Economics. He wishes to thank a dear friend who provided invaluable input for this column. His column normally appears every other Friday, and he can be contacted at winrer@nd.edu.

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

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**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

How many midterms do you have?

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

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Opinions have greater power than strength of hands."

Sophocles

Greek tragedian
**THE OBSERVER**

**LETS EAT, GATHER TOGETHER**

Homosexuals deserve tolerance and acceptance

Homophobic aura perpetuates campus

Monday, March 1, 2004

**THE VENETIAN**

**LET'S DO LUNCH**

Government needs to retain separation of church and state

Kevin Osborne

Kearny Hall
Feb. 25
Hate is an emotion with many faces. It can be blatant and violent, but it can also be quiet and subtle and grow in places where it would never be expected.

Steven Dietz's play "God's Country," performed by the Department of Film, Television and Theater last weekend, and examines the full range of racial hatred. The play follows the true story of a white supremacist neo-Nazi group known as The Order that operated in the Western United States in the early 1980s. The group participated in forgery and robbery in order to raise funding for its anti-Semitic initiatives. The group plotted the assassinations of prominent Jewish public figures. Eventually several members of The Order were convicted of the murder of Denver-based Jewish radio talk show host Alan Berg, that becomes the focus of the play.

Dietz describes the full spectrum of racial hate in his play, moving from intimate personal interactions between Order members and their families, to Order ceremonies and actual transcripts of courtroom investigations. The play moves in an increasingly intense montage of scenes culminating in the conviction of nine Order members. Many of the members portrayed in the play are still serving jail sentences today.

The play was not easy to watch or to perform. "It was intense, it really was," senior Adel Hanash said. "The whole time you have to tell yourself this really happened. This is based off real events."

"We actually had someone walk out of auditions during the skinhead scene," senior Justin Williams said. "They were so upset by it they left."

"God's Country" provides actors with a different sort of challenge from many plays. Dietz uses an ensemble cast in which actors are assigned numbers instead of names. There is no main character or lead, and several actors play more than one role. The play also features a nameless boy and a nameless voice, which are crucial to the play's development. At many points the actors seem to be less individual characters than part of an overarching characterization of hate and the institutions that support or oppose it. The method is particularly effective considering the topic — as the members of racial hate groups band together under a unifying idea. The actors in the play band together to portray a unified concept.

Cast chemistry is an important aspect of a play where the actors have to work together so closely. Many of the actors in the play have worked together before, and their history together showed in how well the cast interacted in last weekend's performance.

Hanash, cast as Actor Three, was one of the few characters that played a single role and did not frequently interact with the other characters. "A lot of what they did, they had to be at the same pace, on the same level, and it really clicked."

"God's Country" is a play about...
being brought up to believe in their doctrines of racial hatred. He also serves to highlight the duality in the characters of people who seek to strengthen their love of home and family through unequivocal hatred of other groups. Bacon played the part of a young boy very convincingly, but the play would have benefited from more developed personal interaction between the boy and his parents.

The lab theater in Washington Hall can be a difficult venue to use effectively, since at points it puts the actors less than a foot from the audience. However, it gives groups the luxury of choosing where to seat the audience to most effectively watch the play. For "God's Country," director Meg Ryan chose to have the audience sit on either side of the performers. The arrangement can make staging difficult since the actors must always be facing away from some audience members. However, this production of "God's Country" took much of its power from having the audience so close and surrounding the performers. This is a play about hate prospering in small communities in hometown America, and watching the play from close enough to see the labels on Bacon's jeans and smell the cigarettes Alan Berg, played by Adel Hanash, smoked onstage only brought the play closer to home.

"I think this play was probably originally designed for a normal stage, and the technical aspects would have worked better on a normal stage," Williams said. "But being right up in someone's face was an advantage. It made the show much more intense and powerful."

Ryan also used costume color well to contribute to the collective sense of the play. Most of the actors dressed in black and white, and occasionally red or blue, whether appearing in business suits or preaching in robes. Berg stood out in his brown corduroys as someone outside the circle of what was going on, and clearly a victim of dangerous circumstances.

