Juan Muldoon named new varsity Leprechaun

By MADELINE BUCKLEY  News Writer

Football fans will see a new face on the sidelines in the fall when junior Juan said Muldoon graces the field as the new varsity Leprechaun.

Muldoon said his experience as junior varsity Leprechaun for the past two years has prepared him for the busy role of being the University mascot.

"I have learned to communicate with a crowd and think on my feet, which are skills absolutely necessary to work as a football crowd," Muldoon said.

Muldoon's desire to represent Notre Dame as the Leprechaun began during his Freshman Orientation.

"During Fresh-O I had a beard and I was about five feet (tall), so some people in my section joked that I should be the Leprechaun," he said. "In the spring as tryouts drew nearer, a cheerleader in my section encouraged me to give it a shot. It was a long shot because they generally choose older students, but I got the J.V. position."

"That's where the dream all started," he said.

The grueling process of tryouts began in early April to replace graduating varsity Leprechaun Matt Phipps. The position of Notre Dame's Leprechaun is about more than just sports, Muldoon said. The judges have to evaluate the candidates as public relations figures for the University, as the Leprechaun frequently speaks with fans, the media and participates in rallies and community service.

During the tryouts, the Leprechaun candidates have to pare down in mock media interviews and role-play different scenarios that they may encounter as Leprechaun.

"You have to conduct a Pep Rally on your own in front of a live crowd," Muldoon said. "I thought 'Oh God, not another one,'" he said. "And it turns out that that's been going on 24 hours a day since I became Leprechaun."

And, of course, the prospective Leprechauns had to demonstrate their ability to work a crowd.

"Yes, we have to fit the mold of the Notre Dame Pep Rally," Muldoon said. "It's a really, really, really difficult position."

Muldoon said he experienced body aches and strain during the tryouts, but he's confident he has the talent.

"I'm confident that I can handle the position and I'm confident that I can take care of my duties," he said.

Muldoon said he considers the role of Leprechaun to be a great honor.

"I think it's a great honor and I'm thankful for the opportunity," he said. "I've always said that I want to be a Notre Dame fan for life, and now I get to represent the University to the world."
**Inside Column**

Love thee Notre Dame

I did not always know that I wanted to attend the University of Notre Dame. For a while, I thought the University of Pennsylvania or possibly Dartmouth would be my top choice. They were both good schools, close to home and a bunch of my kids from high school were going there. I decided to visit Notre Dame on a whim.

Two of my best friends from high school both went here and I figured that even if I didn't like the school, it would be a fun weekend anyway.

When my dad and I drove up Notre Dame Avenue, we were greeted by possibly the most beautiful sight I have ever laid eyes on — the Golden Dome. It left both of us speechless, and I never looked back. I ended up applying to Notre Dame early action, and, after receiving my acceptance letters; I shredded my other applications (much to the chagrin of my mother).

However, it was not long until she too was won over. When we came out to South Bend last fall, she still was not convinced that Notre Dame was the right choice. It was far from home in New York, and it had always been her hope that I would attend an Ivy League school.

But the energy I felt when I stepped on this campus was intoxicating — unlike anything else I have ever felt. There is this incredible aura that surrounds the University. As my dad would say, it is weird to be in a place where everyone seems so happy all the time. My mom must have felt it too, because at the end of Freshman year she told me that I had definitely made the right decision in choosing Notre Dame.

However, freshman year has not been entirely easy. There have been times of trial and tribulation as well. I have gotten bad grades, experienced heartbreak, and gotten very little sleep.

But the mistakes I have made and the hard times I have experienced at Notre Dame have helped me grow more as a person. I am happier now than I have ever been in my life, largely because the friends I have made at Notre Dame have helped me get through the bad times and focus on the good. Together, we have tested our strength against the force of gravity, found new uses for a rope, a skateboard and a bike, fed the ducks, experienced the glory that is Fr. George Rozum, Alumni Hall and the Wake. We made several trips to Meijer than I can even count.

It has truly been the greatest time of my life, and all this summer I will be counting down until next year.

The news expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmaho6@nd.edu.

**Correction**
The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and adheres to the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

**Question of the Day:** Are you more like the tortoise or the hare, and why?

*Jaime Minor, sophomore Cavanaugh*

"I want to be the hare, so I could hop, hop, hop, hop, hop all day."

*Joel Sharbrough, junior Keough*

"The tortoise, because of 'kinky turtle sex.'"

*Kerry McGuire, junior Welsh Fam*

"I'm like the tortoise, because I'm slow, but I still don't win."

*Robby Link, sophomore Cavanaugh*

"I'd be the tortoise - slow and steady wins the race."

*Joy Hwang, sophomore Cavanaugh*

"I'd be the hare because I've kept going and going and going ..."

*Shea Doyle, sophomore Cavanaugh*

Students load canned foods into a truck Saturday during the Earth Week canned food drive. All food collected will be donated to the food bank of Northern Indiana.

**In Brief**

The Notre Dame Jazz Band's Spring Concert will be held today at 7 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are free but must be reserved at the DPAC ticket office.

Notre Dame baseball will play today at 7 p.m. in the Frank Eck Baseball Stadium against Mississippi Valley State.

"Rumors," the Neil Simon play sponsored by Sorin Hall, continues today from 8 to 10:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are $5 and proceeds go to Sorin's fund for St. Jude Primary School in Uganda.

Collegium Musicorum spring concert will take place Wednesday at 7 and 8:30 p.m. in the Reyes Organ and Choral Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The performance will feature sacred and secular a capella music from the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque eras. Tickets are $3 at the DPAC ticket office.

Screenings from the Angelus Student Film Festival will be shown at the Angelus Film Series Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Browning Cinema.

Assistant Professor Paul Gao will speak in the Finance Seminar Series Friday from 11:30 to 1:05 in room 339 of the Mendoza College of Business.

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

**Offbeat**

Newlyweds spend night in jail after fighting each other

PITTSBURGH — A newlywed couple spent the night in separate jail cells — she in her wedding gown — after police said they brawled with each other, then members of another wedding party, at a suburban Pittsburgh hotel.

The fight started Saturday night after a reception when he knocked her to the floor then members of another wedding party, at a suburban Pittsburgh hotel.

The fight started Saturday night after a reception when he knocked her to the floor and stabbed a man, then set his home on fire. On several occasions I have started to do some exercising and my vision went blurry and I felt like I was going to pass out," Laswell wrote in his complaint. Information compiled from the Associated Press.

**Weather**

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**Local Weather**

- Atlanta 68 / 44
- Boston 56 / 50
- Chicago 54 / 33
- Denver 76 / 53
- Houston 79 / 53
- Los Angeles 68 / 50
- Minneapolis 58 / 33
- New York 64 / 50
- Philadelphia 63 / 49
- Phoenix 97 / 67
- Seattle 56 / 41
- St. Louis 63 / 37
- Tampa 77 / 66
- Washington 63 / 45
If you wish to make a contribution to help George raise money to get home, send a check or money order to: Mary Kowalski Anthony Travel LaFortune Student Center P.O. Box 1086 Notre Dame, IN 46556

Make checks payable to Anthony Travel and include a note saying the check is "For George."

Mary Kowalski, who works for University travel services at Anthony Travel, expresses her feelings about George.

"Thankfully, we got home almost uneventfully. Although we were told the flights could be uncertain due toGeorge's medical condition, he always takes time to tell a story. George always comes across as friendly and approachable. His stories, especially about his experiences during World War II, are fascinating and engaging. His passion for history and his love for sharing stories make him a great model for all of us. George's words and stories continue to inspire us, and we will always remember his kind words and his warm smile. He is truly a remarkable person, and we are grateful to have known him."
Office
continued from page 1
as the office’s first director. “He’s very passionate about Notre Dame,” Long said. “He cares about issues in sustainability.”

The University administration is similarly passionate about Mazurek’s appointment. “As Notre Dame progresses toward becoming a more environmentally responsible campus, I am certain Jim will provide the necessary leadership and expertise as we strive to reach our goals,” University President Father John Jenkins said in a statement.

Mazurek’s appointment is especially important “as Notre Dame builds its green program and aspires to be recognized as a global leader in this area,” vice president for business operations James Lyboult said in the statement.

The Office of Sustainability, Long said, will be granted a $2 million loan to sponsor environmental improvements on campus.

Long said the loan will fund many types of energy programs, from building improvements to research initiatives.

Mazurek, who majored in mechanical engineering as an undergraduate at the University, earned his masters degree in environmental engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and his MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern, Long said.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

Muldoon
continued from page 1
how excited the crowd became while the Leprechaun entertained, he said. “I was nervous, working but I put my best face forward,” Muldoon said.

As an additional part of the tryout process, the Leprechauns took clinics with the cheerleaders in order to learn stunts, he said.

The panels of judges conducting the tryouts was composed of representatives from different offices on campus, such as Student Activities, the Alumni Association, Marketing and Public Relations, Muldoon said. The cheerleading coaches also took part in the decision process, he said.

At the end of the process, he said, each Leprechaun candidate faced the panel in a personal interview. “They are looking for someone who has a positive attitude, heart and ethics,” Muldoon said. “You have to be enthusiastic, positive, and have a great love for the University.” Although Muldoon has embodied these qualities for the past two years as the junior varsity Leprechaun, he will face new challenges and responsibilities as the Varsity Leprechaun. The junior varsity Leprechaun is generally in charge of working the men’s soccer games and women’s volleyball and basketball games, and the varsity Leprechaun works football and men’s basketball.

