Beah speaks about war experiences
Author, activist fought as a child soldier in the Sierra Leone civil war for four years

By LIZ LEEFEBVRE
News Writer
Ishmael Beah, author of "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier," spoke Monday night in McKenna Auditorium about his experiences before, during and after civil war in his native Sierra Leone. Beah stressed in his presentation that he and his fellow countrymen did not lose hope in the face of violence.

Beah's life in rural Sierra Leone was interrupted by civil war when he was around 12 years old. After losing his entire immediate family in the fighting, Beah was picked up by rebel soldiers and forcefully recruited as a child soldier in 1992.

"We all knew that you would be killed if you didn't fight or follow orders," Beah said of his time as a soldier.

During the war, Beah mentioned how he and the other children had to live through their fear to survive. Because staying alive meant that they had to kill, Beah noted how the child soldiers had to normalize their experiences.

"To live, someone else had to die on your behalf," Beah said.

NDSP detains man in cell phone theft
Observer Staff Report
Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) arrested a man who fled campus after stealing a student's cell phone.

The man was detained on Notre Dame Avenue after a student reported his cell phone stolen in the Hesburgh Library, he said. The student gave a description of the adult male, which allowed NDSP to catch the man off-campus.

The man was charged with a Class D felony after the police recovered the stolen cell phone, Chapman said. Chapman said the student left his cell phone unattended on a table in the second floor of the Library. The student told police he saw the man take the phone from a distance.

"The subject yelled, 'Hey that's my phone,'" Chapman said. "But the guy took off and left the Library.

Chapman said the student immediately called NDSP and gave a description of the man, which led to the recovery of the phone.

Students visit six Holocaust sites over break
History course focuses on origins of anti-Semitism, rise of National Socialism

By LIZ O’DONNELL
News Writer
While some Notre Dame students jetted off to exotic locations to spend their Spring Break, a group of students ventured halfway around the world to explore various sites commemorating the Holocaust.

The trip was in conjunction with a class focused on the origins of anti-Semitism, the rise of National Socialism, German Jews in the Weimar Republic and their exclusion from public life under National Socialism, the euthanasia action, Reichskristallnacht, ghettoization, deportation and the concentration and death camps, according to Spencer.

"The course includes study of the origins of anti-Semitism, the rise of National Socialism, German Jews in the Weimar Republic and their exclusion from public life under National Socialism, the euthanasia action, Reichskristallnacht, ghettoization, deportation and the concentration and death camps," Chapman said.

The student told police he saw the man take the phone from a distance.

"The subject yelled, 'Hey that's my phone,'" Chapman said. "But the guy took off and left the Library.

Chapman said the student immediately called NDSP and gave a description of the man, which led to the recovery of the phone.

Campus celebrates St. Patty's Day
Planning on being present in classes.

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer
Notre Dame students returned to campus Sunday looking forward to a fun St. Patrick's Day celebration Tuesday.

Senior Olivia Vervaekte plans to celebrate her last St. Patrick's Day at Notre Dame by going out.

"I've never been able to go out on St. Patrick's Day before," Vervaekte said. "I'm excited." I’ll be going out, to a friend's house at first. Then probably some place in South Bend," Vervaekte said.

While skipping class is popular for quite a few of Notre Dame's students on St. Patrick's Day, Vervaekte is planning on being present in classes.

"I'm planning on going to class, and then begin celebrating afterwards," she said.

Popular destinations for students Tuesday will include Corby's Bar, Fiddler's Hearth, and off-campus houses.

For some students, the holiday's inconvenient mid-week location means all work and no play. Freshman Greg Woods will be among those staying in.

"I'll be studying. I have an exam on Thursday," Woods said.

Freshman Olivia Covangelo will also be hard at work.

"I have physics homework due at 10 p.m., so I'll be busy," she said.

McGill resident assistant Katie Begerow will be on duty on St. Patrick's Day and plans to step up precautions.

"I'll be keeping a more watchful eye," Begerow said. "St. Patrick's Day has a reputation." This St. Patrick's Day will not be as popular as in previous years.

"It's not a given that everyone will go out," Begerow said. "Many students have exams during the days following St. Patrick's Day.

However, she's not too upset about not being able to participate in the festivities.

"It'll be cool to go hang out somewhere, but oh well. It's my job."
Missing Music

Over break, I was trying to find a new pair of jeans when I noticed that the radio station the store was broadcasting was playing a Mélée song. I was filled with joy.

I'm sure many of you are now racking your brains trying to find the significance in that. A song by Mélée? Who's that? A long lost band from the 80s? The newest sensation? Why, I simply must buy their CD on iTunes immediately!

...Okay, maybe not the last part, but let me enlighten you a little. Mélée is a contemporary band, no worries, and a very good one at that. They're an alternative rock group, with emphasis on the piano. And wonderful. Completely wonderful. Their first album is a little rough around the edges, but the second is full of feel-good songs that'll bring a smile to your face any day. I first found out about this wonderful band when they opened a concert I was at, and it was love the moment Chris Cremona (the lead singer) jumped up on the piano stool for "Frequently Baby." This band should be all over the airwaves, and yet I've heard them on the radio maybe all of twice.

Although, Mélée is doing better than most of my favorite bands- their song "Stand Up" is on the soundtrack for Sydney White.

But let me enlighten you a little. These artists are all brilliant — some are probably better than what I've heard these guys get has airtime I've heard these guys get has.

Red Jumpsuit Apparatus? The only_Kon way2nd.edu

No joke, when "Before He Cheats" hit the radio stations, I flipped stations while I was home. Yes, on two different stations. Either that, or I'm not listening to the right stations, but I have never heard fantastic artists like Mae or Anberlin on the radio. How about Motion City Soundtrack? How about the band Motion City Soundtrack? How about Motion City Soundtrack?

These artists are all brilliant — some are probably better than what I've heard these guys get has airtime I've heard these guys get has.

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Notre Dame cheerleader Kelsey Ingram, center, performs during a timeout as the men's basketball team defeated Rutgers 61-50 in the first round of the Big East Tournament in Madison Square Garden in New York on Tuesday, March 10th.
Diversity survey nearly complete

Task force recommends increasing awareness of multicultural events

By SARAH MERVOSH

CAMPUS NEWS

Diversity Council

The Diversity Life Council (CLC) discussed improving the relationship between multicultural and international student groups and the rest of the University at its meeting Monday. Diversity Representative Brigitte Githinji said that her task force sent out a survey to multicultural and international students to get their opinion on how well they have been integrated into University life. She said that she will be able to better understand the sentiment of those students once the survey is completed Sunday.

"So far what I see is that a lot of people are not happy with the advertising," Githinji said. "Diversity Council do exist to bring awareness for certain cultures but nobody attends their meetings because the University doesn't advertise." She also said that with the questions students don't realize that these clubs are open to everyone; the clubs feel "more exclusive than inclusive." For example, only African American students tend to attend meetings for African American clubs.

One question of the survey asked was "Would you still come to diversity meetings if you knew what it's really like?" Githinji said that most people said that they would still come, but "because it's in a good institution.

Githinji said that once the final results of the survey come out, the task force will meet to decide what needs to be done. She said that they hope the survey "will bring awareness and forcing people to branch out and do something." CLC also discussed steps ways to improve the relationship between off-campus students and the University.

Student body president Bob Reish said the task force dedicated to this relationship divided their mission into two parts: the relationship between rectors and off-campus students and the relationship between the University and off-campus students.

"As it stands now, it is not part of the rectors' role to be in a formal relationship with off-campus students, although almost one hundred percent of the rectors are in a relationship with some of the off-campus students," Lyon said. "So how many years is there a specific individual responsible for off-campus life? If so, are they a university-paid official? Is there specific off-campus housing sponsored by the University?"

Chief executive assistant Karen Koski reported her task force had a meeting with a representative from Office and Residence Life and Housing (ORLH) and four resident assistants in order to see how the Medical Amnesty Policy would impact students on a practical level. "We want the policy to work," Koski said. "We want students to be able to be in recovery and not be punished if they relapse.

"The Medical Amnesty policy would protect students who have been drinking from getting in trouble while helping an intoxicated friend who is hurt or sick.

Resident assistants provided information about the current policy that "as soon as there is an ambulance in the picture, students are automatically sent to Res Life," according to Koski. Koski said there was discussion about creating something concrete that resident assistants could hand to students if they have been "Res Lived" and don't know what to do.

The students could "fill [it] out and talk to someone about what to do when you are in the Res Life hoarding to make sure you are presenting your story correctly," said Koski.

Koski also said there was a lot of discussion about the image of ORLH and how it affects student opinions.

While a lot of students may feel that most of that time the ResLife hoarding in a way they will consider just, that's not enough to make them air on the conservative side, where they are in a situation like this," Koski said.

"In other CLC news..." By ASHLEY CHARNEL and SARAH MAYER

SMC first year ‘fine’ after being hit by car

Student body vice president and chair of the CLC Constitution Committee Sarah Falvey presented the newly amended Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution to the Board of Governors (BOG) Monday, which passed the new document by unanimous consensus.

The new constitution eliminates BOG and transfers the BOG’s former responsibilities to SGA.

"I think the biggest change you will notice is that the BOG will no longer be a voting body. Essentially, the SGA will be absorbing BOG," Falvey said.

The changes also short­ened the constitution.

"We cut it down from seven pages to thirteen pages," Falvey said.

The new constitution also states that a student can hold only one executive position during a school year.

"The idea behind that was to spread around kind of the wealth of the leadership on this campus, to encourage a lot of development, and also to prevent our students from getting over­whelmed in performing their duties to the best of their abilities," Falvey said.

Now that the constitution has passed through BOG, it will now be presented to the student body for a vote. Students will be able to log onto their PRISM accounts from Tuesday morning until Monday, March 25 to place their votes, Falvey said.

"It’s not actually required that we send it to the student body, but the commit­tee felt it was the right thing to do," Falvey said. If the constitution fails to be passed by a majority of the student body, then it will be considered "enacted and void" for this year and the next amendment process will be left up to next year’s committee, Falvey said.

Student body vice president Sarah Falvey presented an amendment regarding the opening of the Student Center open until midnight on weekdays and 2 a.m. on weekends.

The amendment is for an increase in the presence and look of peer institu­tions and what amenities students have service. Student Body Vice President, Falvey said, "Some have post offices, game rooms, coffee bars and all kinds of things."

Falvey is sending a letter to the college, proposing, the changes to the Student Center after comparing SMC to other women’s colleges who have longer student center hours.

Three Dance Marathon committee members presented two separate co­sponsorships. Sophomore Mary Reilly, a member of the technology and letter writing committee, sophomore Katie Fadden, a mem­ber of executive Council and her friend, Erin Chastain, a member of the dance committee, asked for co­sponsorships for paper, envelopes and the time of the event.

We ask each person to compile a list of addresses to send to their families," Fadden said. "We raise money to Riley and people donate knowing all the money is going to Riley. We really want to keep the costs of stamps and paper down."

The second co­spon­sorship was for a portion of the event costs.

"We are getting food donated but it does not cover the cost of all the food with teachers and Riley parents coming," Fadden said.

Tickets are needed for out­standing security, building services to clean up and a tip for a DJ.