The cast only had a month to rehearse before performing its show, and several actors had conflicts with other plays or graduate school auditions in Chicago. The short rehearsal time only made their emotional performance of a difficult play that much more effective.

"To be presented with something like that was a great opportunity," Williams said. "The play itself is not fun, but getting to do something different and portraying a character that I am nothing like is the interesting part of theater."

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu

Above, the ensemble cast of "God's Country" gathers at the beginning of the play. A nameless boy (Brittany Bacon) holds the candle. To the right, a member of a white supremacist group tortures a former student leader of his order. Below, members of The Order salute one of their leaders.

Photos courtesy of MEGAN RYAN
Hockey

For the Irish this year, the sky is the limit

Let's put this thing in perspective. The last time Notre Dame swept Michigan at home in hockey was March 5-6, 1982. Freshman goalie David Brown, who started both games, won both games, and the Irish this weekend, wasn't even alive.

For that matter, neither were Mike Walsh, Jason Paige, T.J. Jindra, Neil Komadoski, nor Rob Goblke — who all scored goals in Notre Dame's win.

These guys sure look like they were born to beat Michigan.

"Me being a freshman, I really wasn't that aware of the Michigan rivalry," Brown said after Saturday's 5-2 victory. "I've sure learned how to hate them though in the days leading up to this weekend."

There's no question this weekend meant a lot more to the Irish than the visiting Wolverines. Michigan needed to keep fighting for home ice in the first round of the NCAA tournament. While Notre Dame was fighting for a lock for the maize and blue.

"We talked before this game, and I said that Michigan was really going to come out and rally around (Ruden)," Poulin said Saturday.

Notre Dame's coach might want to consider moonlighting as a Fortune teller, because that's exactly what happened. The Irish didn't even get a shot on Ruden Saturday until 8:44 into the game.

Luckily for the Irish, the first shot also turned out to be a goal. Notre Dame's early lead only seemed to infuriate Michigan, who came back in the second period with two goals in less than three minutes to take the lead.

At that point, Notre Dame could have folded. They'd already done more than anyone had expected before the weekend — beating Michigan in the Joyce Center the night before. It would have been easy to have taken the two points from Friday and play a less-passionate effort Saturday — to just be satisfied with a split.

It wasn't. Senior Night, though, and Notre Dame's seniors had more than that. The seniors have been through a lot of games in the past where we were getting outscored, and we learned to stay patient and work through it," senior forward Goblke said. "We knew that we just needed to keep playing our game and that this was going to be eventual — it.

It made sense then that Komadoski — a senior — would score the goal to make it 2-2. Just another example of David (Brown and his teammates) battling Goblke. This time, the Irish have knocked off a total of four teams who are currently ranked in the top 10. Boston College, No. 3 Maine, No. 4 Michigan and No. 6 Wisconsin.

Assuming Notre Dame doesn't completely collapse toward the end of this season, the first NCAA Tournament berth in the school's history could be on the horizon with that kind of impressive résumé. They've certainly shown they are capable of beating country's very best.

In discussing the play of his seniors Saturday, Poulin called to set up plays. "When we get a man advantage when we get a man advantage, they react. We take poise in those situations," Poulin said. "We utilized our timeouts helped set up the 7-5 halftime lead and laid the groundwork for a blowout sec-ond half, the coach refuses to take the credit.

"Our guys came out with great poise in those situations," Poulin said. "I think our playmakers in a comfortable situation, they had an advantage when we get a man up.

Junior midfielder Will Jones led the Nittany Lions attack, scoring his first goal of the game to make the score 1-1 at the 7:10 mark of the first quarter. He finished with three goals and one assist.

Following a Charlie Perry goal for Penn State the 6:35 mark of the second quarter, however, the Irish closed the first half with three straight goals. Berger scored off one of Howell's two assists, and the Irish got two goals before the half, which came after timeouts that Corrigan called to set up plays in the game.