“I have to start thinking about entertaining a bigger audience at the games and pep rallies, and traveling with the football and basketball teams,” Muldoon said. “I’m used to 30-40 fans, and during the Blue and Gold game I had 32,000 fans. I have the responsibility of communicating with a broader audience.”

While moving to a larger arena is exciting, Muldoon had some nostalgia for his old position. “I’m actually going to miss J.V. because I’m used to having personal relationships with the parents and players,” he said. “However, I’m hoping to establish some new relationships as well. I look forward to working with the new J.V. Leprechaun Dan Collins. We can both learn from each other.”

Muldoon will face his position as Varsity Leprechaun with yet another enthusiasm in the world. “I have some big shoes to fill,” he said. “I had the pleasure of being the understudy of Matt Phipps, and I have learned a lot. I can build on that experience and bring my own personality to the table. I will be on the field next year with a smile, jump and a gig.”

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Class
continued from page 1
high priority and has worked on projects such as Relay for Life, mentoring and tutoring math at local high schools. At his home in Huntington, West Virginia, he volunteers at Nazareth House, where people can buy food and clothing that they cannot regularly afford. Even with these time commitments, Hammack earned straight As at Notre Dame, except for one A-, and worked as a teaching assistant for business professor William Sexton for two years. Hammack also expanded his academic interest beyond his accountancy major and said two of his most influential classes were Fiction Writing and Poetry Writing.

“They gave me a great opportunity to reflect on things that I believe and values that I hold and write about them,” he said.

Hammack said he strove to achieve balance in college, incorporating faith, academics, service and athletics into his life. He added that his perception of this balance in Notre Dame students is what attracted him to the University.

During Hammack’s sophomore year, he experienced the strength of the Notre Dame community when his brother, Sean, a current freshman in Zahn residence hall, was diagnosed with cancer. Hammack said it was difficult to be far from his family during this time and that he had to go home for a week. Senior Doug Vranderic, Hammack’s roommate from freshman through junior year, said he still maintained his work ethic, despite the family crisis he faced.

“I was very impressed with how he handled his school work,” Vranderic said.

According to Hammack, Sean’s battle with cancer was one of the experiences he drew from to write his graduation speech, and he was inspired by “unrelenting faith and hope beyond hope that things were going to get better, in spite of what doctors were telling us.”

After graduation, Hammack will serve for one year, possibly in a teaching position with AmeriCorps. He said he plans to eventually attend law school and become a corporate lawyer, but that he feels this is the best time in his life to work for a service organization.

“If I do end up going to law school, that’s going to pique more loans and more responsibilities,” he said. “Service is very important to me, so I think I’m seizing the opportunity at its best.”

In addition to law, Hammack said he also wishes to become a published author, and he is beginning a novel based off his experience of having a sibling with cancer. He said he hopes his story will encourage readers who are struggling with cancer. Hammack said he also wishes to become a published author, and he is beginning a novel based off his experience of having a sibling with cancer. He said he hopes his story will encourage readers who are struggling with cancer.

“If someone can see that someone has a relatable experience — that’s another source of hope,” he said. “When you’re fighting cancer, that’s all you can ask for.”

Contact Claire Reising at creisin2@nd.edu

The Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Presents

An Evening of Angelus at Notre Dame

Thursday, May 1, 2008
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7:00 PM

A FREE screening of four short, award-winning films produced, written, and directed by students. A Q+A with the filmmakers will follow the screening. This is a FREE, but ticketed event. Contact the DPAC’s box office at 1-2800 to reserve your ticket.

Family Theater Productions created the Angelus Awards in 1996 to showcase and award emerging filmmakers and encourage them to continue creating visionary projects that honor the fundamental dignity of the human person.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Barbie deemed ‘destructive’ in Iran

TIHRAN, Iran — An Iranian official warned Monday against the “destructive” cultural and social consequences of importing Barbie dolls and other Western toys.

In the latest salvo in a more than decade-old government campaign against Barbie, Prosecutor General Ghorban Ali Dorl Najafi said in an official letter to Vice President Parviz Davoudi that the doll and other Western toys are a “danger” that need to be stopped.

“Without exception, all of them are designed to destroy our family and social danger,” he wrote. A copy of which was made available to The Associated Press.

Iran's Islamic Republic has been isolated with smuggled Western toys in recent years partly due to a dramatic rise in purchasing power as a result of low fuel prices.

Chinese train derails leaving 70 dead

ZHIBO, China — Some passengers were sleeping, but others were standing in the aisle waiting for the last few of them to get onto the high-speed train derailed, topping into a ditch “like a roller coaster” and slamming into another train. About 70 people died and more than 400 were injured.

China reacted swiftly to its worst train accident in a decade, sending top officials and soldiers to Zhibo, the site of Monday’s pre-dawn crash near the city of Shijiazhuang, provincial capital and sacking two railway officials.

An official from the railway administration said by telephone that human error was to blame. The official Xinhua News Agency also said one of the trains was traveling too fast.

NATIONAL NEWS

100 truckers protest high fuel prices

WASHINGTON — Bored in a dead-end fantasy, a convoy of truck drivers traveled to Washington on Monday to protest record fuel prices.

Members of Truckers and Citizens United circled the National Mall before parking their rigs at RFK Stadium. From there, about 100 protesters marched and took shuttles to the Capitol, where an afternoon rally was held.

“High price for oil is hurting our economy,” organizer Mark Kirsch said. “It’s hurting widows and orphans.”

The national average price of a gallon of regular gasoline is a record $3.51, according to a recent survey of stations by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. The price for diesel also is up, used to transport most food, industrial and commercial goods — is $4.20 a gallon.

Storms, tornadoes damage Virginia

RICHMOND, Va. — Authorities say one person was killed and at least 10 homes were severely damaged or destroyed by severe storms out of central and southeastern Virginia.

Suffolk city spokeswoman Dana Woodson said one of the homes was torn down by an EF-1 tornado that touched down Monday.

LOCAL NEWS

Voters still required to show photo ID

WASHINGTON — The surge of new voters into the 2008 presidential campaign could run into a barrier next week, a law requiring photo identification before people can vote.

A federal court upheld a Republican-inspired law in Indiana Monday that Democrats say will keep out some poor, older and minority voters.

Indiana’s presidential primary is May 6, and Indiana’s state Democratic leaders are pushing for the Democratic contest between Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama about the law.

The results could say something about the effect of the law, either because a large number of voters will lack identification or be forced to cast provisional ballots or because the number turns out to be small.

Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton speaks at a news conference after a campaign event Monday at Graham Fire Department in Graham, N.C.

AUSTRIA

Woman held captive by father for 24 years

Austria reacted swiftly to its worst train accident in a decade, sending top officials and soldiers to Zhibo, the site of Monday’s pre-dawn crash near the city of Shijiazhuang, provincial capital and sacking two railway officials.

An official from the railway administration said by telephone that human error was to blame. The official Xinhua News Agency also said one of the trains was traveling too fast.
LeMans hall director gets new apartment

Office of Residence Life converted the student lounge located in the tower into a living space during break

By MANDI STIRONE
Assistant News Editor

LeMans Hall residents returned from break in January to find that the tower room, one of the few student lounges in the building, had been turned into an apartment for their hall director, Trish Hodge.

All of the hall directors at Saint Mary's were having their apartments refurbished, Director of Residence Life Sandah Dieujuste said.

Continued construction around and throughout the building had rendered Hodge's previous apartment, located in the basement of the building, unusable, Director of Facilities Bill Hambling said.

"We kept traipsing through the apartment to do what we had to do. It just really was making a mess of things for anybody who had to be down there," he said.

Construction on the tower room was supposed to be over in December but didn't finish until January, Dieujuste said.

Hodges was able to move in right after that, she said.

Her new apartment is a "New York style kind of motif," Hambling said.

It has a loft where her bedroom is with a space underneath, Dieujuste said. There is also a private kitchen off to one side of the entrance to the apartment, she said. On the opposite side of the entrance is "her private bath which also has her washer and dryer," she said.

Construction crews have been working on the plumbing and drainage of the building and much of the work has been in the basement, Hambling said.

"The down spouts and gutters from the roofs were plugged, water was backing up and going into student rooms," he said.

This was because these down spouts and gutters actually run inside the walls of LeMans and were tied into the sanitary lines of the building, Hambling said.

Construction crews were working to clear out these systems as well as disconnecting them from the sanitary lines and connecting them to the storm water system, he said.

Now, instead of running rainwater out of the building with the sanitary lines, he said, it is going into Lake Marion and the St. Joseph's River, he said.

In addition, the pipes that are running down the walls of LeMans are being pressurized to check for further leaks, and then hydro-flushed to ensure that all the water is flowing out of them, he said.

"We're going to stop the leaks coming from back into the building," Hambling said.

This summer they will also be installing drywall to fix much of the damage caused by the leaks, he said.

Though the basement apartment probably could have been refurbished, the decision was made to move Hodge into an apartment in another part of the building, Dieujuste said.

"It just wasn't the same as the other hall directors apartments that were remodeled," she said.

