Bishop, White House issue responses

D’Arcy refuses to attend Commencement, believes University chose “prestige over truth”

By JENN METZ
News Writer

Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D’Arcy and the White House released statements Tuesday regarding the controversy over the announcement that President Barack Obama will be the 2009 Commencement speaker.

D’Arcy, who has been openly critical of the University in the past, announced in his statement he will not attend the 2009 Commencement.

D’Arcy wrote in the statement, which is posted on the diocese’ s Web site, that he was made aware the president accepted the invitation to speak to the class of 2009 and receive an honorary degree by University President Fr. John Jenkins on March 20, shortly before news was made public at a White House press briefing by Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

D’Arcy challenged the University, as a Catholic institution, to question whether or not “by this decision it has chosen prestige over truth.”

The bishop’s statement is reflective of the response of some members of the national Catholic community, citing Obama’s stance on issues relating to the protection of life as a reason for his decision to not attend the 2009 graduation, which will be

BY JENN METZ
News Writer

Lewis Hall decreases water use

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Writer

Lewis Hall environmental commissioners Caitlin Foster and Melissa Vondriska placed timers to track the amount water use in each of the dorm’s showers on Monday, marking the beginning of a water conservation competition between each section of the dorm.

“I am really concerned with water conservation and I wanted to spread this awareness around the dorm and thought this was a good, fun way,” Vondriska said.

The commissioners installed a hourglass timer in every shower, Foster said. The timers measure five-minute intervals, which encourages residents to finish their showers before the hourglass runs out.

They turned the use of the timers into a competition between the sections to increase incentive for water conservation, Vondriska said.

“We’re asking the girls to keep track of how many showers under five minutes they take and record them on sheets outside the bathroom,” she said.

At the end of the three-week competition, Vondriska said the section with the most five-minute showers would win a prize.

“We don’t have a way to monitor actual water saved, but we would like people to be aware of how long their showers are and cut down on the water they use,” Vondriska said.

Foster said Lewis’ Resident, Linda Cirillo, supported the commission.

Student performs Irish music for President

Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band invited to play bagpipes at White House on St. Patrick’s Day

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

William McTighe, a freshman and a member of the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band — based in Chicago — invited, along with eight of his fellow band members, by President Barack Obama to perform at the White House on St. Patrick’s Day last week.

“President Obama was hosting a party at the White House on St. Patrick’s Day and he wanted to put on a display of Irish music and culture,” McTighe said.

College hosts Immigration Monologues

Students, professors tell personal stories, challenges about moving to the United States

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

La Fuerza, a club that celebrates Latinx heritage, presented Immigration Monologues Tuesday as a part of their Action Week activities.

The monologues consisted of five speakers, who discussed their personal stories of moving to the United States. Both professors and students told their stories of immigrating to America.

Luzmila Camacho-Platero, a Spanish professor at the College, talked about her many struggles while living in the United States. She immigrated to America from Spain. Camacho-Platero was a student, and eventually decided to stay. After that decision, she was forced to try to get a work permit.

“I think for the amount of $5,000 dollars I got my working permit,” Camacho-Platero said. Camacho-Platero also discussed the hardships she faced after living away from Spain after many years.

“After almost 17 years in this country, you realize that you are alone here. You might have a group of friends, but you are alone. You are alone for the good moments and the bad moments,” she said.

According to Camacho-Platero, immigrants often do not see WATER/page 8

see MUSICT/page 8

see STORIES/page 9
Graduation input

Dear Father Jenkins,

I would like to commend your decision to accept the President of the United States as this year’s Commencement speaker. It is an honor to the University and to its students, especially those in the Class of 2009. If only I were so lucky.

Now, I know that some people are less than pleased with this choice. They say that some of the President’s opinions differ from theirs, and thus you should rescind the offer immediately.

I struggled with this too, at first. — Sports Writer

The guy’s a Steelers fan, for crying out loud. That’s not something to take lightly.

However, I was raised to respect people for their opinions, not to ostracize them. I can also acknowledge that no matter how hard I cheer on the Browns, it will not make Obama any less of a Steelers fan. But I’m sure that everyone can find some common ground. As I told a friend at church camp a few years ago, she could freely root for the St. Louis Cardinals as long as she threw in a “Go Irish!”

I realize that many of those upset by the President’s upcoming appearance feel that his political actions violate Catholic Social Teaching, and I do understand their concern.

But what about Notre Dame’s last Presidential graduation speaker? The former President Bush spoke here in 2001, an address that I was unable to attend due to the presidential inauguration. Before that, he was Governor of Texas and oversaw the execution of 155 people. How does that go along with Catholic social teaching?

Personally, I would be honored to have George W. Bush as my graduation speaker. I think his speech would be great.

I don’t know this for a fact, but I bet that when the former president spoke here, those currently in an uproar were less outraged and more akin to South Park’s portrayal of tween girls at a Jonas Brothers concert. Please, please, Fr. Jenkins, do not Google that.

Maybe everything doesn’t have to be about perfect Catholicism or even about politics. Maybe our President is a good example of hard work paying off, of breaking barriers, of having a positive impact. Maybe that’s what Commencement should be about.

I have always loved Notre Dame, from the days I toddled around in a cheerleader outfit to the days I got my acceptance letter, took my first theology class and sat in the press box on a football Saturday. Sometimes I just walk around and think about how amazing it is that I actually go here. President Obama obviously recognizes the special place this place plays — he chose us as one of only three colleges at which he will speak.

I respectfully request, Fr. Jenkins, that you do not let the voices of the few deter you from showing the president the same respect he has shown to this institution and all those who love it.

Laura Myers

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Laura Myers at lmyers20@nd.edu.

Question of the Day: What would you “Ask Brenna”? 

Calltin Albany senior Opus

“I’d ask her who’s her publicist?”

Whitney Pricke junior Regina

“Who’s Brenna?”

Cameron Muhlenkamp senior Zahm

“I’ll watch her on WNDU at 5 tonight and get back to you.”

Kelli Minor sophomore Holy Cross

“I’d ask her what’s going on.”

Leah Hall sophomore Holy Cross

“Who the heck are you, Brenna?”

Becky Whitaker senior Opus

“I think I met her last night, right?”

The Notre Dame Handbell Choir practices in Coleman Morse on Tuesday night. The Handbell Choir will hold a concert Monday at the homeless shelter.

Offbeat

Robot model no challenge yet to human rivals

The HRP-4C humanoid robot shown off her stormtrooper-like silver and black frame and moved to a fashion-savvy audience at the start of the annual Japan Fashion Week in Tokyo — but even her creators admit the mechanical model needs more work.

The HRP-4C has battery-powered motors in her body and face, allowing her to imitate the expressions, gait and poses of a supermodel — up to a point.

“Our robot can’t move elegantly like the real models that are here today,” Shuji Kajita, director of humanoid robot engineering at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), told Reuters. “It’ll take another 20 to 30 years of research to make that happen.”

Guard fired after locking inmate in cell

The report said the new guard was locked with the inmate for 20 minutes by a guard who wanted to see what the new hire was made of.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

The view expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Laura Myers at lmyers20@nd.edu.

IN BRIEF

A lecture hosted by the Theology department titled “The Light, the Eye, and their Perception of God, Human Beings and Creation,” will take place Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium of Mendoza College of Business. Nigerian novelist and poet Chizoba Achebe will deliver the Third Biennial Blessed Pope John XXIII Lecture Series in Theology and Culture. The talk today will focus on “Human Beings,” and the talk on Thursday will focus on “Creation.”

A lecture on “Holocaust Denial in the 21st Century: New Forms of Antisemitism” will be given at 7:30 p.m. in McKenna Hall Auditorium today. The speaker is Deborah Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish, and Holocaust Studies from Emory University.

Men Against Violence will be hosting a lecture titled “Tough Guise: Media, Violence and Masculinity” today from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Carey Auditorium of Hesburgh Library. Sudhally will be conducting the lecture.

A symposium on “Change, Hope and Expectation: The Obama Presidency in Global Perspective” will be held with a lecture at 6 p.m. followed by the symposium at 7 p.m. on Thursday in Eck Visitors’ Center auditorium.

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

Corrections

Due to a printing error in the March 23 edition of The Observer, the subtitle on the Chief Executive Assistant should have read student body president. Dori Grant Schmidt. Bob Rash is still student body president. The Observer regrets this error.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Laura Myers at lmyers20@nd.edu.

Local Weather

TODAY

TOMORROW

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

LOCAL WEATHER
Judicial Council leaders present Peer Advocacy Program

By LIZ O’DONNELL
News Writer

Judicial Council president George Chamberlain and vice president Christina Harmon gave a presentation on the Peer Advocacy Program to members of the Council of Representatives (COR) in Monday’s meeting.

The pair presented on the progress that the program has made this year as well as the goals they have for the program next year.

“The Peer Advocacy Program provides discipline advice to students who have been disciplined,” Harmon said.

Chamberlain said his goal for the program this year was to expand it to offer real legal advice available to students. However, this goal was not met due to the unavailability of resources.

Initially, Chamberlain said he looked to the free legal aid clinic at the law school for help, but found the infrastructure there to be inadequate to help students. He also looked to lawyers in the South Bend community to swap legal advice in exchange for advertisement on campus, but the Office of General Counsel prevented this, citing the liabilities it could raise.

There are currently seven peer advocates trained to know the procedures of the Office of Residence Life and Housing (ORLH) and help students dealing with them. They have all undergone strategic training processes with Kathleen Bratneck, the assistant director of Residence Life and Housing.

The advocate’s focus is strictly to prepare students for the disciplinary process. They are only allowed to sit in on hearings.

“We’re not going out defending people. We’re only there for support. The main goal of the program is to be a support system in a healthy, confidential and safe manner,” Harmon said. “Confidentiality is a really important aspect of our program.”

The peer advocates deal with discipline on a number of levels on a case-by-case basis.

Harmon said the program is strictly voluntary and is open to all students who have been disciplined.

In a presentation to the Council, Harmon explained the process students go through to get help from the program. When the ORLH issues a disciplinary letter to a student, a card is issued to the student with contact information for the Judicial Council. The student is then able to contact the members if they wish, Harmon said.

She said the program usually helps out with 20 to 30 cases each year and is hoping to increase those numbers.

“We are looking to expand by an ad campaign. We will make sure it’s effective, implementing it during heavy times of ResLife violations,” Harmon said.

Student body vice president Grant Schmidt asked the pair about the incentive a student has for coming to the Judicial Council for help.

Harmon said students might be more likely to use their peers as a resource rather than someone in ORLH.

“It’s a peer, somebody you’re more comfortable talking to. It is a relaxing process that helps when you’re tense and freaking out,” Harmon said.

Student body president Bob Reish then turned the discussion to what COR can do to improve upon the awareness of the Peer Advocacy Program.

Among suggestions was the idea to address the program during freshman orientation.

“We should think about getting the word out at Freshman Orienation. We’re not going out defending people,” Harmon said.

Kim Kyrouac said.

Reish suggested it might be smart to train one person in every dorm.

“It would be two-fold,” Reish said. “If a person is not comfortable with someone in their dorm they could speak with a trained advocate from another dorm or vice versa.”

Reish said the peer advocacy process is something that will be moved on to next year’s administration to be looked at more closely.