Hubschman tallied an assist.

The first half saw the Irish get on the board first with a goal from sophomore midfielder Kevin Hubschman (two goals, two assists). The teams then traded goals through the half.

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Seton Hall at Connecticut 7 p.m., ESPN

NHL
Lightning at Avalanche 8 p.m., ESPN2

Blackhawks at Predators 8 p.m., FSN

USA Today Hockey Poll

BCS agrees to add fifth game to increase access

The BCS President Oversight Committee agreed to add a fifth game Sunday, increasing access for schools not part of college football’s most lucrative postseason system.

The champions of the six BCS conferences — the Big East, ACC, SEC, Big 12, Big Ten and Pac-10 — will maintain automatic berths in one of the five games. The remaining four spots will be at-large berths to be decided by a complex formula using national rankings.

The fifth bowl is still subject to final approval based on market viability, but all indications point to it being in place when the new BCS contract takes effect before the 2006 season.

“This agreement is a significant victory for college sports and higher education,” NCAA president Myles Brand said.

White House proposes steroid summit

The White House wants to organize a summit of representatives from the major sports leagues and the U.S. Olympic Committee to discuss steroid use by athletes.

Officials at major league baseball, the NFL, NBA, NHL and USOC confirmed Sunday that they were contacted by the White House about such a meeting.

“I think the White House had some discussions about this,” said NPF Players’ Association executive director Gene Upshaw. “But we’re not interested in taking part in the meeting — but only if other participants were.

“We’re not looking to be in a position to be the only ones at a summit,” Upshaw said in a telephone interview.

GOLF

Tiger Woods holds the winners trophy of the Match Play Championship where he finished first for the second straight year. Woods was unable to take the lead until the 25th hole, when he passed Davis Love III to win.

Woods wins Match Play second straight year

Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Tiger Woods made it sound so simple, even after making it look so hard.

"It all boils down to what my dad always told me when it comes to match play," Woods said. "All you have to do is just be better than your opponent that day. All you have to do is win more holes than you lose.

When he tapped in a 4-foot par putt on the 34th hole Sunday, Woods proved again that he has no trouble.

Spraying his tee shots all over La Costa Resort, unable to take the lead until the 25th hole, Woods turned a terrible tee shot into an unlikely birdie, then roared past putt-starved Davis Love III to win the Match Play Championship for the second straight year.

"It’s obviously the best at what he does," said Love, who failed to win a hole over the final 17. "That shows even more in match play. He can play the game no matter what rules you put out there."

Woods won for the 40th time on the PGA Tour in just his 149th start, the quickest anyone has reached that milestone.

Jack Nicklaus played 221 events before he won his 40th tournament. Woods earned $1.2 million, the biggest first prize ever on the PGA Tour, and reminded everyone who’s No. 1 in the world — and who’s the best when the world gets together.

He won for the eighth time in the 14 official World Golf Championships he has played.

Even more impressive is his back-to-back victories in the Accenture Match Play Championship, the most unpredictable format in golf because of the five 18-hole matches required to get to the finals.

Woods thrives on this format.

"Right from the first tee, it’s eyeball-to-eyeball," he said. "That to me is a great rush."

His amateur record was among the best ever — three straight U.S. Junior Amateurs, followed by three straight U.S. Amateur titles. His professional record is starting to catch up.

Woods is 20-3 in this tournament, and 30-5-1 overall in match play.

That’s why Love knew he was in trouble when he failed to build a big lead in the morning session, missing three birdie putts inside 10 feet.

In Brief

BCS agrees to add fifth game to increase access

The Bowl Championship Series agreed to add a fifth game Sunday, increasing access for schools not part of college football’s most lucrative postseason system.

The champions of the six BCS conferences — the Big East, ACC, SEC, Big 12, Big Ten and Pac-10 — will maintain automatic berths in one of the five games. The remaining four spots will be at-large berths to be decided by a complex formula using national rankings.

