Romero Days to celebrate archbishop

By NORA KENNEY
News Writer

"Romero Days 2009: In the Footsteps of the Bishop of the World" — an annual event that celebrates the life of Oscar Romero — will kick off on Monday with several panel discussions and lectures.

The event, a joint effort of the Latin American North America Church Concerns (LANACC), the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Latin American Studies Program, the Center for Social Concerns and the Shaban Fund, will examine Romero’s influence on history and Catholic culture in Latin America and his relevance to Notre Dame students.

LANACC Director Fr. Robert Pelton said he has been extremely dedicated to the organization of Romero Days since he first started the project in 1987. He said his passion for Romero’s cause stems from his work to further human rights. "I believe that the community to people and human rights. So clear was he, in fact, that he was willing to die for his cause," Pelton said.

March 24 marks the 29th anniversary of Romero’s death. He was an archbishop in El Salvador who was assassinated while saying Mass. As an outspoken and influential public figure, Romero days are dedicated to the organization of the Latin American Church's Road Map to Intercultural Dialogue." He was an archbishop in El Salvador who was assassinated while saying Mass. As an outspoken and influential public figure, Romero days are dedicated to the organization of the Latin American Church's Road Map to Intercultural Dialogue.

Andrew Manion wins grant to pursue graduate work at Cambridge

By JENN METZ
News Writer

Rivals with USC only go as far as the sporting field, this weekend, the Trojans' famed a cappella group, the SoCal VoCals, will make the trip to South Bend to perform with the Notre Dame group, Halftime.

"They are the cream of the crop when it comes to a cappella groups," Brian Kastenholz, the music director for Halftime, said. "They've been really welcoming and we have as well.

Performing with other groups is beneficial to the Halftime to perform in a joint concert. This marks the first time Halftime will perform with an a cappella group from outside of Notre Dame.

The relationship between the two groups has been anything but tense like that seen on the football field when the two schools interact. "It's a chance to live in another city since I didn't get to study abroad," he said. "Because of scheduling, it was drawn to the program because he was unable to participate in a study aboard program while attending Notre Dame."

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"I want to come back to the U.S. for a Ph.D. program," Manion said. He said he is undecided about where he would like to pursue his doctorate.

Manion was excited when he found out he won the scholarship and is looking forward to beginning his studies at Cambridge.

"I think it's a great opportunity," Manion said. "I've heard really good things about the program and I'm excited to be at Cambridge."

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Inside Column

Great Expectations

From random hook ups to routine hook ups, students complain that the dating scene doesn't meet their expectations. As it goes, because of University policy and loads of homework, there is little interest in serious commitment. Assistant News Editor Robert Singer examines the expectations on campus fosters the belief that prayer can improve without acknowledgement of inflexible circumstances.

Robert Singer

Question of the Day: Who do you predict will win March Madness?

Drew Davis
freshman
Sorin

Jean Namkung
junior
Farley

Lauren Kalinoe
freshman
Breen-Phelps

Meghan Pearl
junior
Pangborn

Pat Duret
junior
Pangborn

Sean Mitchell
sophomore
Sorin

"Memphis"  
"Megan Pearl!"  
"Definitely Akron, the Zips!"  
"BANG HALAAX, get some!"  
"The Half-Ton Hotties will dominate."  
"I can tell you who's not going to win ..."

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

In Brief

Gaelle Storm will be performing a concert at 2 p.m. on Saturday in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Purchase tickets online, visit or call the ticket office at 574-631-2800.

"The USA and the EU: Two Modern Forms of Empire?" will be held at 2:30 p.m., today in C-103 Hesburgh Center for International Studies. Speakers will include Vittorio Hoslé, Paul G. Kimball and Kroz Institute fellow.

"NanoTechnology-The Legal and Ethical Issues" symposium will take place at 3:00 p.m. today in Room 109-104 McKenna Hall. The event will feature Dave Brenner, O'Wolfgang Paul, Gregory Crawford, David Baird, Ralph Hall, and Baker & Daniels. For ticketing information call the ticket office at 574-631-2800.

Picturing History: Documenting Pre-Pictorial Photographs History of Television" will be held in Brownning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 4:30 p.m. Catherine Allan will be speaking. For ticketing information call the ticket office at 574-631-2800.

Mass will be held at 5:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Chip Kid will be give a lecture in the Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum of Art. The lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m.

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

Committees currently considering nominations for Joyce Award

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
News Writer

Selection committees are currently reviewing the 255 nominations made for the Joyce Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Dockweiler Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising, according to Notre Dame Associate Provost Dennis Jacobs.

The Provost’s Office will announce the recipients of the awards in April. Winners of each award will receive a $1,500 cash prize and will be honored for "extraordinary contributions to undergraduate education at Notre Dame," Jacobs said.

Of the 161 nominations received for the Joyce Award, Jacobs said 152 of them came from students.

Jacobs said he especially enjoyed reading the student nominations for the awards.

"I am grateful to the students who submitted nominations for this year's awards," Jacobs said. "It is inspiring to read about how students' lives were touched by faculty members who are deeply committed to offering an outstanding undergraduate education.

Both students and faculty were invited to propose nominations for the Joyce Award, and students, faculty and staff made nominations for the Dockweiler Award, Jacobs said.

Jacobs sent several e-mails to students in the weeks before Spring Break requesting nominations for the awards.

The online nomination form asked students to submit an essay describing why the nominee deserves the award, including specific examples of the nominee’s impact on the student's undergraduate experience.

The Joyce Award honors faculty from seven different subject areas: business, engineering, fine arts, architecture, humanities, language and literature, science and social science, Jacobs said.

He said the recipients of the award are faculty members who "create environments that stimulate significant student learning, elevate students to a new level of intellectual engagement and foster students' ability to express themselves effectively within the discipline."

Jacobs said the Dockweiler Award, created through a gift from the Julia Stearns Dockweiler Charitable Foundation, honors three faculty or staff members who advise undergraduate students.

The Dockweiler Award aims to demonstrate in a tangible way that mentoring, academic advising and career counseling activities are important and valued roles for faculty and staff at Notre Dame," he said.

The Deans of the relevant colleges appointed faculty selection committees for each of the seven subject areas of the Joyce Award. The committees will review the nominations and make recommendations to the Provost’s Office, Jacobs said.

The Office of the Provost appointed faculty and staff to a selection committee for the Dockweiler Award. This committee will recommend the top candidates to the Provost’s Office, Jacobs said.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccryst@nd.edu

Institute launches new Facebook page

By CASEY KENNEY
News Writer

The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at Notre Dame recently launched a Facebook page as a way to connect with prospective students and share information about academic programs, people and news, according to Joan Fallon, director of communications at the Kroc Institute.

“Peace Studies is not a standard major and the Institute’s programs are really unique, so we are always looking for creative ways to reach out to students and expand interest,” Fallon said.

She said the use of Facebook by college and university administrators to raise interest in programs seems to be a growing trend around the country.

“We are not the only one using Facebook at Notre Dame,” Fallon said. “Notre Dame Magazine uses Facebook, and I am told other programs use it as well. It seems to be a national trend as other universities and programs are all now utilizing this important tool.”

Fallon said the Kroc Institute attracts students from around the world, and Facebook is an ideal tool to reach out to international students.

“Typically, around three-quarters of the students in our Master’s Degree program are from abroad, and the program has included students from 90 countries,” Fallon said. “With this high level of interest coming from abroad, and since students are increasingly learning about programs online, Facebook provides a very effective way to network and spread information to a diverse range of people. Facebook has a growing international presence, so this is a way to reach students right where they are.”

The Kroc Institute’s page features photos of the program’s interns at field sites around the world. It also provides information for events, frequent updates to news about the program and links to pages on Kroc’s Web site at http://kroc.nd.edu.

Fallon said Kroc staff will monitor the page and respond to comments and questions on the Facebook wall.

“After only two weeks since its launch, the page has already gained over 100 fans. This really attests to the effectiveness of using such a Web site,” she said.

According to a recent news release, the Kroc Institute created the page after staff members consulted with undergraduate Peace Studies students to reflect matters of importance to them, such as learning about their professors. The page includes links to faculty profiles and a community of faculty and alumni.

Current Notre Dame undergraduates will also be able to use the Facebook page as they assess their choice of Peace Studies as a major or minor.

Contact Casey Kenney at ckenney@nd.edu

GET READY FOR...

TIMES NATIONAL FESTIVAL WEEK
March 22-28

Sponsored by International Student Services (ISSA)
For a complete listing of events see: issa.nd.edu

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
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Research
continued from page 1

November 2008.

"The NIH strategic plans increasingly encourage collabora­tions of basic researchers, translational researchers and clinicians and also values team science and multi-investigator awards," DeFord said.

The ICTSI is one of only 38 academic health centers in the country funded by this award.

"We are very happy to be a part of this consortium and to be a part of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research," DeFord said. "It should be a win-win situation for all of us."

The ICTSI provides the framework for basic scientists, translational scientists and clinicians to do research together.

"The idea is to move ideas from the bench to the bedside more smoothly and quickly," DeFord said. "The Institute also includes commercial partners, and this will enable projects and devices to get to market more efficiently," DeFord said.

By joining this initiative, Notre Dame hopes to better address biomedical issues.

"It will enable all of us to obtain different perspectives and approach serious research questions from various angles," DeFord said.

The membership enables researchers from the University in areas such as the College of Engineering's biomechanics and biomaterials groups, the Eck Institute for Global Health, the Keck Center for Transgene Research and the new Mike and Josie Harper Cancer Research Institute the ability to move their work into a clinical setting.

"A majority of the clinical research in the state takes place in Indianapolis," DeFord said. "However, there is clinical research going on here in South Bend."

DeFord said another goal of the initiative is to allow researchers to communicate and eventually collaborate on specific projects.

"A goal of the Institute is to bring together our basic researchers with clinical faculty," DeFord said. "We can also pair clinical faculty in our community with basic researchers here or at one of the other institutions.

The collaborations will allow members of the Notre Dame research community to expand their work.

"These collaborations may lead to increased opportunities to obtain research funding and realization of their research as a potential patient therapy or device," DeFord said. "We also now have access to all the research cores and resources.

The membership in the ICTSI will not hinder Notre Dame researchers from partnering with institutions that are not members.

"Our membership in the ICTSI is not exclusive and is certainly not intended to replace any other collaborations," DeFord said.

The ICTSI Web site provides extensive information on funding opportunities, clinical trial opportunities and research core resource offerings.

University faculty are encouraged to go to the site to explore opportunities. They have the ability to customize the site using their University net ID and password.

Initially, graduate students that have a faculty mentor that conducts research and that has the capability to become or partner with translational and/or clinical research will have the opportunity to participate in the initiative.

DeFord said, however, that they are in the process of creating opportunities for undergraduate students as well.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at coddonnel@nd.edu

Romero
continued from page 1

Romero
continued from page 1

during a controversial time in El Salvador, he was vocal about human rights despite death threats.

As Pelton has extensively studied the role of the Catholic Church in Latin America, he said he is traveling to Chile next week to give a series of lectures on the subject. He has also written several books about liberation theology and Romero.

"[Romero] provides a type of leadership that we do need in both the society and the church," he said.

Pelton said this makes the bishop very relevant to Notre Dame students.

Romero Days begins on Monday evening with a student panel entitled "I shall arise in the Salvadoran people: An Interview Project on Romero's Continuing Presence."

Cinnamon Sarver, a graduate student in theology, will be featured in the panel, as well as Victor Marques, a graduate student studying Latin American history. Sophomore Jenna Knapp, an anthropology and peace studies major and junior Michael Angulo, a history and peace studies major, will be respondents. Pupusas, an El Salvadoran tortilla, will be served at a reception following the panel.

