Ticket not punished for election violation

Freshman Zach Reuvers failed to get each campaign poster approved by Judicial Council...
Franchise

Mark Flammigan
sophomore
Keough

"St. Mary's Mountaineers, because they can't win anything else."

Woman's bowling team

Kayla Bateman
junior
Breen Phillips

"Pitt, because PITT is it."

Ted Kratschmer
sophomore
Zahn

"Memphis. My formidable gut tells me this."

Megan Savage
junior
Breen Phillips

"Clemson, because my bracket makes a lot of rack-bound kind of like tennis. WHACK!"

From left, sophomores Caroline Hawes, Chelsea Slaggert and Beth Neiman protest the Iraq War on Fieldhouse Mall Wednesday.

OFFBEAT

Japan appoints cartoon ambassador

TOKYO — Japan has cre­
ated an unusual government post to promote animation, and named a perfect figure Wednesday to the position: a popular cartoon robot cat named Doraemon.

Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura appointed the cat an "anime ambassador," hand­ing a human-sized Doraemon doll an official certificate at an inauguration ceremony, along with dozens of "dorayaki" red bean pan­cakes — his favorite dessert — piled on a huge plate.

Komura told the doll, with an unidentified person inside, that he hoped he would widely promote Japanese animated cartoons, or "anime."

Sisters: eBay pulled corn flake auction

CHICAGO — Two sisters from Virginia who are selling a corn flake shaped like the state of Illinois on eBay say the online auction Web site canceled their listing.

"Something really dramatic just happened with our corn flake," Melissa McIntire, 23, of Chesaapeake, Va., said Tuesday, explaining that the sisters received an e-mail from eBay saying the state-shaped cereal was in viola­tion of the site's food policy.

But the flake is back. The sisters say the Land of Lincoln twice they discovered in a box of Kellogg's Frosted Flakes is still available after all.

McIntire and her 15-year-old sister Emily said they've relisted the flake on eBay, but this time they're auctioning a coupon redeemable for it, instead of the cereal itself. Bidding on Wednesday was at $255.00.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

There will be Confession at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart

today at 11 a.m. and at 7 p.m.

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated today at 5 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

There will be screenings of the film "Persepolis" tonight at 7 and 10 in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

There will be Confession at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m.

A procession to follow the Way of the Cross will depart from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart tomorrow at 10:45 a.m. The procession will pass through the Grotto and will continue along the banks of St. Joseph Lake.

The celebration of the Lord's Passion will begin tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

There will be Confession at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Saturday at noon and at 3 p.m.

The women's lacrosse team will play Loyola-Maryland Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Moose Krause Stadium.

The Paschal Vigil will begin Saturday at 9 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Easter Mass will be celebrated Sunday at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

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

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets a mistake in a professional publication and offers for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. For any errors, send a message, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.
continued from page 1

legitimacy of the resolution.

Bant disagreed with the resolution's implication that it
may be seen as an endorsement of
the Church and cause the Church and
senators to reconsider their actions.

"The University enacting this kind of policy has a lot of unfor-
tunate negative repercus-
sions that we can't even begin to
imagine," he said. "It's going to upset people, whether it's right or not.

Gari argued back, saying that senators should not let donors' opin-
ions control their actions.

"As far as bishops [for universities] getting mad at us, that's okay, that should be taken into
consideration," he said. "I think that the University is actually going to be used for actively dis-
criminating against people, but I think people can use loopholes and use things given to them out of things that were not the issue," he said. "It's unfortunate, it's the way the American legal system works, but it's true, and it can hap-
pen."

Some members did not want liability to be the Senate's main concern.

Outgoing Fisher Hall senator Sheena Molloy said that she believed the University to be liable, increasing the possibility of a lawsuit against Notre Dame for discriminating someone based on sexual orientation.

"I don't think that the University is actually going to be sued for actively dis-
criminating against people, but I think people can use loopholes and use things given to them out of things that were not the issue," she said. "It's unfortunate, it's the way the American legal system works, but it's true, and it can hap-
pen."

Molloy, who co-authored the resolution with Pangburn senator Denise Baron, said she was "100 percent behind" the resolution in 1998 when both the Faculty and Student Senators passed a resolution against non-discrimination.

"This mechanism has a lot of unforeseen consequences that we can't even begin to imagine," she said. "It's going to upset people, whether it's right or not."

Stephen Bant
Fisher Hall senator

"The University enacting this kind of policy has a lot of unforeseen ... negative repercussions that we can't even begin to imagine. It's going to upset people, whether we like it or not."

Antonelli, she said.

LaBella spoke with a distribu-
tion manager for Notre Dame Foods, made suggestions to LaBella based on comments from students with vegan, dairy-free and gluten-free diets.

Antonelli assists students with special dietary needs in the campus dining halls — adding special products in the Huddle Mart is the first attempt of Food Services to accommodate needs at the multiple food locations across campus.

"So many students with gluten-free diets had trouble finding things on campus they could snack on. The new prod-
ucts give them more options on campus to eat," Antonelli said.

If a person suffering from Celiac Disease, which limits her diet to gluten-free foods, she cannot eat products containing wheat, barley, oats or rye.

"I think it's a little naive to believe that passing a simi-
lar resolution today will have any different effect than it did last year," he said.

Haward senator Eurdina Frascillo said that despite the administration's lack of support, the Senate has the responsibility to support Notre Dame's minorities and that the resolution until its goal is fulfilled.

"I think that the strongest cases that we as a Senate can take is to pass this every 
year... until we get the atten-
tion of the administration, get the attention of the Church, ... people in higher positions than we can realize that this is an issue we care about," she said. "We should take that rejection as a chal-
lenge."

FrancilIon also said she was disappointed that the Senate did not vote on the resolution when Molloy and Baron intro-
duced it in at the February 27 meeting. The Senate had voted to amend the resolution after Bant said he found that Holy Cross College does not include sexual orientation in its non-discrimination clause as the amendment says.

Molloy said that after fur-
ther research was inter-
valled, the Senate replaced Holy Cross College with Georgetown University. However, Baron said that the Senate's "vote was not the ex-
crux of the resolution."

"I think it's dangerous to think that liability should be the most important issue here," she said. "Even more than the promulgation of tolerance should be thought about."

Currently, Notre Dame abides by the "Spirit of Inclusion," which was set for 1998, and is not legally binding, according to Molloy. This clause, according to O'Neill senator Matt Molloy, condemns harassment of any kind.

The proposed resolution states that adding sexual ori-
tention to the non-discrimination clause would give legal protection against dis-
crimination based on sexual orientation, according to Molloy.

Contact Claire Reising at croisie2@nd.edu

Page 3
The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS

Huddle
continued from page 1

continued from page 1
nummer of the space they occu-
pled. In LaBella, General Manager of the Huddle Mart who helped implement the changes, said that there has been an increase in the num-
ber of students requesting gluten-free and natural gro-
cery products.

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Contact Claire Reising at croisie2@nd.edu
Mendoza continued from page 1

us in the sense that it changes our actions or the way that we look at ourselves. But if you ask whether a lot more people know how good we are the answer is yes," Woo said.

"This year we paid more attention to companies that recruit our students so they know to expect that a survey will be coming to them," Woo said. "We are always looking at reasons to improve, but not in response to rankings.

According to the BusinessWeek ranking, the median annual starting salaries for Mendoza graduates rose to $53,500, a nearly 10 percent increase from the previous year.

The survey also said that students commented that Notre Dame’s “die-hard alums and an emphasis on ethics separated Mendoza from the pack.”

“We have always stood on a dual mission of academic excellence and faith. We want our students to exceed the right way,” Woo said.

Although enrollment usually fluctuates from year to year in the College of Business, Woo said that enrollment has continued to increase in the past three years, although she was not sure that this could be attributed to the rankings.

The Mendoza College of Business currently enrolls 1,562 undergraduate students in the departments of accountancy, finance, management and marketing.

“We are always looking at reasons to improve, but not in response to rankings.”

Carolyn Woo
Dean of the Mendoza College of Business

Campaign

Campaign continued from page 1

The BusinessWeek ranking

The class and not about minute details that do not affect the voters.

Reevers echoed his words, adding that he was surprised to see the degree to which some people went to damage his campaign.

“When it comes down to it, this is a sophomore class council election and I am surprised some people took this as far as they did,” he said.

He also said that the timing of the accusations led him to believe they were planned to hurt his chances of winning.

“It was a funny coincidence that the first allegation came right before the primary and the second the day of the run-off,” he said.

Many freshmen said the accusations influenced their choice of ticket.

Contact Steve Santay at ssantay@nd.edu

THURSDAY NIGHT OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for cocktails &
Hors d’oeuvres to introduce
the Notre Dame and Saint
Mary’s Faculty and Staff to
the fastest selling community
in Michigan

March 20th and 27th 2008
5:00pm to 8:00 pm
Beer & Wine will be served
Hors d’oeuvres provided by

RSVP appreciated
RSVP by March 12 to be entered in the drawing
for a $50 Gift Card
jim@g90re.com or 574-247-0770
stonebridgecondos.net

STONEBRIDGE VILLAS
at Edison Lakes

Ranch Villas starting in the $190s

STONEBRIDGE VILLAS
at Edison Lakes

625 Dublin Drive

Mishawaka, IN

Hors d’oeuvres provided by

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Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

Write News. Call 531-5323.
President George W. Bush announced that he has no intention to make further cuts to troop levels in Iraq in a speech Wednesday at the Pentagon.

Bush urged U.S. to stay course in Iraq

President won't order troop withdrawals, praises military success in past year

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Five years after taking the invasion of Iraq, President Bush strongly signaled Wednesday that he won't order troop withdrawals beyond those already planned because he refuses to "precipitate the terrorist gains" of the past year.

As anti-war activists demonstrated around downtown Washington, the president spoke at the Pentagon to mark the anniversary of a war that has cost nearly 4,000 U.S. lives and roughly $500 billion.

The president's address was part of a series of events the White House planned around the anniversary and next month's report from the top U.S. figures in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker.

That report will be the basis for Bush's first troop-level decision in seven months.