The fifth bowl is still subject to final approval based on market viability, but all indications point to it being in place when the new BCS contract takes effect before the 2006 season.

“aroundsignificant victory for college sports and higher education,” NCAA president Myles Brand said.

The current BCS bowls are the Rose, Sugar, Fiesta and Orange. One of those bowls pits the top two teams in the BCS standings in a championship game, which will be the Orange Bowl next season.

The Rose, Fiesta and Sugar host the other games.

Oregon president Dave Frohnmayer, a member of the BCS Presidential Oversight Committee, said the fifth bowl would join in the title game rotation. He also said the Rose Bowl would retain its long-standing ties to the Big Ten and Pac-10 champions during years in which it does not host the title game. The other bowls also would have the chance to protect conference ties.

Frohnmayer said existing bowls probably will get the first shot at becoming the fifth BCS bowl. Cities expected to show immediate interest include Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Jacksonville, Orlando and San Diego.

White House proposes steroid summit

The White House wants to organize a summit of representatives from the major sports leagues and the U.S. Olympic Committee to discuss steroid use by athletes.

Officials at major league baseball, the NFL, NBA, NHL and USOC confirmed Sunday that they were contacted by the White House about such a meeting.

The White House had no immediate comment Sunday.

Spokesmen for the NFL, NBA and baseball said those sports would participate but added no date had been set.

NPF Players’ Association executive director Gene Upshaw said he would be interested in taking part in the meeting — but only if others participated.

“We’re not looking to be in a position to be the only ones at a summit,” Upshaw said in a telephone interview.
Irish guard Chris Quinn drives with the ball against Seton Hall Feb. 23. Quinn had 20 points against UCLA Saturday.

After pulling within eight in the first half, the Bruins never cut the lead down to single digits again. The Irish close out their regular season schedule Thursday when they host Georgetown at 7 p.m.

Note: Grey said at his Thursday press conference that forward Torin Francis, who has been sidelined since Notre Dame’s win over Connecticut Feb. 9, will probably not return to the court for the Irish this season. Francis averaged 14.2 points and 8.8 rebounds in 20 games this season.

NOTRE DAME 75, UCLA 60

NOTRE DAME 17-5, 8-4
UCLA 25 35 60
NOTRE DAME 44 31 75

Total fouls: Notre Dame 20, Rutgers 12 (Severe, Duffy 4), Opponent 29 (Campbell 9). Assists: Notre Dame 13 (Batteast 6), UCLA 10 (Staples 5-4-1). Total Fouls: Notre Dame 13, UCLA 12.

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

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A Panel Discussion of the Mel Gibson Film
The Passion of The Christ
at the University of Notre Dame

Tuesday, March 2, 2004
7:00 P.M.
141 DeBartolo

Participants:
John Cavadini, Theology
Peter Holland, Film, Television, and Theatre
Fr. Jerome H. Neyrey, S.J., Theology
Rabbi Michael A. Signer, Theology

Why all the PASSION?

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Theology Department
Offense continued from page 20
three top 25 opponents — Florida Atlantic, Winthrop and Minnesota — by a combined score of 41-15, plus a 12-3 victory Saturday afternoon over NAIA opponent Florida Memorial.

"It was truly an amazing weekend. Once again we just played great in every facet of the game," Mainieri said. "These teams that we've played are really good teams, and in two of the three of the games, we made them look not so good. And really I think it was a case of our kids playing well in every facet again."

With the four wins on the weekend, the Irish improved to 6-0 on the season — the best start for an Irish squad since 1960.

Notre Dame 19, Winthrop 6
The contest with the Eagles got off to a slow start Friday afternoon, as the game remained scoreless through three innings; before the Irish plated six runs on seven hits in the top of the fourth as Notre Dame sent 10 batters to the plate in the inning.

Sophomore shortstop Greg Lopez led the Irish against Winthrop, going 4-for-4 with six RBIs, four runs scored and a home run.