Other BOG news:

"Adriana Rodriguez, re­presentation for the Diversity Board, announced that the Diverse Student Action Committee will meet this week. More students are registered this year than ever before."

Contact Ashley Charnel at acharnel01@saintmarys.edu and smayer01@saintmarys.edu.

Have an idea for a news story? Send tips at obsnews@nd.edu.
Holocaust continued from page 1

Allies and then escaped Germany before Hitler came to power.

Including this trip as a part of the class is an essential aspect of studying the Holocaust, Spicer said. "Although traditional classroom study is important, the uniqueness of the Holocaust may only be fully understood through visiting the historical sites," Spicer said.

Rosenberg said that the class has, thus far, focused on the history of the Nazi party and anti-Semitism. "We were sort of setting the stage for how things were able to carry out the Holocaust," said Rosenberg. "We're talking about the people who worked in the Concentration camps the murderers really.

While in Europe, the students visited four different sites.

"I mean it was strange to be there and see it all. It was like we were stepping back in time," said Corcoran. "We visited six camps, three of which were pretty intact and three were completely destroyed and just memories.

The class began their trip with a visit to the former ghetto memorial and museum in Warsaw, Poland. At this location, there were various memorials, a Jewish Cemetery, as well as a synagogue.

Next, the group journeyed to Lublin, where they visited three different death camp memorials. Of these three, one camp, Majdanek, was also a concentration camp.

"At Lublin, we saw a mausoleum with a huge basin of human ashes. And it really sort of said you that these were normal people who died and there were so many of them," said Rosenberg.

The students also visited Krakow, which is well known for its role in the movie "Schindler's List." While there, students saw Oskar Schindler's actual factory and the infamous death camp Auschwitz.

The final stop on the tour was Treblinka, where the group toured the Treblinka ghetto memorial and museums.

After the trip, Rosenberg said the power of the event started to sink in. "Just to see the memorials and the places where the Nazis used to begin to comprehend the magnitude, 6 million people were killed," she said.

This was not the first year that Spicer has taken students to Europe to visit Holocaust sites.

"This was the fifth time that I have offered a similar travel program related to my course on the Holocaust. Due to financial concerns, I altered the travel schedule to exclude visiting Berlin," said Spicer. Without the visit to Berlin, more time was opened up to explore other venues that were closer to ones previously visited.

"Instead the travel program this year also included visits to the death camp memorials at Treblinka and Belzec — both within 2 hours of distance of Lublin."

Now that the class has returned for the second half of the semester, it's focus will shift to the topics of the evolution to genocide in Nazi-occupied Europe, the perpetrators of the Holocaust, the Jewish resistance and the Nuremberg Trials.

Although the trip dealt with heavy issues, Rosenberg said that the overall experience was a good one.

"It was an awesome trip but we had a lot of fun too. It was a good balance," she said.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at clo@nd.edu.

Beah continued from page 1

"You dehumanize yourself when you kill someone else," said Beah. "I want to commend the students for calling us right away," Chapman said. 

Beah is currently working with the Human Rights Watch Children's Division, as well as with UNICEF and the United Nations.

Contact Llana LeFebvre at llefebvr@nd.edu.

Day continued from page 1

Sophomore Katrina Corcoran will spend her St. Patrick's Day working at Beacher's.

"I have the 10 p.m. to midnight shift," said Corcoran. "She's not too worried about celebrations, though.

"I worked Halloween, and it wasn't too bad," said Corcoran. Like many others, Corcoran isn't too sure about the celebration.

However, Corcoran is excited for St. Patrick's Day. "I love St. Patrick's Day because we're the Home of the Irish," she said.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray@nd.edu.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Reformist pulls out of Iran election

TEHRAN — Iran's most prominent reformist, former President Mohammed Khatami, pulled out of the race against the country's hard-line president Monday, saying he decided to do so to prevent the pro-reform vote in upcoming elections.

Khatami's entry into the race against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad a month ago boosted the hopes of some among the reformers who favor closer relations with the West and liberalizing Iran's conservative Islamic government.

But two other prominent reformists entered the race for the June 12 election after Khatami. Former Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi, a former hard-liner who Khatami has said has a better chance of siphoning conservatives' votes, pulled out Monday, saying that he and Mousavi were pulling out to see "a new face emerging in the contest" that would maintain the momentum of the reformists.

Israel-Palestinian negotiations fail

JERUSALEM — The fate of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has become a collection of moving parts that somehow need to come together in a single package: an Israel-Hamas prisoner swap, a truce for Gaza, and new government on both sides of the firing line that could pursue peace.

Prospects for success decreased significantly on Monday after a six-hour Palestinian-mediated talks for a prisoner swap — exchanging a captured Israeli soldier for hundreds of jailed Palestinian militants — ended without agreement, according to Israeli officials, dashes hopes that a deal was close.

The swap could have helped pave the way for a longer-term Israel-Hamas truce deal that in turn might have opened the Gaza Strip's blockaded borders to allow for reconstruction after Israel's punishing offensive there.

Prospects for Israel-Palestinian negotiations also appear more distant after Khatami pulled out, a truce for Gaza, and new government on both sides of the firing line that could pursue peace.

American Evangelist faces abuse allegations

LITTLE ROCK — California lawyer Danny Davis has wanted to separate jailed evangelist Tony Alamo from the abuse allegations that trail his ministry.

"There is a man and there is the myth," Davis said. "He has become a myth in the character of this monstrous felony accusation.

That's what Davis told The Los Angeles Times in 1991 while representing Alamo in a child molestation trial. Now, 20 years later, the Beverly Hills law office apparently will defend the aging evangelist against federal charges that could leave him behind bars until his death.

Governing Justice on parole

ST. PAUL — Gov. Tim Pawlenty sent a letter Monday to California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger asking him to prevent former 1970s radical and longtime fugitive Sara Jane Olson from returning to California for her role in the attempted pipe-bombings of Los Angeles police officers.

Pawlenty urged Schwarzenegger, a fellow Republican, to consider the requests of the St. Paul Police Federation, the Los Angeles Police Protective League and the Los Angeles City Council to keep Olson in California after her release from prison, which is scheduled for Wednesday.

South Africa tries new Mass translation

JOHANNESBURG — A new translation of the Roman Catholic Mass that is most likely to be published within a few years is getting an accidental trial run in South Africa, where some parishes are compelled to use it because of two encyclicals which annulled one that allowed for liturgical flexibilities. The controversy comes as Pope Benedict XVI halted its insistence on Latin. Before Communion, for example, the prayer "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you" becomes "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof." One in being with the Father" becomes "consubstantial with the Father" in the Nicene creed.

And the congregation's response to the greeting that opens Mass with the priest saying "The Lord be with you," changes from "And also with you" to "And with your spirit." In a misunderstanding, some South African church leaders started using the new version prematurely in some parishes, even though the English-language prayers won't be approved for global use for at least a couple of years. But instead of pulling back in the face of their mistake, they are continuing to use it.

Associated Press

NATIONAL NEWS

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Associated Press
Jury selection begins in abortion case
Potential members told they must set aside their personal views.

WI Chita — Potential jurors in a criminal trial of one of the nation's few late-term abortion providers were told Monday to set aside their personal views about abortion, and at least one was dismissed after she said she couldn't.

"This trial is not a debate about abortion," Assistant Attorney General Barry Disney said as jury selection began in Sedgwick County District Court. "It is not about whether abortion is right or wrong. This trial is about whether the defendant has violated the law." Dr. George Tiller is charged with 19 misdemeanors alleging he failed to obtain a second opinion for late-term abortions from an independent, licensed physician, as required by Kansas law. If convicted, the Wichita doctor could face a year in county jail or a fine of $2,500 for each misdemeanor.

"This trial is not about whether abortion is right or wrong. This trial is about whether the defendant has violated the law." Barry Disney assistant attorney general Kansas

By MEGAN LONEY News Writer

Lily Hoang, assistant professor of English at Saint Mary's College, is no typical writer. She boasts of putting more of an emphasis on form rather than plot, and "calls writers' block a "myth." Hoang, who teaches in the English and Women's Studies Departments, shared excerpts from her two published works, "Parabola" and "Changing." She also gave a sneak preview into her newest book, "Evolutionary Revolution," a science fiction novel that will be released in 2010.

Hoang continued the reading with short pieces from her book "Changing." After reading from her published works, she shared pages from the first ten pages of her unpublished science fiction novel. The novel is also under a constraint, although it is the most unconstrained of all her works, Hoang said.

"Evolutionary Revolution" is based on the novel "Parabola," she said. The novel takes place in two times. One is prehistoric time with two species of man and the earth is only water. One species call men who fly over the water, the other, women called men who fly over the water.

The other, more recent time setting, features a girl named Claire, who wakes up with winglike organs on her thighs and a two-headed turtle for a pet. Claire has no idea about the world around her and tries to make sense of it.

During the set of readings, Hoang received several bursts of laughter from the attentive audience.

The event continued with a question and answer session between Hoang and her students and fellow faculty members.

Contact Megan Loney at mloney01@saintmarys.edu

Alumni Association honors two students

Gelchion currently is serving as a resident assistant in Fisher Hall and senior mentor for the Latino Leadership Program. He also participated in designing interviews for Summer and How Learning Program candidates during the last three years. In addition to his work with the program, he facilitates follow-up discussions and hopes to help more late-term abortion opponents if they apply to the program again.

Barbato also was asked to interview student applicants for the Latino Leadership Internship Program, and she helped students prepare for the Student Summer Leadership Education Seminar in January.

"I liked that the writing is kind of weird," Disney said. "I mean that it is weird."
WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is expected to announce new help for small businesses, a move he was preparing to announce as he left for a trip to Ohio on Monday.

The Treasury Department said in a monthly report that lending to businesses fell in January despite the billions of dollars the banks received in government support.

"We have to work harder to distance ourselves from the im­peater's conduct, to contain possible political damage, and to try to bolster public confidence in the adminis­tration's handling of the broader economic rescue effort," said David Axelrod, senior advisor to Obama, in an interview with The Associated Press that was taped in Washington on Monday.

"People are angry because they see an exhibit of irresponsibility and to jeopardize other parts of the recovery agenda that is dominating the start of his presidency," he said. "This isn't just a matter of dollars and cents. It's about our fundamental values.

Obama has been joined other officials in critic­izing American International Group's handling of the $30 billion bailout fund.

The bonuses could contribute to a backlash against Washington that would make it tougher for Obama and Congress for more bailout help — and jeopardize other parts of the recovery agenda that is dominating the start of his presidency. Thus, the presi­dent and his top aides were working hard to distance themselves from the im­peater's conduct, to contain possible political damage, and to try to bolster public confidence in the adminis­tration's handling of the broader economic rescue effort.

"This is a corporation that finds itself in financial distress due to recklessness and greed," Obama declared.

He said he had directed Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to "pursue every legal avenue to block these bonuses and make the American taxpayer whole."

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Joining a wave of public anger, President Barack Obama criticized AIG's massive fraud and pledged to try to block it from paying its top executives $165 million in bonuses after taking billions in federal bailout money.

"How do they justify this outrage to the taxpayers who are keeping the com­pany afloat?" Obama asked. "This isn't just a matter of dollars and cents. It's about our fundamental values."

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He said he had directed Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to "pursue every legal avenue to block these bonuses and make the American taxpayer whole."