"The battle in Iraq has been long and hard and more costly than we anticipated," Bush said.

But, he added, before an audience of Pentagon brass, soldiers and diplomats, "The battle in Iraq is noble, it is necessary, and it is just. And while we may be uncertain about how victory in Iraq will end in victory.

Democrats took issue with Bush's stay-the-course suggestion.

"With the war in Iraq entering its fifth year, Americans are rightly concerned about how much longer our nation must commit time and resources to sacrifice our security for the sake of an Iraqi government that is unwilling or unable to secure its own future," said Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

"Democrats will continue to push for an end to the war in Iraq and increased oversight."

Bush repeatedly and directly linked the Iraq fight to the global battle against the al-Qaida terror network.

And he made some of his most expansive claims of success. He said the increase of 30,000 troops that he ordered to Iraq last year has turned "the situation in Iraq around." He also said that "Iraq has become the place where Arabs joined with Americans to drive al Qaida out."

"The surge ... has opened the door to a major strategic victory in the broader war on terror," the president said.

"We are witnessing the first large-scale Arab uprising against Osama bin Laden, his grim ideology, and his terror network."

"And the significance of this development cannot be overstated." Bush appeared to be referring to recent cooperation by local Iraqis with the U.S. military against the group known as al-Qaida in Iraq, a mostly homegrown, though foreign-led, Sunni-based insurgency.

"The challenge in the period ahead is to consolidate the gains we have made and seal the extremists' defeat," he said. "We have learned through hard experience what happens when we pull our forces back too fast - the terrorists and extremists step in, fill the vacuum, establish safe havens and use them to spread chaos and carnage."

Security alert, West Bank closed for holiday

Associated Press

JERUSALEM - Israel declared a heightened security alert Wednesday, barred Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering Jerusalem, fearing Hezbollah guerrillas might try to carry out their New Year's Day vowing of during holiday celebrations this week.

The Purim holiday coincides with the end of the 90-day standing period for Hezbollah commander Imad Mughniyeh, who was killed in a car bombing in Syria last month. Israel denied involvement, but the Lebanese pro-palestinian group blamed Israel and vowed revenge.

The alert came amid new signs that Israel is moving closer to a cease-fire with Hizbullah militants in the Gaza Strip. Israeli defense officials said Amos Gilad, a senior defense ministry official, traveled to Cairo on Tuesday for talks with Egyptian mediators. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the talks.

The army said the closure would remain in effect through Sunday night, preventing thousands of Palestinian workers and merchants from entering Israel. Most come from the West Bank, but small numbers of merchants from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip are allowed in.

The closure won't affect Palestinians needing treatment at Israeli hospitals, and cargo crossings will keep operating, a military spokesman said on condition of anonymity, citing policy.

While Israeli typically imposes closures during major holidays, when schools are closed and public areas are crowded with travelers, security officials are warier since the Mughniyeh killing. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said police canceled vacations for officers and brought in extra forces to guard festivities, which started at schools Wednesday.

The Islamic mourning period for Mughniyeh ends this weekend. Hezbollah is believed to have close ties with Palestinian militants in the West Bank, who in the past have carried out attacks during Purim, a holiday when young children dress up in costumes.

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how materials are eroded or degraded in the lower-earth orbit, spacecraft environment," he said.

The MISSE-6 experiments will give researchers a better understanding of the conditions in the lower-earth orbit, as well as clarify misconceptions about outer space.

"Most people think of space as a vacuum — that there's nothing there... but the lower-earth orbit is 250 miles above the surface of the earth and it's actually a very hostile environment," Jacobs said. "The kinds of collisions that happen when a shuttle moves at 1,500 miles per hour are so energetic that a material exposed to this environment is often under attack by the elements."

Jacobs also said that this hostile environment is not protected by an ozone layer, causing intense ultraviolet light to affect the space station, an occurrence that could be potentially harmful to the various materials used in making satellites.

To test these factors, materials are exposed to different elements by placing modified controls on the materials, according Jacobs.

Additionally, Jacobs said that small data recorders have been installed which collect and record information about the samples every 20 minutes throughout the yearlong period.

Not only will the space experiments help to identify environmental effects on materials, but they will also determine whether space environment simulations that have been taking place in Jacob's lab are accurate.

"We've been doing experiments in our lab at Notre Dame that we think simulate the space environment," Jacobs said. "This experiment will be an opportunity to compare our simulation of the space environment with the reality of space."

Jacobs' research team has been working with six other universities on the MISSE-6 experiment, including the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, the University of Pittsburgh, Montana State University and Utah State University.

"We were invited as a team to see if we would like to launch the MISSE-6 experiment," Jacobs said. "Notre Dame stepped up in a big way to spearhead the effort."

After approximately one year, the materials will be retrieved and examined to assess the cumulative effects of the lower-earth orbit environment.

"Experiments like this are wholly consistent with the University's mission to contribute to the advancement of knowledge," Jacobs said. "We hope that our contributions have an impact and that those advancements lead to an increased understanding of materials in the space environment."

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu
**THE OBSERVER**

**B**usiness

Thursday, March 20, 2008

**MARKET RECAP**

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**IN BRIEF**

**Blood thinner contaminant identified**

WASHINGTON — U.S. health officials have identified contaminants in batches of the blood thinner heparin associated with 19 deaths and are trying to determine how the chemical got into the drug.

The lots of heparin, whose key ingredient is a chemical that does not occur naturally, can be contaminated with a chemical that is used to supplement but the oversulfated version has not been widely studied.

"We cannot say for sure or out whether this was accidentally or deliberately introduced into the product," Woodcock said. "We are investigating how it got in."

The FDA has also initiated testing of imported heparin entering this country and Woodcock said the agency feels "doctors and patients now can be confident that the product on the market has been tested and is safe."

**Market erases most of Tuesday's gains**

NEW YORK — Stocks pulled back sharply Wednesday, erasing most of the previous session's big gains as investors grew concerned about the possibility that banks remain vulnerable to the problems of the U.S. housing market.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell nearly 300 points after rising 420 on Tuesday.

"Some re-entrancings was to be expected after the previous day's huge advance. But the decline also reflects investors' continuing uncertainty about the world's financial markets and the U.S. economy."

"They're still a day late and a dollar short, but at least they're looking," Woodcock said. "We are investigating how it got in."

The FDA has also initiated testing of imported heparin entering this country and Woodcock said the agency feels "doctors and patients now can be confident that the product on the market has been tested and is safe."

**Government doing little to help economy**

WASHINGTON — The present optimi-

**Mandatory cash cushion for Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac to be reduced by one-third**

WASHINGTON — By making it easier for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to raise funds and bank nearly $2 trillion in mortgage assets, the government is making its role in shoring up the economy "a lot more hands on."

That strategy is moving the Bush administration toward activist government solutions and away from traditional free-market leanings. Behind the push is a housing crisis and credit market calamity that have spread through global financial markets and made it tough for consumers and businesses to borrow.

Analysts worry that the opening for Fannie and Freddie could put too much financial risk on the backs of the government-sponsored companies, which have taken multibillion-dollar hits from the foreclosures wave and have been hungry for capital.

Until a few months ago, administration officials voiced similar concern. They said that allowing the companies to take on more debt could threaten the global financial system, citing the pair's recent massive accounting scandals.

Although an independent regulator, the agency put a plan in place, it wasn't without some significant stage setting by top-level Bush officials.

It was the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight that announced Wednesday the plan to quickly inject an additional $20 billion in financing for mortgages, which will require Fannie and Freddie to raise substantial new funds. But President Bush's Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, was said to have played a role in bringing about the move, as he did in the rescue buyout of investment firm Bear Stearns by rival JPMorgan Chase — which was orchestrated and backed up by the independent Federal Reserve.

Under the plan, the mandatory cash cushion for Fannie and Freddie — now nearly $20 billion for the two — will be reduced by a third. OFHEO, which oversees the government-sponsored companies, said the goal is to free up money to help new home buyers take out loans and existing homeowners refinance into more affordable mortgages.

The loosening of the mandated capital collars, which had been hinted at in late February, is a policy turnabout for the government.

"Everything is now on the table. Actions that would have been inconceivable from the administration's point of view just weeks ago are mainstream today," said mortgage industry consultant Howard Glasser.

"The administration is no longer going to shoot anything down that might help stabilize the mortgage market given the current environment."

Glasser was a federal housing official in the Clinton administration.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who has long been critical of the administration's response to the housing crisis, saw recent moves as tardy and tepid. "They're beginning to put their toe in the water," he said in an interview Wednesday. "They're still a day late and a dollar short, but at least they're looking at it."
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In wrecks, sturdy cars delay victims' rescue

Study reveals emergency crews struggle to cut through modern autos' reinforced steel frames

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Capt. Clint Roberts was prepared to cut free a young car accident victim out of hideously mangled vehicles, but he never believed it when two people in a 2001 Ford F-150 pickup head-on crash with a full-sized pickup last year.

Ford's reinforced steel construction probably saved their lives, but it turned out to be a mixed blessing as they dangled on the rugged mangled steel.

"It was just beating the snot out of the tools," adding minutes and delaying medical treatment, Roberts said.

Then there is the question that today's cars save lives by cocooning motorists in reinforced crumple zones and as many as a dozen air bags. But in interviews with The Associated Press, rescue officials and experts from around the United States said the new technology is also hindering efforts to remove drivers and injured people, increasingly forcing crews to work through the "golden hour" between accident and treatment by emergency room doctors. On May 2005 and later cars, an extrication that once took 10 or 15 minutes can now take twice as long.

To catch up, counties and cities are spending tens of thousands of dollars if they can afford it — to buy more powerful equipment that can cut through newer cars reinforced steel and the lighter, tougher exotic metals used in roofs, doors and side panels.

But in interviews with the Associated Press, rescue officials and experts from around the United States said the new technology is also hindering efforts to remove drivers and injured people, increasingly forcing crews to work through the "golden hour" between accident and treatment by emergency room doctors. On May 2005 and later cars, an extrication that once took 10 or 15 minutes can now take twice as long.

"If the automakers roll out something new next year, we could be right back where we were," Craft said. "That's why the problem we're confronted with.