After a careful search of the building, Dieujuste and Hambling decided on the tower room for the new apartment, he said.

"Sandah and I walked around looking for available space throughout the entire part of LeMans... trying to find something that would be big enough to accommodate Trish's needs and there really wasn't anything without taking rooms out of service," he said.

The decision was made in October or September of this school year and student input was not considered, Dieujuste said.

"When we do renovations then we consult students and we form a small committee, but something like this, because it was a personal space, we really didn't form any committees or anything like that," she said.

Based on the information she had received, the tower room was hardly being used by students, she said.

"From the feedback we got from RA's and the hall directors, (use was) just really was the opposite," she said.

Most students didn't even know that it was there, for those students that did know it was quite a hike... it was just an awkward space," she said.

Student reactions to losing the lounge space have been mixed.

Some students were unaware that the tower room space had once been available to them as a student lounge.

"I didn't even know that we were allowed up there," sophomore LeMans resident Ashley Breen said.

Other students were upset about losing the space once reserved for student use.

"I hate it, I think it's ridiculous," sophomore Emily Schouwerk said. "When it would snow, you could see the coldest view ever (from the tower room) and it was really serene and really pretty and now we can't even see it."

She went on to talk about how she and her friends used the room.

"We used to have pizza parties up there for my friends' birthdays," the former LeMans resident said.

Other students who lived in LeMans were also upset about losing the tower room.

"The tower room should be for the use of students, like it's always been," senior Jeney Anderson said.

However, students will be getting an updated lounge space in LeMans, Dieujuste said. They will be refurbishing "Vendoland," the area near the vending machines and the washers and dryers in the basement of LeMans, she said.

That includes new lighting, rugs, window treatments, tables and chairs for group work, she said, and some more comfortable couches, potentially including a few recliners.

They are also looking to add some new appliances and supplies to the kitchen area located in the basement of LeMans off of the "Vendoland," she said.

"We're really looking to do (with Vendoland) is provide students a space that they're comfortable, where they can socialize or just a space where they can also study. So we're looking at providing different types of furniture than is already there," she said.

Contact Mandi Stitone at astine01@ saintmarys.edu

DeBartolo Hall

STUDY DATES AND TIMES:

May 1st - 2nd, 3rd, and 4th: 7am to 3:00am
Midnight Snacks!
 Finals Week: May 5th - 8th: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.
May 9th: DeBartolo Hall closes 30 minutes after last exam scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

See Building Support Personnel if you have specific needs: Room 103 or 104.

Coleman-Morse: May 1st - 4th:

Finals Week: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.
May 9th: Coleman - Morse closes at 5:30 pm

1st Floor: 7:00am - 4:00am
2nd Floor: 7:00am - 3:00am
3rd Floor: 7:00am - 12am

See Building Support Person Room 101 if you have a specific need.

O'Shaughnessy: *May 1st - 4th:

Finals Week: May 5th - 8th: 7am to 3:00am

*Finals Week: May 5th - 8th: 7am to 3:00am

204, 206, 207, 208, 209, 242, 338, and 345: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.

See Building Support Person Room 101 if you have a specific need.

Good Luck with Finals

Auxiliary and Facility Operations, Campus Ministry and the Student Union Board

Graphic courtesy of Sandah Dieujuste
**Candy corporations to combine**

WM. Wrigley Jr. Co. to sell to MeMbs maker Mars Inc. in deal financed by Warren Buffett

**The Racing and Wagering Board**

NYRA said Monday it's closer to emerg­

tors, a deal funded by a $105 million state

the U.S. dollar actually strengthened a bit." he said. "What's driving oil to a new record even though

supply," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst

taken from phones, including cell phones, over

approved its amended plan to pay back credi­

NYRA moves its way out of bankruptcy

In another development, bidders who creat­

BP PEG on Sunday shut down the Forties

pipeline system that carries more than

%CHANGE $GAIN PRICE

S&P 500 1,396.37 -1.47

Nikkei (Tokyo) 13,894.37 +30.90

FTSE 100 (London) 6,990.40 +0.00

**10-YEAR NOTE**

-0.80 -0.031 3.835

**13 WEEK BILL**

+5.30 +0.045 13.693

**10-YEAR NOTE**

-0.52 -0.024 4.965

**10-YEAR NOTE**

-1.29 -0.041 5.139

**Light Crude (NYM)**

+43.23 118.75

**Gold ($/oz/can)**

+5.90 895.50

**Pork Bellies (contracts)**

-2.55 74.25

**CHICAGO — The Oracle of

**Breadth**

-0.84 -28.99

**FORD MOTOR CO (F)**

+9.47 +0.71 8.21

**MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)**

-2.82 -0.84

**13-WEEK BILL**

+3.50 +0.04 5.133

**Canadian Dollar**

-1.01 29.00

**13-WEEK BILL**

+0.40 6.09

**BRITISH POUND**

+1.47 1.01

**1-YEAR NOTE**

+$80 in cash for

a move, but beyond that, I think this is the right move," said Wrigley Chief

Executive Bill Perez.

After the buyout is completed in six to 12 months, Wrigley would become a subsidiary of McLean, Va.-
based Mars. Its headquarters will stay in Chicago, where the business has oper­
ed since it was founded by the Wrigley family in 1891. The Wrigley family will no longer hold any equity in the company.

**General Motors to lay off 3,500 workers**

**Detroit — Suggesting pickup truck

and sport utility vehicle sales have forced General Motors Corp. to shut

down one shift each at four North American

factories and lay off about 3,500 workers.

The world's largest automaker by sales

said Monday that the cuts, to take effect starting this summer, were brought on by weak demand due to high oil prices and an economic downturn.

The cuts will affect pickup factories in Pontiac and Flint, Mich., and

Oshawa, Ontario, as well as the full-

size SUV plant in Janesville, Wis. The

layoffs represent just 4 percent of GM's hourly manufacturing work­

force of about 150,000 in North America.

The company said the cuts mean it will make about 88,000 fewer pickups and 50,000 fewer large SUVs this cal­

endar year.

GM said the exact number of layoffs

will be worked out with its unions. Workers will get unemployment bene­

fits and supplemental pay that total 90

percent of their normal 40-hour gross

pay, said GM spokesman Dan Flores.

With rising fuel prices, a softening economy and a downward trend on

current and future market demand for full-size trucks, a significant adjust­

ment was needed to align our produc­
tion with market realities," GM North America President Troy Clarke said in a statement.

For about the past three years, the

U.S. auto market has been shifting

away from pickup trucks and SUVs to

small cars and crossovers, but the trend accelerated in recent months due to gas prices that have topped

$3.50 per gallon across the nation.

The company expects the layoffs to
take place starting July 14 at the Flint, Janesville and Pontiac plants, and

Sept. 8 at Oshawa. Most of the facto­
vies had already seen layoffs and pro­
duction cuts due to a parts shortage from a two-month strike at American

Axle and Manufacturing Holdings Inc.

GM spokesman Tony Saepen said the

company will eliminate shifts with

750 workers each at Flint and

Janesville, 1,150 workers in Pontiac

and 900 workers in Oshawa.

"Those are the people that we believe will be impacted based on what the shifts are," he said. "We'll be working with our partners to deter­

mine how that's going to transpire.

"The full-size pickup and SUV mar­
tet is not going to rebound anytime

soon," he said. "It looks like they don't plan on making up very much of the production loss due to the American

Axle strike." Gardner said GM's announcement reflects the industry's overall produc­
tion forecast this year, down to about

15 million light vehicles from an earli­
er forecast of 15.5 million.

"Obviously, the larger, heavier vehi­
cles are taking the biggest hit," he said.

The Flint, Pontiac and Oshawa plants make the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickups, while

Janesville manufactures the Chevrolet

Tahoe and Suburban and GMC Yukon big SUVs.

**Chicago — The Oracle of

Buffett is betting on the country's candy jar is

recovered.

With financing from Warren Buffett, candy major Mars Inc. on

Monday said it is buying confectioner Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co. for an estimated $23 billion in cash. The deal will mark the return of sweet-toothed Americans have munched on for decades: Mars owns

Snickers and MMs; Wrigley's gum brands include Juicy Fruit, Orbit, Extra and Big Red.

"A good time to buy a really great business is when you can do it," Wrigley Buffett said on a CNBC Monday, adding that he believes Mars and Wrigley better than the balance sheets of most major banks.

Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. will purchase a $2.1 billion minori­

ty equity interest in the Wrigley subsidiary once the deal is completed. The Omaha, Neb.-based com­
pany also offered $4.4 bil­

lion of subordinated debt to fund the deal.

"I think this is a bold move, but beyond that, I think this is the right move," said Wrigley Chief executive Bill Perez.

After the buyout is completed in six to 12 months, Wrigley would become a subsidiary of McLean, Va.-
based Mars. Its headquarters will stay in Chicago, where the business has operated since it was founded by the Wrigley family in 1891. The Wrigley family will no longer hold any equity in the company.

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SOUTH AFRICA

President urged to step down
Opposition unites in Parliament; asks Mugabe to concede defeat

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Zimbabwe's opposition movement united Monday in spite of long-standing divisions, declaring that it has won control of Parliament for the first time in history and that President Robert Mugabe must concede defeat.