On Tuesday, Fr. Stephen Judd will celebrate Mass in honor of women in service in Latin America at the Church of Loreto at Saint Mary's College.

Judd will also present a lecture Tuesday entitled "Apartheid and the Latin American Church's Road Map to Intercultural Dialogue."

Romero Days will conclude Tuesday evening with speaker Eugene Palumbo's presentation on Romero called "New I Understand." Palumbo is a journalist based in El Salvador.

Contact Nora Kenney at hkenney@nd.edu

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In Theology and Culture

CHINUA ACHEBE

"The Igbo and their perception of God, Human Beings, and Creation"

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Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 7:30p.m.: "Human Beings"
Thursday, March 26, 2009, 7:30p.m.: "Creation"

All lectures will be in Jordan Auditorium
Mendoza College of Business

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In Theology and Culture

Sponsored by the Department of Theology
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Countries reject Madagascar leader
MBABANE, Swaziland — Southern African nations declared Thursday they will not recognize Madagascar's new leader, an army-backed politician who ousted an elected president, and the United States said it would reconsider aid to the island nation.

The stance came as Madagascar's neighbors held a mini-summit Thursday in the situation in the Indian Ocean nation and after Zambia declared that the power change in Madagascar threatens democracy in Africa.

"Representatives of the Southern African Development Community also urged the African Union to disqualify not to recognize Andry Rajoelina as president of Madagascar and called for a return to "democratic and constitutional rule in the shortest time possible."

Mexican drug cartel leader arrested

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's military has captured the nation's most powerful drug cartel, officials said Thursday, delivering another punitive blow only weeks after U.S. officials rounded up hundreds of cartel members north of the border.

Vicente Zambrano allegedly became a top Sinaloa cartel leader last year, with control over logistics and authority to order assassinations of government authorities and rival drug lords held a mini-summit Thursday on the situation in the nation's most powerful drug cartel, officials said Thursday, delivering another punitive blow only weeks after U.S. officials rounded up hundreds of cartel members north of the border.

"This political circus that's going on here today with this bill is not getting to the bottom of the question of who knew what and when did they know it," said House Republican Leader John Boehner of Ohio.

He voted "no," but 85 fellow Republicans joined 243 Democrats and 87 Republicans in voting "yes."

"The bill would impose a 90 percent tax on bonuses given to employees with family incomes above $250,000 at American International Group and other companies that have received at least $5 billion in government bailout money. It would apply to any such bonuses issued since Dec. 31."

The House vote, after just 40 minutes of debate, showed how quickly Congress can act when the political will is there.

It was only one of this past weekend's string of bills aimed at taxing AIG bonuses, including traders in the financial Products unit that nearly brought about AIG's collapse.

AIG has received $182.5 billion in federal bailout money and is now 80 percent government owned.

Disclosure of the bonuses touched off a national firestorm that both the Obama administration and Congress have scrambled to contain.

In a statement issued by the White House late Thursday, Obama said the House vote "rightly reflects the outrage that so many feel over the lavish bonuses that AIG provided its employees at the expense of the taxpayers who have kept this failed company afloat."

"In the end, this is a symptom of a larger problem — a bubble-and-bust economy that valued reckless speculation over responsibility and hard work," he said. "That is what we must ultimately repair to build a lasting and widespread prosperity."

"Some have been there six or seven years."

"We want our money back now for the taxpayers. It isn't that complicated."

Foreigners acquire Md. licenses

ANAPOLIS, Md. — In an online Spanish-language chat room, people from all over the East Coast seek tips on how to get driver's licenses in Maryland even though they don't live there.

Businesses run classified ads in Spanish-language publications. Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland urging "undocumented Hispanic friends" to take advantage of the opportunity to get Maryland ID without having to prove they're in the country legally.

Iraq

Iraqis currently held by the United States are forced to pay the government for such things as transportation. The Associated Press learned of the scheme through a complaint filed with the State Department by an American citizen. The government has refused to comment on the complaint.

IRAQ

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Halftime
continued from page 1
members of Halftime, he said.
"It's really good thing to have for kind of a growing group like ours," he said of Halftime, which is in its fifth year. "The experience of being with another group, especially another group that's so presti­
gious as they are, is great."
The SoCal VoCals boasts a win at the International Cham­pionship of Choirs A Cappella annual competition, where they took home top honors.
Halftime performs pop-rock arrangements — "modern, popular stuff," Kastenholz, who arranges the songs for the group, said.
"We take to innovate ideas off the group," he said of the group's song selection.
"Ultimately we decide what would be the most fun to arrange and the most fun for the group to perform," Kastenholz said.
Singing a cappella comes with some challenges.
"It's our goal to emulate what you hear on the radio," he said of the group.
"My favorite song is 'Ubic主持人's Eleanor Daley, because it is a beautiful piece that begins with a chant, brings in a three-part harmony in the middle and then ulti­mately ends with a chant again," Appelquist said. "It is a good example of the develop­ment of music throughout his­
tory while holding on to tradi­tion.
The concert will begin tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the
demington tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the
Churchill scholarship
recipient
Andrew Manion
Churchill Scholarship
recipient
By M.B. Gizinski
News Writer
The Saint Mary's Women's Choir will wrap up their spring break tour with a Homecoming Col­lege exhibition.
Over spring break, 31 mem­bers of the Women's Choir toured the Great Lakes region, including Detroit and Toronto. The group played churches and schools to promote the Saint Mary's music program.
"In the daytime, we went to high schools with strong women's chorals programs," chorale director and Professor of Music Nancy Menk said. "In the evenings, we went to churches with great acoustics to highlight the choir's voices."
Menk said female Catholic high schools are the main market for the choir.
The choir features a freshman Elizabeth Carian's first choral tour. She said the tour was a beneficial experience for everyone involved.
"The tour gets the school's name out as well as giving us a chance to learn," Carian said. "We learn from the choirs we sing with and the schools we perform from learn from us."
Menk said she hopes stu­dents will join the group as the tour as well as learn from it.
"I pick the end city first and go from there," she said. "I always try to pick fun cities because it is like the choir member's spring break. I also try to choose places with
active alumni clubs," she said.
Menk said she selects the repertoire of work and fun helped to sync the choir. The choir becomes more musical when they form stronger bonds socially.
The tour bonds them socially and musically. They feel better, more cohesive. We achieve one sound," Menk said.
The concert today is the final one of the choir's tour and features the seniors last.
"I have been in Women's Choir for all four years of col­lege," senior Lindsey Appelquist said. "At other schools you music be a major music to be in the top choir, and I really enjoyed the acceptance of this music program while being a sci­
ent fiction."
During the homecoming con­cert, Menk said the choir will focus on religious songs from different eras. The choir has a member has a song that she prefers.
"My favorite song is 'Ubic主持人's Eleanor Daley, because it is a beautiful piece that begins with a chant, brings in a three-part harmony in the middle and then ulti­mately ends with a chant again," Appelquist said. "It is a good example of the develop­ment of music throughout his­
tory while holding on to tradi­tion.
The concert will begin tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the
Churchill scholarship
recipient
Andrew Manion
Churchill Scholarship
recipient
By M.B. Gizinski
News Writer
The Saint Mary's Women's Choir will wrap up their spring break tour with a Homecoming Col­lege exhibition.
Over spring break, 31 mem­bers of the Women's Choir toured the Great Lakes region, including Detroit and Toronto. The group played churches and schools to promote the Saint Mary's music program.
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tory while holding on to tradi­tion.
Halftime continues from page 1

Disability
continued from page 1
share insights and concerns.
"We want to open up lines of discussion on disabilities. We want to provide an outlet to broaden people's perspec­tives on disabilities," she said. about us — it's about the
tudents decided to take action, she said.
"I really feel like this concert is going to put us over the edge and get more recogni­tion," she said.
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WASHINGTON — New jobless claims fell more than expected last week, but continuing claims set a new record for the eighth straight week, and economists expect the labor market to remain moribund.

The Labor Department said Thursday that initial requests for unemployment insurance dropped to a seasonally adjusted 646,000, from the previous week’s revised figure of 658,000. That was better than analysts’ expectations.

But continuing claims jumped 185,000 to a seasonally adjusted 2,474,000, another record high and more than the roughly 3.3 million that economists expected.

Other economic news was slightly more upbeat. A private sector group’s index of leading economic indicators dropped than expected in February, although growth is not expected before next year. On the housing front, rates on 30-year mortgages dipped below 5 percent, and may fall further after the Federal Reserve launched a new effort to prop up that failing market.

But on Wall Street, where the market has advanced six of the past seven sessions, stocks fell Thursday as investors digested the most recent Fed actions. The Dow Jones industrial average lost nearly 86 points to close at 7,400.80, and broader indicators also dropped.

The increase in the average of jobless claims rose to 654,700 in February, and October 1982, when the economy was emerging from a recession. Although the labor force has grown by about half since then.

Economists said the signs of life that have cropped up in other areas of the economy in the past week, such as upticks in retail sales and housing starts, aren’t yet apparent in the labor market.

“Nothing is more of a temporary easing in the downward pressure on employment,” said chief economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote in a client note.

Initial claims have topped 600,000 for seven straight weeks, a level that many economists say is consistent with another huge drop in net payrolls when the Labor Department issues its monthly employment report next month.

Job net losses could top 700,000 in March, Shepardson said, which would bring total losses to above 5 million jobs since the recession began in December 2007.

Meanwhile, the New York-based Conference Board’s monthly forecast of economic activity fell 0.4 percent last month, slightly better than the 0.6 percent decline economists expected.

The index is designed to forecast economic activity in the next three to six months, based on 10 components that include stock prices, money supply, jobless claims and building permits.

Despite beating expectations, the index’s broad decline of the past 19 months persisted and is unlikely to end until next year, economists said.

Elsewhere, government-controlled mortgage finance companies Freddie Mac said Thursday that average rates on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages dropped to 4.98 percent this week, down from 5.03 percent last week. It was the lowest since the week of Jan. 15, when it was at 4.96 percent, the record low for Freddie Mac’s survey that dates to 1971.

The rate quotes included in Freddie Mac’s survey were taken before the Fed said Wednesday it will pump $1.2 trillion into the econo- my in an effort to lower rates on mortgages and other loan credit that could drive mortgage rates down even further, perhaps past record lows.

Stock rally fades, Fed’s plan evaluated

NEW YORK — Investors had a change of heart about the Federal Reserve’s plans to buy Treasury bonds and doused Wall Street’s two-week-old rally.

Banking and other financial shares pulled the market lower Thursday as investors worried the the Fed’s plan would lead to higher inflation.

The retreat came a day after stocks surged in reaction to the Fed’s aggressive move, which analysts say could add more than $1 trillion into the financial system by buying $125 billion worth of bonds and stopping up its purchases of other debt securities.

But investors began to digest the possible downsides of the Fed’s program, such as a potentially weaker dollar that can lead to higher prices for commodities such as oil and grains. And, eventually, staples like gas and food.

“After the initial euphoria sur-rounding the surprise announcement yesterday, there’s a little more analy-sis of this going on and it’s leading to some questions,” said Todd Salamone, senior vice president of research at Schaeffer’s Investment Research.

Skepticism about how long it would take for the effects of the Fed’s program to take hold also weighed down shares, particularly those of banks. Investors have been hungry for any signs that confidence may finally return to battered U.S. banks, and the market has had a generally dim view of the government’s efforts to date to get lending moving again.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 85.78, or 1.2 percent, to 7,400.80. The broader Standard & Poor’s 500 index fell 10.31, or 1.3 percent, to 784.04, while Nasdaq composite index fell 7.74, or 0.5 percent, to 1,483.48.