In other COR news:

Eight approvals for new student government positions were made at the meeting. They include Grace Guseman, assistant Student Union treasurer; Sarah Hurtubise, assistant Student Union treasurer; Mallory Davidson, Student Union co-director of programming; Matt McKenna, Student Union co-director of programming; Mary Jo Espinosa, Student Union Board art director; Nicole Sugiyma, Student Union Board director of publicity; Malekem Pheian, Student Union director of operations; and Kim Kyrouac, Student Union Board chief controller. All were approved unanimously.

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Contact Liz O’Donnell at edonnel1@nd.edu

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C L O V E R  V I L L A G E
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NOW LEASING
College sells flowers to benefit cancer

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary’s College will host Daffodil Days, a fundraising campaign, for the American Cancer Society Thursday.

According to the website for the American Cancer Society, “Daffodil Days is one of the American Cancer Society’s oldest and most beloved fundraising programs.”

The fundraising event has taken place each spring for the past 35 years, according to the website.

“We have all the daffodils and vases here on campus this coming Thursday,” Call said. “Flowers will be available for pick-up in the Student Center Atrium on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.”

According to Call, this year the College raised $8,725 from the fundraiser.

Students still need to help unwrap flowers and put them in vases for distribution.

“Saint Mary’s students help with setting up flowers and facilitating the distribution during the day,” Call said.

Students can sign up for a one-hour shift from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday. If students are interested, they can contact OCSE, Call said.

The entire Daffodil Days campaign has raised over $240 million in the past 14 years, according to the American Cancer Society website. The money raised has benefited a variety of programs to help cancer patients cope and heal. Money also benefits cancer research to find the causes and cures for cancer.

According to the website, “As the first flower of spring, the daffodil represents hope and renewal. To the American Cancer Society, the daffodil symbolizes the hope we all share for a future where cancer no longer threatens those we love.”

American Cancer Society Web site

The Observer • NEWS

Researchers look into frog love lives

Special to the Observer

Notre Dame biologist Sunny Boyd’s research is a little like “Match.com” for amphibians. Say you’re a female tree frog looking for a mate — how do you choose among a number of potential suitors?

Boyd, along with two post-doctoral researchers, two graduate students and three undergraduates, goes out into the real world — the real world being UNDERC, the University’s environment research center in Land O’ Lakes, Wis. — and observe what frogs are doing in nature.

“Then we create computer models where we explore what might be causing the behavior,” says Boyd, an associate professor in Notre Dame’s Department of Biological Sciences.

Female frogs prefer males with longer calls — a trait linked to better offspring. But how does she choose?

The lab’s research is investigating two possible strategies. Does she pick the first male that meets the basic criteria, or — in what Boyd calls the “best of” strategy, make comparisons among several males?

Frogs are useful organisms for conducting basic research, says Boyd, because they bear a considerable resemblance to humans — they have the same basic brain areas, and the same basic behaviors.

“Frogs use vocal communications — as do humans, she explains. “Obviously, they fewer words than we do, and their behaviors are simpler. Because their behaviors are simpler, we’re looking at three behaviors instead of a hundred.”

Another area of research looks at the vocal behavior of bullfrogs, something that’s often a critical component of social interaction.

Many behaviors — including vocalization, aggression and reproduction — are influenced by neuropeptides and steroid hormones similar to those found in humans.

“The frog peptide is vasotocin. Humans have a variety called oxytocin. The very same peptide is involved in pair bonding mammals,” Boyd says. “The same chemical is linked to autism.”

An exciting new line of research involves African clawed frogs and a new technique called microarray. The lab is investigating a steroid hormone that’s produced directly in the brain and trying to understand how it works.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Money offered to nuke test victims
PARIS — The French government offered
for the first time Tuesday to compensate vic-
tims of nuclear tests in Algeria and the South
Pacific, bowing to decades of pressure by
people sickened by radiation — and
seeking to soothe France's conscience.
Victims cautiously welcomed the move,
early 50 years after France conducted its first
atomic bomb tests in the South Pacific,
and is only a first step toward healing
wounds left by explosions that sent blinding
white flares cascading over French
Polynesia and the Sahara Desert.
The French government will aside some
$10 million ($13.5 million) for the compensa-
tion. The first year, Mortin said. The U.S.
government, by comparison, has approved
more than $3.8 billion in compensation to
victims of nuclear tests since the enactment of
the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act
in 1990.

Government arrests TV manager
WASHINGTON — A federal judge
ordered the suspension of a top
management in an Afghan tele-
vision network who refused to censor
images of women dancing in short skirts and
plunging necklines was arrested in what appeared
to be a new sign of the government's struggle
to define the role of Islam in a country once
led by extremists.
The government has previously censored
 televis e  images of women. and taken others to court,
but the arrest of Enrume TV's Fahim
Khudmam on Monday was for airing
voorously salacious content, the Afghan
deputy attorney general said Tuesday.
The debate over television in this conserva-
tive Muslim country heated up after U.S-led
forces toppled the Taliban in 2001.

NATIONAL NEWS

City puts non-bias rules to a vote
GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Voters went to the polls
Tuesday in an election that could strip
the local government's anti-discrimination
protections for gay, bisexual, transgender
and non-binary residents.
The fight began after the city commission
last year revised Gainesville's anti-discrimi-
ination ordinance to protect transgender peo-
ple — those who are born one sex but identify
with the other. That allows the city's
approximately 100 transgender residents to
use the public restroom of their choosing,
along with protecting them from job and
housing discrimination.
The charter amendment on Tuesday's bal-
et would void the city's ordinance and the
non-discrimination based on sexual orientation
and gender identity.

Legislature to change state song
AHEM — Lawmakers are thinking it's time to find a way
to scrub "Northern Scour" — and a few other
sensitive pre-Civil War phrases — from the
official state song.
"Maryland, My Maryland," set to the tradi-
tional seasonal tune of "O, Tannenbaum,"
was written in 1861 and adopted as the state
song in 1939. But now some lawmakers are
pushing for a change to the warlike language
in what was originally a poem that shouted as
dual to arms.

LOCAL NEWS

Senate passes unemployment bill
Senate Republican leaders successfully
drafted the compromise bill to benefits to most jobless people to help fix
Indiana's bankrupt unemployment insurance fund
— a showdown with majority Democrats.
The Senate passed a Republican plan on Tuesday
that will divert nearly $10 billion from
unemployment benefits and send it to the House, where Democrats
have some major problems with it.
House Speaker Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, said he would quickly send the bill to a
joint House-Senate conference committee.

JAPAN

First survivor of both atom bombs ID'd

TOKYO — A 93-year-old Japanese
man has become the first person cer-
tified as a survivor of both U.S. atom-
ic bombings at the end of World War II,
officials said Tuesday.
Tetsuom Yamaguchi had already
been listed as a "survivor of both bombs," or
radiation survivor, of the Aug. 9, 1945, bomb
in Hiroshima, but has now been confirmed as sur-
viving the attack on Hiroshima three
years earlier as well, city officials
said.
Yamaguchi was in Hiroshima on a
business trip on Aug. 6, 1945, when
a U.S. B-29 dropped an atomic bomb
on the city. He suffered serious burns
to his upper body and spent the night
in the city. He then returned to his
hometown of Nagasaki just in time for
the second attack, city officials said.
"As far as we know, he is the first
one to be officially recognized as a
survivor of atomic bombings in both
Hiroshima and Nagasaki," Nagasaki
city official Toshihito Miyamoto said.
"It's such an unfortunate case, but it's
possible that there are more people
like him."
Certification qualifies survivors for
government compensation — includ-
ing monthly allowances, free medical
checks and funeral costs — but
Yamaguchi's compensation will not
increase, Miyamoto said.
Yet, Yamaguchi is satisfied that his
record is now a historical fact.
"My double radiation exposure is
now an official government record. It
can tell the younger generation the
terrible history of the atomic
bombings even after I die,"
Yamaguchi was quoted as saying by
the nationwide Mainichi newspaper.
"I am the only country that has
ever suffered atomic bomb attacks.
About 140,000 people were killed
in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki.

Flooding draws Fargo community together

FARGO, N.D. — As the
swelling Red River lapped
within a block of people
were in the street,
Carl Kraemer's proper-
ly resembled nothing so
much as an airborne
mission.

In a well-ordered battle,
four people loaded sandbags,
four others hauled them
to the house and another
person stacked them into a
dike. This is how Fargo
responded to the threat of record flood-
ing. Hundreds of people from all
walks of life have joined forces to shield the communi-
ity from the rising river, rac-
ing to fill 2 million sandbags.
The effort has drawn foot-
ball players, soldiers,
high school students,
even a Microsoft engineer —
all fearful of enduring another
disaster like the devastating floods of
2009 and 2011.

"A friend of mine brought
his neighborhood kids,
and friends of family's
boyfriends and girlfriends," Kraemer
said.

The 1997 floods forced tens
of thousands of people to flee
to farms in North Dakota,
Minnesota and southern
Canada. That year, the costliest and
largest flood evacuations in U.S. history before
Hurricane Katrina. The dis-
est killed 11 people in the
Dakotas and Minnesota
and caused an estimated $4.1 bil-
lion in damage.

This year, the river has been swollen by heavier-
than-average winter snows, combined with an early
freeze last fall that locked a lot of moisture into
the soil. The threat has been made
even worse by spring rains.

The river was expected to
crest in Fargo late Friday. As
water continued to rise,
Fargo and neighboring
Moorhead, Minn., residents' hopes were raised
even higher than last year's
crest about 30 miles upstream.

The 18-inch crest forecast for Wahpeton, N.D., and
its cross-river neighbor, Breckenridge, Minn.,
was well within both cities' flood
protection.
TOUGH GUISE:
Media, VIOLENCE
& Masculinity

Dr. Sut Jhally

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premier scholar on how advertising affects identity construction
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MAV
Men Against Violence
WASHINGTON — A top Democrat in the Senate announced a budget blueprint Tuesday that would scrap President Barack Obama’s signature tax cut in 2010 and boosts spending on domestic programs.

Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., called Spector’s decision a labor violation, an undercover investigation challenge next year from former Wednesday.

Again likely to face a tough Republican primary election with nowhere to turn, “The developments will let Obama’s ‘Making Work Pay’ tax cut of $400 to cuts most workers and $800 to couples will expire at the end of next year. Those tax cuts were included in Obama’s stimulus package.”

But Conrad also makes several shaky assumptions, especially that Congress will raise taxes by more than $114 billion over 2013-14 to make sure middle-class taxpayers won’t pay hit by the alternative minimum tax. He also saves $87 billion by promising Congress will come up with spending cuts or new revenues to avoid cuts in Medicare payments to doctors.

Under Congress’s arcane procedures, the annual congressional budget resolution is a nonbinding measure that sets the terms for follow-up legislation. The congressional budget plan also determines how much money to use for defense programs and domestic programs whose budgets are to be set each year by Congress, and it sets the fiscal priorities of the governing party in Congress.

The House wants to use the filibuster-proof measure to advance Obama’s health care reform initiative, but is against giving him his global warming initiative fast-track consideration.

Obama’s plan to combat global warming would impose higher energy costs on consumers and businesses through a so-called “cap-and-trade” system for auctioning permits to emit greenhouse gases.

Neither budget includes Obama’s $256 billion set-aside for more bailouts of banks and other firms.

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Senator Kent Conrad answers questions from reporters about the budget Tuesday on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

In Brief

Labor Dept. mishandling complaints
WASHINGTON — The Labor Department regularly bungles its handling of complaints from workers who say their bosses are cheating them, on overtime pay or committing other labor violations, an undercover investigation for The Observer.