Mike Adler, a volunteer firefighter in Buckville, Md., recalled the layered-steel roof post from a 2008 Toyota Camry that wouldn't budge under the blades of a hydraulic cutter after a head-on crash. The patient, whose injuries were serious but not life-threatening, finally had to be maneuvered around the post.

Adler used two types of saws and numerous blades to remove the post after the patient was removed. The department quickly decided to buy a new, more powerful cutter.

The flip side, of course, is that more people are surviving horrific crashes that would have killed them just a few years ago.

The Fusion's passenger, for example, was hurt but not unconscious and joking with Roberts as the crew worked to get him out. The driver of the other vehicle — a 2001 Ford F-150 pickup — was dead at the scene.

With about three people hurt in car crashes every minute in the United States, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration spokesman But Tyson said he is comfortable with the new cars. "When rescue workers, he said, will have to work harder to keep up with technology, just like everybody else.

"The fatality rate for passenger vehicles is the lowest in history," Tyson said. "That, to me, is a pretty good news story.

Associated Press

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. — A black man was sentenced to two to four years in prison Wednesday for fatally shooting an intoxicated white teenager during a racially charged confrontation with two carloads of young people at the end of his driveway.

The parents of victim Daniel Cicciaro Jr., 17, were irate after learning that John White did not receive the maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

White, 54, was convicted in December of second-degree manslaughter and a weapons charge.

"Nice message it sends to society that as long as you're black and there's a problem at the end of your driveway you can grab an illegal handgun and shoot someone in the face and get away with it," an infuriated Daniel Cicciaro Sr. told reporters while dozens of supporters sobbed nearby.

"Well, let's see what happens when Aaron White gets shot, and see how the laws are," Cicciaro said, referring to Tyson.

Defense attorney Frederick Brindamour told the court that comments made by prosecutor Thomas Spota were "trivial." Spota told the court that the White family was "given the benefit of the doubt" because their son was black.

"I've always remained remorseful about this incident," White testified.

White was led away in handcuffs, but his attorney immediately filed an appeal and bail was set at $200,000 late Wednesday, said attorney Paul Gianelli. He was expected to remain jailed overnight.

At the trial, the defense invoked the nation's violent race past in arguing the shooting was justified, referring to the teenagers as a "tough mob."
Garden variety scandals

Being from New Jersey, state pride has never really been my thing. Don't get me wrong, I love my state, and if I can ever afford to live there in a place other than my parents’ house I'd certainly love to. But for all the things I love about New Jersey, from Bruce Springsteen to the three-time Stanley Cup winning New Jersey Devils to diners at every mile mark on every major highway, it just never occurred to me to think of New Jersey as better than any other state. The school system is only, as the state's commercials tell me, "one of the top two in the nation." I think the lack of enthusiasm might have to do with the fact that the Garden State is rather dominated by the hulking giant right above, New York. All my life I've watched sitcoms on New York television affiliates, I've listened to New York radio stations and read New York newspapers. I've even rooted for New York sports teams, like the Giants and Mets (I’m not much of a hockey fan). However, there has always been one area in which I have always considered New Jersey vastly superior to the Empire State, and though recent headlines might make some reconsider the rankings, I for one refuse to relinquish New Jersey's claim as the home of the most corrupt and scandalous state politicians in the country.

The immoral acts engaged in by Eliot Spitzer at the Emperor's Club, the details of which are fresh enough in the public consciousness to spare our recalling here, are appalling. A rising star in the Democratic Party has crashed, and a life's work spent prosecuting those who broke the law is irredeemably tarnished. In addition to all this, the Spitzer case has once again shown how we in America, in the words of Daniel Patrick Moynihan, are "defining deviancy down." Here is a man who commits adultery with a prostitute, violating the sacred trust of marriage, and the only thing anyone seems to want to talk about is whether or not Spitzer should have paid the extra few thousand to move up from a four-diamond hooker to a seven.

Couples with the Spitzer scandal is the news which broke just a few hours after David Paterson's inauguration as the new governor: After a scandal on the magnitude of the Spitzer affair, New Yorkers may understandably have been looking for a calm transition, and for promises of a cleaner and more responsible government. Of course, nearly the first thing Gov. Paterson does is tell the first reporter he can find that he is going to change things by immediately resigning. I don't think he was qualified to advise the government in the event of a terrorist attack. Rather than just resigning effective immediately, Paterson could have used this as an opportunity to let the voters decide who should be in office when all other alternatives have been exhausted. I don't think I've ever been prouder of my home state than I was the other day when former Gov. McGreevy, now of all things a divinity student in an Episcopal seminary, in an effort to keep the scandal-crazed in New Jersey, said no to fast New York. You see, he wasn't just checking on his wife with a state employee; no. He was leaving wild sex parties which involved his wife. Honestly, it's like McGreevy was standing up and saying, just try and top that, Paterson. Of maybe he was just trying to publicly embarrass his wife before the upcoming custody hearing over their daughter Jacqueline, while also trying to depeope the sales of her book. Either way, it makes my heart stir with pride to be from New Jersey, where we have perfected career-ending scandal.

John Everett is a senior English major. He is thought to be somewhere between 21 and 45 years of age. He is armed only with a sharp wit and is considered cantankerous. If you have any information regarding his whereabouts, please contact him at everett@nd.edu.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

"It's never too late to be who you might have been."

—George Eliot

English novelist

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Tomorrow's Staff

Marcella Berrios
Katie Peralta
Mandi Sirone
John Tierny
Graphics
Blair Chemdlin
Sports
Marcella Berrios
Michael Bryan
Scene
Ryan Raffin
Viewpoint
Kara King

Who will go further in the NCAA basketball tournament?

- Men's Basketball - 60%
- Women's Basketball - 40%
Yesterday I was walking to class with my boyfriend, who was wearing his Army uniform, when we came upon a protest against the Iraq War on Fieldhouse Mall near Lafortune. My boyfriend stood tall, looked forward and walked past the protesters without uttering a word. We were immediately followed by a young man holding a sign that said “support the Troops. Not the War” who “thanked” me for his service and yelled at him to come join the protest later in the day.

It was a slap in the face to my boyfriend, since some of the other protesters held signs comparing of Iraqi deaths brought about by American soldiers and denying the administration that has supported the troops throughout the war. At this point I was really boiled, and I began to wonder whether this so-called supporter of the troops really knew what it meant to show support?

Members of ROTC and those in the armed forces today made a choice to join the service. They were not drafted. To believe that they would stand in protest of something that they have chosen to do is insulting and ignorant. To claim that you support people while standing in protest of what they risk their lives for is absurd. So, I would like to challenge all of those who make similar claims of “support” to put down your signs and actually do something worthwhile for a change. If you truly support the troops, spend the time you waste idly standing with a sign preparing a care package for a soldier. Get a name and address on AnySoldier.com and send a card or an e-mail thanking them. It is, after all, soldiers who have fought and died to guarantee your right to stand in protest and ridicule the very causes that they risk their lives for. If any of you would like to put your words of support into action I would be happy to pass along the addresses of my boyfriend, and all other junior cadets in Army ROTC, who will be spending most of this summer training in Fort Lewis, Washington away from their friends and families. I know they would prefer you to show your appreciation with letters and packages as opposed to your distorted version of “support” that is, in fact, a mockery.

Meghan Sweeney
junior
Foley Hall
March 19

Catholicism vs. nationalism

I believe Jay Rowley (“Sheen doesn’t deserve Laetare Medal,” March 17) is confusing two areas of an American Catholic’s life: nationalism and Catholicism.

The war in Iraq was called unjust by the Vatican under John Paul II, and Benedict XVI reiterated a call for the end of the war on Sunday. Is Barack Obama, calling Yatarola’s words “absurd.”

Need I remind you that all this is just the sort of division endured by the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for his defense of the poor, diseased, and Republican. In fact, one notices that the inane idol worship that follows Obama everywhere he goes is just the opposite of what the brilliant Yatarola faces on this campus. The insightful commentaries of this modern prophet are dismissed by nearly all students in the same way as by Keenan.

Yet though he is inevitably responded to with great hostility by the Notre Dame student body, Greg the Great trunks on, writing article after article to The Observer, taking time out of his real-world day to try to lead the students of his alma mater to the light. Thank God for alumni who are so involved.

Andy Gray
sophomore
Foley Hall
March 19

Deeper issue must be addressed

The Yatarapture will soon descend on Anysoldier.com and send a card or an e-mail thanking them. It is, after all, soldiers who have fought and died to guarantee your right to stand in protest and ridicule the very causes that they risk their lives for. If any of you would like to put your words of support into action I would be happy to pass along the addresses of my boyfriend, and all other junior cadets in Army ROTC, who will be spending most of this summer training in Fort Lewis, Washington away from their friends and families. I know they would prefer you to show your appreciation with letters and packages as opposed to your distorted version of “support” that is, in fact, a mockery.

Meghan Sweeney
junior
Foley Hall
March 19

Perspective: March 24, 1980

Softball, friends, and beverage are sure signs that spring is arriving. (Photo by Philip Johnson)

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

If Barack Obama is the Antichrist, which I have no doubt he is, then Yatarola is clearly the second coming of our Savior. His battles against the insanity of change in Washington, hopes for healthcare and disgusting views about abortion which Obama may or may not hold is valid, and yet we cruelly this great man all over again.

The time has come. The Evil One has emerged from his lair in the United States Senate to devour us all. Yet our last light and hope shines through the Viewpoint section of the Notre Dame Observer, a beacon for all pious men to follow. You unbelievers have only death to look forward to. The Yatarapocalypse will soon descend upon us. You will be left behind, only to be slaughtered in the great Yatarola battle in the valley of Megiddo. May God have mercy on your fascist souls, if you can even claim to have them. The Word of Yatarola. (You say: Thanks to Greg).

Emily Stetler
grad student
off campus
March 19

This Space for Rent
By JAMES COSTA

At the age of only 19, Zach Condon, a.k.a. "Beirut", crafted one of the most precocious debut records of any American artist in recent memory. Defined by Eastern European and Balkan influences, the album "Gulag Orkestar" weaves a decidedly mature tale of hope, loss and the constant renewal of life as is found when one appreciates the dueling roles of new influences amidst the permanence of memory.