Declining declines narrowly outnum-bered advances on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 8.8 billion shares compared with 9 billion shares Wednesday.

Wall Street’s move lower ended, at least for now, a buying spree that has driven stocks sharply higher since last week. Even with Thursday’s slide, the Dow is still up 13 percent and the S&P 500 index is up 15.9 percent over the past eight days. The gains are impressive considering that only a few weeks ago the market was trad-ing at levels not seen in more than a decade.
Accident burns boy scout

Associated Press
TOMS RIVER, N.J. — It was a hot July night when Eagle Scout Trent Lenz decided to show a group of younger boys at his camp a trick to create a small fire, in which he would squat, rubbing alcohol in a pail with a match on a table and set it afame.

It would cool down. And it would quickly burn out.

With the fire put out, Lenz decided to restage what he thought he was a dying flame. He let the pail catch fire, and the stream of liquid, back into the squeeze bottle he was holding. He instinctively shook his hand, finging the burning bottle away and spraying flaming alcohol onto the other Scouts.

In an instant, Sean Whiteley, a 17-year-old near­ ing his graduation from a Philadelphia high school, slapped his own Scout's cordon and grabbed a pail of water to extinguish the blaze.

Lenz has undergone surgery for his burns but is recovering and could return to a Scout camp in the near future.

Whiteley's family sued Lenz, of Waretown, and the Boy Scouts about a month ago, seeking unspecified damages and alleging that negligence led to Whiteley's wrongful death.

"The loss of Sean has been a tragedy for all involved," one family member said in a statement provided to The Associated Press by Lenz's lawyer. "They did not want Lenz's family to suffer and would not speak to reporters.

"We hope this incident will focus attention to the need for increased fire safe­ ty training and supervision of minor counselors," they said. "The love Sean had for this and his friends is incredible and would not speak to reporters.

The in v e s tigation began at the camp and his friends on the East Coast.

A federal jury deliberated over two days before finding Edward Hugh Okun guilty of all charges. Four counts previously had been withdrawn or dismissed.

Okun stood, his head solemnly bowed, as the verdict was read. He faces up to 400 years in prison when he is sentenced Aug. 4. Rob Wagner, the federal pub­ lic defender, told reporters he will appeal.

Okun, 58, owned two Richmond companies that held money from clients seeking to defer capital gains taxes on property sales. The scheme eventually collapsed, leaving many of his clients unable to reclaim their money.

Several victms who attended the trial embraced one another and prosecutors as Okun was led away by federal marshals. Ronnie Schloss of Silver Spring, Md., who said she lost $335,000 from the sale of a house she had purchased with an inherit­ ance, choked back tears.

"It doesn't bring back the money, but it does make you feel somebody paid atten­tion and cared about us," said Schloss.

Larry and Sandy Cogan of Short Hills, N.J., said they lost about $500,000 from the sale of a small strip mall that had been in Sandy Cogan's family since the late 1920s.

"I think it was just and it was fair, and I think he will never ever again be able to destroy peoples' lives," said Barry Cogan, 67. "This page in our lives has been turned.

Okun, who lived in a water­ front mansion, operated companies known as "qualified intermediaries," which held capital gains tax deferral deeds and charged fees on escrow. The Internal Revenue Service allows sellers to defer capital gains tax if they do not report the proceeds with a qualified intermediary until they can buy a replacement property.

Three indicted after investigation

Associated Press
FRANKFORT, Ky. — A judge, school superintendent and county clerk in south­ eastern Kentucky have been indicted on charges they were essentially "politi­ cal bosses," recruited a slate of candidates to run for cer­ tain offices and then tried to rig elections in their favor. They also tried to recruit Alabama lawmakers to the legis­ lative council so they could bribe voters in a scheme to rig several elections, authori­ ties said Thursday.

The U.S. Attorney's office said Thursday the judge, Grayson, bribery, extortion and voter fraud against Grayson, former Clay County Circuit Court Judge Russell Cletus Mariele, school super­ intendent Kenneth Williams and Adams, Clay County Clerk Freddy Thompson and oth­ ers.

The investigation began after complaints from voters were reported during the 2006 elections. A statement from the U.S. Attorney's office claims the officials tried to rig elections then and in local elections in 2002, 2004 and 2006 in Clay County, about 100 miles southeast of Louisville.

Prosecutors claim a group led by Mariele and Thompson, who were essentially "politi­ cal bosses," recruited a slate of candidates to run for cer­ tain offices and then tried to

Man convicted of 23 counts, faces 400 years

Associated Press
RICHMOND, Va. — A Richmond businessman accused of bilking nearly 600 people across the country out of $126 million and using the money on a personal jet, a yacht and other luxuries was convicted Thursday on 23 counts, including fraud and money laundering.

After a three-week trial, a federal jury deliberated over two days before finding Edward Hugh Okun guilty of all charges. Four counts previously had been withdrawn or dismissed.

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COLUMBUS, Ohio — A divided Ohio Ethics Commission found Thursday that former Attorney General Marc Dann twice violated state election laws by using campaign funds to pay for an expensive-in-house security system and a cell phone often used for personal calls.

The panel voted 3-2 to find Dann and his campaign committee $1,000 each in the security system matter, and issued him a public reprimand over the handling of his cell phone expenses. The campaign's then-deputy treasurer, Mary Beth Snyder, received a $250 fine for signing off on the security system expenses.

Commission members stopped short of referring any of the matters for criminal prosecution, however.

The former consumer bull dog sat pugnaciously throughout hours of legal wrangling, only occasionally becoming agitated over having to answer questions to commissioners' questions through his lawyer rather than answering them himself.

The commission ended the day with only one of two cases resolved against Dann. He still faces a future hearing on wide-ranging set of allegations brought by the state watchdog, looking into everything from possible security system expenses to whether to use taxpayer dollars — what he said Thursday to have the second case dismissed on grounds that Charles was acting outside his authority.

Amy McGee Brown said during the hearing that evidence didn’t bear out that Dann made the decision to be magnanimous. She noted that documents submitted in the case indicated Dann did not decide to use campaign funds until he learned the executive budget could not cover the expense, and because having police officers around was interfering with his family's privacy.

Assistant Attorney General Melinda Osgood, representing Dann, said the Ohio Ethics Commission believes it's a normal way to handle such threats. She said Osgood has a history of providing gun legislation protection to officers who face danger, and that Dann had been provided with such protection.

Dann, who turned 47 last Wednesday, resigned in May amid a sexual harassment scandal which eventually cost him his job as Ohio’s attorney general. McGee Brown said Thursday that this could ever occur and that it would be condoned by a professional administrator, said Jerome Garza, a member of the Dallas school board.

The report, first obtained by The Dallas Morning News, describes two instances of fighting in an equipment cage in a boys’ locker room between 2003 and 2005. It was not clear from the report whether there were other fights.

Superintendent Michael Hinojosa told The Dallas Morning News that there were “some things that happened inside of a cage” and called the fights “unacceptable.”

No criminal charges were ever filed, and there was no mention in the report of whether anyone received medical attention or whether any employee was disciplined. A district spokesman would not comment on the allegations.

The allegations came to light during a grade-fixing investigation that eventually cost the high school its 2005 and 2006 state basketball titles. School officials were suspected of altering students’ grades so that they could remain eligible to play for South Oak Cliff, a perennial basketball powerhouse in one of the poorer sections of the city.

In an interview with the Morning News, Donald Moten, who retired as principal last year, denied any fights were held.

“Thar’s barbaric. You can’t do that at a high school.”

In a court filing, Moten said that this could ever occur and that it would be condoned by a professional administrator, said Jerome Garza, a member of the Dallas school board.

Hinojosa did not actually witness any of the fights, according to the report.

Garza, the school board member, said Thursday he would look into whether criminal charges should be filed. He said there were no record of any investigation into the allegations were not brought to the board’s attention earlier.

If, in fact, it bears out that this did occur, clearly the administration had a responsibility to inform the board in the proper manner and in a timely fashion, he said.

Dallas police said they have no record of any investigation by the department. The district attorney’s office would not comment.

The allegations come about 10 days after law enforcement authorities reported that caregivers at a Corpus Christi facility for mentally disabled residents to fight each other and recorded the brawls for their entertainment.

 Shaman Murphy, 21, a self-taught paleontologist who discovered the world’s first complete skeleton of a duckbilled hadrosaur known as the “Life’s Work hadrosaur” and has spent months trying to bring the bone to Dallas, made the allegations.

The change of plea motion from Nathan Murphy follows state and federal laws into the investigation into his alleged attempts to cash in on the highly lucrative fossil market.

Murphy, 31, is a self-taught dinosaur expert who spent much of the last two decades searching for bones in central Montana’s Hell Creek formation — a rocky badlands once stalked by the fearsome tyrannosaurus rex. In 2000, he famously discovered a

**School officials allow cage fights**

**DALLAS** — The Dallas school system was rocked by allegations Thursday that top district members at an inner-city high school made students settle their own disputes with bare-knuckle brawls inside a steel cage.

The principal and other employees at South Oak Cliff High School threatened the fights and allowed the practice to continue, according to a 2008 report by school system investigators.

“More than anything, I’m in shock and disbelief — shocked that this could ever occur and that it would be condoned by a professional administrator,” said Jerome Garza, a member of the Dallas school board.

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**Expert pleads guilty to stealing dinosaur**

**BILLINGS, Mont. — A famed paleontologist who discovered the world’s first complete skeleton of a duckbilled hadrosaur intended to plead guilty to stealing dinosaur bones from federal land.**

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- Swimming Pool, Tennis Court, 24 Hour Fitness Center
- Sand Volleyball, Basketball
- Free Tanning Bed
- Free Washer and Dryer In Each Unit
- High Speed Internet and Comcast Cable Included
- On Site Management and Maintenance
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**A Church at war against rape and abortion**

This is a response to James Spitaliere’s March 1 letter titled “Rape: an ‘abortion: Culture war.’” While concern for adolescent maternal mortality does indeed draw attention to an important issue in the case of the Brazilian girl who underwent an abortion, I cannot accept the argument that the excommunication of the doctors and mother behind the abortion is proof that the Catholic Church seeks to uphold a “moral grandstanding” (read: façade) over the health and well-being of young girls. Rather, it is precisely the genuine concern for the dignity and welfare of all human beings that has moved the Church to act as it has.

Rape is an affront to human dignity, and it is never acceptable in any case. But, an evil deed is not a justifiable solution to another evil deed. Forcing a young girl to receive an operation that harmfully, physically, and psychologically hampers her before she has even had time to heal from the incident of rape does not seem more loving to me than lavishing medical care, support groups and therapy would be.

The assumption that the girl’s age makes her automatically eligible to carry a child safely is, aside from being altogether false, no call to terminate the pregnancy before malignant symptoms are even present.

With modern medicine, it is entirely possible in cases of hazardous pregnancies to monitor the mother’s health closely, allow the baby to develop as much as possible and remove it via a Cesarean section should it become necessary to save the lives of the mother and baby. Why is abortion the obvious choice when there are viable pro-life options that have worked in numerous instances?

Arguably, the persistent presence of abortion (and contraceptives) heightens the threat to young women in vulnerable positions. If a man can rape a woman with the knowledge that her deed can be hidden, he has an added incentive to commit the act. In fact, in the case of the Brazilian girl, the stepfather’s actions were only uncovered when the pregnancy was discovered because the girl had grown a 40-week-old stomach pain.