The probe by the Government Accountability Office says agencies often took too long to respond to complaints, failed to record them and, in one instance, lied about investigative work.

“This investigation shows that the Department of Labor has left thousands of actual victims of wage theft who sought federal government assistance with nowhere to turn,” GAO says in a report by Gregory Katz in prepared testimony, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

The House Education and Labor Committee plans to hold a hearing on the investigation Wednesday.

To test the agency’s intake process, GAO investigators posed as workers or companies on 10 occasions. Katz said the agency mishandled nine out of 10 of the fake complaints.

Speaker shifts stance on union bill
WASHINGTON — In a setback for organized labor, Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter said Tuesday he will oppose a bill that would make it easier for workers to form unions.

Specter was the only Republican to support the Employee Free Choice Act two years ago, and unions were hoping he might be the crucial 60th vote needed to overcome an expected GOP filibuster of the measure when it’s taken up this summer.

Democrats have faced unusually heavy pressure from both labor and business interests and is likely to face a tough Republican primary challenge next year from former Pennsylvania Rep. Pat Toomey. In a statement, Specter called Specter’s decision a “flip-flop,” prompted by the threat of primary opposition to the five-term senator.

Specter said his vote to end a filibuster on the bill two years ago was not support for the merits, but instead for Congress to take up the issue of labor law reform.
Music

continued from page 1

to why the president had selected the Shannon Rovers specifically.

"We are not sure why we got invited, but since we are the official band of Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade and are supported by Mayor Daley of Chicago, we think that might have had something to do with it," he said. "But we do know that he wanted a connection to the Irish community in his hometown."

McTighe recalls being in a state of disbelief when he first heard that an invitation had been extended to the Shannon Rovers.

"I first found out about the invitation on the Tuesday before fall break when my dad called me, but I didn't believe him at all. I thought he was joking," he said. "I didn't know he was serious until he asked me for my social security number and driver's license number because the White House needed them for a background check.

Once the knowledge that he would be performing in the White House had sunk in a little bit, McTighe said the excitement began to take hold of him.

"I was on cloud nine for a couple of days and just felt great," he said. "As the time got closer though, I was honestly very nervous and did not know how I would react once I was there."

McTighe said he and the other Rovers were flown out of Chicago on Tuesday morning so they would be there in time to perform later that afternoon.

"When we first got to the White House, we were shown to a changing room in the basement after a security check," McTighe said. "We waited there and finished tuning before we were ready to play. A couple of minutes before we played a military person who was on staff came in and gathered us together for a group shot with Mr. and Mrs. Obama. We got to meet them and shake their hands."

After meeting the President and First Lady, McTighe and his band mates performed in various locations in the East Wing and then they were moved to play in the State Dining Room.

"Afterwards we were allowed to put our instruments away and come up and enjoy the party and mingle with the guests," McTighe said.

The party guests included prominent Irish Americans as well as Irish dignitaries including the Prime Minister of Ireland, Brian Cowen.

"We got to meet Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi, Ethel Kennedy, the Cowens, and John Kerry," McTighe said. "We also talked to other senators and congressmen at the party, but we had no idea who they were outside of Dick Durbin from Illinois."

McTighe also got to talk to President Obama once more and found him to be an average, personable guy.

"It was quite the experience meeting President Obama, but at the same time he seemed like a real person," McTighe said. "While it is definitely pretty cool meeting someone like that, it didn't seem out of this world; he was still an average person. I liked that aspect very much and thought that was what was most intriguing."

McTighe said his experience at the White House was a memorable one and will stay with him for years to come.

"Overall, I thought it was a great experience and was something that comes around once in your lifetime so it is definitely something that you have to take advantage of," he said. "It is very cliché but it is one of those things that you can tell your children and grandchildren about."

One memory from the trip stood out to McTighe.

"The most memorable thing about my White House visit was that I got to go there pantsless; not many people can say that."

William McTighe
freshman

"The most memorable thing about my White House visit was that I got to go there pantsless; not many people can say that."

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmcrryst@nd.edu

Water

continued from page 1

"The competition ends April 8, but Vondricka said they plan to keep the timers in the showers after the competition. Foster said the shower timer competition is important because Lewis residents will learn about water conservation."

"Most people don't know how long the showers that they take are and this is a good way just to get people thinking about it," she said. "Educating people is the first step in correcting environmentally unfriendly behaviors."

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmcrryst@nd.edu

Assault

continued from page 1

released, he said.

Chapman said he cannot disclose whether one or both of the men are students at the University because of privacy issues.

A suspect has been identified, but Chapman said NIDSP cannot release any further details because the case is still under investigation.

"We talked to some witnesses and we will go from there," he said. "The case is still under investigation."

Contact Molly Madden at nmaddie@nd.edu

Quality Off-Campus Housing

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D'Arcy continued from page 24

the 25th Commencement held during his time as bishop.

"President Obama has recently reaffirmed, and has now placed in public policy, his long-stated unwillingness to hold human life as sacred," D'Arcy wrote in the statement. "While claiming to separate policies from science, he has in fact separated science from ethics and has brought the American government, for the first time in history, into supporting direct destruction of innocent human life."

A White House statement released Tuesday said the president welcomes the "spirit of debate and healthy disagreement on important issues."

"While he is honored to have the support of millions of people of all faiths, including Catholics with their rich tradition of recognizing the dignity of people, he does not govern with the expectation that everyone sees eye to eye with him on every position," the White House statement said.

Nationally, 34 percent of Catholics voted for the pro-choice Obama, with 45 percent voting for Arizona Sen. John McCain in the 2008 presidential election, according to CNN exit polls.

D'Arcy wrote his decision to not attend Commencement "is not an attack on anyone, but is in defense of the truth about human life.

University Assistant Vice President for News and Information Dennis Brown told The Observer that "Bishop D'Arcy has been a long-time friend and supporter of Notre Dame, and we're sorry he will not be there." in response to D'Arcy's statement.

Brown said D'Arcy is usually a member of the platform party at Commencement, but has, in the past, decided to not attend the exercises when the University has chosen to honor pro-choice politicians.

The last time this occurred, Brown said, was the 1992 Commencement exercises, when President George H.W. Bush was the principal speaker.

That year, the Laxtare Medal recipient was U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

D'Arcy was one of many American bishops to express opposition to the University's choice of the Senator to receive the honor — the highest award given to American Catholics — because of his pro-choice voting record on the issues regarding abortion.

The bishop was quoted in a May 1992 Observer article stating he decided to not attend that year's Commencement exercises because Moynihan's "stated position on the question of human life in the womb is totally unacceptable."

He said in the 1992 article his presence at the ceremonies "could be interpreted as an approval of Moynihan's position relative to the issue of pre-born life."

He did, however, preside over the 1992 Baccalaureate Mass.

D'Arcy wrote in the statement Tuesday he was keeping the 2004 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) document titled "Catholics in Political Life" in mind when making this decision.

The document states: "The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

The Observer reported Monday Jenkins said the critical lines in this statement by the USCCB are that politicians "should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

Jenkins said in his interview with The Observer the invitation of Obama to be the Commencement speaker "should in no way be taken as condoning or endorsing his positions on specific issues regarding the protection of life, such as abortion and embryonic stem cell research."

D'Arcy wrote: "I measure the faith of any Catholic institution is not only what it stands for, but also what it will not stand for."

"I wish no disrespect to our President," he said. "I pray for him and wish him well. I have always revered the Office of the Presidency. But a bishop must teach the Catholic faith in season and out of season," he added.

D'Arcy's offer did not provide The Observer with additional information after inquiries were made.

In his statement, D'Arcy wrote he has spoken with Mary Ann Glendon, a law professor at Harvard University and a former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican and the United Nations and recipient of the Laxtare Medal."

"I have known her for many years and hold her in high esteem," he wrote. "We are both different, but different ways I have encouraged her to accept this award and take the opportunity which an award gives her to teach."

D'Arcy has released statements in the past related to controversial University decisions, including "The Vagina Monologues" and the Queer Film Festival events on campus. On March 9 he also released a statement regarding Obama's decision to allow federal funding for stem cell research.

Contact Jess Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

Stories continued from page 1

feel as though they belong to either country."

"You just don't belong anywhere. What the student there is something positive about this. It gives you a perspective. From outside you see both countries and both societies, and you become more objective," she said.

Mari Cardenas, a sophomore at Saint Mary's, is an immigrant from Mexico.

"I came to the United States when I was 11 years old and I did not speak any English," she said.

Cardenas talked about her father's struggles working in the United States.

"My dad came to the states and he starter," she said, "he fits the stereotype of the Mexican immigrants. He worked in the field and he would go from state to state," she stated.

Her father was 16 when he first came to the United States. Since her father moved back and forth, he too did not feel like he belonged to either country.

Cardenas said, "It was kind of like he had two identities, one from over there and one from over here."

Banda Al-Assadi is currently a foreign exchange student at the College from Iraq. Al-Assadi emigrated from Iraq to Syria after the war began in 2006.

Al-Assadi decided to come to Saint Mary's in order to become successful.

"I'm happy to be here and be part of the Saint Mary's students. I've been here just six months, but I feel like I'm learning. Now I'm working hard and hoping to reach my goal of finishing my college education," Al-Assadi said.

Leilfa Oudghiri, a teacher in the South Bend Community School District, immigrated to Canada and the United States. She moved to America 13 years ago and she has had many struggles while living in America.

"That enchantment changes into homesickness," she said.

However, after her struggles, she found that there were many positive aspects of immigration as well.

"You meet a lot of people from all over the world. My best friend is a Russian, and she lives right now in Saudi Arabia. We always keep in touch," she said.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Stories continued from page 1

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Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu
Obama claims gains in revival from economic chaos

President says the country is "moving in the right direction" in second prime-time news conference of his presidency

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama claimed early progress Tuesday night in his aggressive campaign to rescue the nation out of economic chaos and decline that lie ahead, "we're moving in the right direction.

At his second prime-time news conference of his presidency, Obama also toned down his critics and Republicans as he outlined his budget proposal to raise taxes on the wealthy and cut deficits in half by the end of his current term, a decision that he said was "unyielding on others."

Obama was unyielding on others. Pressed for a global currency.

Barack Obama departed next week for his first European trip as commander-in-chief, with the global economy a major focus.

Flexible on some points, Obama was unyielding on others. Pressed for a global currency.

In office for 64 tumultuous days, Obama cast his budget — now under intense pressure from Congress — as the first black president.

Given concern in Congress over the red ink, Senate Democrats are drafting a separate budget plan that assumes Obama's proposed middle class tax cut expires after two years — the sort of sleight of hand that other administrations of both parties have used in the past.

While Congress' budget does not go to the White House for a president's signature, the White House traditionally seeks to influence its provisions. Obama restated his objectives Tuesday night — health care overhaul, a new energy policy and more money for education and deficit control.

Obama stepped to the microphone one day after his administration unveiled a plan to melt the credit freeze by helping banks shed bad loans. Under the proposal, the government will finance the purchase by private investors of as much as $1 trillion in bad assets still held by the nation's banks, in the hopes of freeing banks to begin lending more freely and churn up economic activity.

"Bankers and executives on Wall Street need to realize that for us to raise some revenue from people who benefited enormously over the last several years. It is what will ultimately get these banks lending and our economy moving once more," he said.