Later, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the administration would modify the terms of a pending $30 billion bailout installation for AIG to at least recoup the $165 mil­lion the bonuses represent. That wouldn't rescind the bonuses, just require AIG to account for them different­ly.

Axelrod called the bonus­es "spectacularly tone­ deaf." He said the administra­tion hoped the tough talk would result in voluntary action on the part of AIG and its bonus recipients, although that remains an open question. "All we can do is administer this thing going forward," he said.

A woman enters an AIG building in New York on Monday, President Obama said he will prevent the company's payment of bonuses to its top executives.

A woman enters an AIG building in New York on Monday, President Obama said he will prevent the company's payment of bonuses to its top executives.

I don't think it's unusual ... given the magnitude of the fraud," she said, "it would be unusual if they didn't go after whatever assets they can get."

Bernard Madoff, 70, has been liv­ing in a small cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in lower Manhattan since he pleaded guilty Thursday to securities fraud, perjury and nine other charges. He could be sent to prison for up to 150 years at a June sentencing.

If prosecutors get their way, the Madoffs will have to give up all their assets, including three properties listed solely in Ruth Madoff's name, a $7 million Manhattan penthouse bought in 1984, an $11 million Palm Beach, Fla., home purchased in 1994 and a $1 million home in Cap d'Antibes, France. Another $3 mil­lion home bought in 1979 in Montauk is jointly owned by the cou­ple.

The government also said Madoff and his wife should forfeit $10 million in furnishings for all of the homes, along with accounts in Ruth Madoff's name that hold $17 million in cash and $45 million in securities. "Ball," a $7 million yacht in Florida, and its $1.2 million boat slip, and "Little Ball," a $320,000 Montauk boat, all in Ruth Madoff's name, as well as a $2.2 million fish­ing boat in Palm Beach, Fla., that is in Madoff's name.

- A 1999 Mercedes SLK convert­ible in Florida, a 2003 Mercedes sta­tion wagon and a 2004 Volkswagen, estimated to be worth a total of $25,000.
IRAQ

U.S. military shoots down Iranian drone

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. jets shot down an Iranian unmanned surveillance aircraft last month over Iraqi territory about 60 miles northeast of Baghdad, the U.S. military said Monday.

A U.S. statement said the Ababil 3 was tracked for about 70 minutes before U.S. jets shot it down "well-inside Iraqi airspace" and that the aircraft's presence over Iraq "was not an accident."

An Iraqi official said the Iranian aircraft went down near the Iraqi border town of Mandali. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

The Ababil is believed to have a maximum range of about 90 miles and can fly up to 14,000 feet. It is primarily designed for surveillance and intelligence-gathering.

U.S. officials have frequently accused the Iranians of supplying weapons, training and money to Shiite extremist groups opposed to the U.S. military presence and to the Iraqi government.

Iran has denied links to militant groups inside Iraq and says the instability in this country is a result of the U.S. "occupation." The Iranians consider the presence of about 140,000 U.S. troops in a neighboring country a threat to their national security.

In Baghdad, a U.S. soldier was fatally injured during combat operations Monday, the U.S. said in a statement. No further details were released.

It was the first combat death reported by the U.S. military in Baghdad this month and the first among U.S. forces nationwide since March 7, when a soldier was killed in the Tikrit area.

U.S. casualties have dropped sharply since Iraqi soldiers and police have taken a greater role in security, President Barack Obama has pledged to withdraw all U.S. combat troops from Iraq by September 2010.

American combat troops are due to leave bases in Baghdad and other cities by June 30 under an agreement that provides for all U.S. forces to leave the country by the end of 2011.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki told The Associated Press on Sunday that U.S. troops may stay in some areas that are not completely secure even after the June 30 date.

He did not identify those areas, but U.S. and Iraqi troops are still trying to secure Mosul, the country's third-largest city where al-Qaida and other Sunni militant groups remain active.

Also Monday, a 12-year-old girl was killed when American soldiers fired at a vehicle speeding toward them and Iraqi police near Mosul, said the U.S. military.

The military said the girl was standing about 100 yards (meters) behind the vehicle and was struck by a round.

But Iraqi police said the girl was shot while in a car with her father. The discrepancy could not be immediately explained.

Meanwhile, an Iranian opposition group said Monday that Iraqis tightened their siege of a camp north of Baghdad where about 3,000 of their members have been based for about 20 years.

The People's Mujahedeen said Iraqi troops have Prevented food and fuel from Reaching Camp Ashraf for the past six days — despite written guarantees by the Iraqi government that It would guarantee human rights of the residents.

But Iraqi national security adviser Mousa al-Alaoui branded the allegations "totally baseless," He said People's Mujahedeen members had taken over a building belonging to the Iraqi Army and were preventing soldiers from entering.

"They have a huge propaganda machine all over the world and are known to exaggerate things," added al-Alaoui, whom the People's Mujahedeen said was behind the alleged crackdown.

Iran and the United States consider the People's Mujahedeen a terrorist group and Tehran has stepped up pressure on the Iraqis to close the camp. Iraq took over security for the camp from the U.S. on Jan. 1.

But the Iraqi government promised the U.S. that it would not force the group's members to leave against their will.

The People's Mujahedeen opposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi during the 1979 revolution but fell out with the clerical regime that replaced him. Saddam Hussein allowed the group to set up a camp during the Iran-Iraq war for staging raids across the border inside Iran.

U.S. troops disarmed the fighters and confined them to Camp Ashraf after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam.

Also Monday, residents of the Kurdish town of Halabja marked the 25th anniversary of the March 16-17 poison gas attack by Saddam's forces against Kurdish separatists.

On March 16, 1988 attack killed thousands of people and was the biggest use of chemical weapons against a civilian populated area in History.

Local officials and people's relatives placed wreaths on a Monument to the dead.

The anniversary has become etched in the memory of many people," said Aras Abbadi, who lost 21 relatives in the attacks. "Every year, we wait for the anniversary and condemn that deplorable attack committed by a dictatorial regime against its own people.

Another participant, Mariam Saleh, 39, pointed to a photograph on display that shows a truck full of victims. "My family was in that truck," she wept.
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FIGHTING IRISH FANS: BE THERE AS THE ROAD TO "THE JOE" COMES TO AN END

Texas jail seeks to fix tarnished image

Associated Press

MONTAGUE, Texas — For nearly a month, perhaps longer, the Montague County Jail was "Animal House" meets Mayberry.

On March 17, however, after being sworn into office, the new sheriff, Paul Leon Goyette, said that he had been turned into a "showroom for the federal government." He was not referring to the jail's facilities, but to the jail's reputation.

The county's news release stated that the jailer, who was charged with making threats and hoaxes, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas said in a statement.

"We felt that it was a fair offer and it was in the best interest of justice," said Brooks W. Barfield Jr., Goyette's attorney. "He's certainly regretful and certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certainly certain
I've been in Europe for six months now, but the most fulfilling Mass I've been to was three weeks ago. It was Ash Wednesday and my Austrian host sister and I went to evening Mass in the Stephansdom, the Vienna Cathedral. I stared at the rafters, the gothic arches and stained-glass windows pointing towards God. In their magnificence, it was all but forgetting me sitting inside on the makeshift benches above the concrete floor. From my football-field-away seat, I tried to catch a glimpse of the bishop as he consecrated the Eucharist and blessed the ashes. I couldn't see most of it, but what I missed I still caught on the HDTV's lining the cathedral's interior columns. It wasn't the beauty of the building, the prominence of the presider, or the convenience of the transmission of the message that spoke to me during this mass. Rather, what really got me was the void that remained in my spiritual fulfillment even after all of that grandeur.

The songs keyed in that most of all; the chanting, dramatic choral pieces composed by Austrian greats. These pieces are beautiful and unquestionably genius, but they are not Church music. Not to me, at least. I grew up in Georgia, where the number of Catholics has significantly increased in the last 20 years, but is still a minority. Friends consistently reminded me that Jesus could save me if I would only become Christian and leave behind my Catholic ways and not govern my thoughts, but it just doesn't jibe me like the song from home did. Although the Catholic Church is universal, the Church I experience in America is not the Church I knew at home. European Catholicism as a whole tends to be more awe-inspiring and less personal, but this variance does not exist strictly at international borders; many American Catholics prefer large churches with grandiose music and strict tradition.

I'm not saying there is anything wrong with that. Both forms of worship are beautiful and deeply spiritual.

But that's still not the Church that I grew up in. It's not the Church that shaped my faith and still today provides me with a sense of belonging. So much of religious fulfillment rests in the community and the atmosphere of worship. I continue to find comfort in the uniformity of the Catholic Mass, in its familiarity, but I I've been in Europe for six months now, but the most fulfilling Mass I've been to was three weeks ago. It was Ash Wednesday and my Austrian host sister and I went to evening Mass in the Stephansdom, the Vienna Cathedral. I stared at the rafters, the gothic arches and stained-glass windows pointing towards God. In their magnificence, it was all but forgetting me sitting inside on the makeshift benches above the concrete floor. From my football-field-away seat, I tried to catch a glimpse of the bishop as he consecrated the Eucharist and blessed the ashes. I couldn't see most of it, but what I missed I still caught on the HDTV's lining the cathedral's interior columns. It wasn't the beauty of the building, the prominence of the presider, or the convenience of the transmission of the message that spoke to me during this mass. Rather, what really got me was the void that remained in my spiritual fulfillment even after all of that grandeur.

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In vitro for eight

The California hospital where they were born calls them "Suleman Babies A to H." Their mother, Nadya Suleman, an unmarried, unemployed 33-year-old grad student, already had six children, ages two to seven, all through in vitro fertilization (IVF). She was surprised when the octuplets appeared after six embryos, conceived by IVF, were placed in her womb. She had planned to abort one of the embryos, but not those that resulted from the third party (her husband's sperm). IVF, by separating the unitive from the procreative, has such a technique.

In IVF, more embryos are produced than are intended to be placed in the womb. Some may be frozen for future use. Those with defects are "dis­carded." (13) More embryos are then placed in the womb than the number of children desired, to "increase the chance that at least one will implant in the uterus." (15) If, however, more implant than are desired, the answer is "embryo reduction" in which the extra children in the womb are "exterminated by transfer into the womb. " (14) An embryo suspected of having ... 0 not have the sex desired, or having other qualities that are not wanted [is destroyed]." (22) Such reflects a "eugenic mentality ... [the] moral normality and physical well-being, thus opening the way to ... infanticide and euthanasia." (22) The acceptance of the enormous number of embryos involved in IVF illustrates how the replacement of the conjugal act by a technical procedure ... leads to a wakening of the respect owed to every human being. (16). Remember that each embryo is a living human being, IVF affronts the human dignity of the embryo and of Oktomon fast. Once is treated as an industrial product, subject to quality control, and the other as a receptacle for that product subject to further quality control. The Church, said DP, "understands the suffering of couples struggling with problems of fertility. Itasthan​es for a child, however, should not override the dignity of all human life," nor can it "justify the 'prod­uct of efficiency.' " (16) And the desire not to have a child cannot justify the abandonment or destructi​on of a child once be or she has been conceived. (16) IVF often requires repeated attempts to achieve success. Multiple oocytes (unfertilized eggs) can be taken from the woman and frozen for future use in "artificial procreation." Such is "morally unaccep­table" (19), as are proposals to use frozen embryos for research or treatment of disease; such "would treat the embryos as mere 'biological material' and result in their destruction." (19) Adoption of frozen embryos, who could be implant­ed in the adopting woman's womb and carried to term, could give them a chance to live. On the other hand, it would encourage, and materially cooperate with, the IVF industry by making adoption a prof­itable outlet for its "products." DP does not address these concerns, although it describes "prenatal adopti​on" as "praiseworthy in its intention of reserving and defending human life."