Morality and ethics require that you unequivocally hold upunching truths as good and just. In order for the Church’s teachings on morality and ethics to hold any validity, they must be applied consistently in every case because they are based on universal truths.

Abortion is never an acceptable response to rape, whether the victim is a 40-year-old woman or a 9-year-old girl. This failure to acknowledge the petition sent a message to students that the University is willing to ignore this important student concern.

But supporters of the clause change persisted this year. The student group doubled their efforts, and this time around, it seems they are making more progress, because Jenkins has agreed to a meeting with group leaders on March 30 to discuss the petition.

Although, in conjunction, the Campaign for Human Dignity submitted a letter asking the University to recognize the groups, both ND and Alliance ND, which provide support GLBTQ students on campus. Currently, neither group has official club status.

Members of the Campaign for Human Dignity reserve the right not including sexual orientation, the University reserves the right to discriminate.

The University’s prior statements on the issue counter this view. “We welcome all people, regardless of color, gender, religion, subcultural, sexual orientation, social or economic class, and nationality for example, precisely because of Christ’s calling to treat others as we deserve to be treated,” said Notre Dame’s Office of Student Life in the document, released in 1997. The document was adopted by the officers of the University after then-University President Fr. Edward A. Malloy released in 1997. The document was adopted by the officers of the University after then-University President Fr. Edward A. Malloy had considered adding "sexual orientation" to the clause for over a year, ultimately deciding not to do so.

"Within society at large, the phrase ‘sexual orientation’ sometimes becomes a term that does not admit of distinction between sexual orientation and the manner in which people live out their sexual orientation — a distinction that is critical to us as a Catholic institution," Malloy wrote in a letter accompanying the document.

While the University has made its position clear, it is disappointing they have ignored the concerns of students for over a year since the document’s release. Jenkins should be commended for agreeing to meet with the Campaign for Human Dignity this year, creating the opportunity for frank and constructive dialogue, over 10 years since the Spirit of Inclusion was written.

The administration has stated it does not discriminate based on sexual orientation. If this is the case, the demands of the petition and amending the nondiscrimination clause would go a step further than saying “we welcome all people.” The University would legally prove that GLBTQ students are not discriminated against and undeniably confirm that these students and faculty are accepted and valued members of the Notre Dame community.

Being a Catholic institution, Notre Dame should be a place for all students to feel at home. The Princeton Review ranks it No. 1 for intolerance towards the GLBTQ community. It is now up to the University’s administration to make clear that Notre Dame is a place that does not discriminate “on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, veteran status, age or sexual orientation.”

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**Let us know what you think!**

If you have a Letter to the Editor you would like to submit, send it to us at obsnews.l@nd.edu.
Mary Blessed Mother of God, why must so many in this country insist that their personal style of religion be imposed on others? Three times during the last two decades, in 1990, 2001 and last year, researchers at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., conducted one of the nation's largest major surveys of religious beliefs. Results released earlier this month reveal that the rigidity of religion today is far greater among Americans to the fringes of the religious spectrum.

The percentage of Americans who call themselves Christians has dropped dramatically during the past two decades. The American Religious Identification Survey, funded by the Lilly Endowment and the Pew Forum, most recently surveyed more than 54,000 people between February and November of last year. On this end of the spectrum, religious minorities has increased, most notably Muslims, Mormons and movements like Wicca and paganism.

Those who call themselves Christian are increasingly identifying themselves with new denominational labels, describing themselves rather as "non-denominational," "evangelical" or "born again." Forty-four percent of America's 77 million Christian adults now say that the label "evangelical" fits them. Even 18 percent of Catholics choose "evangelical" as their self-description. While the importance of denomination has increased in America, a growing number of people of all denominations have left the church. Moreover, religious minorities has increased, most notably Muslims, Mormons and movements like Wicca and paganism.

As has been discussed ad nauseam in this space, they might say something like, "I go to drunk last night..." which translates to, "Hulk Smash." The larger stage often coincides with the late afternoon or early evening of the next day. Perpetrators return to get drunk, to sleep, and spend a lot of time moaning about the previous night. After a particularly bad hook-up, a perpetrator might begin to think about how to help him or her deal with their stupidity. This does not help, because instantly our mind starts to make you feel better about life without having to think much at all.

3. Bargaining (Rationalization)
The third stage of overcoming a random hook-up is to watch one of your favorite romantic comedies. What could possibly cheer you up more than Ryan Reynolds and Isla Fischer ending up together at the end of a good film? After many people, Foreign films require too much effort to read the subtitles. Indie films demand too much thinking. Romantic comedies are the best way to get through the depression stage because they are able to place the best ways to touch the hangover that usually accompanies a random hook-up. Action movies are too loud and violent. For some, this is their only escape.

 Acceptance
Acceptance will finally come when a perpetrator returns to the way he was before the hook-up. Since hook-ups are trivial aspects of life, you can post on Facebook like this, "I'm gonna be alone." If they keep saying things like, "I really needed that" or "she was kinda hot." They will try to convince themself that their co-conspirator does not hook up with a lot of people, and that this was just a one-time thing. Extreme rationalizers will convince themselves that there is 'something there' when it was really no more than a random hook-up. One example of this is Melissa Ruddel, who used to believe to that each of her hook-ups would result in the victory of a long term relationship. Everyone knows that random hook-ups only result in long term relationships if they happen to be Westchester county, New York, July 2002. The title of this program is "Hooking Up Without Hooking Up." Everyone knows that random hook-ups only result in long term relationships if they happen to be Westchester county, New York, July 2002. The title of this program is "Hooking Up Without Hooking Up."

4. Depression
Once a perpetrator has found major difficulty rationalizing his or her random hook-up, the fourth stage (depression) ensues. This stage can often be confused with the second because it involves a lack of moving around and significant groaning. For some, this stage can last for days or even weeks and might cause the perpetrator to lose any and all desire to go out with their friends. A perpetrator might say things like, "But I'm gonna be alone." If they keep saying things like, "She was kinda hot." They will try to convince themself that their co-conspirator does not hook up with a lot of people, and that this was just a one-time thing. Extreme rationalizers will convince themselves that there is 'something there' when it was really no more than a random hook-up. One example of this is Melissa Ruddel, who used to believe to that each of her hook-ups would result in the victory of a long term relationship. Everyone knows that random hook-ups only result in long term relationships if they happen to be Westchester county, New York, July 2002. The title of this program is "Hooking Up Without Hooking Up." Everyone knows that random hook-ups only result in long term relationships if they happen to be Westchester county, New York, July 2002. The title of this program is "Hooking Up Without Hooking Up."

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Vallarta — the one a few miles from the perfect new release to prep you for room. Fans of pop — look no further, plaza, fails to leave an impression. It restaurant of the same name on Grape the eir week in the sun by visiting aperate locales, those who went to the course, that new album with summer­for new spring clothes, shoes and, of South Bend, you might be in the market table.

It’s possible that the restaurant offers too much variety, not permitting itself to focus more on fewer dishes.

Puerto Vallarta offers 26 combination platters (priced $6-9) outside of their regular menu, which includes bur­ritos, fajitas and other standard Mexican dishes. But with a kitchen that must be relatively small, considering the restaurant’s staff might do well to hone their skills on dishes like the flautas (corn tortillas rolled around a chicken filling, then fried), the quesadillas or the bur­ritos, which already have a good start. Puerto Vallarta’s horchata (rice milk with cinnamon) is silky with a fairly strong cinnamon taste that made a second glass undesirable. The appetizer sampler was the clear standout of the meal, with chicken taquitos, shredded beef quesadillas and tamales covered by ground beef, cheese and beans. The savory, rich tastes were fantastic way to begin the meal. A huge amount of food was required to fill the massive plates, and the large burri­tos were a good start.

Puerto Vallarta’s vegetarian (beans, rice and lettuce wrapped in a flour tortilla and smothered with guacamole and fresh tomatoes) was an undeni­ning combination of the ingredients, and, at every point of the meal, was too much to eat. The flautas were crusty and had a fit­ting texture. The taste of the fresh toma­to topping made up for the plain flavored chicken. In general, the shredded beef was slightly too thick and too tough, although juicy and full-bodied in the tacos and quesadillas. The coles paired sauce and cheese (rice with cilantro) is silky with cumin and sugar, drizzled with honey, and topped by a surprisingly tasty dollop of whipped cream. This unexpect­ed gift is typical of the service, which is laid back but efficient and quick. Coques were brought out quickly after the horchata refills were ruled out.

Another peak of the meal was the live music. Upon entering, at least on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, one is greeted by a pleasant guitarist playing and singing songs. This music provides excellent entertainment or just back­ground.

Puerto Vallarta delivers straightforward Mexican food with very comfortable prices (the most expensive entree is $13). Nothing is extremely dis­appointing, but not much leaves an impression. The restaurant does gain points for the appetizer sampler and the live music, but otherwise it only offers a wide variety of standard fares.

Contact J.J. Rees at jrees@nd.edu

By EMILY LESTRANGE Graphic
With the recent temperature-boost in South Bend, you might be in the market for new spring clothes, shoes and, of course, that new album with summer­time vibes to blast in the car or in your room. Fans of pop — look no further, Kelly Clarkson’s “All I Ever Wanted” in the perfect new release to prep you for the upcoming summer months.

As Kelly fans may remember, 2007’s “My December” was an uncharacter­ically dark and gothic album that failed to earn the kind of success that 2004’s “Thankful” and 2005’s “Breakaway” managed to win. Fear not, for “All I Ever Wanted” returns to the fun-pop music that propelled Kelly to superstardom after her American Idol win in 2002.

What is most exciting about the album is the sheer diversity of songs that remind us why we chose Clarkson as the winner of American Idol so long ago. In addition to the bubblegum pink pop songs like “Whyyawannabringmedown” and “Ready,” Clarkson includes a handful of numbers that echo the “A Moment Like This” days with their soft ballad-like tem­pos and lyrics that speak to broken hearts, including “If No One Will Listen” and “Cry.” Clarkson successfully crosses genre lines in “All I Ever Wanted,” a feat many artists are incapable of accomplishing.

In the two weeks since the album’s release, “All I Ever Wanted” has remained in the No.1 spot on the Billboard 200 Albums Chart. In the album’s first week alone, it sold 255,000 copies; this week, readers can anticipate seeing similar numbers. The album is already breaking records; the single “My Life Would Suck Without You” holds the record for the highest debut of 2009 to date at No.1 on the Billboard 100, jumping from No.97 to No.1 and displacing Britney Spears’ “Womanizer.” A deluxe edition of the album, which includes two bonus songs, three videos and a digital booklet, is available on iTunes for all you die-hard fans.

Overall, “All I Ever Wanted” is guaran­teed to be a staple of 2009 hit albums. Clarkson redeems the 2007 flop “My December” with an album that promises to continue to break records. So, if your search for a perfect summer album has left you empty-handed, a good suggestion is “All I Ever Wanted.” Clarkson will not disappoint.

Contact Emily LeStrange at elestrange@nd.edu

By J.J. REES Scene Writer

As many students come back from a spring break spent at much more tem­perate locales, those who went to the Mexican beach town Puerto Vallarta might be tempted to reminisce about their week in the sun by visiting a restaurant of the same name on Grape Road in Mishawaka.

However, despite a few perks, Puerto Vallarta — the one a few miles from campus — proved to be mostly forget­table. The restaurant itself, tucked into a plaza, fails to leave an impression. It seems to have been half-decorated. The walls have been left with their burnt orange color “for now,” and the few paintings and decorations are allowed to wall around as more sensible replacements arrive.

By J.J. Rees Graphic

It’s possible that the restaurant offers too much variety, not permitting itself to focus more on fewer dishes.