Opposition leaders also again urged the government to send a special envoy to Zimbabwe and to warn Mugabe against violence or opposition support.

"We are on a moral victory," said Parliament Speaker Tendai Biti. "We have won an electoral victory and now we want the president to concede defeat."

The question about a runoff doesn't arise because of the simple fact that the people have spoken, the president has decided," he said.

The opposition maintains that hundreds of its supporters have been arrested, targeted or driven from their homes, especially in rural areas that used to be Mugabe strongholds but voted against him in the elections. It says that 14 of its supporters have died, but there is no independent confirmation of this.

The Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights said more than 63 people were hospitalized in three days last week alone, and provided shocking photos of those hurt.

Movement for Democratic Change secretaries generals, Tendai Biti, was due at U.N. headquarters in New York for an emergency Security Council meeting Tuesday on the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission issued a statement late Monday that it will hold a special sitting of the full commission on the results of the elections, as had been scheduled.

MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai announced that the country's opposition has won control of Parliament at a press conference Monday.

"It is very surprising, shocking and regrettable that the opposition presidency has not been realized," the leader said.

"The government maintains that he won the presidency outright — all 23 parliamentary seats. Observers say he fell just short of the votes needed to avoid a runoff."

Tsvangirai reiterated Monday that he would not take part in a runoff.

The girl's grandmother, Evalani Gordon, told police that she learned her granddaughter could not walk or talk on March 22 and asked a neighbor to take the girl to a doctor.

"They responded, 'You won't be arrested because of the simple fact that the people have spoken, the president has decided," he said.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission failed to publish the results of the recount of 23 disputed parliamentary seats from the elections, as had been scheduled.

The last execution was in 2006 in Jordan. Judges said the man, a Bedouin who owns a restaurant in the West Bank, was sentenced to death for杀死 a relative. The last known execution in Israel was in 1960.

"We see Hamas as responsible for rocket fire that happens there, for all injuries," Barak said during a meeting at his office of ministers and security officials. "Hamas is also responsible, by operating the rocket fire, for the positioning of some of the civilians." During fighting April 16, a Reuters TV cameraman and his camera were shot in a tank shell in central Gaza. The Associated Press

GAZA STRIP

Israeli tank shell kills 5

Associated Press

GAZA CITY — An explosion shredded a tiny Gaza Strip house as Israeli troops battled Hamas militants Monday, killing a Palestinian woman and four of her children in new bloodshed that threatens to escalate efforts to arrange a truce between the warring sides.

Palestinians said the house was in the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, where fighting has been intense through the home, her stepson Ibrahim. Four of her younger children, aged months to 6 years, were killed instantly, and she died shortly afterward at a hospital. Palestinian officials said her husband and two older children were reported critically wounded.

"What a black day. They killed my family," the grief-stricken wife, Miyasar Abu Meatak, wailed outside the hospital Tuesday where her husband was treated. She said he was on his way to a nearby market when the house was hit.

Mr. Neumann, 46, a former police officer, was arrested and tried.

"They have agreed to make an initial report to the police," he said.

MDC observers say he fell just short of the votes needed to avoid a runoff.

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The girl was hit by an Israeli tank shell Monday, not a tank shell, according to the witness who reported the explosion.

"We just thought it was a spiritual attack and we prayed for her," he said. "I had five days of prayer for her, and she died the day I stopped praying." The last execution was in 2006 in Jordan. Judges said the man, a Bedouin who owns a restaurant in the West Bank, was sentenced to death for killing a relative. The last known execution in Israel was in 1960.

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Parents charged with murder after refusing medication for their daughter

Associated Press

WESTON, Wis. — Two parents who prayed as their 11-year-old daughter died of untreated diabetes after being taken to Madison for an autopsy have been charged with murder.

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recycling
PAPER
cuts
ENERGY
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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

A NOTRE DAME FORUM ENLIGHTEN ENGAGE EMPOWER

BEENLIGHTENED

Notre Dame Forum | JACC | September 24, 3:00 p.m.

enlighten.nd.edu
Greg Yaratala
Done and Domer

I don’t remember who spoke at my graduation. It’s not that he/she was so forgettable, though I’m sure he/she was. I didn’t go, I do remember, though, the previous year, when the graduating class president snuffed publicly that the speaker was good enough for Pride maybe, but not Notre Dame. How she endeared herself to all Indians.

Anyway, I don’t remember a lot of administrators asking us seniors whom we wanted to hear, and if they had, I hope we wouldn’t have listened, for I’m sure that whoever did speak that day was less of an embarrassment to ND than our pick would have been. Nevertheless, I understand seniors’ frustration with this year’s speaker. One doesn’t become a cardinal archbishop by saying anything interesting. I imagine he’ll talk a bit about following Jesus, but it’s doubtful at best that he’ll make such following seem noble or somehow attractive, or that he’ll discuss clearly what the stakes are. No, this won’t be Patton, or Kierkegaard, or Alyoshka’s speech by the stone. But I hope I’m wrong.

What I do not understand, though, is how seniors can complain that the administration didn’t consider their input, given that their pick was Stephen Colbert. I’m more worried that the administration actually did consider it. They’re giving the Laetare award to someone who played pretend for a living. I’m sure an interpreter could be provided.

We Domers have a harder time picking our heads than our pick was. He and Stewart do it all the time. Just recently, after his man-crush the Obamamish came under fire for his delightful “bitter” remarks (delivered to affluent San Francisco donees — perfect), Stewart went to bat for him. Obama was wrong in saying that stark-jawed rural white slobs turn to religion, guns, and racism because of economic hardship — no, according to Stewart, small-town while America is built on such backwaterness. Don’t hold your breath waiting for him to give such candid analysis of some of Obama’s con-stituencies — say, Chardonnay-sipping hot-tub liberals in Marin County. No, what disappoints me about this year’s pick is how unimaginative it was. I can’t be the couch-burners up in East Lansing picked Colbert too, or would have. Why not just pick Flavor Flav? I’m sure an interpreter could be provided.

Notre Dame’s student body is often criticized for conformity, and usually in terms of its Catholicity. I saw plenty of conformism at Notre Dame, but wasn’t it to the teachings of the Church? It was to our culture. As I tried to state in a previous article, I knew as many girls actually on birth-control as dead-set against it. I knew far more people who watched “Seinfeld” religiously than who said the rosary. The music I heard at parties was whatever awful noise was popular at the time, not the quirky unknown staff college kids traditionally take pride in rocking. Nobody I know went to independent movies, but blockbusters were a staple. Several kids I knew could recite every line of “Austin Powers”. Girls on the treadmill read “Cosmo”. My classmates, by and large, had no problem adopting a critical attitude toward the authority of the Church, often with the help of their theology professors. But rarely did I see such critical distance maintained toward the multiformal stupidities of our popular culture. Stander Jennifer Lopez, and you’d start a fight; my theology professor called St. Paul “evil,” and nobody baited an eyelash.

Of course, it’s better to have low-brow tastes in music, movies, TV, magazines, etc., than to be pretentious and elitist. But that’s the thing — Notre Dame too often combined the worst of both, devotion to “The Real World” or “Sex & the City” with looking down at state-school kids, believing themselves so different from the collegiate hot poolies. You’re not that different. You greet strangers sometimes on the way to class? Great, but do you think they just hi and spit at each other at Penn State or LSU? And kids at Cornell do lots of service too. You’re maybe smarter than the kids at Kentucky, and you’ve spent four years studying timeless works of towering genius (hopefully). But then you want a commodity at your graduation? I’m not trying to scold anyone. Just please don’t go out into the world with a sense of superiority. We Domers already have a bad reputation for that. If we’re really that much better, let’s show it.

Greg Yaratala is a 1999 alumnus. He hopes it’s clear to all now why he asked to write under a pseudonym this year. He fears his class would have picked Jerry Seinfeld as graduation speaker.

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

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

**What?**

**“Summer afternoon — Summer afternoon ... the two most beautiful words in the English language.”**

Henry James
British author
Economics at Notre Dame, an open letter

As members of the University of Notre Dame, we have a special obligation to engage our learning, our teaching, and our roles of history and institutions in the "broader discourse of the social sciences." We believe that the University, if it hopes to engage our learning, our teaching, and their discipline. It is our contention that the one-sidedness of economics majors at our University. The required courses — introductory/intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, and statistics — are all typically taught using only mainstream economics. It alarms that a student could easily graduate from Notre Dame with a degree in Economics, believing wrong questions about the basic assumptions of our discipline.

Therefore, we hope that Notre Dame will sacrifice their discipline. It is our contention that mainstream economics is not a "positive analysis" of the world, a value-neutral agenda of "efficiency" in the process of allocating scarce resources. They argue that their economic models do not contain or render value judgments. However, this perspective ignores the reality that neoclassical economic theory's starting assumptions and supporting logic carry an embedded ethics and have serious social implications. This misrepresentation of a value-laden theory seriously misleads students and enables them to morally engage current trends. Today's simultaneously "value-neutral and analytical" fiscal policy affirms a desperate need for models critical of the mainstream.

To prevent this tendency toward a one-sided education, economic students take courses where heterodox theorems are exposed to a variety of instructive critical of the mainstream. Today's simultaneously "value-neutral and analytical" fiscal policy affirms a desperate need for models critical of the mainstream.