But then it concludes that, "all things considered, ... the abandoned embryos represent a situation of injustice which in fact cannot be resolved. Therefore John Paul II made an appeal ... the production of human embryos be halted, taking into account that there seems to be no morally just solution regarding the human destiny of the ... frozen embryos, which ... should be protected by law as human persons." (19) A more detailed discussion by the Magisterium of the "prena­tal adoption" issue would be helpful.

The "Suleman Babies A to H" ought to make us think. We can proceed down the path laid out by the contraceptive separation of life from conjugal love. That path leads not only to IVF but to other tech­niques discussed in DP; including embryonic stem cell research which taxpayers will now fund by order of President Obama, cloning and other refinements. They involve the acceptance of utilitarian murder on a mass scale. The alternative is to return to the natu­ral law and the recognition of everyone being, from conception to natural death, as a person who is made in God, to a life that transcends the state.

Professor Emeritus Ricke is as the law school faculty. He may be reached at 574-635-4415 or rie100nd.edu.

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

THE OBSERVER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bald is beautiful

In an effort to raise money for can­cer, three Notre Dame girls that I know of, including myself, have decid­ed to shave our heads. In doing this, we hope to raise awareness about cancer and the need to work together. Donations will go towards St. Baldrick's foundation, which in nine years has raised over $10 million for childhood cancer research by shaving more than 72,000 heads in 18 coun­tries and 49 US states. This event allows young cancer patients and sur­vivors to be in touch to see how many peo­ple really do care.

I'm sure everyone who is reading this knows someone who has been affected by cancer. Take a second to think about that. A lot of people with cancer; even still, more and more people are being diagnosed with can­cer everyday. I am fortunate enough to be healthy and to have the opportunity to work with students who are the majority of the students here at this University, including you. Look around at how many of us all are in college, at the University of Notre Dame. Each and every one of us has been very blessed with the oppor­tunity to pursue our dreams. Some children do not have the opportunity to go away to college or even have the chance to apply to college for that matter. Realizing this makes hair seem insignificant.

Shaving our heads may help you to realize how fortunate you are, espe­cially since cancer is becoming more and more prevalent. I think being more to life than appearance; so if

Charles E. Rice

Wrong"
Got Spring Fever? Outdoor Dining in South Bend is the Cure

By ERIC PRISTER Scenic Writer

Ah, springtime is upon us. The skies are shining, flip flops have reentered the fashion scene, and South Quad looks like someone let the convicts out of their cells for the first time in months. Now, in South Bend, that means very little, since pleasant weather lasts about as long as an average high school relationship, but at least the feeling of spring has arrived.

Outdoor eating that is consistent in South Bend during the spring, just as it is year round, is that one must eat. What better way to celebrate the coming of rebirth and rejuvenation than to style your eating choices around the new season? For those who are forced to eat in the dining hall for every meal, either due to a lack of transportation or a moral obligation to see all fourteen meals a week, these suggestions will do you little good. Honestly, you should skip to the end of the article. But for those who are looking to read his or her wings and venture off campus, please continue.

For the rare Notre Dame student who finds his or her pockets overflowing with excess money, two choices exist. One, as the bumper sticker suggests, you could elect a friend to the Lion, you can try small amounts of metallics a chance. The best possible place for Notre Dame students to take advantage of the rare but beautiful spring weather in South Bend, though, is none other than Notre Dame itself. Order a pizza from Bruno’s or Papa John’s, have a Jimmy John’s sub delivered, or run to LaFortune and order a seven-dollar-and-fifty-cent footlong from Subway (not as catchy as five-dollar footlong is it?). Take your meal outside with some friends and enjoy the beautiful weather in the beautiful place South Bend has to offer, under the Golden Dome.

Contact Eric Prister at epriuser@nd.edu

Enjoy your meal outside in the sunshine of spring.

By JESS SHAFFER Scene Editor

You might have thought that “The Wizard of Oz” was a quaint, old movie with no real sustainable lessons, outside of now clichés like “There’s no place like home.” But who knew that this fashion season “The Wizard of Oz” embodies all that is good, stylish and hip for people in the know. Even after decades have passed, re-watching this Technicolor classic might have you reevaluating and realizing that this season’s style is “a horse of a different color.”

For those who are over 21 is Simeri’s Old Town Tap. Simeri’s offers excellent sandwiches and other typical sports bar food, along with the option to sit outside at their patio, where live music is performed multiple times each week.

Chopsticks is another locale which offers outdoor seating. Its bar and table seating is two different prices. Along with their menu, outdoor seating allows you to enjoy your meal and the balmy weather at the same time.

Restaurants such as Olive Garden, Applebee’s and Panera Bread offer Notre Dame students a springtime feel even when the weather changes back to the perma-cloud to which South Bend has grown accustomed. These establishments have created a springtime feel with the style of food served and the bright and cheerful ambiance of the restaurant itself.

The best possible place for Notre Dame students to take advantage of the rare but beautiful spring weather in South Bend, though, is none other than Notre Dame itself. Order a pizza from Bruno’s or Papa John’s, have a Jimmy John’s sub delivered, or run to LaFortune and order a seven-dollar-and-fifty-cent footlong from Subway (not as catchy as five-dollar footlong is it?). Take your meal outside with some friends and enjoy the beautiful weather in the beautiful place South Bend has to offer, under the Golden Dome.

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffe@nd.edu

Enjoy your meal outside in the sunshine of spring.

Tuesday, March 17, 2009
Green Humor: Jokes for St. Patrick's Day

By CORNELIUS ROGERS
Scene Writer

1) How many Irish guys does it take to screw in a lightbulb? Ten. One to hold the lightbulb and nine to drink Guinness until the room starts spinning!

2) A man walks into a bar in New York City on St. Patrick's Day and orders a Guinness. When he receives it, he turns to the man next to him and says "You know, lad, it's time like these that make me remember my childhood in Ireland."

The man next to him says "I grew up in Ireland myself. Whereabouts are ye from?"

Dublin.

"You don't say! I'm from Dublin as well. What street did you grow up on?"

"St. Mary's street."

"St. Mary's street! I grew up on St. Mary's street as well."

The bartender leans over to one of his other patrons and says, "It's going to be a long night. The O'Malley brothers are drunk again.

3) What do you call an Irishman who gets drunk and passes out on your porch?

Patio Furniture (Patty O'Furniture)

4) What do you call an Irishman who is so drunk he is bouncing off the walls?

Rick O'Shea

5) Three Irish guys walk out of a bar.

6) An Irish priest is sitting in a confessional booth waiting for people to come in. Finally, a drunk man stumbles in, on the other side of the wall. The priest is wondering if he is contemplating his sins or not. Finally, the drunk man says, "Hey, do you have any toilet paper on your side?"

7) An Irish man came home to his wife one day. His wife noticed that the man was much happier than usual. "Honey," she said, "is there something you want to tell me?" "Yes," he replied, "I found a leprechaun's pot of gold. You have to see it. I put it in the garage." When the wife saw what was in the garage, she told her husband, "That's pyrrhite (fool's gold). You thought you had a leprechaun's pot of gold, but all you really have are a bunch of sham rocks."

8) An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotman were reading a newspaper article about which nationalities' brains were for sale for transplant purposes. An Irishman's or a Scotman's brain could be bought for £500 but an Englishman's brain cost £10,000. That proves," said The Englishman, "that Englishmen are much cleverer than Irishmen or Scotsmen."

"No it doesn't," said The Irishman, "it just means that an Englishman's brain has never been used."

Contact Cornelius Rogers at crogers1@nd.edu

Everyone loves an Irish Playlist!

By LILLIAN CIVANTOS
Scene Writer

Obviously, Notre Dame is the No. 1 place to be if you want to celebrate anything Irish. So here's some music to help set the St. Patrick's Day mood for you.

"Johnny Tarr" - Gaelic Storm

This music defines the Irish pub song. And we all know how the Irish feel about pubs.

"Where the Streets Have No Name" - U2

U2 is the single most-grooving Irish band of all time, so they should be on any St. Patrick's Day soundtrack. According to some sources, this song is a subtle tribute to Ireland.

"Come On Eileen" - Dexy's Midnight Runners

The Celtic-style fiddle in this classic song carries listeners back to the Emerald Isle. Interesting fact: "Come on Eileen" reached No. 1 when it aired on Irish radio, and held that spot for 11 weeks.

"Brown Eyed Girl" - Van Morrison

Another native Irish band, and a hit song about the beautiful Irish women.

"Danny Boy" - Multiple artists

This song is the Irish anthem for Irish-Americans. Its bitter-sweet lyrics will stir your soul, no matter which of the many artists' renditions you choose.

"Green and Red of Mayo" - The Saw Doctors

The Saw Doctors are an incredible home-grown Irish group. This moving song describes Ireland's natural beauty, and actually mentions St. Patrick.

"Rebels of the Sacred Heart" - Flogging Molly

What Irish playlist would be complete without Flogging Molly? Get your blood pumping with this fast-paced Irish-Catholic melody.

"Molly Malone" - Multiple artists

Also known as "Cockles and Mussels," this song is another tribute to an Irish girl. It's also an Irish classic, dating back to the 1870s. Some consider it the unofficial anthem of Dublin city.

"Breathless" - The Corrs

One of Ireland's best pop groups sings a catchy, beautiful love song.

"Sunday Bloody Sunday" - U2

This song describes the 1972 Easter Sunday massacre in Ireland, "Bloody Sunday."

"Dreams" - The Cranberries

This lovely melody is by another of Ireland's top musical acts.

"Isle of Innisfree" from The Quiet Man

The Quiet Man is an essential Irish film. It includes beautiful scenery shot in Ireland, and the dynamic acting duo of John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. This sweet song captures the spirit of the Irish countryside.

"When Irish Eyes are Smiling" - Multiple artists

The name says it all. Here's hoping that your Irish eyes are smiling today. Happy St. Pat's!

Contact Lillian Civantos at lcivanto@nd.edu
Rockets snap Hornets’ 5-game win streak

Duran scores 25 points as Thunder shock Popovich’s 1,000th game as San Antonio’s coach

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Ron Artest scored all of his 18 points in the second half, and the Houston Rockets overcame the absence of center Yao Ming in a 95-84 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Monday night.

Luis Scola and Aaron Brooks each scored 14 points, and Yao had 12 rebounds to help the Rockets end New Orleans’ five-game home winning streak.

Chris Paul had 29 points and 11 assists, while David West had 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Hornets, who’ve lost two straight.

West sat out with flu-like symptoms and Dikembe Mutombo started in his place.

Carl Landry and Von Wafer each scored 12 points, and Shane Battier took the Rockets, holding on to the third seed in the Western Conference, prevented the Hornets from passing them in the standings.