"At the same time, the rest of us can't afford to demonize every investor or entrepreneur who seeks to make a profit. That drive is what has always fueled our prosperity, and it is what will ultimately get these banks lending and our economy moving once more," he said.

On other issues, Obama — said the American people are assessing his ability as chief executive based on his skills and work, not the color of his skin. He said there was justifiable pride in what the nation has accomplished.

"If you look at the debates of the first black president."

Strongly defended his proposal to impose taxes on the wealthy by reducing the value of the deductions they may take for items such as home mortgages or charitable donations. It's a "realistic way for us to raise some revenue from people who benefited enormously over the last several years."

"And the recession and credit crisis. They will still be well-to-do," he said.

"Called his decision to expand federal support of embryonic stem cell research the "right thing to do and the ethical thing to do." He said he wrestled with the ethics of the decision but is hopeful that the science will lead to help for people with debilitating diseases.

"Realized in Congress in 2008, saying: "The dollar is extraordinary strong right now," and I don't believe that there is a need for a global currency.

"The news conference, lasting 55 minutes, came at a pivotal moment in Obama's young presidency. Democrats in Congress are rushing to enact proposals that will largely determine how much of his first-term agenda will be passed. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is charging out near-daily proposals to solve the nation's economic crisis and the administration is struggling with public and congressional outrage over bonuses paid to executives of bailed-out AIG. Additionally, Obama departs next week for his first European trip as commander-in-chief, with the global economy a major focus.

Flexible on some points, Obama was unyielding on others. Pressed for a global currency.

The news conference was dominated by questions about the economy. Obama defended the steps his administration has taken to counter the recession and an unprecedented credit crisis. He said leaders of other countries have taken today because of the economic similarity measure that Congress passed, and the nation is "beginning to see signs of increased sales and increased housing permits for the first time in a long time."

He said full-fledged recovery is months away, and he added, "It will take patience." At the same time, he said, "we're in a better place because of the decisions that we made."

Obama put in a plug for the request Geithner made to Congress earlier in the day for extraordinary authority to take over failing companies like American International Group Inc., much as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. now does for banks.

"It is precisely because of the lack of this authority" that the troubled problems threatened to bring down the entire U.S. economy, he said. Geoithner was "reached positively to the proposal, although it is not clear when legislation might be considered.

Obama has been vocal in his unhappiness over the $166 million in retention bonuses paid to executives at AIG, although his favorite has been to defer to Congress in his efforts to reign in Wall Street.

"We're moving in the right direction."

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Wednesday, March 25, 2009
A booth at Waddy's

Andrew Miller

The Roads Scholar

I don't write about Notre Dame. It's not that I have anything against the place or that I don't care enough to pay it homage. It's just I don't have much to say regarding it and my fellow columnist Ms. Koehler does a good enough job covering it, possibly even better than I might even consider doing, so it'd be kind of redundant.

Less than a handful of times have I been privileged enough to grace that café's wooden corner with my presence. Less than a handful of times have I been able to gaze out the grand windows into Malloy and Decks's jaded green lawn. Less than a handful of times have I been able to remove myself from the lines out the door and the mid-cap dash of O'Shaughnessy's post-class lunch rush. Yet it is in that less than a handful of times that I have realized (internalized, even) my favorite spot on our Lady's campus.

During my year abroad, most mornings I would walk to Blackwell's Book Shop and ascend to the café setup on the first floor. I would pour whatever novel or set of poems I was reading that term (Fitzgerald, James, Chekov, Joyce, Hemingway, Wilde, Peplof, Woofof,) purchase a latte, choose a small table and read. Simply read. I returned to Notre Dame this year looking for a similar routine. I only had classes in the mornings and would have plenty of time to wake each morning, drink a cup of coffee and read over essay or book that was assigned for that day in class. But I encountered something unexpected.

Not only was I no longer living in a city but I was no longer living in a place where I could easily find my spot. I tried the avenues of the city this year, looking for a boldly roasted cup of American coffee and the professional atmosphere desired by business major, professor and University employee. Crossroads at the Eck Hall of Law has the cachet of newness. But only Waddy's, oh my Waddy's, has the fulfilling atmosphere of a quaint, community-oriented coffee shop.

Waddy's?

Waddy's indeed. With all the food service shops that cover the grounds of our university; it has become increasingly hard to decide which one is the best. The Diamond Hall offers the Serafino's, an encounter for on-campus undergraduates. Roosters stays open all hours of the day. LaFortune's Whitecap of restaurant rants at Notre Dame, contains the multitudes of culinary delights within its sprawling walls. However, with the LaFortune Starbuck's due to my penchant for a boldly roasted cup of American coffee and the professional atmosphere desired by business major, professor and University employee, Crossroads at the Eck Hall of Law has the cachet of newness. But only Waddy's, oh my Waddy's, has the fulfilling atmosphere of a quaint, community-oriented coffee shop. Why the roadblock?

Well, why not the booths? The hallway-facing counter is too right, too imposing. The outer tables aren't really a part of the shop at all. And the inner tables, while great, just don't have the same intimacy of the booths.

Will I ever get a booth again?

Sadly, it takes an extraordinary amount of skill and cunning to win a booth at Waddy's. As I mentioned earlier, I have only been able to sit in one a few times. The time schedules of when to go to Waddy's in general do not apply to the booths therein: once somebody has one, he or she will hold onto it with dear life.

So I'm left in a quandary. I love the Waddy's booth but I can never access it readily or reliably. Should I forego my love of the Waddy's booth and settle for a lessor place? Or should I continue to claim the Waddy's booth as my favorite on-campus spot and hope each morning rising up that I will be able to win one? I don't know, friends. I simply don't know.

In these last few weeks of my senior year I will go to Waddy's every day in the hope of finding an empty booth. And if I don't, I will walk slowly, contemplatively away. You will see me often in O'Shaughnessy. But I cannot say whether you will find me in rapture or in despondency.

Andrew Miller is a senior English major. He can be contacted at amiller98@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of The Observer.
The goals of higher education

I just wanted to express, from the bottom of my heart, how honored I am that the President of the United States is going to speak at my graduation. I can not think of a greater honor this University could bestow on the senior class. Over the last few days I have heard many people talking about "Obama is a disgrace" and "his values are completely against the values of the University." To these people, and to you if you have been worrying, come on, I would ask you: what are the most important values of this University? Is the University's number one mission to rid the world of abortions, stem cell research, and homosexual marriage? While these may be important issues for some of our students, faculty and staff, I can not believe that Notre Dame would be the incredible and successful University it is today if these political and religious agendas were the fundamental basis of the University’s mission. I was always under the impression that the University was "to cultivate in its students not only an appreciation for the great achievements of human beings, but also a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice, and oppression that burden the lives of so many. The aim is to create a sense of solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to the common good." Barack Obama is helping to make education mandatory for all children, combating employment discrimination, urging the role of race in a pluralistic society in politics, and encouraging all young people to participate in service. It sounds to me like Obama upholds the fundamental values and mission of the University. And the true "slap in the face" here is that if this unenlightened debate continues, the Notre Dame Class of '09 will be remembered for nothing more than a man who has risen to one of the highest, and most honorable, positions our country offers. Thank you.

Kathleen Hession
senior
Notre Dame
March 23

Don’t decide based on one issue

The news of Notre Dame inviting President Obama to speak at our commencement in May certainly has traveled far and fast. My friends abroad, in China and Europe, have sent me emails exclaiming their excitement. My grandfather, who lives in Hawaii and has absolutely no idea how to use the Internet, somehow figured out about our invitation to President Obama and was chosen as one of three this year. In 2001, then-President Bush was chosen to bestow its highest award, the LalSare Medal, to Professor Glendon. If Professor Glendon is willing to share the stage with President Obama, please do not let your disagreements get in the way of honoring his achievements.

Embrace the President’s address

To the many Viewpoint writers who oppose President Obama’s future commencement address: You need to take a step back and truly think about what you are saying. You may not agree with the president’s views — especially those on abortion, on which you have clearly voiced — but needlessly to say, he is still the president, and you should be honored that he chose our institution to deliver a commencement address.

Think about it. Any sitting president could speak at essentially any university graduation he or she wants, and out of the thousands of colleges and universities in our country, only four of the nine selected this year’s commencement speakers, not even President Obama himself, can take it away from us.

Michael Scholl
senior
Notre Dame
March 23

You cannot ignore the world around you. You have to listen and learn about other people’s opinions — even if you disagree with them — because that is what being a university student (not to mention an informed, intelligent individual) is all about. If your “love affair with the University of Notre Dame” has truly come to an end after learning about the president’s future visit, and you honestly do not want to attend your child’s graduation this May (as one of you suggested in your letter), then I think you should sell your commencement ticket online. There are thousands of people who would buy it from you and would be thrilled to hear our president speak. You should be honored for the opportunity, not disgraced.

David Onascheck
sophomore
Notre Dame
March 23

Playlist

With the recent controversy of Obama’s selection as this year’s commencement speaker at graduation, I have put together a short list of songs that I feel summarize the reaction and some of the reasons why the president should be allowed to speak on Notre Dame’s campus.


Ryacin Simmons
senior
Keough Hall
March 23

Pro-life represented

As both a pro-life Notre Dame law student and a conscientious Catholic, I am opposed to the excitement of my many fellow Catholics who welcome President Obama to give our commencement address, as well as the charge of those who feel the invitation discredits our Catholic identity. I would invite those critical of the selection to note that the University has bestowed its LalSare Medal on many of our great leaders of the 20th century, upon the renowned pro-life, pro-family crusader Mary Ann Glendon. If Professor Glendon is willing to share the stage with President Obama at graduation, I am certainly willing to share the auditorium with him. As a former member of President Bush’s Council on Bioethics, Professor Glendon could provide a healthy — and likely far more learned — counterpoint to Obama’s pro-choice politics. The University would do well to allow her the opportunity to speak at length during the commencement activities as well.

David Roberts
third year law student
Notre Dame
March 23

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Garin Payne
senior
Notre Dame
March 23

Students voice opinions on Obama visit

The Observer published a two-page Viewpoint section that contained nine letters about the recent announcement that President Obama would be speaking at this May’s Commencement. Of the nine letters in Monday’s edition, I was surprised to see the Viewpoint pages of the newspaper were from seniors. As a Republican and a member of the Class of 2009, I have not written any newspaper articles about President Obama since we prepared to go forth from this campus. While I am honored the president has chosen to come to South Bend, I disagreed with administratively political views before I would. I also understand the sentiment that some of his policies are not in line with Catholic teachings. While I have mixed emotions about the speech, there is one thing I am truly upset about. I am upset that the people who are condemning the ones graduating.

I understand there are intense emotions when it comes to a politician delivering an address of this nature. If it were up to me, John McCain would be here as president instead of Obama. But what makes me even more upset is that the idea that others want to ruin the graduation of myself and my friends. Alumni and underclassmen are expressing their outrage. One alum threatens to bring pictures of abortion victims. While I am completely in opposition to President Obama’s pro-choice policies and support of gay marriage, the last thing I want to do is celebrate my graduation with my friends and family.

Michael Scholl
senior
Notre Dame
March 23

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Michael Scholl
senior
Notre Dame
March 23
Where do you draw the line?  