First baseman Matt Edwards was 3-for-4 with two RBIs and a pair of runs scored and catcher Javi Sanchez went 3-for-5 and also had two RBIs and two runs scored for the Irish.

Junior pitcher Chris Niesel was again dominating on the mound for Notre Dame, getting his second win of the season while allowing only one earned run over seven innings pitched with three strikeouts.

"We know what [Niesel] is going to give us every time," Mainieri said. "He had another quality outing and put a lot of strikes in there and made the other team try to beat him."

Winthrop got five of its six runs in the ninth inning Friday with Notre Dame entering the inning up 19-1.

Notre Dame 12, Florida Atlantic 3
In arguably the best game of the weekend, the Irish needed a one-out, ninth inning solo home run from Edwards — his third of the season — to secure the win in a nail-biter.

The eventual game-winning shot came off Florida Atlantic closer Craig Hughes, who had not allowed a run in his previous 1 2/3 innings pitched on the season.

Edwards also had a game-tying solo home run to lead off the seventh inning.

Florida Atlantic had an opportunity to tie the game in the bottom of the ninth following a lead-off single from centerfielder Tim Mascia, who later stole second. After a groundout and a walk by left fielder Anthony Albano, the Owls had runners on first and third with one out.

But pinch hitter Robbie Wildansky hit into a fielder's choice as Albano was thrown out at second, and pinch runner Mike McBryde — in the game for Mascia at second — got picked off rounding third and was tagged out in a run-down to end the game.

The loss was the first of the season for Florida Atlantic, who fell to 11-1 on the year and had been ranked as high as No. 12 coming into the weekend.

The Owls took the early lead in the game in the third — inning, before the Irish came back to tie the game at 1-1 in the top of the fourth on yet another solo home run off the bat of Sanchez.

Sophomore lefty Tom Thornton got the start for the Irish and contributed seven solid innings, allowing two earned runs on six hits. Classmate Ryan Doherty got the win for the Irish, pitching a scoreless 1 1/3 innings to end the game.

"Tom Thornton, for the second straight week in a row against as good of competition you're going to find in the country and in as difficult a setting as you're going to find in the country, just completely dominated the other team," Mainieri said. "He did a great job and gave us a chance to win with seven solid innings."

"If we keep getting that kind of pitching out of him for the rest of the year, we're going to be tough to beat."

Notre Dame 19, Minnesota 7
In their final game of the weekend, the Irish used a 19-run, 19-hit offensive attack to top the Golden Gophers.

Gaston lead the potent Irish offense, going 5-for-6 from the plate with three runs scored and three RBIs. Catcher Matt Macri was also dominant at the plate, going 4-for-6 with five runs scored and a career-high six RBIs. Grogan finished the day 4-for-4 from the plate with two runs scored and a pair of RBIs.

The Irish found themselves in a 2-0 hole to Minnesota early before Macri's two-run homer in the fourth tied the game at 2-2. The Irish would take a 4-2 lead later in the inning on RBI singles from Grogan and second baseman Steve Sollmann.

The Gophers rallied for four runs in the top of the fifth to reclaim the lead at 6-4, but the Irish tied it up again in the bottom half of the inning.

In their next at bat, the Irish blew the game open with seven runs on four hits as 12 batters came to the plate in the inning for the Irish. Notre Dame would add six more runs in the next two innings.

Freshman right-hander Derek Ovevy made his first career start on the hill for the Irish, allowing five earned runs on seven hits in 4 1/3 innings pitched.

Freshman Dan Kapala got the win in relief for the Irish, working three innings and allowing one run.

The Irish travel to San Antonio Saturday for the Alamo City Irish Baseball Classic, while Notre Dame will face Southern Illinois, Texas-San Antonio and Penn State.

Notes:
- Freshman centerfielder Danny Dressman sprained his ankle trying to beat out a bunt in the game against Florida Atlantic and was unable to play Sunday against Minnesota.
- Mainieri said he is unsure of Dressman's status for next weekend.
- Junior pitcher Grant Johnson, who is trying to work back from Tommy John surgery that sidelined him for all of the 2003 season, was unable to play over the weekend due to stillness.