The Hornets appeared to be taking control of the game early in the second half, when alley-oop dunks by Julian Wright and Tyson Chandler highlighted an 8-0 run to give New Orleans a 55-44 lead.

Houston coach Rick Adelman quickly called timeout, and the Rockets returned in far better form.

Artest, who’d missed his first 11 field-goal attempts, got his first points on free throws, then matched his next four shots and added an assist on Scola’s driving dunk during a 16-2 spurt that put Houston ahead 62-29.

New Orleans got only five points the rest of the quarter, all from Paul, whose floater as he was fouled cut Houston’s lead to 67-44 heading into the final period.

James Posey’s 3 to open the fourth quarter tied the game, and the Hornets led 75-73 on Posey’s baseline drive with 7:01 to go.

Houston responded with an 8-0 run during which Landry swatted away Paul’s floater and later hit two free throws. Artest also scored during the surge.

After West’s jumper briefly stopped the run, Artest scored again on a driving layup and Landry dunked a fast break to make it 85-77 with 3:47 left.

The Rockets were without center Yao Ming, who had 10 points in the second quarter, added a fadeaway jumper in the final seconds to give New Orleans a 47-44 lead at halftime.

Thunder 78, Spurs 76

Kevin Durant scored 25 points, Thabo Sefolosha added 12 and the Oklahoma City Thunder spoiled Gregg Popovich’s 1,000th game as San Antonio’s coach by beating the Spurs on Monday night.

The Thunder didn’t lead until midway through the fourth quarter, but kept San Antonio to its lowest scoring and escaped when Tony Parker missed a 3-pointer from the left side in the closing seconds.

Popovich could only shrug with his palms of his hands pointed toward the sky as the clock struck zero.

Parker scored 28 points to lead San Antonio, and Tim Duncan had 14 points and 12 rebounds. Matt Bonner added 10 points.

Oklahoma City won for the fourth straight time and became the 24th coach to reach 1,000 games with one team. Only Phil Jackson (1,311) and Pat Riley (1,176) had more wins in their first 1,000 games than Popovich, who is 676-324.

But after a stellar start, San Antonio didn’t look much like the team with the second-best record in the Western Conference.

The Thunder, who trailed by 17 in the first quarter, took their first lead, 71-67 on Chucky Atkins’ 3-pointer from the left wing with 7:37 left. Durant pushed the Thunder’s lead to 76-72 with a jumper from the left wing, and the lead was back to four when Russell Westbrook answered Parker’s free throws with another jumper at 2:19.

Spurs coach Greg Popovich approaches his team during a timeout in San Antonio’s 78-76 loss to Oklahoma City on Monday.

Popsick stood with his arms crossed as the Spurs’ chances slipped away, with Nenad Krstic snuggling an offensive rebound in the final two minutes to let Oklahoma City drain the clock further.

The Thunder improved to 19-18, moving within one win of last season’s win total, by coming off three turnarounds in the second half after a miserable start.

San Antonio capitalized on six early giveaways by the NBA’s most turnover-prone team to open an early 27-10 lead when Drew Gooden followed his put-back dunk with a jumper from the left elbow to finish a string of eight straight Spurs points.

But then it was San Antonio that got careless with the ball. Parker and Duncan combined for seven of the Spurs’ nine turnovers in the second quarter, and the Thunder used a 17-2 burst to close the gap to 38-36 on Jeff Green’s layup with 2:25 left before halftime.

Duncan picked up a technical foul late in the stretch when Derek Collins whistled the player for saying something to him after a missed jumper along the left baseline.

The Spurs then rebuilt their lead to 11 before allowing the Thunder to rally back and tie it at 63 on Duncan’s jumper to open the fourth quarter.
NCAA Men's Tennis Division 1 Top 25

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NCAA Women's Golf Division 1 Top 20

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NCAA Men's Lacrosse Division 1 Top 15

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<td>Massachusetts</td>
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<td>Navy</td>
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## Around the Dial

**NCAA Basketball**

**Notre Dame vs. UAB**

9:00 p.m., ESPNU

**MLB**

Chicago Cubs vs. Los Angeles Dodgers

3:05 p.m., MLB.TV

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**NFC**

Family and friends of the missing football players met at the U.S. Coastguard station in St. Petersburg, Fla. Marquis Cooper, Corey Smith and William Bleakley went fishing and never returned.

**Cooper, Smith lost at sea in wreck**

Associated Press

TAMPA, Florida — Two NFL players may have died just a few hours after their fishing boat capsized in rough seas and possibly before rescuers were even alerted that they and two others were lost off the west coast of Florida, according to Coast Guard records.

The lone survivor, Nick Schuyler, told the Coast Guard that one by one, the other three men took off their life vests and disappeared during the ordeal that began the evening of Feb. 28, according to a 23-page report provided to The Associated Press Monday under a Freedom of Information Act request.

The Coast Guard report, which redacts the men's names, says the group went roughly 70 miles — or 62 nautical miles — to fish for amberjack. Besides the 24-year-old Schuyler, also aboard were Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper, free-agent NFL defensive lineman Corey Smith, who played for the Detroit Lions last season, and former University of South Florida player William Bleakley. The bodies of Cooper, Smith and Bleakley have not been recovered.

Around 5:30 p.m., the report said the group ran into trouble. "Their anchor was stuck," Schuyler told investigators that he believed it was caught in a coral reef and they tried to free it, but water filled the boat and it capsized.

Tossed into the frigid water, the men managed to grab their life vests. Schuyler, also a former South Florida player, said they held on to the boat for four hours. But as the night wore on, their will to survive appeared to have weakened and the effects of hypothermia were likely setting in.

Schuyler told the Coast Guard that one of the men "freaked out" and took off his life vest and disappeared that night. Another started getting unruly, throwing punches and later took off his life jacket, dove under the water and was never seen again.

The third man thought he saw land nearly two days after the boat capsized and decided to swim for it.

**In Brief**

Stallworth investigated for killing pedestrian

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Miami Beach police are awaiting the toxicology report for Cleveland Browns wide receiver Trent Stallworth before releasing information into his car accident that killed a pedestrian.

Police spokesman Juan Saez said Monday that the routine blood work had not made it to the lab yet. Saez said results are expected to be released by the end of the week.

Authorities said Stallworth was headed toward the beach when he hit 59-year-old Marie Reyes with his Bentley on Saturday morning for almost a mile, according to police. The driver believed it was caught in a coral reef and they tried to free it, but water filled the boat and it capsized.

Tossed into the frigid water, the men managed to grab their life vests. Schuyler, also a former South Florida player, said they held on to the boat for four hours. But as the night wore on, their will to survive appeared to have weakened and the effects of hypothermia were likely setting in.

Schuyler told the Coast Guard that one of the men "freaked out" and took off his life vest and disappeared that night. Another started getting unruly, throwing punches and later took off his life jacket, dove under the water and was never seen again.

The third man thought he saw land nearly two days after the boat capsized and decided to swim for it.

**Attendance down at Big Ten Tournament**

Indianapolis — Ticket sales fell about 15 percent for this year's Big Ten men's basketball tournament, and organizers blamed the drop on the struggling economy.

The Indiana Sports Corp. says that 68,099 tickets were sold for the four-day tournament at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis that ended Sunday. That is down from last year when Wisconsin defeated Purdue 12,526 fans, down from 14,579 last year when Wisconsin defeated Illinois at Conseco, which holds 18,345 fans.

Sports Corp. spokesman John Dedman says the strength of the event shows in that the attendance drop wasn't greater considering the extent of the recession.

**Phillips' Cole Hamels out with elbow injury**

CLEARWATER, Fla. — World Series MVP Cole Hamels left training camp Monday and flew to Philadelphia to have his left elbow examined by Phillies team physician Dr. Michael Ciccotti.

"He's had a little bit of a persistent soreness in his elbow. We do not believe it's serious," Phillies general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said. "But at least at this time we thought it was important for Dr. Ciccotti to check him out and see if there's anything more serious than we think it is."

The 25-year-old left-hander made his first Grapefruit League start Wednesday. He pitched in an intrasquad game Sunday and didn't report any pain during four innings.

Hamels feels tightness in his elbow between innings and after he's finished pitching for the day.
Divers' season comes to end

By MIKE GOTIMER
Notre Dame News Wire

Notre Dame ended its divering season this past weekend at the NCAA Zone Meet at the University of Minnesota after no Irish diver advanced to the NCAA Championships.

Although the Irish didn't send a diver to the NCAA Championships for the second consecutive season, the young Notre Dame squad did post a strong performance in the meet.

"It was a pretty solid performance," Irish coach Tim Webb said. "It's always a very, very tough meet, but our young divers performed well. There was a lot to build on."

Notre Dame senior captain Michael Bulfin, who was an All-American in 2008 after scoring for the Irish at the NCAA Championships, was hampered by an illness that led to a 23rd place finish in the preliminary heat of the 1-meter event with a score of 257.45. However, he was able to rebound with an 11th place finish in the 3-meter event with a score of 681.25.

Sophomore Eric Lex had an impressive showing, leading the Irish with a score of 603.05 off the 3-meter board, which was good enough for 11th place. He followed it up with a 17th place finish off the 3-meter board with a score of 632.90. Lex and Bullfin were the only two Irish divers to advance to the meet in the 3-meter event.

Junior Caleb Dunniway finished one spot behind Lex in the 3-meter event with a score of 564.20. Sophomore Wes Villaflor continued to improve, posting a score of 239.50 in the 1-meter event and the 258.25 in the 3-meter event.

Although the Notre Dame diving team is done for the season, the Irish swim team returns to action at the NCAA Championships on March 26 in College Station, Texas.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

Belles off to fast start after trip to Florida

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's started off its season with a string of victories. The Belles won their opening tourney in the Gene Cusic Classic. The Belles went 9-1 for the week, one of their most successful starts to the season in school history.

"I was very happy with our play this week. Our defense was solid and our pitching was fantastic," Belles coach Erin Sullivan said.

Saint Mary's played doubleheaders each day in the tournament, opening the week with two victories on Mar. 5. The Belles took down Drew University (N.J.) 3-2 in the first game and junior Ashley Peterson, game-winning RBI to plate junior Maureen Healy. Freshman pitcher Angela Gillis struck out five and allowed zero walks in her first collegiate appearance.

The Belles finished off the day with a 5-2 win over Wheaton College (Mass.). Peterson and senior Ashley Fusaro hit back-to-back home runs to secure the win. Fusaro's shot was the 15th of her career. Freshman pitcher Monica Palkicki allowed only six hits over the four innings and had four strike outs in the game.

On Monday, Mar. 9, the wins kept coming for the Belles. Palkicki led the team to a 5-0 win over Worcester Polytechnic Institute, allowing only two hits and striking out five. Peterson and Healy went 3-4 in the game with Peterson knocking out her second home run in two days. Later in the day, the squad won an 11-1 victory over Wheelock (Mass.). Gillis pitched her second collegiate win, allowing only one run and striking out five in six innings before freshman Symone Pompey closed out the game.

Day three saw Saint Mary's record move to 6-0 with wins over SUNY Oswego and Fitchburg State. The Belles won 10-2 over SUNY Oswego in six innings before the game ended due to the mercy rule. Four players had multi-hit games. One player, Lauren Enayati, who went 3-3. Palkicki gave up five hits in six innings, allowing three runs to Fitchburg. Gillis improved her record to 5-0, allowing only four singles with eight strikeouts.