There are ways to manage our money. I see people who take care of home first. I believe too much is being made over the one-sidedness of economics majors at our University. The required courses — introductory/intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, and statistics — are all typically taught using only mainstream economics. It alarms that a student could easily graduate from Notre Dame with a degree in Economics, believing wrong questions about the basic assumptions of our discipline.

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The Wrights release brief but beautiful self-titled album

The Wrights

Label: Mailboat Records

Recommended Tracks: "Rewind," "Do You Still" and "Home Sweet Highway"

The Wrights

The Wrights are the latest addition to the country music world, and their self-titled album, released Jan. 29, is a welcome addition to the genre. The album features 10 songs, each showcasing the couple's harmonization prowess and their ability to write sincere, engaging lyrics.

The album opens with "Rewind," a song that highlights the couple's ability to write a catchy, danceable tune. The following track, "Do You Still," is a slower, more introspective number that showcases the depth of the Wrights' songwriting.

"Home Sweet Highway" is a standout track on the album, featuring a beautiful harmony and a catchy melody that is sure to stick in your head. The rest of the album follows in a similar vein, with each song offering a unique take on the country music genre.

In conclusion, "The Wrights" is a strong debut album from a talented new duo in the country music world. With its mixture of catchy hooks and heartfelt lyrics, this album is sure to appeal to fans of the genre and newcomers alike.

Contact JOE LAWLER at jlawler2@nd.edu

By JOE LAWLER

The Wrights pose in their new self-titled album, "The Wrights," released Jan. 29. The duo, Adam Wright and wife Shannon, are two of the youngest stars in the country music world. Their self-titled album features 10 songs, each showcasing the couple's harmonization prowess and their ability to write sincere, engaging lyrics.

The album opens with "Rewind," a song that highlights the couple's ability to write a catchy, danceable tune. The following track, "Do You Still," is a slower, more introspective number that showcases the depth of the Wrights' songwriting.

"Home Sweet Highway" is a standout track on the album, featuring a beautiful harmony and a catchy melody that is sure to stick in your head. The rest of the album follows in a similar vein, with each song offering a unique take on the country music genre.

In conclusion, "The Wrights" is a strong debut album from a talented new duo in the country music world. With its mixture of catchy hooks and heartfelt lyrics, this album is sure to appeal to fans of the genre and newcomers alike.

Contact JOE LAWLER at jlawler2@nd.edu
Like everyone, I have a few regrets in college. I didn’t discover the café in Grace Hall until three weeks ago. I walked up the stairs of Main Building the first week of my freshman year. I never got to share the experience of underdine drinking at the infamous Boat Club before it closed and I didn’t join the Scene staff until my sophomore year. However, there will be other cafes in my life, I will most likely graduate in three weeks, I can drink legally now (although never at Boat Club) and even though I only had three short years at The Observer, it was time well spent. I’ve had some good times delaying homework to write for Scene. I previewed concerts, wrote movie reviews, avoided CD reviews at all costs (I don’t do music). I interviewed people who knew famous people (making me feel famous! - even though I don’t) and covered the award show beat. But soon after I started writing for Scene, I found an expansive collection of TV shows on DVD. My favorite way to use my Scene & Observer colleagues working hard in the fall semester. I still can’t stand it, but it fell into place. I have no idea what the words mean, the song is calming and served to remind me that college was going to be a challenge, but that I could handle it. Things were gonna be all right. The spring semester began with a whirlwind of music, most notably “Falling Slowly” from the film “Once.” The song is heartbreakingly beautiful, and its performance at the Oscars made me cry. When I think of that song, it brings me back to my scenes at the neckline, sighing with the other girls at how simple and yet moving music can be.

The dead of winter was hard for me, a Coloradoan, used to 300 days of sunshine a year. The lonely perm-cloud that descended upon campus sent me into deep doldrums. The song “Breathe Me” by SIA, which I bumped into when it was used in a presentation by the PostSecret guy, became my refuge. I listened to that song every morning on my way to class for about three weeks during Lent. Spring break came along, and my friend burned me a number of discs of music to listen to on the plane ride home. The five-disc set opened with “This Year” by the Mountain Goats. This is a song worth checking out. The one line that pounded in my head the entire flight was, “I am gonna make it through this year if it kills me.” The arrival of spring brought about the opera and the final triad from “Faust” by Berlioz. This is the song that struck me to the core whenever I heard it. All good things about being in the opera are tied to that song.

And now, where are my musical tastes? Is that bastard “Can’t Go Back Now” by the Wercles. This song of moving on and finding a way to survive on your perfectly describes freshman year: “Go where you want to go. Be who you want to be... In the end the only steps that matter are the ones you take all by yourself.” I have survived. I didn’t die. I fell out of class or lose my room key. I’ve signed up for classes next semester, bonded with my future roomy, and picked a major. Looks like the music’s gonna keep on coming.

Cassie Belek
Assistant Scene Editor

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Assistant Scene Editor

The views expressed in Scene and Hear are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu

The views expressed in Scene and Hear are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Stephanie DePree at sdepree@nd.edu
Men’s, women’s ultimate fall short of title bids

SUMMER OLYMPICS

No disruptions as thousands celebrate torch in North Korea

Special to The Observer
Ultimate

Notre Dame competed in the Great Lakes Regional, part of the USA College Series, this weekend in Hartland, Mich. Both the men’s and women’s Ultimate squads were playing for a spot in the National Championships, which will be held in Boulder, Colo.

Notre Dame’s women’s team opened with two pool games Saturday. Its first game was a 14-2 loss to Ohio State, which had seen multiple times throughout the season. The women got the job done early and coasted to a 17-6 victory over Purdue before race day. Fortunately, however, the conditions were favorable, albeit slightly, allowing the Irish an opportunity to raise for coveted shirts and medals.

The story of the first day was the Notre Dame first novice plus boat. The crew was second seed entering the day’s racing and confirmed its status with the best time in its heat, setting the stage for the highly- contested final that was to come that afternoon. After a countdown start at 1:30, the Irish asserted their dominance in the water and an early lead, and holding off Marietta throughout the last 500 meters for what appeared to be the Novice crown. However, the weekend’s story continued when coming from post-race protests, the officials deemed the race void and mandated a re-row.

The unusual re-row resulted from two separate instances of proper scoring of the event and have been disrupted by a second place finish to Purdue by nine-tenths of a second. The Irish eventually won, 15-11.

The torch began its run from Pyongyang, the flame’s arrival in Pyongyang, the event and have been disrupted by a second place finish to Purdue by nine-tenths of a second.

The torch relay in Pyongyang, the flame’s arrival in Pyongyang, the event and have been disrupted by a second place finish to Purdue by nine-tenths of a second.

Security was far lighter than in other cities visited by the torch, which appeared to be closely followed by several Chinese in blue tracksuits along with vehicles and motorscooters.

The relay ended after about five hours at Kim II Sung Stadium, where female marathons with their 26.2-mile courses were run.

Middle-aged women in traditional dresses danced and beat drums in one square, while others held red balloons and bouquets of flowers, APTN footage showed.

The torch was lit at the Olympic Stadium, where female marathons with their 26.2-mile courses were run.

Midnight news agencies reported.

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Riley steps down, appoints Spoelstra

MIAAMI — On the night of his last game as an NBA head coach, Pat Riley heard the final buzzer, looked straight ahead and briskly walked away.

Deep down, he knew it was over.

"I didn't have to look back," Riley said. "I know that's behind me."

And now, after spending several days plotting the Miami Heat's next course, Riley's past becomes Erik Spoelstra's future.

The Hall of Fame coach resigned Monday, although his last act as Miami's former coach was to choose his new one, and hired Spoelstra, a 37-year-old who started in the Heat video room in 1995 and now becomes the NBA's youngest coach.

Riley sees himself in Spoelstra.

"I was 36 when I first became a head coach, and didn't have any experience either. His first off-the-court job in the NBA was traveling secretary for the Los Angeles Lakers, handling boarding passes. Spoelstra also was at the bottom of the Heat intern pool when starting out, making videos for the team Christmas party, but Riley is convinced he's ready for the top job."

"It's very rare to have the opportunity to work for one organization for your entire career like I have," said Spoelstra, who was told the job was his Friday. "It means it's a special organization."

Miami finished with the NBA's poorest record (13-67), by far the worst of Riley's career. As president, Riley will continue overseeing the plan to revamp a franchise just two years removed from a championship, after deciding he'd best benefit the franchise from the front office.

Last year, Riley said he was committed to coaching three more seasons. Monday, he admitted he never believed that to be true.

"I am definitely sure that I don't want to do this any more," Riley said.

Riley's future was among Miami's many offseason issues. The Heat could have the No. 1 pick in the draft, are assured a top-four pick and are certain to make moves in an effort to revamp a roster yourselves.

"Pat Riley has inspired me values that enabled me to win a championship in just three seasons," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said Monday. "I've seen him do the necessary things to make us winners and I believe that with his focus on being president and his commitment to the team, we will once again become a contender."

In Brief

Major changes to BCS not likely

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — As they kicked off three days of meetings at an oceanfront resort, the BCS Championship Series overseers appear to have a better chance of getting a sunburn than making any major changes in the controversial system.

"I continue to sense a certain comfort level, if you will, with the current status of things with the BCS," BCS coordinator John Swofford said after Monday's session. "I think it's been a pretty stable few years."