Considered part of the indie scene, Beirut has flown under the radar of many casual indie fans. His rich and emotive voice carries most of the songs, with various instruments including the ukulele and the trumpet augmenting the many textures and feelings that he brings to each tune.

A minor problem with the record is the fact that it is written with such heartfelt enthusiasm for the lives and experiences of those in Eastern Europe, the Balkans and Russia. It's a sound technique and Condon succeeds in conveying a sense of the experience faced by those whose stories color his songs. But, since he grew up in the western United States and spent most of his time making the record in Western Europe, it is unlikely that many of the stories he tells are so much from lived experiences as they are from meticulous and thorough research on his subjects. The songs are not particularly bad or suffer from lack of actual influential experience, but they seem to stretch a bit too far at some points.

One of the major triumphs of the album is "Postcards From Italy." Quite similar at points to the vocal fluctuations and flows of Rufus Wainwright, it is a fully developed tune of life, love and death. Beirut sings: "The times we had / Oh, when the wind would blow with rain and snow / Were not all bad / We put our feet just where they had, had to go / Never to go." With vocals laced amidst a concord of horns, drums and the ever-present ukulele, the track creates a subtly stunning portrait of the expectations that lovers invest in their loves, all to watch them fall, still ever-hoping for the love to rise again in a yet to be seen day.

One of Beirut's most obvious strengths is his ability to write lyrics that are not overly involved and sprawling. Unlike many indie artists who construct songs that rely on vast stories woven within each individual track, Condon allows the words equal footing with the music. Yet he also manages the balance the two elements of words and music so they support each other as individual yet superbly integrated elements of each track. This effect is best seen on tracks like "The Canals of Our City," "Mount Wroclaw" and "Postcards From Italy." Indeed, his astute and measured use of each element of the song allows for the best songs to stand out as absolute gems while letting the more average ones still achieve their own power and effect in a manner that is usually only seen in the best songs on other artists' records.

The track "Scenic World" offers perhaps the most pretty pop sound on the record. Amidst the onset of horns and layered vocals, Condon sings: "I try to imagine a careless life / A scenic world where the sunsets are all breathtaking." It's a beautiful moment on a wholly beautiful record from a young man who is fast becoming one of the most magical and affecting artists making music today.

Contact James Costa at jcosta1@nd.edu
After losing in the first round last season, Notre Dame vows to make a deep Tourney run this year.
Irish poised for deep NCAA run

It's time to get back to work. After dispatching most of their Big East regular-season opponents in business-like fashion, the Irish should get the job done this weekend in the NCAA Tournament.

But that doesn't mean Notre Dame has an easy road ahead of it. After the Irish finished in a tie for second place in the conference, they were "rewarded" with a trip to a city two time zones away to take on a George Mason team that knows a few things about winning in March Madness.

The players know they can't mention where the Irish would head if they could notch two wins in Denver, but Notre Dame fans can speculate. If the team is still on its feet for the Sweet Sixteen, the Irish would earn another cross-country trip, this time to take on North Carolina in its backyard in Charlotte, N.C.

The potential matchup with the far IGeIs might not really seem like a reward for the players but that would be plenty of fun for fans. Can't you just imagine a sweaty, wide-eyed Dick Vitale going hoarse while talking about a Larangody-Hansbrough matchup? "It's the Sweet Sixteen. It's the two best big men in the country, baby!"

I'm giddy just thinking about it. If the Irish take care of business this weekend, they will find themselves in one of the biggest games in program history.

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Fran Tolan
Associate Sports Editor

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Crunching the numbers

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Facing Cinderella

George Mason, a Final Four team two years ago, commands respect as a first-round opponent

By CHRIS KHOREY
Senior Staff Writer

For the second straight year, Notre Dame suffered a severe deficit of Tournament experience relative to its first-round NCAATournament opponent. The No. 7 seed Irish, who lost the only game they played in the Big Dance in the last four years, take on No. 12 seed George Mason in the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo., today in the first round of the NCAA's East Regional.

In 2006, as a No. 11 seed, the Patriots made a surprising run all the way to the Final Four. Their Cinderella run created a new college basketball tradition — pundit's now start searching for "This Year's George Mason" as early as December.

According to most, last year's "This Year's George Mason" was Winthrop, the small South Carolina college that has been a perennial favorite in the Big South conference.

The Eagles, a No. 11 seed, also happened to be Notre Dame's First round opponent. They beat the Irish 74-64 before losing in the second round.

One year later, the Irish are determined to erase the memories of losing to "This Year's George Mason" by defeating this year's George Mason. "You get there and you settle in and you go to practice and then you're playing and you lose and its over," Irish forward Zach Hillesland said of the loss to Winthrop. "That was not a good feeling, especially because you play your whole season to build that resume and get to the Final Four."

This year's George Mason

The Patriots followed up their national semifinal appearance by missing the 2007 NCAA Tournament.

This season, they went 23-10 and won the Colonial Athletic Association championship with a 69-68 win over William & Mary on March 10.

George Mason still features seven players with Final Four experience and is still coached by Jim Larranga, who is now in his 11th season with the school.

"We know the run that they made a couple years ago," Irish guard Kyle McAlarney said. "This is the NCAA Tournament. We have to look at them like a Big East team."

The Patriots are led by senior forward Will Thomas, who, at 6-6, 270 pounds, will probably match up with Big East player of the year Luke Harangody in the low post.

As a sophomore, Thomas was second in rebounds and fourth in scoring on the Final Four team. This season, he is George Mason's leading rebounder with 10.5 per game and second leading scorer with 15.8 points per game.

The leading scorer for the Patriots this season is sophomore guard Folarin Campbell, who pours in 15.9 points per game. At 6-foot-4, Campbell's size will probably match up with Big East player of the year Luke Harangody in the low post.

"We know the run that they made a couple years ago," Irish guard Kyle McAlarney said. "This is the NCAA Tournament. We have to look at them like a Big East team."

The Patriots have played three "power" conference teams this season. They defeated Kansas State and North Carolina and lost to Villanova.

This year's Notre Dame

One year ago, Notre Dame was walking off the court in Spokane, Wash., having just seen its season end abruptly after the loss to Winthrop.

"We had to think about it all offseason and it's something that has driven us all season long," senior captain Rob Kurz said.

None of the players on the Notre Dame roster had played in the NCAA Tournament prior to last season. This season, Kurz said, the Irish are much more prepared for the atmosphere.

"We learned a lot from last year," he said. "We learned a lot from last year, like how to prepare mentally better," Kurz said. "Having gone through the experience, we know what to expect now." I think that's a big key for us."

Although seven current Notre Dame players saw time in the Winthrop NCAA Tournament game last year, one who didn't was guard Kyle McAlarney. McAlarney was suspended for the spring semester last season for possession of marijuana.

"McAlarney said while the NCAA Tournament might be old hat for his teammates, he will try to enjoy it this Final Four. "I'm just going to go out there and have fun and go for it," McAlarney said. "That's all I really can do.""

Another thing that's new for the Irish this season is the emergence of Harangody, who scored just four points against the Eagles last season. This year, the sophomore is averaging 20.8 points and 10.2 rebounds per game.

For much of the season, Notre Dame has been a three "power" conference team in the nation in rebounding margin, but the Irish have struggled on the boards of late, even getting out-rebounded 40-34 by guard-heavy Marquette in their loss in the Big East quarterfinals.

"We have to get back to what we've been doing on the boards," sophomore point guard Tory Jackson said. "In January we dominated on the boards. We have to get back to doing that again."

Rocky Mountain High

In addition to each other, Notre Dame and George Mason will also have to contend with the altitude in Denver, where the thin air makes strenuous exercise difficult on the lungs.

To try to get used to the altitude, George Mason practiced on Monday night to try to get two

All year long, Mike Brey has been telling his team to "dream big dreams." Now it's Notre Dame's real chance to do that. After winning a conference championship, the Irish will not have enough magic left to knock out North Carolina in the second round of the Round of 32, the Irish get the luck of the Irish and face a tough, off day advance to the Elite Eight, where they fall for a second time this year to Louisville. Notre Dame and George Mason, who have three "power" conference opponents in the East and the Midwest, do not reflect this prediction.

Looking ahead

The winner of Notre Dame and George Mason will take on the winner of Washington State and Gonzaga on Saturday.

The Eagles are a slow-paced, defensive team that finished third in the Pac-10, and averaged 67.1 points per game offensively and only gave up 27.1 points per game. By contrast, the Irish score 86.6 points per game and give up 70.5 points.

The Eagles won their fourth straight Big South title and will try to pick off their second straight higher seed in the first round of the NCAAs. If they do, Notre Dame will get a shot at revenge from last year.

But according to Kurz, Notre Dame is only focusing on the Patriots.

"We have to play fearless, and like we've been playing all year," he said.

Contact Chris Khorey at chkorey@nd.edu

Irish junior guard Kyle McAlarney dribbles against Marquette guard Dominic James in the Golden Eagles' 89-79 win in the Big East quarterfinals on March 11.

Kurz said of the loss to Winthrop, "We learned a lot from last year. I'm kind of scared." But according to Kurz, Notre Dame was among the top four teams in the nation in rebounding margin, but the Irish have struggled on the boards of late, even getting out-rebounded 40-34 by guard-heavy Marquette in their loss in the Big East quarterfinals.

"We have to get back to what we've been doing on the boards," sophomore point guard Tory Jackson said. "In January we dominated on the boards. We have to get back to doing that again."

An off day in advance to the Elite Eight, where they fall for a second time this year to Louisville. Notre Dame and George Mason, who have three "power" conference opponents in the East and the Midwest, do not reflect this prediction.