Puerto Vallarta
4609 Grape Rd.; (574-271-9959)
Hours: 11-9 M-Th, 11-10 F-S, 12-8 Su.
Prices: Apps $3-6, Entrees $6-19

10 Words or Less: Wide variety of straightforward Mexican food, appetizer sampler worth the money.

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Senior goaltender Jordan Pearce's steady play and steadier demeanor have led the Irish to the CCHA semifinals.
Back in the semis, but this isn't like last year

Technically, Notre Dame is in the same spot — the CCHA semifinals — as it was a year ago.

But the Irish could hardly be more different situation from the time around.

A year ago, Notre Dame was limping into the Louis Arena after a tough three-game series against Ferris State. The Irish were the lowest seed left heading into their semifinal game against Miami (Ohio), and their NCAA tournament lives were hanging by a thread. In its last 15 games last year, Notre Dame struggled to a .6-8-4 record.

This year, we just kind of squeaked by Ferris State," Irish senior center Christian Hanson said. "We were kind of the underdog going in there.

The Irish lost to the RedHawks in a heartbreaking overtime loss after giving up a goal with just under four seconds left in regulation.

Now? Notre Dame is the No. 1 team in the country, and the Irish have had their top seed wrapped up for a month. It’s safe to say that no one would be surprised to see Jeff Jackson and company lifting the Mason Cup on Saturday night.

"This year, we’re coming in with a lot of momentum, and I think the target’s really going to be on our back," Hanson said.

"Momentum" is an understatement. The Irish have lost only two games since November, and netminder Jordan Pearce has given up only one goal in the past five games.

The most important position for any playoff run is between the pipes, and Jordan Pearce said that he feels more prepared for this year’s trip to Joe Louis.

"I would say having the experience of being there and knowing what the whole weekend is about, I think I’ll be a little bit more prepared this time to not let the distractions get to me," he said.

He also admitted, though, that it’s easier to play the role of underdog, as the Irish did last year.

"It’s kind of tough because the expectations are for you to win," Pearce said. "It’s easier to play as underdogs because you’ve got nothing to lose.

The Irish won’t be able to sneak up on anyone this year. Notre Dame played well against Miami last year, no doubt, but the Wildcats will have extra motivation tomorrow that Miami didn’t have last year. If Northern Michigan can knock off the Irish, it would be the high lights of their season The Redwings’ win was just a stepping stone on the way to lofty goals.

Notre Dame certainly has the right man at the helm to deal with the target on their back.

In fact, it’s possible that the Irish are more of a threat this year than last. His team has been天猫 the highest lights of their season The Redwings’ win was just a stepping stone on the way to lofty goals.

Notre Dame certainly has the right man at the helm to deal with the target on their back.

In fact, it’s possible that the Irish are more of a threat this year than last. His team has been up and down over the course of the season, but the Irish have won eight of their last 10 games.

The Irish are favored to claim the CCHA Championship this weekend.

A big difference from one year ago.

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

Contact Sam Werner at sweener@nd.edu

Thang heals quickly, returns in time for tournament run

Junior missed six weeks, scored goal in first game back

By DAN MURPHY

Senior Staff Writer

The hit was ugly.

Midway through the third period of Notre Dame’s Feb. 6 game at Ohio State, Irish junior Ryan Thang went down. Thang was racing an Ohio State defender to a loose puck along the boards in his defensive zone, and when he got there, Thang’s skate got caught and his knee bent inward with all of 192 pounds on top of it.

"I really should’ve wrecked my knee," Thang said. "I guess somehow I have strong ligaments so I was lucky.

Instead, Thang was diagnosed with a severe high ankle sprain. A week and a half later the Notre Dame training staff told him something wasn’t quite right.

In his left ankle, or shin bone, had slid forwards and up underneath the knee and was pushing hard on his knee cap. Because it had been over a week since the injury, the muscle around Thang’s knee had started to compensate and he was able to get a good hold on the misplaced bone.

"It wasn’t fun," Thang said. "Fifteen to 20 minutes straight we really had to fidget with it.

Fidgeting with it involved a team of trainers manually pushing the bone back into place. Each day the bone would slip back and they would repeat the process.

Thang considered himself lucky.

"A knee injury would have kept me out until next season. So I’m really grateful to our strength coach," he said.

Five weeks after the hit, Thang was back on the ice for the CCHA playoffs and a second-round matchup against Nebraska-Omaha over the weekend.

It took the junior from Edina, Minn., less than a period to get back into the swing of things.

With three minutes remaining in the opening stanza, Thang ripped one of his trademark wrist shots past Mavericks goalie Jared Kaufmann to give Notre Dame a 1-0 lead.

"He always has the potential to score that goal that wins you a game," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "He had a clutch goal in the playoffs last year.

Thang had two key goals to go along with his five assists during Notre Dame’s run to the National Title game last spring. He helped spark a 7-3 win over New Hampshire and added a clutch shorthanded goal in the 5-4 overtime upset of Michigan in the semifinals.

Thang had 38 goals through five years at Notre Dame — Jackson said that he did a lot more than just score goals.

"That line before he was injured was our key line for the time being on the ice, he was our key line for the time being on the ice," Jackson said.

"That line before he was hurt had been playing extremely well," Jackson said. "It will take a little time for them to get used to each other again.

Whatever Thang is missing for the time being on the ice, he makes up for it in the locker room. He has emerged as one of the vocal leaders of the team this season and is a big asset off the ice.

"He adds a sense of maturity and leadership to our locker room," Jackson said. "Thang makes a difference and he’s off the ice with Ryan being back.

Jackson gave the team a day off this Tuesday to keep them at the peak of their physical and mental game.

Thang said that the break left him feeling fresh and ready to go for this weekend’s games.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu
Mr. Consistent

Goaltender Jordan Pearce enjoys record-setting career after spending two seasons on the bench

By Matt Gamber
Sports Editor

Ask Jordan Pearce about rewriting the Irish hockey record books, and he’ll smile, brush it off, and say the next goal he makes will take his eye-popping career numbers, rewriting the Irish hockey record books.

Ask him about his astoundingly consistent performance over the past two years and he’ll tell you he’s just happy to be playing in Detroit tonight.

"You can say what you want, but Jordan Pearce is going to be Jordan Pearce," Kyle Lawson, Irish junior.

Kyle Lawson
Irish junior

"I can’t be a therapist," Jackson said. "I can’t be a psychologist, but I try to pump it up every night, and he doesn’t get ratted by it."

So much of it has to do with consistency, Jackson said. "He does every night, and he doesn’t have bad games. He occasionally give up a soft goal — very seldom — but he keeps it together. It’s just his nature, and he really wants it."  

"He (Pearce) works hard in the weight room, works hard on the ice and is a good leader in the locker room," Phillips said. "He’s a good goalie to follow after and look up to. I just want to follow in his footsteps, and hopefully can do the same thing."

And it’s not only in games that Pearce makes some of the spectacular saves his primary focus.

"To me, it’s important to be there playing on Friday and Saturday night, but I try to pump his tims as much as I can before the game. I try to motivate him, keep him as sharp as possible."

"Jeff Jackson has probably made the biggest impression that was he was weak between the two, it’s unbelievable."  

"He (Pearce) works hard in the weight room, works hard on the ice and is a good leader in the locker room," Phillips said. "He’s a good goalie to follow after and look up to. I just want to follow in his footsteps, and hopefully can do the same thing."

"It’s his nature, and it’s his demeanor — well, that might be a little too soft, but that’s the way he does it, it works for a goalie, his schedule."

"It’s just his nature, and it’s his demeanor — well, that might be a little too soft, but that’s the way he does it, it works for a goalie, his schedule."

"He’s the No. 1 goalie here at Notre Dame," Lawson said. "The kid’s got as full a plate as you can get here, and he just goes about his business quietly, I’m just glad I don’t have his schedule."

As for that rock-solid demeanor — well, that might be an important quality to have as a doctor. And as it turns out, it works for a goal- tender as well.

"From where I was with him as a freshman or sophomore, wondering how hard he was going to compete or how hard he would work, he’s a kid who has probably made the biggest turnaround from my perspective of him," Jackson said. "I had him wrong. I didn’t know how bad he really wanted it, and I watch him now and he competes as hard as any goalie I’ve ever coached."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

Irish senior goaltender Jordan Pearce snags a save during Notre Dame’s 5-0 victory over Nebraska-Omaha last Friday in the CCHA quarterfinals at the Joe Center.

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But as Lawson said, Pearce’s future is in the NFL.

With a 3.816 grade point average and a spot in Notre Dame’s Academic Honors Program, the anthropology and pre-med double major has already begun to interview for medical school.

"I wanted to pursue med school so that option would be there if I wanted to go that route," Pearce said. "We’ll see if the hockey offers come my way. I’d love to go play hockey, and you only get one chance to pursue a dream to play professional hockey. If the opportunity comes, I’d be excited to play it."

Growing up in Anchorage, Alaska, Pearce’s parents instilled in him a staunch commitment to academics, and that has stuck with him at Notre Dame, he said.

"I always have to have that safety net," Pearce said. "Academics was always the top priority in my life. I’ve learned over the years that you don’t have to sacrifice your athletic performance or your attitude just to accomplish good things in the academic world. You can do both, you just have to be dedicated and know how to manage your time."

Easier said than done, but Pearce has got it under control. But that’s no surprise to those of us who know him.

The kid’s got probably smarter than all of us, and he’s the No. 1 goalie here at Notre Dame," Lawson said. "The kid’s got as full a plate as you can get here, and he just goes about his business quietly, I’m just glad I don’t have his schedule."

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"It’s just his nature, and that demeanor is what makes him even better. That low-key attitude that I was looking at as a negative was actually a positive, because it’s a great trait in a goalie to be emotion- ally under control."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu
Irish to take on Northern Michigan in Detroit

Notre Dame swept red-hot Wildcats in four-game season series

By DAN MURPHY
Senior Staff Writer

Irish coach Jeff Jackson compared winning the CCHA championship to his version of a Stanley Cup.

"It's a big event for our conference," he said. "I'm always surprised in basketball the conference championship to his version of a Stanley Cup.

"Let's face facts, we're playing maybe the hottest team in the country right now," Jackson said. "To win two games down in Miami is quite an accomplishment."

Northern Michigan, which finished in sixth place in the regular season standings, upset Miami (Ohio) in dramatic fashion last weekend to make the semifinals for the second straight year. After dropping the first game in the best of three series, the Wildcats (16-16-5, 11-12-3-3) needed overtime to keep their postseason alive Saturday night and force a Game 3. On Sunday they completed the upset on the road with an impressive 3-1 victory.

"That weekend was probably a little bit of a fluke for them or for us. It was Friday the 13th and that game was just wacky," Jackson said.

In his nine games since then, Northern Michigan junior goalie Brian Stewart has only given up 19 goals. Stewart caught fire against Miami last weekend leading his team to victory with a 4-1 save performance in the third game.

"At this time of the year everyone we are going to face will have a good goaltender, but Stewart has been a big reason why they have done so well," Jackson said.

Notre Dame was able to put up four quick goals on Stewart in its 9-5 win last month and will take a similar strategy this weekend.

"Stewart is a really big guy and when he's hot, he's hot. If we get to him early I think that can be our best bet to try and frustrate him," junior wing Ryan Thang said. "Usually in these games whoever has the better goalie ends up winning the game."

If that's the case, the Irish can have plenty of confidence heading into the weekend. Senior netminder Jordan Pearce has held opponents to one goal in his past five games.

Pearce pitched back-to-back shutouts last weekend in the team's series with Nebraska-Omaha.