Contact Chris Federico at cfederico@nd.edu

Love to talk about Notre Dame? Looking for a job for next year?

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is now hiring (male and female) tour guides.

Find the application online at http://admissions.nd.edu/tourguides.pdf or pick one up in Room 220 of the Main Building.

Please return the completed application to 220 Main Building by March 26th.

Training will take place the week of March 26th, but work will not begin until Fall 2004.

A few summer tour guide positions are available.

If you have any questions, please contact Jill or Galact 17-505.
Paige's earlier goal and Amado's second-period goal. It was the third-three-point game of the defensemen's career and his second with three or more assists.

For the game, Notre Dame outshot Michigan by a count of 26-21. Saturday, Michigan came out and bottled up the Irish in the defensive zone seemingly all game, outshooting Notre Dame 41-16. Notre Dame capitalized on few offensive looks, however, scoring four goals against the Irish after Cory McLean fed the game in the third period with an empty-net goal.

The Irish scored on their very first shot of the game at 8:44 of the first period, when Mike Walsh threw a shot at the net that appeared to hit a Michigan defensemen before beating Ruden to the short side.

When Michigan came out in the second period, it came out with a vengeance, with Jeff Tambellini scoring the equalizer just 20 seconds into the frame. Less than two minutes later, Andrew Ebbett gave Michigan its first lead on the weekend when he poked a loose puck past Brown during a scrum in front of the Notre Dame goal.

Poulin immediately called a timeout to try and settle his troops.

"Michigan really rallied around their young netminder," he said. "They got us out of our game in the second period with those two goals, so we took the timeout to just try and settle things down some.

"The move worked, as defensemen Neil Komadoski scored at 15:10 of the second with a hard slap shot from the blue line to the top right corner that eluded Ruden. Just 17 seconds later, T.J. Jindra outskated a Michigan defender to a loose puck in the corner and made a backhanded pass to Amado, who was skating down the slot.

Amado whipped the puck past Ruden and gave Notre Dame the lead back, setting off an enthusiastic celebration from the crowd. The Irish took advantage of that momentum and tried to pull away even more, but Josh Sciba hit a post and Lebda shot just high on a breakaway near the end of the second period.

The Irish would need to wait until the third period to get their insurance goal, but it came off the stick of senior forward Rob Globe, who deflected a Paige shot from the blue line past Ruden at 7:10 of the third period.

"It was really important for us to come out tonight and play just as good as we did [Friday night]," Globe said Saturday. "It's something that we discussed earlier and something that the coaches put upon us and we were able to come through.

Notre Dame closes out its season on the road, traveling to Lake Superior State for a two-game conference series against the Lakers starting Friday.
Rude hosts
Irish sweep No. 4 Michigan in crucial home series

By JUSTIN SCHUYER
Associate Sports Editor

Not even green jerseys could stop the Irish's weekend.
The Irish (17-11-4, 13-10-3 in the CCHA) swept Michigan (23-10-1, 18-7-1) at home for their fourth sweep of a CCHA opponent at the Joyce Center this year. None was bigger than this one, though, as Notre Dame convincingly defeated the No. 4 ranked team in the country and first place team in the conference.

Weary alternate uniforms each night, the Irish first defeated the Wolverines 4-1 Friday wearing their green jerseys. They completed the sweep Saturday in their gold jerseys, defeating Michigan 5-2.

No matter what color sweater, the story was the same, with Notre Dame having the early momentum in each game before Michigan would make a run to either cut into the deficit or tie the game back up. A combination in goal for the Irish through those potent Wolverine offensive outbursts was freshman goalie David Brown.

Brown, who has had one of the best rookie seasons ever in a Notre Dame uniform, was good — and at times great — this weekend, stopping a combined 62 shots in the two victories.

"It's just started since the beginning of the year," Brown said after Saturday's game. "Coming in as a freshman, no one really expected that."