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Contact Chris Khorey at chkorey@nd.edu

Chris Khorey
Senior Staff Writer

Chris Hine
Sports Writer

First Round: W, George Mason
Second Round: W, Wash. State
Sweet Sixteen: W, Indiana
Elite Eight: L, Louisville

First Round: W, George Mason
Second Round: W, Wash. State
Sweet Sixteen: W, Indiana
Elite Eight: L, Louisville

Notre Dame handles its first two opponents. Thanks to a huge upset over North Carolina in the Round of 32, the Irish get the luck of the Irish and face a tough, off day advance to the Elite Eight, where they fall for a second time this year to Louisville. Notre Dame and George Mason, who have three "power" conference opponents in the East and the Midwest, do not reflect this prediction.

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Second Round: W, Wash. State
Sweet Sixteen: W, Indiana
Elite Eight: L, Louisville

First Round: W, George Mason
Second Round: W, Winthrop
Sweet Sixteen: L, North Carolina

Notre Dame's first round opponent. They beat the Irish 74-64 before losing in the second round.

One year later, the Irish are determined to erase the memories of losing to "This Year's George Mason" by defeating this year's George Mason. "You get there and you settle in and you go to practice and then you're playing and you lose and its over," Irish forward Zach Hillesland said of the loss to Winthrop. "That was not a good feeling, especially because you play your whole season to build that resume and get to the Final Four."
Bry's 'high-strung child' keeps teammates loose

Hillesland steps into starting role with unique style of play

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Don't ask DePaul center Mac Koshwala what happens when Zach Hillesland gets angry.

In Notre Dame's 90-50 over DePaul on Feb. 2, Irish coach Mike Brey fit him into Hillesland, saying the junior forward could be playing better defense on Koshwala.

On one particular play in the second half, Koshwala muscled his way past Hillesland for a bucket, prompting Brey to let Hillesland have it as he came down on offense.

"I thought Koshwala dropped step and went through his chest a little too easy there. So, I just kind of commented on that," Brey said with a laugh before practice Monday.

Only Brey's retelling of the story larked a few other choice words he had for Hillesland. Whatever Brey scrawled at Hillesland had its desired effect — a few seconds later, Hillesland took Koshwala to the hoop and slammed it home.

"It freed me up, so next time down the floor, I was just ready to bull over and I knew next time I get the ball, I'm going to go to the rack to try to finish," Hillesland said. "Koshwala was guarding me and I knew he wasn't as quick as I was, so I gave him a little fake went baseline, help came, went to dunk it and it turned out well.

The kind of some frustration fall out afterwards."

Hillesland turned to Notre Dame's bench and yelled something, though nobody on the team was exactly sure what he was saying as he ran down the floor like a man possessed.

"I don't know what he yelled, and I don't know if it was English, quite frankly," Brey said. "And it was, if you had a delay on it, like they do on radio shows, there wouldn't be a lot of delays."

Interactions like this happen occasionally between Brey and Hillesland.

"Zach is my high-strung child," Brey said. "So, with him, every now and then, we can light each other up a little bit. That's one of the reasons he gives us great energy."

Hillesland's energy is one of many attributes he brings to the floor on a nightly basis — the ability to guard anyone on the floor; to rebound, handle the ball, and even a little creativity on the offensive end.

"He's a tricky player, as athletic as he is, sometimes he gets stopped in his dribble and he'll kind of go under the defender and hit a weird, tough shot," Irish guard Kyle McAlarney said.

"That's just the way he plays and he's a lot of fun to play with and watch play."

Hillesland does a little bit of everything, and his stats reflect that. (heded into Notre Dame's NCAA Tournament first-round matchup against George Mason, Hillesland is averaging 6.7 points, 5.1 rebounds, and a little over 2.4 assists per game. But Hillesland's teammates said his biggest contributions can't be measured with numbers.

"There's just so many things he does well," McAlarney said. "There are times when I'll be a little winded and I'll just be like, Zach, "Take the ball up." He can handle the ball, he's guarding the other team's most athletic guy, rebounds, he'll come down and dunk on you."

"He's not the best shooter, but you've got to give him a lot of credit, he's improved his mid-range game a lot and on top of that his basketball IQ is really high and he fits into our system really well."

Hillesland and one of his best friends off the court, junior forward Ryan Ayers, also helped keep Notre Dame's team chemistry intact when Hillesland took over Ayers' spot in the starting lineup before Notre Dame's game against Villanova on Jan. 26.

"Certainly, at first, it was kind of an adjustment. There was a certain aspect for him of 'Oh, coach took me out of the starting lineup,' but it wasn't like a demotion or anything. (Coach) was just trying to shuffle it up a little bit," Hillesland said.

After the switch, the Irish won seven of their next eight, and those initial questions Hillesland and Ayers had with the switch disappeared.

"I didn't want his psyche to go down at all," Hillesland said.

Irish forward Zach Hillesland drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 68-55 win over Saint John's on March 5 at the Joyce Center.

"That was my first concern. But after the first couple of games we played pretty well it kind of faded away and it was going to work out for both of us and the team," McAlarney said. "He'll throw chairs, throw a little temper tantrum."

George Mason might want to make sure Hillesland wins at FIFA before he hits the floor Thursday night — because there's no telling what an angry Zach Hillesland is going to do.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu
When dealing with creatures as complex and unpredictable as human beings, any artist would be foolish to create cookie-cutter characters who are all good or all bad. That has been the best part of seeing "The Wire" all the way through to its conclusion in the series finale - the show never insulted its fans' intelligence. Even in a city as defined in as black-and-white terms as Baltimore, the world of "The Wire" painted itself in shades of gray, and that shadowy moral characterization combined with creator David Simon's unwavering commitment to presenting a realistic and gritty street-level view of his city made the show one of the best ever.

Fans following the series wire-to-wire no doubt felt the final frame feeling bittersweet. The good guys won some and lost some, as did the bad guys. In the end, while the names changed and the time slipped by, nothing really changed, and that is Simon's message. For every fall of an Avon barkdale there's the rise of a Marlo Stanfield. For every Wee Bey Bryce you lock up, there are two Chris Partlow and Felicia "Snoop" Pearson waiting to take his place. And for every Cedric Daniels who sits on the rug of police commissioners, city politics will see to it that Stanley Vadekhs get the job instead.

As Simon said in a letter written to fans of the show and posted on hbo.com: "We tried to be entertaining, but in no way did we want to be mistaken for entertainment. We tried to provoke, to critique and debate and rant a bit. We wanted an argument. We think a few good arguments are needed still, that there is much more to be said and it is entirely likely that there are better ideas than the ones we offered. But nothing happens unless theleighseed is stirred.

That's the central strand of "The Wire" in as many words - the show withheld making judgments or observations and simply presented things as they are on the streets and back alleys of America's inner cities.

As far as the final episode itself, the conclusion no doubt left the audience surprised and satisfied. Fans of Stringer Bell no doubt must have felt pangs of grief upon seeing the Machinistian drug kingpin Marlo Stanfield achieve in retirement what Bell dreamed of doing in life - leaving the street behind in favor of a clean career as a legitimate businessman. But Simon knew better than to domesticate his urban lion into a house cat. Even with an eminently pleasing character, Stanfield couldn't resist the allure of the streets and so for him, "giving up the crown" as the king of the streets was a fate worse than death.

Given Simon's somewhat pessimistic if not cynical view on life, fans must have felt surprised to see him spare McNulty and Freamon from prison time, leaving them with only the loss of their jobs instead of their freedom for cooking up a fake serial killer in order to do the real police work budgetary and political handrails prevented them from doing. Likewise, it appeared that the number-crunching business executives who took over "The Baltimore Sun" would axe Gus, but in the end poor Alma lost her job while the lying con artist Templeton won a Pulitzer Prize.

Without a doubt, the most satisfying moment of the final episode was Slim Charles' point-blank statement to backstabbing friend Cheese.

Watching Michael rob Marlo's mentor Vison of his riches at shotgun point must have brought a smile to Omar fans grieving the loss of their erstwhile hero. Although Michael put in work as part of a trio with cold-blooded murderers Chris Partlow and Felicia "Snoop" Pearson, just as Pearson says before Michael kills her, "[he] was never one of them."

Watching him become his generation's version of Omar made sense - both men dealt in death, but both had a code.

On the flip side, Omar Little's death earlier in the season made little sense. The man who had a code, died in an act of violence, laid low by the vicious street rat Gunad. Fans of Little no doubt took the death of the gay gunslinger hard. Watching the virtuous vigilante get gunned down in cold blood while purchasing a pack of his favorite Newport smokes was tough to watch, but made for poetic justice.

Similarly, watching Duquan descend into drug abuse and homelessness was hard to watch. Of all his friends, Duquan showed the most promise during his brief time in school and the most compassion.

Over the course of seasons four and five, we saw one of his friends, Namond Bryce, make it out of the self-fueling prophecy for black youth living in the drug-infested crime- and war-zone of America's inner cities. We also saw one of his friends, Randy Wagstaff, who didn't.

We saw the rise of a promising young politician in Tommy Carcetti, only to see him fall into the muck of the politics of governance and its half-truths and storytelling even as his story continued to rise all the way to the governor's chair.

We saw Wee Bey again, linked up with Chris Partlow in the chain-linked confines of Jessup's Prison yards. We saw two murderers, one charismatic, one cold-blooded, both locked up for all of eternity for his crimes.

The audience had the privilege of meeting white people, black people, gay people, straight people, gangsters with good hearts and policemen with bad ones. Most importantly, it all looked, felt, smelled, tasted and talked like the real deal.

David Simon built the city from the street up, put all the pieces together and showed us how they work. He built a fictitious Baltimore that looks, feels and breathes like a real city. In the end, fans will remember that they were sad to say goodbye not because they didn't like how things turned out, but that they ran out of time to stay and visit his world.

The views expressed in Scene & Heard are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Observer.

Contact T. Edward Andrews at tandrews@nd.edu
LeBron scores 30 to lead Cavs over Pistons

Wizards shut down Howard, ride Jamison to win over Magic; Nets beat Hawks to tie for final East playoff spot

**Associated Press**

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 30 points, moving closer to becoming Cleveland's top career scorer, and the Cavaliers reminded Detroit that they're still the team to beat in the East with an 89-73 win over the Pistons on Wednesday night.