Allow Obama to speak

I, too, am shocked that Notre Dame is inviting Obama, who is as pro-abortion a politician as it is possible to be. I am all for academic freedom and inviting people of opposing views to campus for academic debates. For instance, if Notre Dame were to hold a forum on the abortion issue, I think it would be acceptable to invite a speaker or debater who is in favor of legalized abortion to make the case for that side, so that the issue will have a full bearing from both sides. But this is completely different. Here, we are not inviting Obama to an academic debate, but rather, we are giving him an honorary degree, and giving him one of the most prestigious honors the university has—appointing him as Commencement speaker and holding him up as a role model to our graduates and the Notre Dame community as a whole. The picture should be much higher than for inviting someone with contrary views to speak on campus at another forum.

Then the question arises: what about other Catholic issues? The church is against the death penalty—so why were Reagan and Bush allowed to speak, when they favored the death penalty? And should we exclude any politician that does not favor a legal ban on contraceptives or in vitro fertilization? Where do you draw the line?

I am ashamed of Notre Dame today. As a Saint Mary’s graduate, sibling, spouse and mother of Notre Dame alumni and prospective students, you have crossed a line. President Obama is on record as saying “if my daughters get pregnant, I don’t want them punished because of a mistake.” President Obama supports FOCA, has already pledged my tax dollars to perform abortions overseas and has signed over money for stem cell research. President Obama is in stark contrast to our Catholic teachings. This is not the same as inviting Ronald Reagan to speak when the opposition was anti-war, not the same as supporting Ford when Notre Dame was pressured to break ties because of Ford’s plant in South Africa. In those situations, Father Hesburgh thought it best to keep the other camp close so as to have some influence.

Your decision to invite President Obama to speak at Commencement is a slap in the face to Catholics and pro-life supporters who told endlessly and donated hard-earned money to fight the pro-abortion movement in this country. By inviting Obama — in spite of his flagrant disregard for human life — you have everything to lose.

Catherine Kelly  
University, NE  
March 23

As the mother of two sons currently enrolled at Notre Dame, I am deeply saddened by the decision to do this. I was one of the most prestigious honors the university has—appointing him as Commencement speaker and holding him up as a role model to our graduates and the Notre Dame community as a whole. The picture should be much higher than for inviting someone with contrary views to speak on campus at another forum.

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Your decision to invite President Obama to speak at Commencement is a slap in the face to Catholics and pro-life supporters who told endlessly and donated hard-earned money to fight the pro-abortion movement in this country. By inviting Obama — in spite of his flagrant disregard for human life — you have everything to lose.

Catherine Kelly  
University, NE  
March 23

Racism invitation

As the mother of two sons currently enrolled at Notre Dame, I am deeply saddened by the decision to do this. I was one of the most prestigious honors the university has—appointing him as Commencement speaker and holding him up as a role model to our graduates and the Notre Dame community as a whole. The picture should be much higher than for inviting someone with contrary views to speak on campus at another forum.

Then the question arises: what about other Catholic issues? The church is against the death penalty—so why were Reagan and Bush allowed to speak, when they favored the death penalty? And should we exclude any politician that does not favor a legal ban on contraceptives or in vitro fertilization? Where do you draw the line?

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Catherine Kelly  
University, NE  
March 23

Elated for Obama

Thank you! We are thrilled that President Obama will be speaking at our son’s graduation. Anyone who wants to protest by not attending, please send us their extra tickets. We have plenty of relatives and friends who would be thrilled to attend.

Ginny Paauwels  
Rochester Hills, MI  
March 23

Disgusted by choice

I have just thrown in the trash four Notre Dame t-shirts, a Notre Dame hat, sweatshirt and flag. Needless to say, I will not write another check to the University. I will not associate myself with a university that offers an honorary degree to a politician who lauds abortion and, just within the past month, has issued an executive order that forces every American to pay for the murder of the unborn of the world. I never thought it possible, but Notre Dame is no longer my university.

Eugene McGill  
University, NE  
March 23

Hitting them where it hurts

This past Friday I received the quarterly notice from Notre Dame requesting my contribution to the Annual Fund. Rather than make my usual donation to the fund, this year I will instead make a second donation to the National Right to Life Committee. This donation will be made in honor of Notre Dame University. The entire Notre Dame family is obliged to express our feelings in some tangible way. I hope that this will inspire others to respectfully protest the misguided choices made by the leaders of our beloved Notre Dame.

Joseph Letsou  
University, NE  
March 23

Speaking from experience

Ell keep this short and sweet. I’m saddened by the University’s commencement invitation to President Obama. I say this as a 1992 graduate of Our Lady’s University and as a woman who found herself young, alone and pregnant — and chose life. What policies and positions of Obama can matter if he can’t protect the very least among us — the unborn. How do I tell my daughter, the wonder of my life, why the school she aspires too attend can’t stand against society and stand for Christ, for our faith, and for Our Lady?

Bridger Zappa  
University, NE  
March 23

Page 13
Quick Facts about U2:

- Founded in Dublin on Sept. 25, 1976
- Over 145 million albums sold worldwide
- Winner of 22 Grammy Awards, more than any other band
- Band members include Bono (vocals and guitar), The Edge (guitar, keyboard, and vocals), Adam Clayton (bass guitar), and Larry Mullen, Jr. (drums and percussion)
- Band members featured prominently in numerous human rights and social justice campaigns, including Amnesty International
- Bono's lyrical writing is largely inspired by the Bible
- All four band members appeared on postage stamps in Ireland in 2002
- The 1987 album "The Joshua Tree" has sold more than 25 million copies making it their most popular album to date
- The name "U2" may come from the title of the Irish unemployment form
- Band members are good friends with the members of Coldplay, who are also very active in social justice campaigns

U2 is uninspired

By NICK ANDERSON

It all seemed pretty clear-cut for a while. We all had U2 figured out. "Pop" had just been released to low sales and mixed reviews. The following "PopMart" tour, which famously involved a 40-foot mirrored lemon, seemed to be the final nail in the coffin of a once great band. The only reasonable response to U2 was to pay lip service to their early work while ignoring their current releases.

All of this worked until Bono declared that they were "resupplying for the job of the best band in the world." Ridiculously, this worked. By their 2005 "Vertigo" tour, U2 was cool again. Musicians such as Franz Ferdinand, Interpol, Kanye West, Scissor Sisters, Keane, and The Killers all lined up to play a supporting role in their shows. U2 had regained its place as the premier stadium rock group. No one else was even close.

So how did they go from dead in the water to the most important band in the world? Largely by redoing what they had done before. By returning to the classic rock sound of their earlier work, they regained much of their early acclaim. They could do no wrong. They released a U2 iPod with barely a mention of commercialism. Six years after Bono's fateful proclamation, his words were fulfilled. U2 was the "best band in the world." The only major criticism leveled was the lack of experimentation. Still, U2 never was a group to leave well enough alone.

The band turned to musical titan Rick Rubin, who was responsible for the reinvention of Johnny Cash. After two promising singles, "The Saints are Coming" with Green Day and "Windows in the Skies," a roadblock caused the band to release Rubin and return to two other legendary producers, Brian Eno and Daniel Lanois. They were each veterans of U2 masterpieces, "The Joshua Tree" and "Achtung Baby."

The resulting album, "No Line on the Horizon," is less than inspired. It finds U2 standing in place for most of the album, and in its weaker moments, trying to catch up. Hints of promise are spread throughout the album, but they only entice the listener, failing to follow through with a complete song.

The most promise is found in the first single from the album, "Get on Your Boots." The Edge takes full advantage of his crunching guitar in the opening riffs. Bono's staccato, half-speaking vocals find their perfect environment by exploring a new style different from the impassioned wailing we've come to expect.

It's hard, however, to accept such a light single from a band that has always appeared to take itself so seriously. The listener can even begin to feel slightly guilty about buying into the image and forgetting the music. This feeling disappears immediately when Bono sings, "I don't want to talk about the wars between nations," a line that sounds entirely unbelievable and artificial. U2 is a band capable of great music, but they are just as serious as ever.

The other high point of the album, "Cedars of Lebanon" takes advantage of Brian Eno's atmospheric production. It's a departure from the stadium sound of most of the album and instead delivers a dark, moody song that feels like a true exploration of sound.

The remaining nine songs on the album suffer from weak writing ("I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Go Cry Tonight," "Magnificent") and complacent instrumentation ("Moment of Surrender," "White as Snow"). While not terrible songs, they merely rank rather low in U2's catalogue.

"No Line on the Horizon" is a disappointment, but not one without merit. To anyone with a preconceived notion of U2, it will fit perfectly. It will appease their fans while providing ammunition for those who dislike U2. And for those of us without strong feelings, it will be essentially forgotten.

Contact Nick Anderson at andersn5@nd.edu
By Alexandra Kilpatrick

It was a warm St. Patrick’s Day afternoon and everyone on campus was reveling in all things Irish. Of the dozens of events that took place, one that stood out as a clear example of Irish pride was the Blood Sunday incident with Easter Sunday. This celebration included “Sunday Bloody Sunday,” the band’s first overtly political song, whose lyrics contrast the devastating events of the Bloody Sunday incident with Easter Sunday. The subsequent year, Bono and company released “The Unforgettable Fire” with another political single, “Pride (In the Name of Love).” The song was written about Martin Luther King, Jr. and is still one of the band’s most easily recognizable singles.

In 1987, Bono and the band released “The Joshua Tree,” which built on the Irish rock sound but featured more exploration of American roots rock, including blues-rock and country music. The album brought several hit singles to the public, including “With or Without You,” and “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For.”

By Joey Kuhn

I was never really interested in hip hop, but after this school year, a certain tipping point was reached. Hip Hop Night became a popular event that grossly overrated the band’s reputation. Like the entire incoming freshman class just really wanted an option for underage kids who didn’t want to hang out with their friends. Nobody ever wanted to go to Legends. I remember walking into Legends on Hip Hop Night and seeing that the party was just like a giant, less cramped dorm room. People were dancing away on an empty floor.

I wanted to be cool because I wanted an option for underage kids who couldn’t find or didn’t want to go to a party on weekends, but also didn’t want to just sit in their rooms and watch movies or play Mario Kart. And then, slowly but surely, Legends started to gain street cred. I heard they were getting in to Legends on Hip Hop Night.

byakilpatr@nd.edu

Contact Alexandra Kilpatrick at akilpatr@nd.edu
North Carolina. "I'm walking on it better already. In the next few days, it'll be back to 100 percent."

Lawson had missed three straight games with a jammed right big toe before helping the top-seeded Tar Heels (30-4) rally past LSU in Saturday's second-round game in the NCAA Regional.

He experienced some minor swelling in the toe afterward, but nothing like what followed the regular-season finale against Duke that forced him to the sideline.

He participated in the team's shootaround Monday and even practiced drills during this practice week. But the team has been cautious, keeping him out of practice for almost two weeks, in addition to missing both games of this ACC tournament game and their NCAA opener against St. Bonaventure.

Williams said the injury will linger.

"It's here," he said. "It's going to be there. It's not going to go away. It's going to hurt the whole rest of the season until he can take that time off." 

Lawson injured the toe in practice two days before the Duke game and needed a painkilling shot before he had a double in 36 minutes two days later, but the swollen unexpectedly after what seemed to be a normal view of advice from his father—might have exacerbated the problem which has caused him to sleep at night in hot water and Epsom salts.

These days, Lawson is sticking to a steady regimen of icing his right foot in the morning, before practice and after practice. The teen who's at home, he fills a trash can with ice and water and socks his foot a few more times in the evening. He also wears a compression wrap to limit swelling and exercised in a gym.