Still, the commissioners of the 11 major college football conferences, along with Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White, will have their most detailed discussions to date of the plus-one model, which could see two bowls as semifinals and another as a national title game, with the four participants seeded.

Lieberthal to retire in June with Phillies

PHILADELPHIA — Two-time All-Star catcher Mike Lieberthal will retire with the Phillies on June 1, ending his career with the franchise where he played 13 of his 14 major league seasons.

Lieberthal, the third overall pick in the 1990 draft, hasn't played this season and spent last year with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"Philadelphia has always been a second home to me, so I'm really looking forward to this," Lieberthal said on Monday. "I spent half my life there and still follow the team closely on television."

Lieberthal hit .275 with 150 home runs and 609 RBIs in 1,174 games with the Phillies. He batted .234 with one RBI in 38 games with the Dodgers.

Lieberthal was the sixth catcher in major league history to hit 300 with 30 home runs in a season when he reached those marks in 1999.

Posada placed on DL for first time in career

CLEVELAND — The New York Yankees took the field Monday missing a familiar face: Jorge Posada, the club's proud catcher and one of its leaders, was in Alabama getting his injured right shoulder examined.

Posada was placed on the 15-day disabled list for the first time in his career, ending a remarkable run of durability at baseball's most physically demanding position. The 36-year-old, who has caught at least 137 games in each of the past eight seasons, finally succumbed to pain in his shoulder that he had been feeling for most of the season's first month.

"It's kind of strange to go into the clubhouse and you don't see him," said Yankees manager Joe Girardi, who helped teach Posada in the 1990s. "He's a quiet leader. He's a constant in the clubhouse, you like to see guys like that."

Around the Dial

NBA PLAYOFFS

Mavericks at Hornets 7 p.m., TNT

Suns at Spurs 9:30 p.m., TNT

Baseball America Top 25

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ESPN.com/USA Softball

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MIAA Women's Softball

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Yankees jump on youngster Laffey, Tribe in four-run sixth to split series, Mussina earns 253rd career win

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS -- Edwin Encarnacion had a pair of RBI doubles and made a standout play at third base in the New York Yankees' 4-3 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Monday night.

Rodriguez, though, settled down after failing to make it out of the second, allowing eight runs in his previous three starts, against Houston.

He gave up a leadoff walk to Ennsberg, a single and Jeter was safe on a fielder's choice. Rodriguez was lifted for a pinch hitter in the eighth inning, and Girardi said he'll likely sit his All-Star third baseman on Tuesday against Detroit.

"He's not 100 percent and we felt it was best to get him out of there," Girardi said. "He gave us four games and that's kind of sucked it up for us." The Indians, who played their second straight game without All-Star center fielder Grady Sizemore, took a 2-0 lead in the fifth on a run-scoring single by Jason Michaels and Travis Hafner's sacrifice fly.

New York's first run.

Farnsworth, Joba Chamberlain and Mariano Rivera, who worked the ninth for his eighth save in eight tries.

Mussina was followed by Jonathan Albaladejo, Kyle Farnsworth, Joba Chamberlain and Mariano Rivera, who worked the ninth for his eighth save in eight tries.

"The key for me is to get back on track," Mussina said. "I've got to find my house key," Mussina joked. "It's been so long since we've been home, we just assumed we're going to another hotel."
Postseason hopes in NCAA's hands

By ALEX BARKER

the C en ten n ial Oaks Golf Club in Waverly, Iowa.

Saint Mary's heads to the MIAA conference championships for the third straight year. The tourna-
ment will be held Thursday and Friday at Alma College. The Belles are a No. 2 seed in the tournament, and will play defending champion Tri-State Thursday morning. The match-up provides some familiarity as Saint Mary's faced the Thunder on Saturday. That doubleheader was split, with Tri-State taking the first game 8-3 and Saint Mary's winning the second contest 8-0. Belles coach Erin Sullivan said that she feels her team has an advantage playing Tri-State "on the road".

"They are going to be nervous to play us right now after our convincing win in game one. The tournament is double-elimination, so if the Belles win, they will play the winner of a game between No. 1 seed Alma and No. 4 seed Hope. If the Belles lose, they will play the loser of that game.

Sullivan did not say which of her two starting pitchers — junior Calli Davison (13-8) and senior McKenzi Gough (12-0) — she plans to start in the first game. "We will warm up both girls for our first game," Sullivan said. "Either one of them will be great against Tri-State. They both pitched on Saturday." The Belles bring a formidable offense to the tournament, as Corrigan and Peterson each hit .580 in conference batting average and are the regular-season batting title. Peterson also leads the MIAA in slugging percentage, on-base percentage, runs scored and total bases. Sullivan feels the Belles have the players for the most doubles. "They are going to be nervous to play us again, especially after our convincing win in game two."

Erin Sullivan Belles coach

Our plan is to play hard and leave everything on the field. No regrets.

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

Flyers take 2-1 series lead from Canadien in Philly

PHILADELPHIA — Derian Hatcher was like all the other Flyers fans who watched the last 15 minutes on TV. He did it in the locker room, feeling sick, stressed and helpless as the game nearly slipped away.

"I was with about 30 other orange-clad diehards, Hatcher could have predicted the fraidy nerves Monday night for the Flyers.

When Philadelphia held on for the victory, Hatcher could thank Marty Biron and the Flyers' defense. The goalie made 35 saves and he should take the game's third star. Biron stopped 32 shots and the Flyers scored three goals in the second period to beat the Montreal Canadiens 3-2, taking a 2-1 lead in their series lead.

"Marty has been terrific. He's been our best player in this series," coach John Stevens said. "We probably felt going in that he would have to be.

Biron lost his shutout — and Biron's nearly a three-goal lead — when Hatcher ejected the first period and

neared 60 minutes for boarding and a patient for boarding and a penalty and Biron quickly prevented the frayed nerves. He scored five short-handed goals in the regular season, and 13 in his career.

"It got a little scary on the power play," Biron said. "It's fun when they chant your name," Biron said. "It's fun when they chant your name."

Hatcher felt awful. "Watching the last 15 minutes was a lot more draining than actually playing the game," Hatcher said. "I feel mentally exhausted right now.

The Flyers killed the rest of the penalty and Biron quickly reverted to the form of the first two periods, when he stopped shots in all kinds of ways. He made 17 of his saves in the third period while the Flyers took a 2-0 lead in their second-round series.

"Marty has been terrific. He's been our best player in this series," coach John Stevens said. "We probably felt going in that he would have to be.

Biron lost his shutout — and Biron's nearly a three-goal lead — when Hatcher was ejected in the third period and what not. He made it because he had the series lead and Corrigan was going to start only if he gave up a goal.

"He scored five short-handed goals in the regular season, and is tied with two other Flyers for the most doubles. "They are going to be nervous to play us again, especially after our convincing win in game two."

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Thanks to the following men who signed the MAV pledge against sexual assault and domestic violence. Whether your name appears or not, we are all affected by sexual violence and we can all help create an environment where assault is never acceptable.

Class of 2008
John Everett
David Prina
Andy Mantriote
Teddy Okonosha
Jacques Nguyen
Grant Van Eaton
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I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NEVER RAPE, ABUSE OR EXPLOIT A PERSON.
I PLEDGE NEVER TO ALLOW SOMEONE TO BE RAPED, ABUSED, OR EXPLOITED IF IT COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED.
TO DO THIS, I PLEDGE TO BE AWARE.
I PLEDGE TO BE RECEPTIVE TO ISSUES OF VIOLENCE AND INEQUALITY TOWARDS OTHERS.
I PLEDGE TO BE A ROLE MODEL AND LET MY ACTIONS BE AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS AND ENCOURAGE THE SAME FROM OTHER MEN.
I PLEDGE TO BE STRONG ENOUGH TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT EVEN IF THAT MEANS CHALLENGING THE SOCIAL NORM.
I PLEDGE ALL THESE THINGS BECAUSE I AM A REAL MAN AND REAL MEN CARE.

grc@nd.edu
grc.nd.edu/support/mav
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Roger Clemens had a decade-long relationship with country star Mindy McCready that began when she was a 15-year-old aspiring singer and the pitcher was a Boston Red Sox ace, the Daily News reported.

Clemens’ lawyer, Rusty Hardin, confirmed a long-term relationship but told the newspaper it was not sexual.

“Mindy McCreedy is a long-time family friend of Roger Clemens and the Clemens family,” Hardin said in a statement Monday. “At no time did Roger engage in any kind of inappropriate or improper relationship with her. It is unfortunate that the Daily News has chosen to report anonymous allegations that are completely unfounded, have no basis in fact, and have nothing to do with Roger’s baseball career or the issue of steroid use in baseball.”

The story, which appeared on the newspaper’s Web site Sunday night and in editions Monday, quoted several people who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the situation.

McCreedy’s lawyer, Lee Olman, said he did not have any comment on the Daily News story.

Clemens was 28 and a married father of two when he first met McCreedy, the newspaper reported.

The story could undermine Clemens’ reputation, which is central to the defamation suit the former pitcher has filed against former personal trainer Brian McNamee. McNamee contends Clemens used performance-enhancing substances during his major league career.