The Belles won their first loss Wednesday afternoon against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (N.Y.), going 1-0 for the day with a win versus Elm (Mass.). They won 3-1 over Elmids led by Enayati going 3-4 from the plate. Gillis allowed three hits while striking out five. RPI beat the Belles 14-4, but Peterson continued her impressive start to the season, going 4-for-4 offensively with a double and a triple while scoring a pair of runs. Palkicki got her first career loss, putting her at 1-3.

Saint Mary's finished up their season with a pair of wins on Thursday against Curry and Bowdoin Colleges. They won 5-0 over Curry with five Belles having multi-hit games, including Fusaro going 4-4 and scoring two runs. Palkicki allowed only three hits and struck out five in the win. In their final game of the week, Enayati hit a bases-loaded triple in the top of the seventh to break a scoreless tie and give the Belles a 3-0 lead. Two batters later, Peterson drove in Enayati for the fourth run of the game. Gillis improved her record to 5-0, allowing four hits over seven innings with zero walks.

Looking back on their first week of play, Sullivan was more than satisfied with her team.

"It's hard to say what our best win was this week, but I was especially happy with our games against Wheaton and Bowdoin," Sullivan, a 2004 Saint Mary's graduate, said. "Both schools have excellent programs and we really had a team effort to win nine of our 10 games. Everyone on this team has a role and contributed greatly to our performance. Both Peterson and Fusaro were incredible both offensively and defensively. Hayley Bojorquez kept us in our first game by throwing out a runner at home from right field, which she did twice during the week."

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"We have more experience, but they will definitely challenge us," Sullivan said. "I am hoping to have the Belles in different line-ups and batting orders in these early non-conference games in order to prepare for our conference opener on March 30."

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

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dwartko@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles off to fast start after trip to Florida
ND Women's Golf

Irish finish 12th at LSU

By ALEX WES New Writer

Three Irish players shot a 1-under in the third round of the University of Alabama Classic on Sunday, but the Irish squad finished in 12th place for the tournament.

Senior Rebecca Huffer, sophomore So-Hyun Park, and senior captain Lisa Manunu each carded a 1-under 71 for the third round.

"If we take advantage of the course, but it served as an advantage for the Irish," Huffer said. "We didn't take advantage of [the course]." 

Despite posting the good scores, Holt believes that all of the players will say they could have performed better.

"We missed a lot of puts and we had a lot of mistakes," Holt said. "You make a couple of mistakes and you find yourself in a position that you shouldn't be in." 

Huffer led the Irish with a 54-hole total of 217 to finish tied for 24th in the individual tournament. Also adding to the Irish's total last weekend were sophomore Katie Conway and junior Annie Brophy who added third round scores of 78 and 76 respectively.

Sunday marked the second time that Huffer had scored under par in her career. The first time came back in September on the final day of the Mary Fossum Invitational.

Sunday also was the second time this season that the Irish have had three players with scores in red numbers. The third round score of 208 was tied for the fourth lowest mark in the program history.

Holt hopes that her team takes away some reality of the type of competition they are playing against this season.

"We need to perform better or we will continue to fall short of the mark," she said.

To add to the Irish's frustrating weekend, travel problems caused the Irish to arrive back in town in a day later than expected, missing the prime practicing conditions Monday.

The Irish travel to Austin, Texas next Wednesday for this weekend's Betsy Blue Ravits Invitational.

Contact Alex West at awest@bcnd.edu

ND Track and Field

Notre Dame wraps up indoor season

By CHRIS MICHALSKI Sports Writer

The Notre Dame track and field team wrapped up their indoor season over break with the Alex Wilson Invitational March 6 and 7, as well as the NCAA Championships over the weekend.

The event, held at Loftus Sports Center, was a "last chance" meet for athletes to punch their ticket to nationals.

At this two-day event, 95 athletes from all over the country set NCAA qualifying marks.

For the Irish, pole-vaulter Mary Saxer and Matt Schipper had already punched their tickets in NCAAs, and junior Joanna Schultz and senior Patrick Smyth joined them this weekend.

Matt's brother Kevin Schipper, who was hoping to qualify as well, just missed the mark with a jump of 5.07 on the indoor vault. Sophomore Greg Davis finished second in the weight throw with a mark of 18-feet.

The four qualifiers made the trip down to College Station for the NCAA championships this past weekend.

At the meet, Schultz earned her first All-American honor.

Contact Chris Michalski at michalski@nd.edu

ND Women's Rowing

Rowers aim for successful year

By CHRIS MASoud New Writer

The Irish are poised to repeat the success of last season as they begin their quest for a sixth consecutive Big East championship.

Senior coach Martin Stone is excited for his 11th season coming off an outstanding season in 2008 during which the Irish finished the season ranked 18th overall in the nation, the third-straight year in the top 20.

"Any team, anywhere, anywhere would love to come off of a season like that," Stone said to und.com. "So far so good for our scholastic accomplishments.

"We have an outstanding group of seniors on this year's team that will bring great leadership and have a lasting legacy in our program," Stone said to und.com.

Led by recently-selected senior captains Lauren Buck and Jillian Rausch, the Irish hope to make a statement this Saturday when they compete against a much-improved Michigan State team.

Since the 2006-07 season, Buck and Trezza have been hosting "the varsity eight" boat for the Irish, while also rowing on the same boat during the freshman season in 2005-06.

"Jillian and Christine have distinguished themselves throughout their career and it truly is their leadership and abilities that make them the team captain for this season," Stone said. "Lauren, Christine, and all of our seniors will do a great job of leading our team this year."

A three-year varsity veteran and two-year varsity co-captain winner, Buck has earned recognition as a member of the Big East Academic All-Star Team each of the past two seasons.

Not to be outdone on the water or in the classroom, Mary Saxer and Matt Schipper are both scheduled for March 27-28. The team will be building up for the outdoor Big East Championship starting in late May.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

ND Women's Lacrosse

Notre Dame records three wins over break

By NATHANIEL LEE New Writer

The 9th ranked Notre Dame Women's lacrosse team turned in an impressive string of victories during Spring Break, beating No. 13 Darmouth and No. 15 James Madison as well as the NCAA, to improve to 6-1 on the season.

Senior attack standout Jillian Byers and junior Matty Scioscia each scored two goals in the first half. As the opening seconds ticked down, the Dukes jumped out early, holding a lead of 6-3 halfway through the contest. Dukes始建95 athletes from all over the nation, the third-straight year in the top 20.

"I have been watching Jillian for four years now, and she is a great athlete," Coyne said of Byrne. "She reads the play so well and she's a smart attacker."

Next, the squad met James Madison as they travelled to Orlando, Fla. The Irish built on its lead and took the contest 16-12, with Goodman earning another solid win in goal.

"The Irish came home to round out the break, hosting Hofstra at the Loftus Sports Center last Saturday. The Pride got on the board first, but Notre Dame had quick answers from Blaney and Byers. The teams traded goals, until the Irish scored three unanswered to take a 9-5 lead with 13:27 remaining in the first half. Hofstra finally scored at the final minutes, but Blaney scored again in the final seconds to take a 10-8 lead into the break.

Notre Dame opened the second with a 4-3 win, but Hofstra answered again to cut the lead to two goals. The Irish held on and took the high-scoring contest 17-15 for their 5th straight win.

Goodman tallied seven saves for another win between the pipes. Byrne led the Irish with six goals and one assist, and Scioscia notched four goals and two assists.

Coyne said that the offensive outburst was a result of hard defensive work to take the ball away from opponents.

"Turnovers are what we have been working on in practice," Coyne said. "Our game plan is in part forcing opponents to lose possession and capitalizing on those opportunities by staying focused." 

The team took to continuing their winning ways as they host Rutgers tonight at the Loftus Sports Center at 7:00 pm. The Scarlet Knights (3-1) will be the first Big East opponent for the Irish, and are coming off a 24-1 thrashing at the hands of No. 1 powerhouse Northwestern.

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Write Sports.

Contact Matt at mgamber@nd.edu.
Irish pick up road wins

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

A week-long road trip to warmer weather proved more than satisfying for the Irish who came away with victories over Duke and South Florida before dropping their final match against Georgia Tech this past week.

"Spring break is always great for us because we get to practice and play outside for the first time all season," senior captain Kelly Tefft said. "It's a difficult adjustment but I think everyone played really well.

Last Wednesday, No. 4 Notre Dame continued their winning ways, downing conference foe South Florida 5-2 in Tampa, Fla. The Irish jumped out early by clinching the doubles point behind 8-4 victories by the No. 2 ranked doubles team of Tefft and freshman Shannon Mathews and teammates Geimina Ciobanu and Kali Krisik. The doubles squad of junior Colleen Bieley and freshman Shannon Mathews also won their match to complete the sweep.

Notre Dame did not sit idle on its lead, putting the match out of reach after the third singles match by claiming the decisive fourth point.

Frilling and Ciobanu followed with a 6-2, 6-3 and 6-1, 7-6 win in the No. 5 match before Ciobanu clinched the match for Irish with a dominating 6-0, 6-1 victory in the No. 4 match. Thursday, the Irish extended their winning streak to eight games with a comeback victory over the No. 3 Blue Devils in Orlando.

"This win proves to us that we have a very strong singles lineup," Tefft said. "Getting the doubles point is very important, but it also shows us that we can win big matches even if we lose that first point."

In the doubles competition, Notre Dame dropped its first two matches to fall behind 1-0, failing to clinch the doubles point for the first time since its loss to top-ranked Northwestern back in February.

This time the Irish found a way to bounce back. In the closest match of the day, Tefft edged her opponent 7-6, 7-6 in the No. 1 singles match to even the score at one.

Tefft's close win sparked a victory in the No. 2 singles match to her opponent, Mathews answered with a 6-1, 6-0 victory to pull back to within a tie with only one match remaining.

Krisik dropped the final match of the day in three sets to her opponent, ending Notre Dame's eight match winning streak.

"Three matches in four days is a lot, but it is what we will have to do at NCAAs," she said. "I think it was good for us to see three tough teams that close together to show us what kind of shape we need to be in for the NCAA tournament. It was a tough loss, but I think we can learn a lot from it.

The Irish will return home this Friday to face No. 27 Vanderbilt at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Alex Barker at abarkerl@nd.edu

MLB

Pudge signs 1-year contract with Astros

Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. - The Houston Astros and catcher Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez are closing in on a $1.5 million, one-year contract, a person familiar with the talks told The Associated Press on Monday.

The deal would contain $1.5 million in performance bonuses based on games and plate appearances, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been announced by the team.

"There isn't anything certain yet. Right now the only team I have is Puerto Rico," said Rodriguez in Spanish in Miami before meeting Venezuela in the World Baseball Classic.

"There's interest, but I haven't received a call yet. Let's wait and see what happens in the coming hours or days," Rodriguez said.

Houston needed a veteran catcher to replace Brad Ausmus, who became a free agent and signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Astros have several young catchers in camp who need time to develop. Houston used Ausmus, J.R. Towles and Humberto Quintero at the position last season.

It appeared earlier that Quintero would be the starter this season, but he'll likely move to a backup role.