James came in needing 35 points to pass Brad Daugherty as the Cavs' scoring leader. His NBA-leading scorer will likely break the mark on Friday when Cleveland hosts the Toronto Raptors in a potential first-round playoff preview.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 20 points and Wally Szczerbiak 10 for the Cavaliers, the defending Eastern Conference champions. However, despite its trip to the NBA finals last year, Cleveland is viewed by many as long-shot behind Boston and Detroit.

James, though, may eventually have something to say about that.

Washed-up Wallace scored 16 points and Richard Hamilton 14 for the Pistons, who were held to 63 fewer points than they scored in a 136-120 win over the Cavaliers on April 17.

It was Detroit's first visit to Cleveland since losing Game 6 of last season's Eastern Conference finals, a series defined by James. Forty-three-point double-headers against them scored in a 136-120 win over the Cavaliers on April 17.

The teams stayed within three points through the first three periods. They played even in the fourth quarter, when the Hawks for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Butler had 11 points and nine rebounds.

Carter, the 36-year-old star, said it was kind of a tough angle for a player with a sprained ankle as the Nets had 11 points and nine rebounds.

Antawn Jamison had 31 points and 11 rebounds and Orlando's All-Star center was limited to three points and 14 rebounds in the Wizards' win.

Wizards coach Eddie Jordan gave Howard a rest in the third quarter. Howard, who had 10 shots, but that he was getting help from Ilgauskas, who missed seven games with a back injury, as well.

Each team had 30 points and 14 rebounds in the Wizards' win.

The teams stayed within three points through the first three periods. They played even in the fourth quarter, when the Hawks for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

"We had a dream to win the game, to win the series with as much intensity as we possibly could," Jordan said.

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**MLB pays coaches after Sox**

Associated Press

**FORT MYERS, Fla. —** Fans at City of Palms Park were ready for Boston's final spring training game in Florida. The Red Sox weren't.

In an extraordinary move, Boston players voted to boycott a nationally televised exhibition and Wednesday afternoon's flight to Japan for next week's season-opening series against Oakland, upset that coaches weren't going to receive the same $40,000 payments negotiated for players by their union.

A couple of hours later, all was resolved, and the Red Sox took the field one hour late for a 4-3 loss to Toronto before a crowd of 7,868.

Across the country in Phoenix, Athletics players also considered a boycott. They didn't take batting practice and held five team meetings before following Boston's lead and deciding to play. An Oakland split squad lost 6-1 to the Los Angeles Angels in front of 7,940 fans before leaving for Tokyo.

"The players just stepped up and they did what I think was right," Boston bench coach Brad Mills said.

Major League Baseball agreed to pay the managers, coaches and trainers on the trip $20,000 each from management's proceeds, a person familiar with the agreement said, speaking on condition of anonymity because details weren't announced.

The Red Sox agreed to make up the difference to the amount equal to and to pay some of the other team personnel making the trip, the person said.

"It was a misunderstanding of what agreement was reached between MLB and the MLBPA," Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said.

"We said we would step up and make sure a second trip wasn't created and we would seek contributions from all parties.

It had not yet been determined whether Oakland would make additional payments to its staff.

"Everyone connected with the trip will be fairly compensated," baseball spokesman Rich Levin said.

Cancellation of the March 23-26 series at the Tokyo Dome would have been a public relations disaster for Major League Baseball, which already has had enough bad news during an offseason dominated by performance-enhancing drugs.

**NCAA Women's Tennis**

**ITA Rankings**

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**IN BRIEF**

**Virginia Tech's leading rusher Ore kicked off team**

Virginia Tech running back Branden Ore, the Hokies' leading rusher in their charge toward the 2008 FedEx Orange Bowl, has been dismissed from the team.

"During recent meetings with Branden Ore, we have decided that it would be best for Branden to pursue other opportunities," coach Frank Beamer said in a statement released by the school Wednesday. "Branden has had many great moments here at Virginia Tech, and we wish him well in the future."

Beamer did not offer details for Ore's removal, but according to people with knowledge of the situation, the coaching staff simply grew impatient with Ore's lackadaisical attitude and lack of commitment to the team. The Hokies waited for Ore to mature and forge an opportunity with the coaches before deciding to kick him off.

"We think that's where he fits best right now," manager Joe Girardi said Wednesday.

Of much for spring training, Chamberlain was a contender for a spot in the starting rotation. He was a starter in college and the minors before New York switched him to a relief role last year and called him up in August to boost its shaky bullpen.

When asked if Chamberlain would seek contributions from all parties.

"It had not yet been determined whether Oakland would make additional payments to its staff.

"Everyone connected with the trip will be fairly compensated," baseball spokesman Rich Levin said.

Cancellation of the March 23-26 series at the Tokyo Dome would have been a public relations disaster for Major League Baseball, which already has had enough bad news during an offseason dominated by performance-enhancing drugs.

**Dodgers' Garciaparra out with broken hand**

PHOENIX — Nomar Garciaparra has a broken bone in his right hand, and the Los Angeles Dodgers' third baseman might not be ready for Opening Day.

Garciaparra had an MRI on Wednesday in Los Angeles that revealed a microfracture. The Dodgers do not consider the injury to be as serious as a complete fracture of a bone, and expect to know more about the 34-year-old in the meantime.

Forearms, arms, and saddles

Dundre's Chamberlain will open season as reliever

TAMPA, Fla. — Joba Chamberlain will begin the season in the New York Yankees' bullpen.

"We think that's where he fits best right now," manager Joe Girardi said Wednesday.

"For much of spring training, Chamberlain was a contender for a spot in the starting rotation. He was a starter in college and the minors before New York switched him to a relief role last year and called him up in August to boost its shaky bullpen."

When asked if Chamberlain would go back to the setup role he thrived in as a rookie last season, Girardi refused to be specific. But he did say Chamberlain would pitch in games.

"He's a back-end guy. That's how I'm going to classify him," Girardi said.
Vanek nets hat trick as Sabres top Lightning

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Stung by the cascade of bounces that rained from the crowd at the end of empty net, the Tampa Bay Lightning were in no mood to suffer another defeat by the Sabres, who finished third in the Eastern Conference.

The Sabres netted three goals in the third period and outscored the Lightning 5-2 in the shootout to set up a possible battle in the Eastern Conference.

The Sabres, who have been in the top three of the East all season, had a 2-0 lead at the end of the first period and held onto it to win 4-2.

The Sabres had a chance to tie the game in the third period, but the Lightning blocked a shot by Buffalo's Alexander Semin.

Semin's put-back goal in overtime was the only goal of the game.

Vanek scored three goals in the third period to lead the Sabres to their first win of the season.

He scored his second goal of the season on a penalty shot and added an empty netter to seal the victory.

The Sabres are now 1-2-0 in their last three games and have scored only 16 goals in that span.

The Sabres will play the New York Rangers on Wednesday night at the First Niagara Center.
Top-rated QB Pryor commits to Ohio State

Associated Press

JEANNETTE, Pa. — Oregon was too far away. Penn State was too rural. Michigan was a 2-hour drive.

Terrelle Pryor, the highly-touted quarterback, announced Wednesday that he will play for Ohio State next season.

The 6-foot-2, 215-pound signal caller, who is RateScout's No. 1 nationwide prospect, was one of the first players to sign with a Division I school.

Pryor decided Ohio State is best for him, even though senior Todd Beesman, who recruited him to Michigan, was impressed by that, given that Pryor was trying to help his high school basketball team to a state championship and was mulling conflicting advice from his friends and family.

Pryor said he didn’t make a final choice until Wednesday morning.

When told Jim Tressel, the coach said, "Welcome to the family."

As for his final call with Rodriguez, "He was still recruiting me, giving me lines," Pryor said. "Coach Rod did his job. He’s gonna be a great coach. He’ll make stuff happen [at Michigan]."

Pryor called a Feb. 6 news conference to announce his choice, but then said he hadn’t chosen a school after all.

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Tennis

Nadal avenges loss to Tsonga at Pacific Life

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — Rafael Nadal came back to win the final five games and beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga Wednesday in an intense, crowd-pleasing rematch of their Australian Open semifinal.

Nadal, the defending Indian Wells champion, avenged his lob-sided loss in Melbourne with a scrappy 6-7 (14), 7-6 (7-5) victory in the fourth round of the Pacific Life Open.

After Tsonga, a hard-hitting Frenchman, went 5-2 in the third set, Nadal held serve the rest of the way and broke Tsonga’s serve in the ninth and 11th games to take a 6-5 lead.

With the crowd beginning to cheer even as he set up for the shot, the Spaniard capped the match by slamming an overhead past Tsonga.

The 22-year-old Tsonga, who has vaulted from 217 in the rankings in 2006 to No. 17, upset No. 2 Nadal 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 in the Australian Open semifinals before losing to Novak Djokovic in the final.

Tsonga played brilliantly at times in the rematch against the 21-year-old Nadal, but often takes cost him at other times.

After ending a long rally when both hit several outstanding shots, Tsonga ended it with a drop shot that Nadal somehow managed to hit back, then a hang-bang volley that left Nadal lying on the ground at the edge of the court.

That brought Tsonga back from a 15-40 deficit to deuce in the 11th game, but he quickly followed that with a double-fault, then hit a forehand long to lose the game.

Driving powerful forehands down the lines, Tsonga had 47 winners overall — but made 56 unforced errors. The far more consistent Nadal finished with 27 winners and 27 unforced errors. Tsonga, who had 18 aces when he stunned Nadal in Australia, had 11 against him at Indian Wells, but also double-faulted seven times.

The match lasted 3 hours, 3 minutes, and the crowd seemed minimized more than a bit of all the points.

It was for charity, although the scene spoke volumes.

There is a sense of awe among Woods’ peers during a stretch of golf that rivals Byron Nelson’s golden season of 1945, when he won 11 straight events and 18 out of 30. And there is determination not to let this domination continue.

PGA Tour

Tiger looks for sixth straight

Associated Press

DORAL, Fla. — There are 78 players at this World Golf Championship, and one guy playing out of this world.

Tiger Woods is winning at a rate not seen in more than a half-decade. Bay Hill was his sixth straight victory around the world among official tournaments, and he is the three-time defending champion this week at the CA Championship.