"I feel pretty confident out there and I'm seeing the puck pretty well," Pearce said. "It's very much a team effort, though.

Pearce is one of the nominees for the CCHA Player of the Year award which will be given out this weekend. He said that he expected Friday's contest to be much lower scoring than the last times the two teams met.

"We kind of took it to them last time. It was Friday the 13th and when he's hot, he's hot. If that's the case, the Irish can have plenty of confidence heading into the weekend. Senior netminder Jordan Pearce has held opponents to one goal in his past five games."

"I would like to play Michigan because it's always a heated battle against them, but both teams are playing really well right now so it should be an interesting tournament."

Ryan Thang
Irish junior

Irish sophomore center Ben Ryan tries to squeeze past Northern Michigan defenseman Derek May.

"Let's face facts, we're playing maybe the hottest team in the country right now." Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

Note: The Casual Observer at observersportsblog.wordpress.com for live updates throughout the weekend as Matt Gamber, Dan Murphy and Sam Werner cover all the action from Joe Louis Arena.

Can't make it to Detroit for the games?

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Irish senior center Christian Hanson sends a shot toward the Joyce Center Saturday night.

Irish senior center Christian Hanson sends a shot toward the Nebraska-Omaha net during last Friday's 5-0 Notre Dame win.

Irish sophomore center Ben Ryan tries to squeeze past Northern Michigan defenseman Derek May.
Hummel rebounds Purdue's way to victory over Northern Iowa; Thornton leads LSU to victory over Butler

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record and enabled Memphis
mates would ever expect me to
Tigers came from behind to beat
school history.

Hummel rebounds Purdue's way to victory over Northern Iowa

Associated Press

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Memphis Sallie evades Matadors' upset bid

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Role Models’ DVD on Best Behavior

By CAITLIN FERRARO
Scene Writer

"Role Models" showcases the comedic talents of relative newcomers Christopher Mintz-Plasse (also known as McLovin’) as Augie and the outrageous Bobb’ e J. Thompson, as Ronnie, while simultaneously reminding us that Sean William Scott can play more than just Stifler (“American Pie”). Scott’s womanizing, hard-partying character McLovin’ as Angie and the outra­

Role Models DVD

Director: David Wain
Starring: Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Bobb’ e J. Thompson, Sean William Scott, Paul Rudd, Elizabeth Banks


The best segment of the bonus features had to be the section entitled "Game On: Creating a Role Playing World," in which the actors and crew discuss creating their own role-playing game. It is absolutely hilarious witnessing how they adapted Live Action Role Playing, a real thing, into the film’s ver­

Dining Hall Dish

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Assistant Scene Editor

St. Patrick’s Day has come and gone, but I’m sure much of the Notre Dame student body is still recovering. What do you need after a long day and night of celebrating our Irish heritage? Some good food. Hopefully these recipes might help settle your stom­

Chicken and Blue Cheese Pita

This recipe has plenty of good strong flavors to it. Don’t be afraid to layer on that blue cheese, it’s what makes it sing. You can try adding other vegetables, like red onion, to your taste as well.

1. Pick up a chicken breast sauce. 2. Stick raisins into peanut butter and raisins.

3. Fill a bowl with a dab of ranch dressing, a good amount of hot sauce and closed were these tasty bites.

5. You the chicken, toma­
	oes and lettuce with the sauce.

6. Heat the bowl in the microwave until the cheese melts and you can mix it into a sauce.

7. Spread peanut butter onto the celery.

Quick Tip
Remember to mix up not only your meal, but your drink too. Alice Ciocia submitted this drink mixture, which she named Grapealadite. Simply mix lemonade with a little bit of grape juice and Sprite.

Have your own dining hall recipe? We would love to feature it! E-mail mfordice@nd.edu.

Congratulations, you’re stupid in three...two...one that doesn’t mean large. It’s also the only one that’s Italian. Congratulations, you’re stupid in three...two...one that doesn’t mean large. It’s also the only one that’s Italian.

Contact Caitlin Ferraro at cfferraro@nd.edu.

S THE OBSERVER ZINE

Friday, March 20, 2009

page 15
Source: Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Pat Summitt says her freshman-laden squad has finally started to get it. You can't win just because Tennessee is on the front of your jersey.

And the light may have come on just in time as the young Lady Volunteers begin the trek to keep the program's unblemished streak of reaching the regional semifinals alive. Now all Summitt has to do is keep the light on.

"I think it finally, hopefully, might have sunk in for them, in terms of what they have to do to be successful," Summitt said. "You just don't show up and play." Things seemed to click for the Lady Vols (22-10) when they watched their first NCAA selection show on Monday night, drawing a No. 5 seed and No. 12 Ball State as the first round opponent.

"They were treated to a broadcast that included clips of other teams' success against them and talk of Tennessee's "off season." Since then Summitt has been fairly pleased with her players' attitudes and focus in practice. But with seven freshmen, two sophomores and only one senior, she knows there's still plenty that could go wrong.

"I could sit here and drive myself nuts about how are we going to respond and who's important is that we bring a calmness and direct approach to how we want to do things," she said.

The Hall of Fame coach with eight national titles on her resume — including the last two — has been reminding the Lady Vols to take everything one possession at a time, one opponent at a time. Because of its inconsistencies, Tennessee has not been able to handle the best effort it always gets from every team it plays. "It's even magnified when you go into the tournament because it's even a one and done, you win or go home," Summitt said.

The coach also doesn't want her players thinking a Final Four bid is impossible. Tennessee took 10 losses into the 1997 NCAA tournament and ended up winning the whole thing. Summitt said she plans on showing a highlight video called "Cinderella" for fans after that season was over to the Lady Vols on their bus ride to the first and second round site in Bowling Green, Ky.

Around the Dial

NCAA Basketball

Dayton vs. West Virginia
3:00 p.m., CBS

NBA

Boston Celtics vs. San Antonio Spurs
8:30 p.m., NBA TV

Women's Basketball

Tennessee coach Pat Summitt talks to Briana Brewer (1) and Alex Fuller (2) during an NCAA basketball game against Mississippi State on Feb. 22 in Knoxville, Tenn. The Lady Vols won 82-68.

Young Lady Vols begin to mature

IN BRIEF

Stallworth hits and kills pedestrian with car

TRENTON, N.J. — Days after breaking the NHL victory record, Devils goalie Martin Brodeur was driving drunk when he struck and killed a pedestrian, according to published and broadcast reports Thursday.

WSVN-TV reported Thursday that unnamed sources of the investigation said Stallworth's blood-alcohol level was between .08 and .16. The legal limit is .08. The Miami Herald also cited an unnamed source as saying that Stallworth's blood-alcohol level was above the legal limit.

The Miami Beach Police Department refused to confirm the reports. Ed Griffith, spokesman for Miami-Dade County Prosecutor Katherine Fernandez Rundle, would say only that the investigation is focusing on whether alcohol was a factor in the death of 59-year-old Mario Reyes.

Miguel Tejada may avoid prison time

WASHINGTON — Federal prosecutor Jeffrey Taylor said in a memo, to Federal Magistrate Judge Alan Kay that Tejada deserves probation and no prison time for misleading Congress about the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

U.S. attorney Jeffrey Taylor said in a memo to Federal Magistrate Judge Alan Kay that Tejada deserves that probation and no prison time for misleading Congress about the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Brodeur to pay alimony until 2020

TRENTON, N.J. — Days after breaking the NHL victory record, Devils goalie Martin Brodeur was deal an alimony setback by a New Jersey appeals court.

The ruling Thursday came after Brodeur appealed a lower court ruling that ordered him to pay his former wife $500,000 a year for the care of their five children.

The court ruled that Brodeur must pay his former wife $500,000 a year for the care of their five children. The court ruled that Brodeur must pay his former wife $500,000 a year for the care of their five children. The ruling Thursday came after Brodeur appealed a lower court ruling that ordered him to pay his former wife $500,000 a year for the care of their five children.

He said, "here, the parties always agreed that losin, plaintiff would serve as the full-time caretaker of the children," the court wrote.
Irish face tough teams in Texas

By ALEX WEST
Sports Writer

The Irish return to the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational in Austin, Texas, for the third consecutive year, ready to compete against several top opponents. According to their coach, however, their toughest competition will come from themselves.

The field of 17 teams will match the Irish up against some of the top competition in the country. The competing teams include Duke, ranked No. 9, and top-ranked Arizona.

After last week's disappointing 12th place finish at the LSU Cleveland Classic, the Irish hope to improve their performance in the three-day tournament this weekend.

Coach Susan Holt thinks that last week's tournament was, to some extent, a wake up call. "We didn't get beat last week, we just beat ourselves," Holt said. "We look great [at practice]. We need to continue to play loose when it matters."

Senior captain Lisa Maunu, along with junior Arfhie Brophy, sophomores So-Hyun Park and Katie Conway and freshman Becca Huffer have the confidence of their coach to put last week's disappointing performance behind them. "I just want them to play well and put up the numbers they're capable of shooting," Holt said. Last year, the Irish finished fifth out of 18 teams at the Rawls Invitational.

Huffer led the team at last week's LSU Classic, finishing tied for 16th at one over par. The University of Texas Golf Club will be a tougher challenge than last week's course at the LSU Cleveland Classic. The course is a par-72 and teams will play from 6,324 yards in the three-day event.

Historically, the Irish have not fared well at University of Texas Golf Club, where the Rawls Invitational is held. "The course has gotten the best of us in the past," Holt said. "We haven't put three rounds of solid golf together the last three times."

Contact Alex West at awest@hcc-nd.edu

Notre Dame ready to face pair of SEC foes

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

After a break in its schedule with six days off for the first time since the Indoor National Championships, Notre Dame will make up for the period of rest with two games this weekend, including a trip to Tennessee. The Irish host Vanderbilt Friday at 2 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion, and travel to Knoxville to face Tennessee on Sunday.

The Irish have moved up to the No. 2 ranking in the ITA Top 25, only behind indoor national champion Northwestern. "We are really excited about our number two ranking," said senior Keiley Tefft. "But we know we have a lot of season left and still a lot to prove. Beyond the accolades of the ranking, a tangible benefit does come with the number two slot. "It allows us to host NCAA regionals, which is very beneficial," Tefft said. "But we want much more than that."

The Irish get this ambition largely from following Tefft, who along with with freshmen Kristy Frilling, is ranked No. 3 in the doubles rankings.

"We have learned a lot about each other's games over the last few months," Tefft said of the duo. "Hopefully we can continue to win matches the rest of the season for our team."

The Irish first put these rankings on the line Friday against Vanderbilt. "Vanderbilt is always solid," Tefft said. "They beat us last year so we are looking for revenge." On Sunday, the Irish face No. 12 Tennessee.

"We will probably face the Volunteers outside, which will present a little more of a challenge for us," Tefft said.

Fortunately for the Irish, rising rankings and outdoors experience will aid the team when the Big East tournament comes along, and even more so upon the beginning of the NCAA Tournament.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu
There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A TIME TO WRITE

What is your Story?

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to find, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to break in pieces, and a time to repair.

A time to hate, and a time to love; a time to war, and a time for peace.

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MFA Candidate in Creative Writing

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Men’s Golf

Georgia tourney boasts elite field

Golfers return from spring break only to leave again

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

After a grueling, 4,000 mile spring break road-trip, Notre Dame returns to the links today at the 30th Annual Schenkel E-Z-Go Invite. The Irish are coming off one of the toughest tournaments in collegiate golf. It’s just a great event in so many ways," Kubinski said. "The hospitality and warm, friendly nature of all those involved in it is pretty special."