“If true, it’s just another example of Roger’s pervasive prevarications which will be at the core of any defamation case,” said McNamee’s attorney, Richard Emery, in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

The newspaper said Clemens sent cash to McCreedy to help her with legal issues and reached out to her when she was in jail last year in Tennessee.

The 32-year-old McCreedy was sentenced last September for violating probation from a 2004 drug arrest and was released from jail last Dec. 30.

The violation occurred in July when McCreedy was accused of scuffing with her mother and resisting arrest at her mother’s home in Fort Myers, Fla. She still must serve two years’ probation.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Zito was demoted to the bullpen Monday by the San Francisco Giants, who hope the former ace can correct his problems by working in relief.

Zito, who only 16 months ago signed a $126 million, seven-year contract with the Giants to lead their rotation, was informed of the move in a meeting with manager Bruce Bochy.

The left-hander has lost his first six starts this season and has a 7.53 ERA that jumped considerably after Zito was tagged for eight earned runs in a 10-1 loss Sunday to Cincinnati.

The 2002 AL Cy Young Award winner with Oakland, Zito last just three innings against the Reds and was booed frequently by the crowd at ATT Park during his shortest outing of the year.

A three-time All-Star and San Francisco’s opening-day starter this season, Zito is only the third pitcher since 1956 to go 0-6 before May, joining Texas’ Dave Stewart (1984) and Detroit’s Mike Maroth (2003). The durable Zito has made 247 consecutive starts without missing a turn due to injury, the longest streak in the majors. He made his only big league relief appearance last season.

Zito’s next turn in the Giants’ rotation would have been Saturday in Philadelphia.

Struggling lefty was 0-6 with 7.53 ERA

Associated Press

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ORLANDO, Fla. — Hedo Turkoglu, the Orlando Magic’s leading scorer, said he was selected as the NBA’s Most Improved Player Monday.

Turkoglu’s numbers marked career highs in each category, and dramatic improvements from 13 points, four rebounds and three assists last season. He earned back-to-back Eastern Conference player of the week awards in late January and early February and was named player of the month for April.

This was the type of season the Magic always expected from the 6-foot-10 forward, now in his eighth year.

“Without him, I don’t know where we would be,” Magic general manager Otis Smith said. “I am happy to have him on our team and I am happy that he is winning this award eight years later, but I am happy that he is at least winning this award. This is a sign of things to come in Turk.”

Turkoglu received 61 first-place votes and 309 points in the voting by a panel of American and Canadian sports journalists, well ahead of Memphis Grizzlies forward Rudy Gay, who earned 167 points, 23 for first-place, and the Portland Trailblazers’ LaMarcus Aldridge with 128 points and nine first-place votes.

Turkoglu was the fourth Magic player to win the award, handed out since the 1985-86 season.

His 40 percent shooting behind the arc helped Orlando record the second most prolific 3-point season in NBA history. The Magic made 977 a game, behind only the Phoenix Suns’ 10.21 a game in 2005-06. He also started all 82 regular-season games for the first time in his career.

“I guess this year was the time for me to step it up and come this far, so I am just blessed that I was healthy this year and all the things went well for me, having a good coach, my teammates, everybody,” Turkoglu said. “If you look at it, it is not just my improvement, it is the Magic’s improvement too, comparing to last year.”

Turkoglu had two triple-doubles this season, also the first of his career. But perhaps most importantly, the Turkish-born pro has been key in the clutch. He hit winners with the clock running down twice — against Chicago on Dec. 31 and Boston on Jan. 27 — and drained the go-ahead free throws with 2.4 seconds left on Feb. 1 against Philadelphia.

Turkoglu also made an acrobatic layup in traffic with 30 seconds left in Game 2 against the Toronto Raptors, the go-ahead bucket.

“He is as talented a basketball player I have seen at 6-foot-10 in a long time. You feel comfortable with the ball in his hands,” Smith said. “He can make decisions for your teammates — he is always at the top every night (in assists), and you can’t ask for a 6-foot-10 guy to do that.

“He has been asked to do a lot this year, and he has responded well. He has had these abilities all along, he just had to be brought out of them, and now he is able to do it.”

Write sports. Contact Chris at chine@nd.edu.
Johnson scores 35, Hawks surprise Celtics again

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Forget about a Boston sweep. The Hawks are headed back to Beantown all tied up with the mighty Celtics.

Joe Johnson scored 35 points — 20 in the fourth quarter — and Josh Smith added 28 points and seven blocks for Atlanta, which surprised the Celtics again 97-92 on Monday night to even the best-of-seven series at two games apiece.

A Game 5 that many never expected to happen is now on, Wednesday night in Boston.

The Hawks, who had the worst record (37-45) of any playoff team, overcame two double-digit deficits to beat a team that won an NBA-leading 66 games during the regular season.

The credit for this Atlanta stunner goes largely to Johnson, who took control in the final quarter. After Smith’s jumper put the Hawks ahead to stay 81-79, Johnson scored nine straight points to keep the Celtics on the ropes.

The knockout came when Paul Pierce drove to the hoop and left it short, then tumbled over a cameraman alongside the basket. When the Boston star finally climbed back to his feet, he had a look of disbelief — which pretty much sums up the way the Celtics are feeling about this series.

Smith went to the other end and made two free throws with 26 seconds remaining for 93-87 lead. Johnson — appropriately enough — finished off the Celtics by making two more foul shots with 14 seconds left.


Smith set an Atlanta playoff record with seven blocks, the last of them a key swat on Garnett after he backed down in the lane, looking for the easy shot, with just over 3 minutes left.

“It’s time to shock the world,” the public address announcer screamed to the sellout crowd of 20,016.

After getting blown out in the first two games, Atlanta turned feisty on its home court. Rookie Al Horford taunted Pierce after putting the Celtics away in Game 3, prompting the Boston forward to flash a menacing gesture that drew a $25,000 fine from the NBA shortly before Game 4.

Then, with 77 minutes left in the second quarter, things really got testy. Garnett threw an elbow at Zaza Pachulia while going for a loose ball. The rugged Pachulia got right in Garnett’s face, going forehead to forehead with the Boston star.

The officials stepped in quickly and Hawks coach Mike Woodson charged onto the court to pull his players away. No punches were thrown and no one was ejected, though the officials did call offsetting technical fouls — two on each team — after looking at a replay.

Hawks forward Josh Smith, left, and Celtics forward Kevin Garnett battle for a rebound during the first quarter of Atlanta’s 97-91 first-round NBA playoff win Monday.

Student Appreciation Event

April 30th and May 1st

All Notre Dame & St. Mary’s students will receive 20%* off all regular and sale priced merchandise at The Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore, Varsity Shops in the JAC, & at the Notre Dame Clearance Center on Ironwood.

Receive a tall Starbucks coffee from the Irish Ink Café with your student ID at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore on 4/30 or 5/1. Limit one per person.

* Student ID Required. May not be combined with any other offer. Valid in-store only. Excludes “the shirt”, textbooks, gift cards, diploma frames, class rings, previous & online purchases, computer hardware & software, calculators, Steiner Memorabilia, Lladro, Waterford, & professional references. See store for further details.

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Howard leads Magic to second round with 21 points, 21 rebounds; earns his third 20-20 game in series

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Orlando Magic coach Stan Van Gundy saw something different about Dwight Howard heading into the playoffs.

The 22-year-old All-Star, usually the team's biggest jokester, suddenly got serious. So did his already-impressive numbers.

Howard had 21 points, 21 rebounds and three blocks — his third 20-20 game in the series — and the Magic advanced to the second round for the first time in 12 years by beating the Toronto Raptors 102-92 in Game 5 on Monday night.

"He's probably the strongest guy in the league, and he knows how to use his body," Magic center Chris Bosh, who scored a career-high 39 points and 15 rebounds at Toronto on Saturday, had 13 and Jose Calderon 12. Delfino added seven rebounds and nine assists, while Maurice Evans scored 12 points and Bogans added 11.

Orlando hadn't won a playoff series since 1996, when Shaquille O'Neal and Penny Hardaway led the team to the Eastern Conference finals. The Magic played 28 postsea- son games in the intervening years, winning only eight.

Howard grinned broadly, still unable to believe it was true.

"It's just an unbelievable feeling," he said. "We did something I feel that hasn't been done here in a while."

Orlando looked good early, taking a 10-2 lead, then its largest of the game. It was enough room to let them coast.

"We've depended on the 3 every time we've prepared for them," Van Gundy said. "We're going to make us or break us," Bogans said.

"Coach just tells us to keep shooting them and don't stop." 

Dwight Howard's game said it all.

"I did not have to say one word, from the start of prepa­ration for this series all the way through," Van Gundy said.

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"It's just an unbelievable feeling. We did something I feel that hasn't been done here in a while," Van Gundy said.

Associated Press

The Magic, who shot the NBA's fourth-best percentage in the series, struggled again from long range (9-of-32), but made them when it counted. Keith Bogans and Jameer Nelson each hit one and Howard added a layup as the Magic answered with an 8-0 run over 3:13 to open a 92-82 lead, then its largest of the game.

"I don't have to say one word, from the start of preparation for this series all the way through," Van Gundy said.

"It's a different demeanor from him," Van Gundy said of his young center. "Dwight is a fun-loving guy and he likes to fool around. There are a lot of times during the year, not bad, but a lot of times during the year where I've got to try to bring him back to being serious when we're preparing."