"He inhales so many wins that there’s not much breathing room for the rest of us," Stewart Cink said.

Even a player lined up to get his autograph Wednesday.

Roo Weekley stood behind the 18th green as Woods and Jim Furyk finished an abbreviated practice round at Doral in 30 mph wind. He was holding two flags, from the Arnold Palmer Invitational, which Woods won with a 25-foot birdie on the last hole, and from the Accenture Match Play Championship, which Woods won by a record 8-and-7 margin in the final round.

"It’s a great time to be playing," Adam Scott said. "It’s unbelievably hard to beat him, but he doesn’t play every week. I know he’s winning all the time, but he doesn’t win every week, either."

Then the 27-year-old Australian passed long enough that he couldn’t contain a very big smile.

"There’s no proof of that," Scott said. "But we’ll try to change it this week."

The bookmakers don’t like the chances of the other 78 guys on the Blue Monster at Doral. Woods was listed as a 2-3 favorite on one Web site, staggering odds for a sport in which players have no control over the competition and the hole is only 4 1/2 inches in diameter.

"Most in line is Phil Mickelson at 15-1. There’s a reason for that." Woods has won at Doral the last three years, the first two when it was a fall event. He has won this World Golf Championship six of eight years, and to this point has been called the American Express Cup event and played around the world.

NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament

Wildcats continue tourney streak

Arizona to face Mountaineers in first round in 24th straight appearance

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One streak is intact. Now, Arizona is in position to extend another dazzling run.

The Wildcats are in the NCAA tournament for the 24th consecutive season, the longest current string in men’s college basketball and only three short of the record of 27 set by North Carolina from 1975-2001.

If history means anything, then 10th-seeded Arizona has a decided edge over No. 7 West Virginia, its opening-round opponent Thursday night in the West Regional. The Mountaineers, after all, are working on a streak of one.

"Obviously, it’s a very impressive record," West Virginia center Jamie Smaligaan said of Arizona’s run, which began in 1985. It’s also includes four Final Four appearances.

A victory by the underdog Wildcats (19-14) would enable Arizona to stretch to 21 its run of successive 20-win seasons, yet another streak unmatched in men’s college basketball today.

"That would mean a lot, of course, but more than that, if we win 20 games that means we’re on to the next round," guard Jawaan McClellan said Wednesday.

Although winning 20 games and reaching the NCAA tournament has become commonplace for Arizona, this has not been a typical year for the Wildcats. Their 14 defeats equals the most by an at-large selection since 1985, and their seventh-place finish in the Pac-10 was hardly a source of pride.

Then again, it’s hard to imagine Arizona doing much better. McClellan said the team was far from its best during the regular season.

Tiger looks for sixth straight

"Winning five games back to back, it all ended this weekend," guard Wayne Parry said.

"It was very important to us. It put a lot of pressure on us, the thought that we weren’t going to make it this year," forward Jordan Hill said. "We’ve been through a lot of ups and downs, with the coaching changes and our key players being hurt, so we just had to keep our heads up and keep fighting. Once we found out we made it, a weight lifted off our shoulders. Now it’s time to get to business."

Even if they had to travel across the country as a No. 10 seed.

"We’re just happy to be in the tournament," McClellan said. "Every year, with the scholarships spread out throughout the schools, other schools are getting better. The Pac-10 conference is getting better. So it’s not as easy just to make it to the NCAA tournament as it was. We come out with a chip on our shoulder, to keep the party going and to keep playing is a great atmosphere for us."

West Virginia (17-10) is not an at-large selection tested as the Wildcats, but the Mountaineers are convinced their run to the NIT championship last year will prove equally beneficial.

"Winning five games back to back and the last two on a neutral court, we’ve got enough experience to match what they have," Smaligaan insisted.

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Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The term "losing streak" suddenly applies to the Houston Rockets, thanks in large part to a player they got rid of at the trading deadline.

Bonzi Wells helped New Orleans hand the Rockets their second straight loss after a 22-game winning streak, scoring 20 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter in the Rockets' 90-69 victory Wednesday night.

Wells denied the trade — which sent him and Mike James to New Orleans for Bobby Jackson — had anything to do with his effort to overtake a game that was tied at 59 after three quarters.

"I've been on five different teams so it doesn't really matter," Wells said after helping New Orleans (46-21) pull even with the Los Angeles Lakers atop the Western Conference.

"We're really fighting for something here and if you can't get motivated every night you shouldn't be in this league.

David West, returning from a right ankle sprain that sidelined him for two games, had 19 points and 10 rebounds. New Orleans also pulled a half-game ahead of the Rockets for the Southwest Division lead.

Chris Paul had 21 points and nine rebounds before fouling out with three minutes left. Shane Battier also scored 14, while Dikembe Mutombo and Rafer Alston each scored 10.

Battier noted that Houston's sudden slide may have something to do with the level of competition.

"We played the best team in the league, Boston, at home, then we played the team that has been leading the conference for the majority of the year," Battier said. "We just didn't have enough to get over the top the last two games.

Tyson Chandler grabbed 15 rebounds for the Rockets, who were downed by 14 in the second quarter before cutting Houston's lead to 44-39 at halftime.

After New Orleans took a 50-47 lead in the third quarter, Houston countered with an 8-0 run, and Mutombo's dunk put the Rockets up 55-50. The Rockets suddenly couldn't make a basket, getting only one free throw from West during a six-minute span.

New Orleans did not let up on defense, however, and put together an 8-2 run during the last 2:30 of the third quarter to go into the fourth quarter.

"We just knew it was a matter of time," Rockets coach Rick Adelman said. "They are doubling him so hard. They're coming at him all the time. If he gives it up, we have to be able to finish it.

But Houston, which shot 41 percent against Boston, was even worse in New Orleans, finishing at 34 percent in setting a season low for points in the fourth quarter.

"We've got to get ourselves together, but it is getting harder every game," McInnerny said.

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BASEBALL

Irish open conference play

By LORENZO REYES

After Mother Nature spooled a two-game opening doubleheader stand for Notre Dame, the squad travels to the east coast to face Georgetown in its Big East opener on Thursday.

The Irish will face the Hoyas in a three-game set at Shirley Povich Field in Bethesda, Md., with the series finale on Saturday.

Notre Dame will send junior right-hander David Phelps to the mound to start the first contest of the series, as he searches for his third win of the season. Sporting a 4.01 ERA, opposing batters have had their struggles against him, hitting .289 against the junior.

When the Irish bats step up to the plate, they will face right-handed sophomore Tim Adleman, who sports a perfect 3-0 record coupled with an 8.36 ERA. Adleman uses his tall frame at 6-foot-5 to overpower opposing batters.

In the second game of the series, the Irish will hand the ball over to senior pitcher Wade Korpi as he heads to the mound with a 5.01 ERA and a .237 batting average to start off against his base running.

Battling Korpi will likely be lefty senior Michael Gaggiolo, who is in search of his first win all season. Although he hasn’t made his way into the win column, Gaggiolo hasn’t made very many mistakes, as evidenced by his 3.57 ERA.

In the series finale, sophomore Eric Maust will take the mound, as the Irish attempt to close out the series with a win. The righty started his first game of the season against Texas Pan-American, going over six innings and allowing two runs on nine hits.

Facing the Irish will be senior righty Erik Chandler, who has struggled this season with an 0-2 record and an ERA of 8.53.

Sophomore A.J. Puhlman is building off his solid freshman campaign, leading the Irish with 20 hits this season. His eight RBIs are tied for fourth highest on the team, but it is his base running that has been helping in creating runs for the Irish. Puhlman is perfect on all seven of his stolen base attempts this season.

Brett Lilly has also been a solid run-producer this season. The senior is second on the team in hits with 16, but leads all Irish batters with 12 RBIs on the year. Lilly has done some run scoring of his own, crossing the plate for a team-high 15 times, six more than the closest Notre Dame player.

JuniorJeremy Barnes completes the three-headed offensive monster for the Irish with his team-high .333 average that has seen him pick up 15 hits, and 11 RBIs, which are second best on the squad.

The Irish had a frustrating past weekend, losing and losing and losing to Xavier. Against Xavier was not even the home opener on St. Patrick’s Day. Although the second game against Xavier was not even started, the first contest was six innings through before the wintry weather forced umpires to stop play.

Central Michigan and the Irish are still awaiting word from the NCAA as to the proper ruling from the suspended contest, but the makeup day of May 12 has been scheduled. After the series against the Hoyas, Notre Dame returns home to Frank Eck Stadium Tuesday for a six-game home-stand that starts off against Ball State.

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at reyes@nd.edu

ND Women’s Tennis

Tea leaves to Texas in search of road wins

By DAN MASTERTON

The Irish leave their home court for a two-match road trip to Texas, starting Saturday in College Station, Tex., against the Aggies.

The No. 27 Aggies (8-4) enter the match on a two-game win streak, having defeated both Oklahoma State and Oklahoma in convincing fashion last week.

The Aggies dropped just one match point over the two meetings, but like the No. 24 Irish, Texas A&M is still battling for inclusion in the top-50 rankings.

Texas A&M poses the toughest test for the Irish since March 1, when the nation’s current No. 2 team, the Aggies’ attack is led by junior Prigeon, ranked as the No. 76 singles player in the country. The sophomore from South Africa has an impressive record but faced six straight ranked opponents to start the season.

She won 2-4 over the stretch highlighted by a win over then-No. 11 Melanie Gloria of Fresno State.

Though the Aggies have no other ranked singles players or any ranked doubles pairs, they hold the home-court advantage and have lost just once in four home matches for the dual season.

Notre Dame’s streak has been a result of solid team play up and down the lineup, and the impressive play by the Irish is being nationally recognized.

SeniorBrock Back and junior Keely Tefft remained in the top spot of the national doubles rankings this week while the sophomore combo of Colleen Bieley and Cosmina Ciobanu entered the poll at No. 30. Tefft/Back started Saturday with an impressive 11-1 for the dual victory, and have won four consecutive matches.