The tournament field will not be so welcoming. The Schenkel Invitational annually draws one of the toughest pools in collegiate golf, and this year is no different.

No. 9 Florida, No. 14 North Carolina, No. 15 Tennessee, No. 16 South Carolina and No. 18 LSU will all compete for a shot at the tournament title, with the Gamecocks looking to defend last year’s win.

The event begins Friday morning, with 54 holes played over the three days of the tournament.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

SMC Tennis

Belles host nonconference foe ‘Cats

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

Junior Doug Fortner tees off in the Irish Invitational last April. Fortner leads the Irish into the Annual Schenkel E-Z Go Invite.

Belles host nonconference foe ‘Cats

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s will face tough competition in its final nonconference match of the season, facing Indiana Wesleyan at home Saturday.

The Belles head into the match with a 4-4 record after playing eight matches in Orlando, Fla., over spring break. Saint Mary’s closed the trip with a strong performance in a 9-0 win over Lincoln.

Fortner’s fourth place finish in Laredo, Texas, and the Palmas consecutive top-five finishes at Country Club.

Saint Mary’s will see its way through the venerable tournament, with each event, regardless of over spring break are just a clear indicator, but I started seeing things from our players, individually, that I hadn’t seen from them as college players. Our first two events over spring break are just a continuation. We’re improving with each event, regardless of scores.”

This year’s Schenkel Invitational marks the Irish’s second trip to Statesboro for the venerable tournament, and Kubinski stated that it’s one of the events he will look forward to every year. “The Schenkel [Invitational] is one of the oldest tournaments in college golf. It’s just a great event in so many ways,” Kubinski said. "The hospitality and warm, friendly nature of all those involved in it is pretty special.”

The event begins Friday morning, with 54 holes played over the three days of the tournament.

Contact Nathaniel Lee at nlee5@nd.edu

The Observer • SPORTS
Friday, March 20, 2009

March 28th, 2009 - Jordan Hall of Science

Symposium
2:00 - 4:00 PM
Room 105 - Free

Info Hour
4:00 - 5:00 PM
Galleria - Free

Banquet
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Galleria - Ticketed

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**ND SOFTBALL**

**ND will play two with Saint John's**

By MOLLY SAMMON

Sports Writer

Notre Dame will play their first conference games of the season Sunday, playing a doubleheader against St. John's at Melissa Cook Stadium.

The Irish are coming off two strong wins against the University of Toledo, which coach Deanna Gumpf said they hope to build on against the Red Storm.

"It's important to carry our level of play forward and keep our momentum going," Gumpf said. "They expected to win yesterday and they played it."

The Red Storm enters with a record of 8-9, with quality wins against Georgetown, Bucknell and the University of Wisconsin.

"St. John's is a good team, and they have a strong pitching staff who keeps them in the ball games," Gumpf said.

While Notre Dame appears to be a stronger team heading into the matchup, Gumpf said the team would not be looking past the Red Storm.

"We try to treat every game the same, no matter if we are playing the number one team in the country or the worst team in the country," Gumpf said. "We try to keep the focus on what we can do to win the ball game."

By switching up their practice routine, the girls are staying relaxed and focused in preparation for Sunday's games.

"Today we are hitting to stay loose and in a rhythm," Gumpf said. "The next few days we will work on more game-like situations."

In all areas of the game, Gumpf believes her team is very prepared.

Our pitchers have the ability to keep us in any and all ball games, our offense has the ability to play clean, errorless ball, and our hitters have the ability to hit for power and manufacture runs," Gumpf said.

This doubleheader against St. John's begins the team's conference play and is the first step towards a possible Big East Championship.

"I think our team is confident and believes we can win the Big East title," Gumpf said. "They know we have prepared by playing five of the top ten teams in the country and beating one of them."

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

**Men's Tennis**

**Irish move on in Classic**

By KATE GRABAREK

Sports Writer

The No. 25 Irish were able to advance Thursday at the Blue Grass Classic, defeating Mississippi State by a score of 4-2 in Montgomery, Ala. Notre Dame will now face Boise State today at 2:30 p.m.

The field is very diverse geographically," head coach Bobby Bayliss said. "We opened with Mississippi State who beat No. 20 Auburn last week. There are no easy matches and we will be challenged every match we play."

The No. 21 ranked doubles team of senior Brett Helgeson and sophomore Tyler Davis were able to defeat junior Christopher Drexler and sophomore Tanner Stump by a score of 8-5 to earn the Irish's only doubles win against the Bulldogs in start the match Thursday. Sophomore Stephen Havens and freshman Casey Watt lost a hard-fought battle against freshmen Louis Cant and Armin Blushin by a score of 9-8.

Watt is coming off of a strong showing at the Pacific Coast

By NATHANIEL LEE

Sports Writer

In the midst of a five game homestand and a six game winning streak, Notre Dame hopes to keep its success going Sunday against California at the Loftus Center.

The No. 11 Irish, fresh off of a dominating victory over Big East opponent Rutgers, are 7-1 on the season, with their only loss coming to No. 1 Northwestern.

"Our defense has been improving and helping out a lot on offense," head coach Tracy Coyne said. "We have been stressing how to make plays, and especially causing turnovers that lead to offensive opportunities."

The Golden Bears journey to South Bend with a 4-5 record, although the team has performed better on the road, going 1-1 than at home (2-4). California has never beaten Notre Dame in doubles tournament with senior Santiago Montoya.

"Because of a couple of minor injuries we were not able to play all of our regular combinations, but Santiago Montoya and Casey Watt reached the consolation finals and looked pretty good together," Bayliss said. "They brought interesting chemistry to the table — Santiago's touch and feel at the net coupled with Casey's ability to dominate an serve returns and from the back of the court."

Sophomore Matt Johnson and freshman Niall Fitzgerald fell to sophomores Anthony Lister and senior Ryan Farlow at No. 3 doubles.

However, the Irish were able to turn things around and earn the victory with their singles lineup. The No. 21 Helgeson was able to defeat Farlow 6-4, 6-7 (10-0) for the Irish's first singles point of the match.

Watt was able to earn his second victory of the day defeated Lister in three sets at third singles, and sophomore Dan Stahl was able to defeat Cant in straight sets by a score of 7-5, 6-3.

Women's Lacrosse

**Team risks streak against Cal**

By KATE GRABAREK

Sports Writer

While Notre Dame appears to be on a tear, the Golden Bears journey to South Bend after tough losses to Oregon and Stanford on their spring break road trip.

This season, the team turned in an impressive performance against California, defeating the Golden Bears 17-16 in the Rose Bowl after tough losses to Oregon and Stanford on their spring break road trip.

"Our goal was to go undefeated despite playing fourteen in eleven days," Coyne said.

"Our defense has been improving and helping out a lot on offense." Tracy Coyne

Irish coach

Gina Sciocchia, who tallied six assists in the victory against Boise State, leads the Irish into the National Championship.

"Our goal was to go undefeated despite playing fourteen in eleven days," Coyne said.

"We felt really good about how we performed on the spring break trip, especially since our goal was to go undefeated despite playing four games in 11 days," Coyne said.

"We feel good as a team right now, people are really setting into their roles effectively."

Contact Nathaniel Lee at nlee5@nd.edu

**FUTURE DATES**

**NCAALACROSSE**

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#7 Notre Dame vs. #10 Minnesota @ 2:30 PM

FIRST 100 ND, HCC & SMC STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION!
**Maryland upsets Cal to face Memphis next**

**Associated Press**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Maryland didn’t force a lot of turnovers, didn’t block a bunch of shots, didn’t even create a lot of different looks.

What the Terps did to California was much more subtle: They disrupted the Bears’ rhythm.

It just didn’t sound like much, but against a streak-shooting team like Cal it can make all the difference.

Graves Vasquez provided the offense with 27 points and Maryland used its press to shut down the nation’s best 3-point shooting team, rolling to an 84-71 victory over Cal in the first round of the West Regional on Thursday.

"I don’t truthfully know if Maryland did anything different than other teams did, but they got us out of our rhythm a little bit," Cal coach Mike Montgomery said. "Maybe that’s a consequence of their press, but we never seemed to get in any sort of rhythm. It’s very difficult for us to compete against a good team without shooting the ball well.

The problem for Cal was Maryland’s pressure. The Terps like to run a full court press off made shots and Cal was shaky against it early. But turnovers weren’t what hurt the Bears — they had just 14. Cal just couldn’t get comfortable.

Randle misfired on the first 3-pointer of the game and the Bears kept missing, finishing 3-for-13 in the first half. Christopher and Robertson hit consecutive 3s early in the second half to keep Cal close, but the misses started again and Maryland pulled away.

"If we’re not shooting the ball well, we struggle, which was clearly the case tonight," Montgomery said.

The game’s marquee matchup was supposed to be between Vasquez and Randle. They lived up to the billing — at least in the first half.

Vasquez was his usual crafty self, missing in off-balanced jumpers against good defense and flipping up quick shots over taller defenders inside. The "Venezuelan Sensation" had 11 points at halftime, helping Maryland to a three-point lead despite hitting 12-of-32 from the floor.

Randle, the smallest player on the court at 5-foot-10, was the third-best 3-point shooter in the country during the regular season. The Terps extended their defense to stop him, so Randle went around them, using a lightning-quick crossover to get in the lane for a variety of scoop shots and layups.

Maryland paid more attention to Randle in the second half, keeping Cal’s leading scorer from darting inside while staying with him on the perimeter. Randle took one shot in the first 12 minutes and finished 2-for-3 from the floor in the second half.

Vasquez never let up, sifting his way through Maryland’s defense.

He took the ball from Vasquez and scored on a layup to cap a 12-2 spurt that put the Terps up 63-53, then scored on a three-point play after Adrian Bowie tracked down his own missed free throw and flipped a pass over his shoulder — while on top of a Cal defender.

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The difference could lie in the team's ability to play consistent defense. The Pirates have been ERA right near 4.3 runs per game and have a team match-up appears fairly even.

"Two wins this weekend" gave us some good momentum going into this weekend," Schrage said.

Dave Schrage
Irish coach

"It gave us some good momentum going into this big day," Schrage continued to fiddle with his lineup, and has used 16 different batting orders in 17 games. Sophomore left fielder Golden Tate has established himself as a fixture at the top of the lineup, however, and has a .368 batting average to show for it thus far. Tate is the key component in getting the offense going early — and when the score first, they are 9-1 the season.

The Pirates are more of a station-to-station team than the Irish, but when Seton Hall runs, it does so effectively. The Pirates have been successful on 18 of their 21 stolen base attempts this season. But Irish sophomore catcher Cameron McGonell has thrown out eight would-be base stealers this year, after he and former fellow backstop Sean Gaston combined to throw out just six a year ago.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

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| PIERCE, CELTICS CLINCH ATLANTIC TITLE |
| BOSTON — The only All-Star healthy enough to play made the difference. Paul Pierce scored 36 points without Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen to share the lead, Dwyane Wade missed his first game of the season, and the Boston Celtics clinched the Atlantic Division title with a 112-108 overtime victory over the Miami Heat on Wednesday night. "If we had Paul and they didn't have Wade," Boston coach Doc Rivers said.

Wade missed the game with a right hip flexor, and the Heat missed his NBA-best 29-point-scoring average.

"We're a team," Miami Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We never really play together. We have players get back for the play-offs and a run at defending their NBA championship."

The division title "really doesn't mean anything to the Boston Celtics," Pierce said. "They don't put that banner up, but we have their back, and Def living up to that banner up, and here it really doesn't mean a thing.

Boston improved to 51-18.

Second-place Philadelphia can win no more than 51 and the Celtics have won the season series.