Rodriguez's talks with Houston were first reported by espn.com.

"It's very important for me (to be a starter) because I feel good enough to play every day," Rodriguez said. "I feel very good, ready to play a whole season."

He added that his spys with Puerto Rico probably boosted his bid to find a regular-season team.

"It helps to get a lot of players like myself, who still don't have a job. I think this Classic has been a very important factor.

Florida also had inquired. Rodriguez helped the Marlins win the 2003 World Series.

There was some interest and we'll leave it at that," Marlins vice president of baseball operations Larry Beinfest said. "Obviously, we have a lot of affection for Pudge and what he did in '03. There was interest there, and he made another choice, and that's the way it goes. Hopefully, it works out for him.

The 37-year-old, a 13-time Gold Glove winner, began last season in Detroit, was traded to the Yankees in July and hit .276 with seven homers and 35 RBIs in 115 games.
Irish split 10 games over break

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

The Irish have a long way to go as they head into Big East play.

Notre Dame (8-10) split its 10 games over spring break, winning three of four at the UNLV Invitational in Las Vegas before dropping three of five at the Big East Classic in Fullerton, Calif. The squad made a pit stop in Los Angeles in between the two invites, but fell 5-3 to UNLV.

Junior transfer Alexa Clay had her first hit in an Irish uniform with a two-run triple in the bottom of the second, and sophomore pitcher Jody Valdivia did not allow a hit until the sixth inning. She gave up just two walks and a hit while fan­ning seven.

The second half of the trip fea­tured games against four Top-15 teams. Notre Dame's win over No. 9 Oklahoma on Mar. 12 was its first over a Top-10 team since 2005. Campf said the high level of com­petition would help her team improve.

"For the most part we did a heck of a job," she said. "it has made us a better team because we know what we need to do to win, and I think we'll be able to do that." In the Gorman Classic, though, the Irish offense cost the team.

On Mar. 12, the Irish lost an extra-inning game 1-0 to Penn State. Senior pitcher Brittany Bargue took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and gave up only two hits overall, but the winning run scored after Penn State's Sam Hosvance reached on an error and was singled home.

In the victory over Oklahoma, the Irish had a 3-1 lead committed three errors in the seventh inning that allowed the Sooners back into the game. Lux scored the winning run in the bottom of the frame on an error by Oklahoma pitcher Alleen.

In a loss to No. 12 Arizona on Mar. 14, the Irish allowed five unearned runs to cross the plate on two errors.

Campf said the defensive struggle should not be a problem in the long run.

"It's only a concern of mine if it becomes a concern for them," she said. "I think the more we get outside, the more we'll improve.

The Irish ended the trip with a 3-0 loss to No. 10 Arizona State. They hung with the defending national champions for most of the game, but were not able to capitalize on opportunities and stranded seven runners on the day.

"Our production is really half bad, half small," Campf said. "We're going to take whatever they give us.

With three conferences getting seven teams in the NCAA tournament, another two sending six and rules about who can play each other when and where, there was just no way to keep everyone close to home. And don't think the NCAA selection committee didn't try.

"Somebody has to go West, and some West team has to go East," said Xavier coach Sean Miller, whose Muskateers are joining Wisconsin, Marquette, Florida State and Cornell out in Boise, Idaho, a place you really can't get to from here — not without a connecting flight or two, anyway.

"I'm just happy we're going somewhere."

Ever since Maryland, Georgetown and George Mason — Washington, D.C.-area schools separated by about 30 miles — wound up in the same regional bracket in Boise in 2001, the NCAA has done its best to keep teams as close to home as possible. Instead of locking schools into regional group­ings, four teams are now put into a "pod," and two pods are placed at each first-round site. The teams go back to their assigned regions the second week­end of the tournament.

The goal is to limit the travel for schools and their fans, not to mention cut down on the number of classes players miss. And in many cases, it works. North Carolina is playing in Greensboro, N.C., the first weekend, about as close to home as it gets without being in its own gym. Villanova can practically walk to its first-round game at the Wachovia Center. But the NCAA still has that rule prohibiting teams from the same conference from meeting before the regional final and another preventing a team from playing on its home court, which makes for some interesting mixing and matching. That's how Arizona, Arizona State and Utah all wound up in Miami.

Check. Parkas? Check. Cards for Euchre? Check. If ever a car pool were in order, now is the time for Marquette and Wisconsin fans.

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers@nd.edu
The Irish covered 4,000 miles in four days, picking up two top-five finishes in the process. Hardly what you'd call a break.

In what was possibly its finest set of performances of the season, Notre Dame rattled off a second-place finish at the Palmas del Mar Intercollegiate in Humacao, Puerto Rico, on Wednesday, before taking fifth place at the Border Olympics in Laredo, Texas, over the weekend.

In Puerto Rico, junior Doug Fortner earned his fourth career top-five finish after carding a one-under par 215 (71-75-69), while sophomore Jeff Chen and freshman Chris Walker each shot a 226 in 26th place.

The team opened its spring break tour with a trip to the Palmas del Mar Golf Club in Humacao, shooting an uneven 299 in the opening round at the par 72, 6,931-yard Hamboyan Course. Notre Dame rallied behind Fortner's second-round 68 that placed the team in third at the end of two rounds. Fortner's rocky final-round 76 was offset by sophomore Connor Arnold's scintillating, career-best 68, vaulting Alan-Lee to 11th and the team into second.

The Irish finished with a 12-over par 387 (299-284-290) to claim runner-up honors, six shots behind tournament champion Virginia Commonwealth in the ten-team field.

Fortner finished tied for fourth with a one-under par 215 (71-68-76), and Alan-Lee's four-over par 220 placed him 11th (77-72-75).

Sophomore Jeff Chen and freshman Chris Walker each shot final-round 75s to end up sharing 15th at six-over par. Chen battled a 103-degree fever to earn his best finish of the season.

Freshman Max Scodro took his fourth top-30 finish in five career events. Finishing in 22nd with a 224, while sophomore Dustin Zhang rebounded from an opening-round 30 to end with a 226 in 26th place.

After Wednesday's finish, the Irish traveled 4,000 miles between three flights to get to the Laredo Country Club par 72, 7,241 yards for Thursday's practice round. Despite jet lag and fatigue, Notre Dame opened practice with scores of 303 and 289, good enough for 5th for Friday's 36-hole start.

"I think they played more on adrenaline that first day," Kubinski said. "After all the travel and the 11 hours out on the course, they turned in a 289. Pretty impressive. They're getting better. They're believing."

A final round 299 gave the Irish a 27-over-par 691 on the tournament, putting the team in fifth place, fourteen strokes behind champion Baylor in the field of sixteen.

Chen followed his Palmas del Mar performance with an 11th-place finish after carding a 5-over 223 (77-72-72) for the weekend. Kubinski praised Chen's consistency and maturity after his solid outings last week.

"Jeff has been the steadiest player on our team," Kubinski said. "He took advantage of his opportunities early on, and it was like a light bulb turning on. You could just see his confidence grow almost immediately."

Fortner (75-72-77) and Zhang (76-73-75) each turned in eight-under-par 274 to fall into sixth place in the field of 88. Scodro tied for 42nd place at 12-over par 228 (75-78-75), while Alan-Lee finished in 64th with a 18-over par 234 (71-82-71). Walker, who competed as an individual participant for the Border Olympics, ended his weekend tied for 77th at 21-over par (237, 76-83-78).

Notre Dame returns to the links this weekend at the Schoenfeld Z-C-G Invitational in Statesboro, Georgia. The tournament will be held 20-22 at the Forest Heights Country Club.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblassco@nd.edu

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's tennis team kicked off the season with a tough lineup of non-league opponents on their spring break trip to Orlando, Fla.

The Belles compiled a 4-4 record through Thursday under the direction of first-year head coach Dale Campbell.

"I think we faced pretty well on this trip given our experience," Campbell said. "It was a good team effort, especially since we played a lot tougher teams than we usually face at this point early in the season."

In their season opener, the Belles rallied over St. Francis (Ill.) 9-0. Sophomore Jillian Hurley won at No. 1 singles, 6-2, 6-2, followed by junior Camille Gebert's 6-2, 6-1 and sophomore Jessica Kosinski's 6-1, 6-0 wins at No. 2 and No. 3 singles. Hurley and Gebert captured No. 1 doubles 8-3, while Kosinski and sophomore Beverly Redd team up for the No. 2 doubles win.

On the second day of competition, Saint Mary's beat Aquinas 7-2 before falling to Bethel 9-4. Hurley won her first match at No. 1 singles 6-3, 6-0 before falling to Litchfield's Ayda Ardila 6-2, 6-2. In the second spot, Gebert defeated Aquinas' Emily Becker 6-2, 6-1 before falling to Bethel 6-0, 6-1. Hurley and Gebert defeated Aquinas' top doubles team 8-3, before falling to Bethel's best pair 8-6.

Saint Mary's bounced back with another dominating 9-0 win over Bruno Wawer, though. The Belles dropped only one set through their entire match. Hurley beat Karen Ginsburg 6-1, 6-0. Gebert took her match 6-2, 6-0 and Kosinski won 6-1, 6-1. At No. 5 singles, Belles sophomore Jessica Camp dominated twice straight games to win 6-0, 6-1. (Once again, the Hurley/Gebert (Redd/Kosinski) teams took home the wins, 8-3 and 8-6, respectively.

"We have really been improving as a team," stated Campbell. "Our goal is to win the conference championship, and if we get better every week we will be able to contend with the best teams in the MAC."

The Belles hit a tough stretch and dropped their next three matches of the trip, first falling to St. Scholastica 7-2. Earning victory for Saint Mary's were Gebert at No. 2 over Paula Korman 6-2, 6-4 while defeating Natalie Urik 6-2, 6-1.

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In their next two matches, the Belles were edged 5-4 by Haverford and fell to No. 22 College of New Jersey 8-1. Against Haverford the top two doubles teams were barely bested, with the first Belles win coming at No. 3 doubles behind sophomore Mary Theresa Lee and Camp's 8-4 win. Reed, Camp and sophomore Laura Arnold all picked up wins in singles.

Against New Jersey, Gebert snagged the only win defeating Stefanie Haar 6-2, 6-4. In their final match of the trip, the Belles bounced back with another dominating performance over Lincoln University 9-0.

"I think we played best against New Jersey," stated Campbell. "They are a really good ranked team, and I saw a lot of players stepping up to face the challenge."

Contact Nathaniel Lee at nlee@nd.edu
Tuesday, March 17, 2009

The Observer • SPORTS

NIT

continued from page 24

Tuesday at 9 p.m. in the Joyce Center. How do the Irish feel about that?

"Numb is a good word," senior guard Kyle McAlarney said. "But I've tried to focus on, 'Let's win the NIT.' It's something special. You can put a banner up about that?

At 2-1 on March 6/

...Our kids responded."

not what we were going to overlook them or that our career is over," Hillesland said. "It's a little weird." McAlarney said. "You think at senior night, 'Hey, we could beat anybody.'"

one guy or one particular action, it should give us something else," Corrigan said that, while he thinks his offense still has room to grow, he was happy with the balance of the Irish when they lost seven-straight games over the span of 26 days in January and February – a prolonged losing streak that was the main reason the Irish were practicing during the NCAA Tournament Selection Show on Sunday instead of watching it to see where they would be seeded.