The singles side, Tefft moved up one spot to No. 38, and sophomore Kally Kruskal remained in the rankings at No. 114. Ciobanu joined Tefft and Kruskal in the rankings this week at No. 105 to give the strong singles attacks three nationally ranked players.

On the road against a ranked opponent gives the Irish a chance to improve on some apparent weaknesses with respect to their performance so far.

Though three games over .500 for the dual season, the Irish are 2-4 for the road at just 3-4. Some of the struggles can be traced to their 1-3 record on a three-game road-trip to start the year against ranked opponents, but the trip to College Station offers a chance for the Irish to prove their worth.

As the NCAA Tournament inches on, the road the Irish will have to play starting against their toughest competition. Jackson said, “It sneaks in the back of your mind that’s what got us into trouble in the second half. If we don’t focus on our game against them, it’s insignificant what happens next week.”

VanGuider echoed his coach’s “one game at a time” mentality. “It should be in the back of your mind, but this weekend it’s all about Friday,” he said. “We’re not worried about the future, we’re not worried about the past, we’re not worried about anything but Miami.”

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

CCHA

continued from page 24

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**MEN'S LACROSSE**

Team travels to Colorado to take on Air Force

By ELLYN MICHALAK

The Irish currently sit behind Quinnipiac (4-6) and Bellarmine (4-1) in the conference.

Notre Dame travels to Colorado Springs, Colo., to face Air Force on Saturday.

The Falcons hold a 6-1 record, with their only loss coming from a close game with No. 3 Virginia.

They are a very good team. They played Virginia to a very good game and kept them tied until very late in the game," Corrigan said. "Since then they haven't lost. They are good team playing with tremendous confidence right now."

On Saturday, the Irish will face Air Force on Saturday.

By ANDY ZICCArelli

Irish to host Loyola; looking to rebound

It has already been a trying season for the Irish, one that has seen its fair share of unexpected and close losses.

Afer a 3-0 start, Notre Dame's last two games — a 16-13 overtime heartbreaker against Syracuse on Sunday and a 12-11 loss to the Orange, the Irish have been held under four goals in each of Notre Dame's last two games.

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**MEN'S GOLF**

ND to spend weekend in Tucson

By PETER REISENAUER

The Irish to host Loyola; looking to rebound

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**SEX and Literature in Shakespeare's Time**

A LECTURE BY Stanley Wells, CBE

Stanley Wells, CBE, has served as the General Editor of The Complete Oxford Shakespeare since 1978 and is one of the most recognized authorities on Shakespeare in the world.

**MONDAY, MARCH 31 5:00 PM**

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This event is made possible by the generous support of the Deborah J. Loughrey Endowment for Excellence in Shakespeare Studies.

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**ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

Irish to host Loyola; looking to rebound

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**Write Sports.**

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The Observer ▪ SPORTS

Thursday, March 20, 2008

D’Amico continued from page 24

"Erial has a little more of a presence and does a lot of things that aren’t written down on the sheet. She’s a really good screen-er, she’s really smart when she screens and she works hard trying to get back into the rotation, and I think you have to give her a lot of credit for that," she said. "I don’t think she’s ever going to be a star, but I think she’s got the kind of work ethic that’s going to help her get started and push each other to get each other better," McGraw said.

Although every athlete wants to play, D’Amico has accepted the new role because she understands that’s what the team needs, she said. "If my role’s going to change, if the team needs me to be in the backcourt, that’s what it needs," she said.

The most important thing is the season’s outcome, McGraw said. D’Amico said she accepted her decreased playing time as no fault of her own, just that’s what the team needs, then she willingly stepped into the role as soon as fellow point guard Chaeli Allen came into the picture.

"I’ve been playing since last year, and I felt that the fans would understand and that’s just the fact that I just couldn’t come out," Allen said.

When she’s a game, the Joyce Center faithful go bookers. "It’s pretty amazing," she said. "It’s kind of sad that I’ll never break the JACC, they’ve been amazing supportive since freshman year.

Outside of basketball, Tsipis keeps up the grades that got her here. She was a three-time Big East Conference Academic Honor Roll and had a 3.7 GPA last year.

"It’s not unusual for us to be at a hotel somewhere and for me to see her out in the hallway studying," McGraw said. "I said absolutely, I thought it was one of the best decisions I ever made to keep her." Because of the respect she’s earned from her teammates, Tsipis said she has never been treated differently, despite her status as a walk-on. "I think because I’m the only walk-on on the team, they treat my team as small, we have a really close group," she said. "I feel like I’m just one of the team, like anyone else. I kind of feel like I’m in the responsibility and owe to them to make us as good as I can be." Family ties

Tsipis, who played for her father, Dean, growing up, is no stranger to playing for family members. She said the relationship with her uncle coaches has worked well. "It’s pretty true," she said. "I just got accepted to Notre Dame, I got an offer to play at DePaul. She’s a hard person to walk on, and do, and have a chance at that walk-on—McCrae as well — and I said absolutely. I thought it was one of the best decisions I ever made to keep her." Because of the respect she’s earned from her teammates, Tsipis said she has never been treated differently, despite her status as a walk-on. "I think because I’m the only walk-on on the team, they treat my team as small, we have a really close group," she said. "I feel like I’m just one of the team, like anyone else. I kind of feel like I’m in the responsibility and owe to them to make us as good as I can be.

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The Observer apologizes for the absence of Lollerskates. It will return after break.

ANOTHER UNFUNNY COMIC
LIZ MURPHY AND SARAH MUSCARELLA

Puzzle by Kenneth Senter

36 One and one
36 White Sulphur
36 What, W.Va.
38 Believe, as for a break
38 Easily microscope, as a boat
40 Lab recipetext
40 cheese
42 They believed the world was created by
43 Virgo
45 That's the stuff
47 Make-shift fan
50 Subject of a Jordan Google search
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52 Caffeine or nicotine
52 Bank's partner
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The Observer • TODAY
Hockey

Irish fight for tournament lives in Detroit

Notre Dame faces No. 3 in CCHA semifinals; leading scorer Condra out for year with injured left knee

By SAM WERNER

Sports Writer

When No. 12 Notre Dame enters Detroit's Joe Louis Arena this weekend, it will have the opportunity to defend its Mason Cup title, beginning with tonight's CCHA semifinal matchup with No. 3 Miami. But it won't have the opportunity to do so at full strength.

The Irish will be without junior right wing Erik Condra, their leading scorer who injured his left knee in Sunday's 2-1 win over Ferris State.

"Any time you lose a player of that caliber, it's going to impact your team," coach Jeff Jackson said. "But it's also an opportunity for other guys to step up in different roles."

Condra had scored 15 goals and 23 assists this season and had played prominently on Notre Dame's penalty kill and power play units. Jackson said he had tried several different line combinations to make up for Condra's loss but wouldn't make any final decisions until after Thursday's practice in Detroit.

Notre Dame split the season series with the RedHawks, winning 2-1 and falling 2-1 in Oxford, Ohio, when Miami was the nation's top team. The RedHawks are led by goalie Jeff Zatkoff, the CCHA's leader in save percentage and goals-against average in the regular season. The junior is one of the leading candidates for the Hobey Baker Award, given annually to the nation's top hockey player.

"They may be the No. 1 team in the country," Jackson said. "They're not ranked No. 1 right now, but they're right there with the top couple of teams."

On offense, RedHawks junior Justin Mercier and senior Ryan Jones make up one of the most potent scoring duos in the CCHA. The pair has combined for 82 points on the season.

"[Miami is] so deep, they're so talented," Irish senior captain Mark VanGuilder said. "You can't take a shift off or you're down 1-0 or 2-0."

The Irish hope to use their CCHA tournament experience against the RedHawks. The Irish beat Lake Superior State and Michigan last year to host the Mason Cup, and Jackson said the players returning from that squad will benefit from winning it all.

"The fact that the guys that were there last year had that experience, I'm sure it's going to help them," Jackson said.

This year's team will be faced with a very different challenge. Though last year, the Irish were seeded No. 1 in the tournament and were favorites to win the title. This year, Notre Dame is the No. 3 seed and the third-highest seeded team in the final four — ahead of only Northern Michigan, the No. 6 seed.

ND Women's Basketball

Their last dance

Gaines, Allen provide backcourt leadership

By DEIRDRE KRASULA

Sports Writer

There are those that lead by actions, and those that lead through words. The Irish are lucky enough to boast both.

Senior guards Tulyah Gaines and Charel Allen combine to create a guiding force in the backcourt that has helped the Irish secure a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

There was never any question who would lead Notre Dame as the team entered the 2007-2008 season; Gaines and Allen combine with fellow senior Amanda Tsipis to form the Irish captains.

"I pretty much knew my role coming into the season," Gaines said. "But it's also an opportunity for other guys to step up in different roles."

Senior guards Tulyah Gaines, left, and Charel Allen serve as two of the team's three captains by providing both vocal and silent leadership.

Walk-on Tsipis earns respect of teammates, leaves lasting mark

By BILL BRINK

Sports Writer

It was a meaningless basket in a meaningless game, but it was vindication for countless hours of behind-the-scenes toil.

It was inconspicuous, at best. Notre Dame led South Florida 84-39 in the final minutes of a Feb. 27 home game. With 3:52 left, senior guard Amanda Tsipis drove through the lane from the outside and sank a layup.

The crowd roared.

But here's the rub. She didn't want the shot.

"I was actually looking to pass to senior center Melissa D'Amico," Tsipis said.

That lack of selfishness at a meaningful point in the game tells you all you need to know about Amanda Tsipis.

The only walk-on ever to be elected captain by her teammates, Tsipis has one start in her four-year collegiate career. She has 19 points this season, or 0.9 per game. Yet with the ball and a lane to the basket, she wanted to pass.

Her fellow players and coaches wouldn't be surprised. They learned from her interactions with Tsipis the impact she can have away from the court.

"She's exactly what a walk-on epitomizes at Notre Dame," said assistant coach Jonathan Tsipis, who is Amanda's uncle. "We see with our chemistry in our locker room without the coaches around a lot of the positive impact that she's had."

Notre Dame's Sunday match-up with Southern Methodist in the NCAA Tournament could be Tsipis' last in an Irish uniform. But the impression she made on