The injury has been the topic of conversation at Chapel Hill for weeks, creating a hubbub that has growns tiresome for his teammates.

"I get a lot of questions about how does Ty's toe feel?" senior Tyler Hansbrough said. "I'm like, 'It's not my toe. I don't know. I don't ask him because I'm not doing too much doing Ty's too doing because I'm sure 100 other people. I understand everybody does.' They want to know if he'll be back for the second round of the game for the Wildcats (27-8), but Mills overcame his awful 3-3 game by hitting a late three-pointer and just enough of his 12 points in the final 1:53 to give the Hoosiers a 72-68 win over the Cats in rallying late.

"But Curry briefly chatted before the game, telling the other stall how simply to have it.

After occasionally guarding each other, they met up again briefly afterward while dodging the red-clad fans whooping it up in Curry's favor, two high-scoring opponents each other luck until their paths would cross again probably in the NCAA.

"It was a personal challenge, and the sort of personal experience you don't get every week," Mills said. "It's like that, the way they looked at Curry. But I was better at the game on, helping the Tar Heels rally from a five-point deficit midway through the second half. He finished with 21 of his 23 points after the break, and coach Roy Williams in his debut during the decisive 11-0 second-half run that looked like "We're not going to be able to get away with that," Williams said. "But we'll take whatever we can get, especially if it's like that perfect storm of a game." That's about as good as I've had going up against a head coach. I even told him that I was thinking of calling him 'Rambo' instead of 'Two-Time the Menance.'"

Lawson said the performance gave him confidence, joking that the toe wouldn't "prove anything."

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Saint Mary's 80, Davidson 68

Patty Mills scooered over the final buzzer and waved both arms joyously skyward, gushing the raucous Saint Mary's fans into what might have been the first Storms-the-court celebration in the history of the NIT's second round.

This was no ordinary early round upset in the NCAA consolation tournament, however, with a first-half lead full of hope with Davidson's Stephen Curry, Mills wanted to leave his fans with one last memory to match this entertaining matchup. Mills had 23 points and 10 assists while leading Saint Mary's into the NIT quarterfinals with a victory Monday night.

Curry had 26 points, nine assists and a pair of steals in what might have been the second round of the game for the Wildcats (27-8), but Mills overcame his awful 3-3 game by hitting a late three-pointer and just enough of his 12 points in the final 1:53 to give the Hoosiers a 72-68 win over the Cats in rallying late.

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NCAA Women's Lacrosse Division I Top 20

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NCAA Men's Volleyball Division I Top 20

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Browns quarterback Brady Quinn talks to Pro Bowl quarterback Derek Anderson during a 2008 preseason game against the Jets. Quinn lasted just three games as the starter before breaking a finger and needing surgery.

Quinn, Anderson vie for QB job

Associated Press

DANA POINT, Calif. — Brady Quinn or Derek Anderson? Eric Mangini isn’t sure, so he’s throwing the Cleveland Browns quarterback job into a free-for-all.

“I don’t have a projected starter at this point,” Mangini said Tuesday at the NFL meetings. “What we’re going to do is we’ll have an open competition where they’ll both get a chance to establish that they’ll be the starters.”

Anderson, coming off a Pro Bowl season in 2007, opened last year as the starter. As the Browns struggled, he was benched for Quinn. Both quarterbacks subsequently were injured, and Mangini replaced Rosen Crennel as coach after Cleveland finished 4-12.

Mangini, who was fired by the Jets after they collapsed from 8-3 to 9-7 and didn’t make the playoffs, has been on a quarterback carousel before. He had three starters in his three seasons in New York. Chad Pennington, Kellen Clemens and Brett Favre.

“I’m excited about both of them,” he said of Quinn, heading into his third season, and Anderson, who will be in his fifth. “I sat down with both of them, been able to spend some time with them. I like both guys. I like a lot of the things that I’ve learned about them in terms of the conversations and also things that I’ve seen on tape.

What he also has seen on tape are lots of mistakes and lots of losses as the Browns plummeted from 10-6 in 2007 to last place in the AFC North. Anderson received a big contract after his breakthrough ’07 season, a three-year, $24 million deal with a $5 million bonus he collected this month. But he struggled before being replaced by Quinn for the ninth game.

Quinn, who has a five-year, $20.2 million contract, lasted just three games before breaking a finger on his right hand and needing surgery. Anderson returned, but he injured left knee ligaments in the 12th game and was done, too.

Anderson was 3-6 in his starts last year with nine touchdowns, eight interceptions and a passer rating of 66.5. Quinn was 1-2 with two touchdowns, two interceptions, and a 66.6 passer rating.

They weren’t helped by a leaky line and poor performances by their receivers, particularly with wideout Braylon Edwards dropping many passes.

In Brief

Armstrong still plans on racing in Tour de France

P ALENCIA, Spain — Astana team manager Johan Bruyneel is confident that Lance Armstrong’s broken collarbone will not prevent him from taking part in the Tour de France or the Giro d’Italia.

“I don’t think this changes anything for the Tour de France,” Bruyneel said Tuesday. “A broken collarbone in the month of March does not at all compromise the start of the Tour de France or your performance in the Tour de France.”

The Tour de France runs July 4-26.

Armstrong, 37, also had planned to ride in the Giro, which runs from May 9 to May 31.

Bruyneel said the team was also “not ruling out the Giro at all. I think it’s perfectly possible.”

Phillips’ pitcher Hamels returns from injury

LEAWATER - Phillies ace Cole Hamels pitched in a minor league game Tuesday, his first start since experiencing elbow tightness last week.

The World Series MVP threw 3 2/3 scoreless innings against Pittsburgh Pirates minor leaguers at Philadelphia’s spring training complex. It was his first appearance in a game since receiving an anti-inflammatory shot in his arm last Tuesday.

“It felt good,” Hamels said after his first outing since March 15. “I think it was really just trying to establish feeling each pitch, one at a time, in each inning. And that was kind of the big thing - how I’d feel in between innings. And I felt great.”

Hamels allowed one hit and one walk while striking out five of his 13 batters. The left-hander threw 35 of 48 pitches for strikes.

Younger Curry to transfer from Liberty

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Seth Curry, the high-scoring younger brother of Davidson star Stephen Curry, says he is transferring out of Liberty to seek a higher level of competition.

Curry, 6-foot-3 and 180 pounds, led the nation’s freshman with a 20.2 scoring average.

Liberty went 23-12 this season, finishing with an 88-60 loss to James Madison on Monday night in the CollegeInsiders.com tournament. Curry scored eight points in the loss.

“This is a difficult decision that I have reached after close consultation with my family and others close to me,” he said in a statement released through the school.

He said the decision “is based on my desire to develop as an athlete to the fullest of my potential and take advantage of new opportunities that may be available to me in a higher-rated conference.”
League work stoppage looms

Lobbyist hired in anticipation of possible inquiry by Congress

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Politics has always been a contact sport, and the National Football League is suiting up for the game. The NFL has established a Washington office in the last year, hired a full-time lobbyist and created a political action committee to make federal campaign contributions to candidates. The moves come as a work stoppage looms as a possibility in two years, which could generate some unwelcome congressional attention for the league.

The NFL also is facing more immediate controversies from how games are broadcast to whether a ban on Internet gambling on games should be continued.

Commissioner Roger Goodell, the son of a former New York Republican congressman and senator, orchestrated the Washington blitz after talking with owners on the league's legislative committee three years ago. That committee was making a presentation to the owners on Tuesday at the NFL's annual meeting in California.

"I agreed with those who told me that during these changing times in Washington, the league should have full-time representation there like so many other business and entertainment organizations that have issues on the Hill," Goodell told The Associated Press in a statement. Coincidentally or not, the NFL player's union last week chose Washington lawyer DeMaurice Smith as its new executive director, replacing the late Gene Upshaw, who had predicted a lockout. Smith served on the Obama transition team and previously worked for Eric Holder, who is the nation's attorney general.

Washington Redskins safety Fred Smoot said he thinks Smith's connections will come in handy if Congress gets involved in an NFL work stoppage.

"He knows all the steps to take," Smoot said. "In my case, we made a very smart decision on that." Smoot said during a recent visit to Capitol Hill to lobby for a pension bill.

The NFL hired Capitol Hill veteran Jeff Miller, 38, to serve as its in-house lobbyist. Miller spent eight years as an aide to Sen. Herb Kohl, most recently as chief counsel and staff director of the Senate Judiciary antitrust subcommittee, which Kohl chairs. Kohl, a Wisconsin Democrat, owns the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team.

"I'm a lifelong NFL fan, grew up in Wisconsin, rooting for the Packers at my father's knee every Sunday," Miller told The AP in his first interview since taking the job. "I had had opportunities in the past to leave the Hill and do other things, such as work at a law firm and lobby firm. But when the NFL calls, you can't turn that down.

Among his tasks: Leading the effort among major sports leagues to protect a ban on Internet gambling, which some members of Congress want to overturn.

"We want to maintain the integrity of the game, and gambling threatens that," he said. Miller said the league will also be watching as Congress renews satellite broadcasting legislation. The NFL must respond to any changes, Miller said, "because so much of our business is finding the most fan-friendly way to get our games to the people who want to watch them.

Members of Congress have criticized some of the NFL's broadcasting policies. Last year, for example, 13 senators wrote to Goodell, asking him to make NFL Network games available to more fans on free television. The league has said it provides free broadcasts in the home cities of competing teams, but the senators argued that the NFL too narrowly interprets "home markets.

Prior to Miller's hiring, the NFL outsourced its Washington work to outside lobbyists, and has continued to do that on some issues.

"The emphasis is to have a full-time person spending every waking moment thinking about how what Congress or the administration is doing is going to affect the NFL's business model," Miller said.

Miller's operation is overseen by NFL vice president Joe Browne, who is based at league headquarters in New York. In a phone interview, Browne said the league looked around, and saw that other entertainment businesses and sports had full-time Washington lobbyists. Miller, a former Majority League Baseball, for example, brought on a full-time lobbyist in 2000.

"It was time for us to come into the 21st century," Browne said. He pointed out that Goodell, given his political lineage — his father was Charles Goodell, who served in the House in the 1960s and the Senate from 1966-71, "appreciates the role that Congress plays perhaps more than some do.

Browne coined the name of the NFL's new "Gridiron PAC," which raised $313,000 through the end of last year, the most recent reporting period. Donors included NFL officials such as Goodell, as well as executives of all but two of the league's 32 teams.

The only holdouts: the Oakland Raiders, owned by longtime league nemesis Al Davis, and the Cleveland Browns. Neither team returned telephone messages seeking comment.

Browne said the prospect of labor troubles wasn't a factor in establishing the PAC and the Washington office, noting that over the years, the league and the union have come before Congress together to work for common goals.

But the NFL's long history of labor peace is in jeopardy, last year, the owners voted to opt out of the current collective bargaining agreement in 2011, raising the possibility of a work stoppage in two years.

If baseball's experience with the 1994-95 strike is any indication, the NFL could be in for some unfriendly reaction on Capitol Hill. Several lawmakers introduced legislation to take away MLB's coveted antitrust exemption after the 232-day strike wiped out the 1994 World Series.

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Michigan State upsets Huskies; Duke rolls

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State fans came to boo their former coach.

They left cheering for the Spartans.