Notre Dame's fate was sealed last week when the Irish were knocked out in the second round of the Big East tournament. After a sloppy first round 61-50 win over Rutgers, Notre Dame fell to the Mountaineers 74-62. The Irish dug themselves out of a 18-point halftime lead, and despite a second-half rally, couldn't recover.

"I think we knew going all the way through February that this could be our destiny," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "I think when we were up against the wall coming off a seven-game losing streak, you're very realistically about where you could end up at the end of the day."

"We had time to digest this," senior forward Zach Hillesland said. "When we lost to West Virginia, the writing was pretty much on the wall that we were probably not going to make the NCAA Tournament. When we finally found out it was just, 'Let's go and get ready now, let's get ready to play.'"

"After saying their goodbyes to the home fans following their 74-55 win over St. John's, Notre Dame's four seniors will play at home, at least one more time."

"It's a little weird," McAlarney said. "You think at senior night, 'Wow this is probably my last game here,' but it could play into our hands a little bit and we're on our home court, so we're going to keep it going as long as possible.

If the Irish kept it going as long as possible, they'd end up back at Madison Square Garden six weeks from now, in a small amount of redemption for what happened during such a tough season.

"At least from the standpoint of what we can achieve, our career is over," Hillesland said. "Playing with these guys the past few weeks was one of the greatest experiences of my life. Not many teams get to play in the tournament.

Student tickets will be distributed at Gates A, B and C; the first 1,000 students in attendance will receive a free ticket. Game 1 tickets will cost $5. Game 2 tickets will cost $7.

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Texas

continued from page 24

"It's a very successful trip," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "We had two innings of one-run ball to earn the victory, and junior Steven Mazur (2-1) picked up his first save of the year with a perfect ninth inning. Sullivan went 9-2 a year ago and hadn't lost in his last 15 appearances, and Schrage said that victory was major improvement for his team that was "confident to his squad.

The next day, the Irish were blanked 9-0 by national power Rice as the Owls batted around in both the third and fourth innings with a three-run and four-run, respectively. All-American Ryan Berry, the reigning national pitcher of the week, threw a two-hit shutout for his second straight complete game.

"We had the one bad inning and other than that, we ran into a really good pitcher there," Schrage said.

The Irish finished the Rice Classic on March 8 with a 7-3 win over Washington State. A team Schrage said could be one of the best in the Pac-10 Conference, junior Eric Maust (2-0) threw seven solid innings and hit two home runs in picking up the victory.

The Irish knocked out in the second round of the Big East Tournament by Georgetown in a 3-2 loss Thursday. The ozzy another two out in the bottom of the ninth after the Tigers tied it in the top half of the inning of Mazur, who then earned the save.
petition during a 3-0 rout Friday that included four first-period goals. The No. 8-seeded Mavericks (15-17-8, 8-13-5-2) played the No. 7-seeded Irish (11-12-5-3), the No. 6 seed, beat host Miami (Ohio) on consecutive nights to advance to this weekend's CCHA semifinals. After the third-seeded RedHawks (20-12-5, 17-7-4-1) won Friday's opener 3-2, the Wildcats earned a 3-2 overtime win Saturday before winning the series with a 3-1 victory Sunday.

The second CCHA semifinal will feature Michigan, the No. 2 seed, and Alaska, the No. 4 seed, in an 8:05 p.m. matchup. The Wolverines (20-10-4, 20-8-4-0), the nation's No. 3 team, swept Western Michigan 5-2, 6-1, while the Nanooks needed three games to dispose of Ohio State. First-team all-conference goalie Chad Johnson made a season-high 43 saves in Alaska's 1-0 series-clenching victory Sunday.

The winners of Friday's two semifinals will play in the CCHA championship at 7:35 p.m. Saturday at Joe Louis Arena. The losers of Friday's contests will play at 3:35 p.m. to determine the tournament's third-place team. Last year, Notre Dame lost to Miami (Ohio) in a semifinal before falling to Northern Michigan in the consolation game.

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Selection
continued from page 24
not," McGraw said. "We're playing at home, that's the important thing to me. I don't think seeds are that important."

The Irish played the winner of No. 2 seed Texas A&M and No. 15 seed Evansville if they win.

The bracket brings family and former teammates to­gether. White at St. Joseph's High School, Lechlitner played with current Minnesota forward Kristin Dockey. Lechlitner said her parents talk, but the girls don't talk basketball, and that she hopes local St. Joseph fans come to watch.

"Hopefully get a few more St. Joe fans, parents maybe bringing some of the kids to the game," she said.

Should Evansville upset Texas A&M, the Irish, if they win, could have a rematch between freshman guard Natalie Novosel and her sister Shannon, a senior at Evansville. The Irish beat Evansville 96-61 on Nov. 19 at the Joyce Center.

The matchup presents a scary case of deja vu. In 1994, No. 10 seed Minnesota defeated the No. 7 seed Irish, 81-76, at the Joyce Center.

"We have a week to rest and practice," McGraw said practice will intensify and the coaches need to keep an eye on it. "Tomorrow will be really physical and intense," she said. "We'll probably have to slow them down a little because they're so ready right now. They want to play right now. I think we'll have to gauge that and determine how long we want to practice."

Junior guard Ashley Barlow agrees.

"We're going to be working hard," she said. "It's not like we're going to try to injure each other or injure the prac­tice players, we're just going hard, try­ing to be amped up, ready to play."

Since the Irish play the winner of Friday's two semifinals, the outcome will have a different atmos­phere entering an NCAA Tournament game. "The "dorm" is going, so on Saturday, we're going to practice regular time, we're in our locker room," McGraw said. "I think a lot of things are the same. Sometimes you wonder about the whole tournament feel, you know, being in the dorm and playing in the NCAA tour­nament. We might stay in the Saturday night to get a good night's rest, just to make it feel a little more like a tour­nament atmosphere."

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THE OBSERVER
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THE FORBIDDEN DOUGHNUT

ODISE, what is that on your shirt?

A/S/L. You know, Age/Sex/Location? I'm bringing it back.

Patsy, what is that on your shirt? I've heard that before.

Today at lunch you said, "Well, like it was a full word."

Touché.

THE JUMBLE

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

BIROL

YEAPE

YOLDUC

IT'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO TELL WHO OR WHAT IS TAKING OVER HERE.

JUMBLE

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

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**Men's Basketball**

**Staying home**

*After Big East loss, squad to host UAB in first round of NIT*

By CHRIS HINE
Senior Staff Writer

It’s been six days since Notre Dame NCAA Tournament hopes expired when the clock hit zero in its Big East tournament loss to West Virginia.

Following the game, Notre Dame’s players coped with the thought that such a promising season in November — when Notre Dame was ranked No. 9 in the country — would likely end in the National Invitational Tournament (NIT).

That thought became a harsh reality on Sunday, when Notre Dame learned it would host Alabama-Birmingham (UAB) in the opening round of the NIT.

*A search for the road to Detroit*

**Men's Lacrosse**

ND moves up to No. 3 with wins over UNC, Bucknell

By SAM WERNER
Senior Sports Editor

When Notre Dame took the field last Saturday, March 7, against North Carolina, the Irish were ranked No. 7 in the country. Now? Notre Dame has moved up to No. 3 after wins over the then-No. 3 Tar Heels and Bucknell during spring break.

While Notre Dame coach Kevin Corrigan said he was pleased with the week, he didn’t want to blow the North Carolina win out of propor­tion, and that it was too early in the season to take rankings very seri­ously.

“It’s a nice win,” he said. “Whether Carolina’s a top-three team or not, I don’t know. They were No. 3 in the country at that time, and that’s great, but right now it’s a little bit more of a beauty con­test than a true test of who’s No. 3”

The win over the Tar Heels (6-2-tied for the highest-ranked team Notre Dame (5-0) has ever defeated. The Irish beat No. 3 Johns Hopkins in the 2001 NCAA quarterfinals.

Defense was the story of the day for Notre Dame. Despite trailing 4-3 at halftime, the Irish held the Tar Heels scoreless during the third quarter, and goals from junior attack Neal Hicks and senior attack Ryan Hage gave Notre Dame a 2-4 lead which led that it would not relin­quish. Hage would score two more goals on the day, good for his first hat trick of the season.

“I thought we played pretty good team defense the whole day,” Corrigan said.

Senior Scott Rodgers made 16 saves between the pipes, and was named Great Western Lacrosse League player of the week.

“As it’s been terrific,” Corrigan said. “He really has been. No sur­prise for us, but I couldn’t be happi­er for him because of how hard he’s worked and how patient he’s been playing behind Joey Kemp for three years, and I couldn’t be happier for our team because there’s no position more important than your goalie.”

Despite the win, Corrigan said his squad still had room to improve on offense.

“Offensively, we didn’t play as well,” he said. “We made some mistakes, which is always important.”

Team advances in CCHA

Pearce’s back-to-back shutouts pave road to CCHA semis in Detroit

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

And the Irish just keep rolling.

Senior goalie Jordan Pearce and No. 2 Notre Dame shut out Nebraska-Omaha on consecutive nights at the Joyce Center to advance to the CCHA tournament semifinals for the third straight time.

“That’s been one of our objec­tives all year,” Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. “To get to Detroit is a big accomplishment for this team. We had a good season, but the real hockey starts now.”

Notre Dame (29-5-3, 21-4-3-3 CCHA) earned the tournament’s top seed by winning the regular season title, and the Irish continued their dominance over CCHA com­petition.

*A search for the road to Detroit*

**Baseball**

Irish win 7 of 9 on Texas trip

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

With conference play just four days away, Notre Dame seems to be hitting its stride at the right time — and the Irish have their best record after 15 games in five years to show for it.

The Irish (10-5) won seven of nine games on their Spring Break trip to Texas, falling only to No. 7 Rice and Illinois State while topping Oral Roberts, Washington State and Trinity (Texas) in single games. Notre Dame also swept two-game sets with Grambling State and Texas Pan-American.

“Anytime you can go on the road and win seven of nine, it’s a really good week for us,” Corrigan said.

Team earns 7-seed, faces Gophers in Joyce Center Sunday

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

“It took a long wait and a lower seed than expected, but the Irish are in the NCAA Tournament,” Corrigan said.

Notre Dame got the No. 7 seed in the Trenton, N.J. regional and will face No. 10 seed Minnesota in the first round Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

The players and coaches gath­ered at coach Muffet McGraw’s house to watch the selection show on ESPN, and had to wait for the second-to­last game in the last bracket before hearing their name called.

“You kind of know that you’re going to be in, based on the way you’ve played and the way people talk you up, but when there’s only four spots left we’re getting a little nervous,” junior guard Melissa Lechlitner said. “Me and [sophomore forward] Becca Bruszewski were like, ‘Oh my gosh, what if we didn’t get in?’ It was a little scary.”

The Irish (22-8) got the No. 5 seed in the Big East tournament last weekend, earned a first-round bye and defeated St. John’s in the second round before falling in the quarter­finals to Villanova.

“I really thought we’d be a four, five or six and when that had all come out I couldn’t remember whether the second seed had already appeared or not,” Corrigan said.

**ND Women's Basketball**

Notre Dame to take on Minnesota in NCAA first round

**Michigan-Central Michigan**

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