"I didn't have to say one word, from the start of preparation for this series all the way through," Van Gundy said.

As was Orlando's usually steady 3-point shooting on the frizt, his inside power was enough to pull them through.

"He's a phenom; he's the best center in the league," said Raptors star Chris Bosh, who was guarded by Howard all game. "He's probably the strongest guy in the league, and he knows how to use his body. It doesn't surprise me at all. I've seen him play this whole series, I've seen him play this season."

Bosh, who posted career playoff highs of 39 points and 15 rebounds at Toronto on Saturday, had 13 and Jose Calderon 12. Delfino added seven rebounds and nine assists, while Maurice Evans scored 12 points and Bogans added 11.

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Associated Press

Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard and Toronto Raptors guard during the second half of Game 5 in an NBA Eastern Conference playoff series Monday. Orlando won 102-92 to advance to the next round.

Howard leads Magic to second round with 21 points, 21 rebounds; earns his third 20-20 game in series
**NCAA** continued from page 24

Irish season marked by rous­ ing success. Notre Dame opened the fall season with three straight tournament victories, finishing the fall with the Big East Tournament win being their fifth first-place finish. The Irish are also invited honors at Golf World Magazine’s mid-season awards banquet as they were named the most surprising women’s team while freshman phenom So-Hyun Park was named most surprising women’s player. Park, the No.14 player in the country, has led the Irish with a scoring average of 73.12, a program-record. Park also recorded two first-place finishes this season. Junior captain Lisa Maunz has contributed three podium finishes, includ­ing one first-place finish. In total, every Notre Dame golfer has recorded at least one top ten finish this year. Hott attributes her team’s success to preparation and mental toughness.

“Golf is basically hitting shots and playing holes and managing our game,” Hott said. “We have to get into our mode, that thought process, that comes with managing the course well.”

This year marks the third time in program history the Irish have earned a bid to the NCAA Tournament. The squad will compete in a field of 21 in the regional tournament for a chance at the NCAA Championship, which will be held May 20-23 in Albuquerque, N.M. Complete seeding for the NCAA Tournament can be found at ncaac.com.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

**Valpo** continued from page 24

After a third-place finish in the JURO and a program-record eighteenth victory in the Big East Tournament win being their fifth first-place finish. The Irish are also invited honors at Golf World Magazine’s mid-season awards banquet as they were named the most surprising women’s team while freshman phenom So-Hyun Park was named most surprising women’s player. Park, the No.14 player in the country, has led the Irish with a scoring average of 73.12, a program-record. Park also recorded two first-place finishes this season. Junior captain Lisa Maunz has contributed three podium finishes, includ­ing one first-place finish. In total, every Notre Dame golfer has recorded at least one top ten finish this year. Hott attributes her team’s success to preparation and mental toughness.

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**Big Red** continued from page 24

overall record and have been especially hot recently, winning six out of their last seven games. The only loss in that stretch came at the hands of Syracuse, the winners of the Big East tournament. For their efforts, Cornell is currently ranked No. 14 by Baseball Week.

With their loss in the Big East semi-finals, the game takes on extra significance for the Irish. With a win on Friday, Notre Dame could have all locked up a berth in the 16-team NCAA tournament. But with the loss, the team has put its fate in the hands of the NCAA Selection Committee. Now, a win is necessary for the Irish, not only to impress the committee but also to regain momentum in case they are selected.

Regardless of the outcome, the season has been a memorable one for the Irish, and a good year for the Irish. The rough spring break stretch to start the year could have defined the season for the Irish, but the squad righted the ship and finished strong in the Big East. The Irish are now 10-6 against the Big East, and are currently ranked No. 14 by Baseball Week.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjeck@nd.edu

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**Irish Freshman Outfielder Britteny Bargar**

Bargar was the starting pitcher for Notre Dame’s doubleheader against Loyola-Chicago April 24.

Bargar went 3-for-4 with a run and RBI in the second win over Chicago and recorded two first-place finishes in the Big East conference.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu
**LOLLERSKATES**

Habits everybody has, but nobody ever admits to it

Every time you walk into a bathroom and you can't see what's behind the curtain you will make sure no one is hiding there unless it's glass or a clear curtain.

You lock/unlock your car doors competitively. If you're within range then you will press the unlock button 50 times until you get into your car.

Repeatedly check your alarm clock to make sure it will go off. You'll probably even do this test round.

You run up the stairs when it's dark because you always feel like someone is behind you or chasing you.

You constantly highlight text on a computer when reading it (usually half of the paragraph).

When guys pee, they flush halfway through and try to finish peeing before the water comes back.

When a group of girls go in the bathroom together, typically you think they're just re-applying make-up and talking about how amazing Lauren from 'The Hills' is, but in all actuality they're just popping a lot... and it's awesome.

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**ANOTHER UNFUNNY COMIC**

**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

1. MazClown of "Grounding Day" 
6. 441 or 463
10. These may be coddled
14. Nickel and dime
15. Home to most
20. Vogue competitor
21. Nat'нал
22. Walked like a
24. Dickens' character
33. Gym goer's pride
37. Portly contents' theme

**DOWNS**

1. 26, 71, 112
2. 83, 98, 173
8. 43, 92, 164
21. 61, 82, 179
26. 52, 101, 185
31. 26, 125, 186
34. 30, 75, 190

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

Hey there, to the Observer, 1-800-285-5656. I have the word I was looking for. It is: YOU. In the first hand before getting upset or jumping to conclusions.

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**SHORTOUT**

As you can see, the Observer is not just any newspaper. It's packed with features that cater to your interests. From comics to horoscopes, it has something for everyone. Today's comic strip, "Another Unfunny Comic," brings a dose of humor. Meanwhile, the horoscope column offers valuable insights into daily astrology. And, of course, the crossword puzzle is always a classic challenge. Whether you're a crossword enthusiast or just passively reading through, The Observer is your go-to source for engaging content. So, whether you're looking for a good chuckle or a deep dive into astrology, you're in the right place! Enjoy your reading and feel free to share your thoughts with us.

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**LORRAINE KELLY**

Lorraine Kelly is a well-known British television presenter and journalist. She has been a staple on British television for over three decades, hosting various shows including "This Morning" and " Loose Women." Her expertise and engaging personality have made her a fan favorite. Kelly is known for her infectious enthusiasm and her ability to connect with a wide range of topics, from fashion to pop culture. Her career has spanned multiple industries, including music, where she briefly pursued a singing career in the 1980s. Despite her exploration into different fields, her focus has remained on television. Kelly's success and longevity have solidified her status as a beloved figure in British media. Her contributions to the entertainment industry have been widely recognized, and she continues to delight audiences with her dynamic presence and engaging content. Related to your question, the Observer offers a diverse range of content, from comics to horoscopes, all aimed at providing a comprehensive and exciting reading experience. Enjoy your read, and please feel free to ask if you have any further questions or need assistance!
**WOMEN’S LACROSSE**

ND to face Cornell in home tilt

By ANDY ZICCARELLI
Sports Writer

Notre Dame’s season took a stunning turn for the worse on Friday night after the Irish let an early 8-1 lead slip away into what became a 15-14 loss to Georgetown in triple overtime in the Big East conference semifinals. Irish players were visibly distraught after the gut-wrenching loss that had such importance to the season.

Notre Dame’s primary goal for the season, according to coach Tracy Coyne, was to win the Big East championship. But with that now out of the question, the Irish must play for something else in their final regular season game.

The Irish will have a week to regroup and focus, then will take on Cornell. The Big Red come into the game sporting a 10-5 record and after a 14-13 overtime loss to the Hoyas that was one of the most memorable games in Big East history.

The Irish will have to try hard to avoid another heartbreak loss.

**BASEBALL**

Team prepares for games with Mississippi Valley State

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has not played Mississippi Valley State in their last five games of the regular season.

As for his own team, Schrage said the team also needs its pitching staff to come through against the visiting team.

"We have to play a pair of games, and we have a couple of freshmen starting pitchers against Mississippi Valley State. Right-hander Brian Dunra will start the first game," Schrage said. "It will be exciting for them to come up here so I'm sure they'll be ready to play."}

As for his own team, Schrage said Notre Dame is in the exact position it had hoped to be when the season began.

"We played the first four games of the season to be in the spot we're in," Schrage said. "Now every game we play is big because of what our record is." The Irish will rely on a pair of freshman starting pitchers against Mississippi Valley State.

**ND WOMEN’S GOLF**

Irish golfers earn NCAA Tourney berth

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

After clinching the Big East conference title for the third time in six years, No. 27 Notre Dame will face off against a third seed in the regional round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Irish turned in a middling fifth-place finish at the Rotary Rawls Longhorn Invitational in mid-March.

Notre Dame coach Susan Holt said she is confident in her team even though its success 12 seasons ago has been something of a surprise in the collegiate golfing world.

"As a team, at the beginning of the year, we set high goals for ourselves," Holt said. "People on the outside might be surprised, but we aren't. We made a commitment to do exactly what we're doing. We're on track.

The conference title caps an outstanding year for her team, but Holt said that the team’s success is due to the hard work and dedication of the players.

"Our kids have been working hard all year, and they deserve this recognition," Holt said. "We're on track."