Miss Johnson scored 17 points and Lauren Aitch had 15, lifting ninth-seeded Michigan State to a 63-49 win Tuesday night over the top-seeded Duke Blue Devils and former coach Joanne P. McCallie in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Duke didn’t make a shot for the last 7½ minutes as it was outscored 16-2, leading to students rushing the court to celebrate.

In more than a decade, the only top-seeded team to lose in the second round was Ohio State in 2006 against eighth-seeded Boston College.

Michigan State (22-10) will face the winner of the Iowa State-Ball State game on Saturday in the semifinals of the Big Ten.

Jasmine Thomas had 14 points for Duke (27-6) and leading scorer Chante Black was held to just four.

The Blue Devils, who scored at least 75 points in each of their last six games, were held to a season-low total and made just 27 percent of their shots.

Raucous fans and flying elbows might’ve rattled them.

The game was so physical there were sequences in the lane that looked like an NHL goal-scoring scramble.

McCallie was booed — again — when she was introduced and she simply smiled as she shook the hand of her successor, Suzy Merchant, and shared a laugh with her coaching staff.

Coach P knew how loud it could get in the Breslin Center because she coached there for seven years before bolting two years ago. Her team found out Tuesday night.

Duke insisted it wasn’t unfair, as a top-seeded team, to play on Michigan State’s home court. But it certainly seemed to give the Spartans a lift to have most of the lower level in their arena filled and to rattle Duke.

Michigan State men’s basketball coach Tom Izzo and some of his players even took time away from preparing for their third-round matchup with Kansas to watch the game.

Izzo stayed for the whole game, cheering from a suite, and his players were on their feet on a baseline as were 5,000-plus fans in the stands.

The Spartans, though, looked like they were going to be in trouble early in the game.

They turned the ball over on their first possession and then gave up a 3-pointer to Abby Waner, who returned to the lineup after resting her sprained knee during the first-round rout of Austin Peay.

But the Blue Devils went scoreless for 4 minutes after Waner’s shot and were plagued by turnovers.

Duke had more turnovers (seven) than field goals (five) when Michigan State led by six after surging ahead with a 14-4 run.

Michigan State led 25-20 at halftime after the Blue Devils made just 27 percent of their shots, leading to their second-lowest total in a first half this season.

Duke was determined to turn things around early in the second half led by Black, who scored on an aggressive move in the lane on the opening possession to match the two points she had in the first half.

Then, Black caused a turnover and assisted on Waner’s 3-pointer that tied the game 34 seconds after halftime and helped the Blue Devils go back ahead for the first time since the 12.00 mark of the first half.

Michigan State, though, proved it could get Duke’s best shot by competing the rest of the way in the closely contested game.

Connecticut 87, Florida 59

Next stop: on the UConn express — Trenton.

Breanna Stewart scored 25 points in her final game at home and undefeated Connecticut beat eighth-seeded Florida in the second round of the NCAA tournament Tuesday night.

The Huskies (32-0) advanced to the regional semifinals for the 14th straight season where they will play fourth-seeded California on Sunday. This is the fourth time that UConn has been unbeaten while playing in the NCAA tournament.

Connecticut went on to win the national championship in 1995 and 2001-02. In 1994-95, the Huskies lost to Tennessee in the regional final.

Tina Charles followed up her 30-point effort in the first round with 22 against Florida. She also had 10 rebounds for her 11th double-double this season.

Maya Moore added 22 points and 14 rebounds for her 16th double-double of the season.

Marshae Dotson scored 22 to lead Florida (24-8).

With her No. 20 hanging in Gampel Pavilion on the wall in the Huskies of Honor, Montgomery started her 136th straight game to break the school record she shared with Jen Rizzotti.

The senior guard is hoping to cap her storied career with UConn’s sixth national championship. Besides Kerry Bascom, Montgomery is the only honoree of the 11 who hasn’t won an NCAA title.

She left the game to a long standing ovation from the crowd with 6:23 left and UConn up by 36.

The Huskies continue to steam-roll opponents. No one’s come within single digits of them all season and they’ve beaten their previous six ranked opponents by an average of 31 points.

UConn took a little while to get rolling against Florida. Connecticut built a 25-12 lead before Florida went on a 8-1 run to cut the deficit to six.

Then Montgomery took over.

She scored nine straight points during a 13-0 run to put the game away. Montgomery followed up a four-point play with a 3-pointer and two free throws.

Charles ended the burst with a three-point play to make it 39-20.

After Steffi Sorenson hit a 3-pointer to stop Florida’s drought, UConn scored the next eight points to go up 47-23 and end any thoughts of a comeback.

Sorenson’s 30-footer at the buzzer made it 47-26 at the half and marked the 14th time this season that UConn led by at least 20 at the break.

Florida could get no closer than 20 in the second half.

The Gators’ leading scorer, Sha Brooks, never was able to get going, picking up three fouls in the first seven minutes of the game.

The Gators committed 16 team fouls in the first half to UConn’s four leaving Florida coach Amanda Butler shaking her head in disgust.
Wednesday, March 25, 2009

The Observer • SPORTS

MLB

Yankees overcome Wakefield knuckleball

Hawksave Houston victory over Mets; Bradley, Soriano, Ramirez power Chicago Cubs past Colorado

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tim Wakefield had his pitches moving all around the strike zone.

The Red Sox knucklerballer allowed one run and four hits over 5 2-3 innings in Boston's 7-1 loss to the New York Yankees on Tuesday night.

"Today was a good test, probably facing their starting lineup the rest of the way," Wakefield said. "I'll take all the positives out of it and go on to my next one."

Derek Jeter went 1-for-2 with a walk in his first game since rejoining the Yankees from the World Baseball Classic. He grounded out in the first, hit a fourth-inning soft liner to right for a single and walked during the sixth against Wakefield.

"If I'd known that, I would have waited until Thursday to play," Jeter said, joking about facing Wakefield's knuckler.

The 42-year-old Wakefield struck out five and walked one. His spring ERA dropped from 7.31 to 5.40.

"The ball is starting to dance around a little bit better," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "He's starting to get his legs under him. Like everybody else, he's got to build up arm strength."

New York right-hander A.J. Burnett allowed one run and three hits over 5 2-3 innings.

"We had fun out there," Burnett said. "It's getting bet­
ter every time out there."

Burnett had given up two runs over 15 innings in his four starts.

"His stuff is as nasty as any pitcher in baseball," Jeter said.

The Yankees' starting lineup against Boston - Johnny Damon, Jeter, Mark Teixeira, Hideki Matsui, Jorge Posada, Robinson Cano, Xavier Nady, Cody Ransom and Brett Gardner - could be what New York will use on opening day.

"I thought he threw the ball well today," manager Cecil Cooper said. "He looked nice and crisp to me."

Cooper expected Hawkins, along with starting pitcher Roy Oswalt, to get some work in beginning Friday, with the right-hander throwing bullpen sessions until then.

But the 6-foot-5 right-hander arrived in Kissimmee ready to pitch, so Cooper put him in.

"Though he had good results, Hawkins said he felt "terrible" on the mound.

"I couldn't throw the ball over the plate and I threw a lot of pitches," he said. "But I need that rhythm from last season when it counts.""

Astros starter Wandy Rodriguez pitched four score­less innings against a New York team that was without several key players including Robinson Cano with a sore back and Jose Reyes. The lefty appears to have recovered from last weekend's left index finger injury - he allowed two hits after walking two with a pair of strikeouts.

"I controlled my curveball," Rodriguez said. "I felt the finger, but not bad. I need to work more because today I missed my location a little bit."

Mets starter Mike Pelfrey gave up six runs and 10 hits in 4 2-3 innings, after allowing just one run in his previous 10 innings.

Pelfrey is a guy that usually has pretty good command and control," manager Jerry Manuel said. "We probably going through a period where it's a little bit of a struggle, but I think he's going to be okay.

Pelfrey said he's almost 100 percent recovered from a shin injury.

It's almost to the point where I think he's ready," Manuel said.

Rodriguez hit his first home run for Houston, driving in the last run of the fifth inning.

He finished 2-for-3 and Geoff Blum went 3-for-4, including a three-run double in a six-run fifth.

Carlos Lee added a pair of RBIs for the Astros.

Cubs 9, Rockies 8

Greg Smith's fatigue was understandable.

Smith pitched three innings in the Colorado Rockies' 9-8 loss to the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday in his first Cactus League game since March 3 after being sidelined with flu.

"I felt OK," Smith said. "I didn't feel weak, but I did get a little tired toward the end."

The left-hander allowed four runs, three earned, and seven hits. He struck out two and walked two.

Chicago picked up two runs in the first, Derek Lee hit an RBI single and Aramis Ramirez had a sacrifice fly.

In the sixth inning I felt like I made some pitches, but they had some hits with a bloop over second or a broken-bat hit," Smith said. "As the game went on, I felt more and more confident, but then I would leave a breaking ball up, or leave a changeup and that's when I started getting a little tired. It wasn't as crisp as I wanted to be later."

Chad Gaudin allowed two runs and two hits in two innings for the Cubs in his first spring outing since last Wednesday. The right-hander is transitioning to the bullpen after falling out of the com­petition for the fifth starter spot.

"Some things just don't go your way sometimes," Gaudin said. "Try to make some adjustments and get back to where I was. I felt good. I felt good about what I was doing out there. It was a lot better than I had been before. It's a work in progress."

Milan Bradley hit his second spring homer and finished with three hits to lead Chicago. Alfonso Soriano went 2-for-2 with two walks and two RBIs, and Reed Johnson scored three runs.

Dan Ortmeier hit a two-run homer for Colorado.
NFL

Umenyiora returns to Giants defensive line

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — If Justin Tuck had concerns about Osi Umenyiora coming back from knee surgery, they ended the first day the two entered the weight room for the New York Giants’ voluntary offseason program.

Umenyiora promptly declared he was the stronger man.

Tuck laughs telling the story, knowing that’s how the defensive linemen push themselves, by challenging each other.

When asked who really was stronger, Tuck admitted it was Umenyiora, at least for now.

“He calls himself the king right now, and me the prince,” Tuck said Tuesday after the Giants held another voluntary practice at Giants Stadium. “But he has had six months of training and I had six months of being beat up.”

Looking at Umenyiora, there is no doubt that he’s happy to be back at work.

The defensive end tore the lateral meniscus in his left knee in a preseason game against the Jets, sidelining him for the year. He has had six months of being beat up since.

“Way it ended, it was very frustrating,” Tuck said. “As long as I’m able to do my part, I think it’s where it needs to be.”

The only obstacle in his recovery is getting back on the field, which he said is more a mental thing.

After his injury and surgery, Umenyiora stayed away from the team, saying it would have bothered him if he remained. He added that it was tough watching, notching the Giants’ loss to the Eagles in the playoffs was hard to accept.

“It was very frustrating for me,” he said. “I wasn’t able to help the team. I was able to call them and give them support, but that was the extent of my help. To see the way it ended, it was very frustrating. It was a team they should have beat and would have beaten if everything was in order, and it wasn’t. We’ll reload next year and go at them.”

With the signing of defensive end Chris Canty and tackle Rocky Bernard, the return of Umenyiora, the Giants are deep on the defensive line.

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Spurs hold on to edge Warriors

Parker scores 30 in win; Bryant sits fourth quarter in blowout victory

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs held a four-quarter lead all game, straight game slip away in the final moments. But boy, was it close.

Gnawed by last-second losses in their previous two outings, controversial coach Gregg Popovich was anything but pleased when he saw the 5.9 seconds left buzzer.