Rajon Rondo had 27 for Boston, Miami, in its third overtime game in its last five, got 19 points from Mario Chalmers and 17 from Jermaine O'Neal.

The Heat did not say how long Garnett was out, but he was not ruled out of games Friday night at New Jersey and Sunday against Detroit.

"If we had Paul," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said, "basically doing the things that Dwyane normally does."

But Heat hit one free throw and Pierce went two for two before Beasley's basket ended the scoring. Boston went 3-6-for in overtime while Miami was just 3-ot-13.

"We know that we are injured," Pierce said after Boston's second win in six games, "but just to get back on the winning mind-frame is big for us." With all their injuries, the Celtics relied on Pierce even more than they usually do.

Pierce went 14-for-23 from the field and had 12 points in the first half.

"He was scoring on every one of our matchups," Spoelstra said.

In its previous four games, Miami beat Chicago in double overtime, Boston in regulation and Utah in triple overtime before losing at Philadelphia on Saturday.

Boston had a chance to win in regulation Wednesday, but Pierce's 18-footer from the left missed as the buzzer sounded.

The lead changed hands 11 times in the fourth quarter when the biggest edge was just three points by Miami.

Bostian led 34-21 after one quarter, but Miami opened the second period with a 10-2 run that cut the margin to 36-31.
The Observer • SPORTS
Friday, March 20, 2009

Day One
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believes his players will have
to keep their nerves intact if
they hope to claim a title.
"There's tension because it's
a big, upscale event and our
kids were a little bit nervous," Bednarski said. "Coming as the
No. 1 in the polls didn't help to build our confidence because
for some of them it's the first or second time being in
such a big event, so they don't know how to handle the
leader position."

Despite the big stage, the
men still turned in an impres­
sive performance against a
much more experienced field
of competition.

Leading the way for the Irish in the sabre was sopho­
more Avery Zuck, who
notched 10 wins on the day
and finished in sixth place for
the individual sabre rankings.
Teammate Barron Nydam fin­
dished in 13th with seven vic­
tories after losing to Zuck 3-5.

As part of the NCAA regu­
lations, each fencer is matched
up against a teammate to
start the day.
"The first bout against
mates is a mental hassle because
they are friends and suddenly they have to fence
against each other," Bednarski said. "I think that
it is something that maybe in
the future, and let's hope
this good future starts tomorrow."

Contact Chris Masoud at
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ND Women's Swimming

Stitt, Maxwell and
Miller go to NCAA's

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

Junior diver Natalie Stitt and sophomore Samanth­a
Maxwell began competing Thursday at the NCAA Swimming
and Diving Championships at Texas A&M,
which runs through Sunday.

Stitt, Big East Diver of the Year, placed sixth at her
NCAA Zone diving champion­
sip last week to earn a
ticket to the NCAA champi­
onship finals, joining sopho­
more teammates Amywren
Miller, who will compete in
the 50 free, and Maxwell, who
earned a spot in the 200 breast.

Miller swam the 50 free
Thursday in the preliminaries in 25.47, placing her at 26th
overall. She was unable to
advance to the finals, and
did her best to finish her season
with a strong performance in
a tough field.

"Twenty-sixth in the country is
good; this meet is so selec­
tive, each fencer is matched
to an opponent," said Max­well. "I got some nerves out, and
tomorrow I just need to have
hard to build on my mom en­
tum from this season to the
next."

Miller expressed similar
sentiments on her perform­
ance.
"I think that something that was
thought I could have done better, but
my time was faster than at
this meet last year, so I can't
complain."

Stitt also performed for
the Irish Thursday, earning a
score of 245.30 in her 1-meter
dive, enough to place 32nd in
the nation, but also short of the finals. Today she
will compete in the 3-meter
event.

"I was a little intimidated since there are a ton of amaz­
ing divers here, even
Olympians," Stitt said. "Today
I got some nerves out, and
tomorrow I just need to have
confidence in my dives. Seeing
all these great girls makes
you want to be like them, so
I will have to keep working
hard to build on my mom en­
tum from this season to the
next."

Maxwell also seemed
impressed with Stitt's first
dive at the national collegiate
level.
"Natalie is a very good diver,
and she is experimenting this
level for the first time," Barnes said. "She will gain
experience from today and I
think perform better on the
third.

Maxwell will take to the
pool for the 200 breast on
Saturday as the last Irish
swimmer at the competition.

"Coming out for a second
round should really help me
have a good feel for the
competition," stated Maxwell. "We
have been building up to
this all season, so my goal is
just to set a good time to build
upon and come back here
again next season."

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Friday, March 20, 2009

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DEAR NOEL

with special guest
guards that can shoot the 3 ball and play defense simultaneously. Junior guard Katie Ohm leads the team in 3-point percentage, hitting 39.3 percent of her 3s. Irish sophomore forward Natalie Achonwa said getting down on the court in a hurry will help the 3-point defense.

"Getting back in transition [is] really going to be the thing they can stop and pop from the 3-point line," she said. This transition defense will be needed to clog passing lanes and stop Fox and junior guard Brittany McGow, both of whom have more than 100 assists.

"You really got to find them in transition. They get a lot looking for each other," McGraw said. "We haven't completed our game plan yet, but we hope to put some pressure defensively on them so we can hopefully take away some of the passing lanes."

The Irish are playing at home, an unnatural phenomenon when playing in a high-stakes tournament game. But the players aren't worried — in fact, they like it.

"The normality of it is going to be kind of nice," Novosel said.

Brushowski said playing at home won't create a laid-back atmosphere. Instead, it intensifies the need to win.

"That's why you go out there and want to win so bad, because you don't want to lose at home," she said. "Championshiping that atmosphere," McGraw said, "is senior guard Lindsay Schrader, who's ramped up her intensity after the conference tournament.

In the 5-foot-11 Jackson. "... He jumped at the same time as the Irish, so he hung longer and was able to get a shot off."

Jackson's shot fell through the hoop, but with 2.1 seconds left, it was the first lead of the first half. The Irish, after all, had never heard of the play, and had never seen it before.

"I'm sure part of the dynamic of it is going to be how much you know, how much you can do," Jackson said. "That's why you go out there and want to win so bad, because you don't want to lose at home."

"I never thought we could be this deep in the tournament," Jackson said. "I never thought we could win the battle of the boards, because I think we can win the battle of the boards," she said.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Jackson continued from page 28

"We tried to get a good shot, just anybody that was open," Jackson said. "We had seven seconds on the clock and I could beat [my man]. And it happened and I'm still shocked.

Hillesland said of the 5-foot-11 Jackson. ... He jumped at the same time as the Irish, so he hung longer and was able to get a shot off."

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Vermont continued from page 28

weeks. Despite the wins, Corrigan said he was unhappy with his team's offensive effi­ cacy. "In the first half of the week, the team had been focusing on the little things neces­sary to get a shot in the net."

"We're cutting back on what we did in the first half," he said. "We can do some things very well and then fall back on it."

Corrigan said the Catamounts can be a bit of the same with 12 points under par over the last two games.

"Our guys are certainly conditioned well enough to handle three games in ten days," Kevin Corrigan Irish coach

more attack Derek Lichfuss. The trio has combined for 45 points so far this season. They're a team that's very strong at both ends of the field," Corrigan said.

The game against Vermont begins a brutal stretch of three games in 10 days for the Irish. After the Catamounts, Notre Dame will take on conference foe Bellarmine Wednesday and Villanova next Saturday. Corrigan said the team would play it by ear as far as managing his team's schedule.

"We'll see where we are on Sunday coming out of this game," he said. "And then we'll juggle our schedule and our workload accordingly."

One thing he said he wasn't worried about, though, was team fatigue.

"Our guys are certainly conditioned well enough to handle three games in ten days," Corrigan said.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu
Across
1  Activity involving a needle
2  Big draw of stocks
10 Expression of praise
15 Household help?
16 Flavor of Calvados brandy
17 Wine?
18 Usually high
22 What something that picked up
23 Gallimaufry
25 Ode getting
27 Even's counterpart
28 It's hard to penetrate
29 "Desperate" Housewives housewife
30 "Paint" walker

Down
1 Peace
2 Thick-skinned
tuit
3 Debitable
4 "The Simpsons" bully
5 Salt of the earth
6 Choosing
7 Method
8 Oval of Krypton in the
Superman saga
9 Fort
10 Medriss...del Prado
11 Useful piece of code, briefly
12 Sense kick-off
13 1865 A.L. batting champ
14 Gastrous
15 Part of N.Y.C.
16 Bogush
17 City liberalized
during the battles of
Krusk
18 Hypotheticals
19 Womb
20 Light-up toy
21 Victoria Falls

WILL SHORTZ

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
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THAT'S WHAT HE MAINTAINED
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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Part of a two-part clue suggesting by the above cartoon.

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Familiar setting for Irish in first round against Minnesota

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Struggles on defense have been a malaise that afflicted Notre Dame all season. But Irish coach Muffet McGraw may have a solution.

"Something new, we're going to actually try to guard them this time," she said glibly. "We've been working on that for a couple days." She jests, but according to her players, who are preparing for No. 7-seed Notre Dame's matchup against No. 10-seed Minnesota in the first round of the NCAA Tournament at the Joyce Center Sunday, she's not joking about defensive improvements.

"Every little thing, if we don't box out, if we don't contain the ball, then we have to run for it," freshman guard Natalie Novosel said.

The Irish (22-8) and the Gophers (19-11) have met once before in the NCAA Tournament, in 1994. As a seven-seed, the Gophers were the No. 10 seed. At the Joyce Center. In the first round.

Senior midfielder Davey Melera guards a Dartmouth player in Notre Dame's 19-7 win over the Big Green on Feb. 28.

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Senior midfielder Davey Melera guards a Dartmouth player in Notre Dame's 19-7 win over the Big Green on Feb. 28.

The Gophers lost four of their last five games, but that doesn't alleviate McGraw's worries. Minnesota's dual-threat offense will present a challenge to Notre Dame's defense, McGraw said.

"You play zone, maybe they get some threes," McGraw said. "You play man-to-man and they get isolation on the block." Senior guard Emily Fox leads the Gophers in scoring, averaging 12.8 points per game. Junior forward Ashley Ellis-Milan averages 11.9 points and 7.3 rebounds per game.

"They have a great inside-outside game," McGraw said. "They have a post player who's very hard to guard and they've got three or four...

see NCAA/page 26

By FRAN TOLAN
Senior Staff Writer

In what may have been Notre Dame's final home game of the season, Irish point guard Tory Jackson gave fans a play they won't soon forget.

After catching an inbound pass with 7.9 seconds left, Jackson took the ball coast-to-coast for a contested layup in traffic to give the Irish a 70-68 win over New Mexico Thursday in the second round of the NIT.

Gary drained two free throws in the second round of the NIT. Notre Dame players mob point guard Tory Jackson after the Irish's 70-68 win over New Mexico at the Joyce Center on Thursday. The Irish advanced to the NIT quarterfinals with the win.

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"They have a great inside-outside game," McGraw said. "They have a post player who's very hard to guard and they've got three or four...

see NCAA/page 26

Fencers third at NCAA's

By CHRIS MASOD
Sports Writer

With day one of the NCAA Fencing Championship in the books, the Irish find themselves staring down a tough road to their first fencing title since 2000.

Racking up 47 points through four rounds, Notre Dame still trails national champion Ohio State by nine and regular season favorite Penn State by 14.

The talented fighters have shown maturity well beyond their years all season, but head coach Janusz Bednarski said. "You've got to protect your home turf and win your games at home if you want to win the league," Irish coach Dave Schrager said. "Every...