"They have two more left on five seconds get to the rim," Tony Parker said in the final moments. "We're trying to do offensively, through a rough patch," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

Spurs missed their last six free throws in the final two minutes and an 87-85 defeat Sunday against Golden State. They could move back to within 1/2 of the division lead.

"The Lakers gained the lead with a half-court shot," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "My guys never gave up. They are a great team."

Bryant sat out the fourth quarter.

"The Lakers got redemption when they didn't lose," Bryant said. "We didn't close the game and make sure you continue to execute and stay focused on what you need to do well every single possession and sustain the lead."

Los Angeles was up by nine within the first five minutes and then closed out the first quarter with eight straight points to go up 17. For a team that hasn't lost this season after leading by 17 or more, the Lakers could feel pretty comfortable by then — if not for their last visit to Oklahoma City.

In that game last month, the Lakers let an 18-point lead get whittled down to one before Bryant came to the rescue by scoring 15 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter of a 107-93 win.

This time, Bryant and the rest of the starters could have plenty comfortable as the bench was emptied. Even seldom-used reserves Adam Morrison and Shawn Pereze — picked up in a trade last month with Charlotte — got into the game.

"We can't complain about that," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "I think we played all right in the first quarter. After that, I think we just kind of took by the game. I didn't like that so much."

Both Popovich and Luke Walton 11 to lead the reserves, and Derek Fisher also 11.

"I just think towards the end of the season we have to take one of each of these games and start thinking about the playoffs and pursing ourselves towards that," Popovich said. "Every game is important, and we're just trying to do the best we can to do in sustain the effort."

Jackson suggested it could be tough for L.A. to catch Cleveland, considering that the team has won eight of their last 12 games at home — where the only loss came to the Lakers.

"We've got a few more road games than they do, they've got a better home record than we do, so that means that they have a better chance right now," Jackson said. "But the tie goes against us, so that's important that we keep pressure on them."

Bryant said the chase is more about bragging rights than home-court advantage.

"We want to have the best record just to have it, just because of the challenge of it, to say that we did it," Bryant said. "Outside of that, it's just about us getting better."

Jeff Green scored 12 points, Nenad Krstic added 11 and Thabo Sefolosha, Russell Westbrook and Nick Collison each had 10 for Oklahoma City.

"That's one of the best teams in the league right now," Thunder guard化工 Akins said. "We have a young team, we're learning and we just got to move on."

The Lakers all but put the game away when they finished the first half on an 11-0 run shortly after Oklahoma City went with an overplayed lineup. Pushing their lead to 62-48. After Westbrook picked up his third foul, Thunder coach Scott Brooks went without a point guard and instead had Sasha Vujacic and Durant in the backcourt with forwards Green, Collison and Krstic.
Freshman infielder Dana Miller waits for her pitch during Notre Dame's doubleheader split with St. John's on March 22.

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

The Iris will hope to take it all to get something going, the momentum from the non-pitching and good solid pitching it all to get. The Pirates, who train in Bradenton, are looking to charge Pereira was detained after an anonymous tipster called police to report a woman on a street corner in downtown Bradenton had information about the missing baby. When deputies responded to the scene, the baby was found and a woman was detained.

CCHA
continued from page 28

"As much as I don't want to have to play Michigan again, I'd like to see them get shot by the Frozen Four," Jackson said. "I'd love to see Miami take a shot at it and Ohio State. But it would be tough to do that because there are a lot of good teams all over the country." The Irish received the second seed in the nation behind only Boston University. Despite the fact that the Irish had the No. 1 rating, a higher winning percentage, the Terriers were able to edge Notre Dame because its PairWise Ranking was one point higher. The PairWise rates teams based on common opponents, wins over ranked teams head-to-head record and the RPI. Boston University won its only game against Michigan this season, and its winning percentage (1.000) against the Wolverines topped Notre Dame's (0.667), which may have given them the edge.

Both teams had plenty of chances to take on top competition as the Hockey East — the Terriers' conference — is the only other conference with four teams in the tournament. Notre Dame is looking forward to the chance to prove itself against the strong Hockey East teams.

"Any time you get the chance to showcase your team and your conference's skill against other conferences you really want to do well and let people know you're one of the better, if not the best, in the country," Irish senior forward Brian Betson said. All of the Notre Dame players are looking forward to seeing their conference do well in the tournament. "I think even if there was a team in another division, we would make the tournament we would still be routing for the other CCHA teams," sophomore left winger Bryan said. The Irish have a lot of pride in their conference. That was never more evident than last weekend when they won the CCHA's Muscon Cup. "We put a lot of pride in the tournament. We have a big deal to win it and we're not going to let anyone take it from us. We're protecting it." Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

FOOTBALL

Wife of Pirates prospect suspect in kidnapping

Associated Press

PLANT CITY, Fla. — A 2-month-old is back in the arms of his parents and the wife of a top Pittsburgh Pirates minor league prospect is suspected of taking the infant from a health clinic outside Tampa, authorities said Tuesday.

Amalia Tabata Pereira, 43, was being questioned by Florida detectives in Manatee County, where the girl was found unharmed Tuesday afternoon, a day after she was taken from the clinic. Plant City Chief of Police Bill McDaniel said authorities are looking to charge Pereira with false imprisonment.

She is the wife of Jose Tabata, 20, an outfielder and one of the top three prospects for the Pirates, who train in Bradenton, which is in the county where the infant was found. In a statement, Pirates president Frank Coonelly said they have received "no indication that Jose is believed to have had any involvement in this matter."

Amalia Tabata Pereira was taken from her mother, Rosa Sirlis-Rafael, about 3 p.m. Monday when a woman and her family only knew as "Janet." Plant City police said. The mother had taken her baby for a checkup at the Plant City Health Department, where she met Janet, who said she was an immigration official. Sirlis-Rafael told the Tampa Tribune. The woman told Sirlis-Rafael that there were officers at her home waiting to deport her and the child's father.

Janet offered to help, but said she had to take the baby.

To two women with the infant to a farm where the child's father works and Janet told him the same story, and the mother later handed the child over.

Plant City police Capt. Darrell Wilson couldn't confirm the mother's account of events.

"We believe that may have been the story, but we haven't spoken with the suspect," he said.

Investigators now believe Janet and Pereira are likely the same person. Wilson said Pereira has a criminal record that includes theft and fraud convictions and that police did not have a hometown for her because she has several aliases.

"We're still waiting to find out if it's an isolated incident or not," he said.

There were conflicting reports regarding exactly how the infant was found.

The Plant City police said Pereira turned herself and the baby in to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office early Tuesday afternoon. But authorities in Manatee said Pereira was detained after an anonymous tipster called police to report a woman on a street corner in downtown Bradenton had information about the missing baby. When deputies responded to the scene, the baby was found and a woman was detained.

Izzo leads MSU to the top

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Late March would be a bad time to line up Tom Izzo for a 40-minute cover photo shoot.

The Michigan State coach looks to tend a little haggard this time of year, with tired eyes, a weary smile and a frills green warm-up suit reflecting the long hours he's working as his team advances deeper into the NCAA Tournament.

And Izzo wouldn't have it any other way.

"I might look worse," Izzo said Tuesday with a sandpaper voice. "I might feel better. But as far as inside, this is it. I don't live for opening day. I live for March and I love every minute of it."

"If I was looking good and feeling good — probably wouldn't be playing," Second-seeded Michigan State (26-6) faces No. 3 seed Kansas (27-6) in a Midwest regional semifinal Friday in Indianapolis.

The Spartans have won 16 of their past 18 games, eight times in the past 12 since a 54-53 loss to the UW in last year's NCAA title game. The Spartans have been so consistent that Izzo said Tuesday he has learned to adapt to the fact that the team has no "frills" this season.

The Spartans have looked good in their first two NCAA games, defeating 15th-seeded Murray State in overtime and fifth-seeded Southern California in the first and second rounds. The victories give Izzo a 28-10 record in the NCAA tournament, tied for the fifth-best winning percentage among active coaches.

Michigan State is 12-year NCAA tournament appearance streak is fourth longest in the nation behind only Arizona, Kansas and Duke. Izzo won the 2000 national title and has coached in four Final Fours, with a potential fifth trip now two victories away.

Not bad for the native of Indiana's rural Upper Peninsula, who labored as an assistant under Jud Heathcote for more than a decade before taking over the Spartans' program before the 1992-93 season.

The 54-year-old Izzo is the longest-tenured coach in the Big Ten. He won his fifth regular season conference title this year.

The Spartans made the NIT in Izzo's first two seasons. It's been nothing but the NCAA tournament since.

"They go into a game, they think they're prepared for what's going to happen," Izzo said. "I guarantee you every player is going to say all the rocks have been turned over, all the stones have been turned over, now what's going on. There will be no surprises. They're only thing I can give to them. The rest of it, they have to give to me." Michigan State is led by senior forward Kalin Lucas, a point guard averaging 14.6 points and 4.5 assists per game.

But the Spartans have been getting key contributions from a host of players, including a career-high 18 points from defensive specialist Travis Wallin in the win over USC. The Michigan State-Kansas winner advances to play Sunday against No. 1 seed Louisville or No. 12 seed Arizona in the Midwest final.

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Michigan State coach

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Want more on ND and SMC sports?
Check out The Casual Observer at observersportsblog.wordpress.com
Knights
continued from page 28

Even though Corrigan won’t talk about it, the Irish are after the short list of teams in contention for a national championship. And if the Knights today would only further their cause.

The Knights (5-2) are also opening their conference season today, and hope to improve on 2006’s 0-5 GLW record. Bellarmine relies primarily on three players for their offensive production — sophomore midfield Derick Hopcroft, junior attacker Sean Doyle and freshman midfielder Garrett Hills. In this respect, Corrigan said the Knights are comparable to Vermont, the first team he faced on Saturday.

“I think they’re similar in that way,” he said. “They’re also similar in the way that they’re going to generate their offense. I think some of the younger guys and younger defensive side of the ball will be similar.

Corrigan also said he expected Bellarmine to use picks-offensively, as the Knights did against Vermont in the game they played two weeks ago.

In order to come out with a win against the Knights, Corrigan noted that the Irish would have to focus on their half that put junior right fielder David Mills on second base. Pollock wasted no time in turning the score around, hitting a no-doubter over the left-field fence off reliever Jesse Hernandez, who took the loss.

Our whole focus tonight was the same that we’ve had all season,” said Schrage. “We need to establish our identity of playing all 27 rounds, and playing it all out on the field, and we didn’t do that on Sunday. That was disappointing, but tonight it was not disappointing.”

After a rough start, Central Michigan starter Trent Howard kept the Irish offense at bay through the midgame innings, and the Knights trailed 1-0 until the fifth. The Irish, however, came back to make a game of it in the fifth, but were unable to score any runs for six innings. Bellarmine kept Central Michigan’s offense in check through six innings, and the Irish had trouble getting runners on base.

The Irish started quickly, scoring three runs in the first third of the game, hitting the ball particularly hard,” Schrage said. “We were really good offensively, and we scored a few runs in the middle of the inning, scoring before a double-play grounded scoreless Pollock.

Our lady athletes have really stepped up in the second with six two-out runs, all after a throwing error by Sherry extended the inning.

Freshman starter Dustin Ipsas, who lasted just two innings, allowed just six runs in three straight hits before retiring the rout.

It was a repeat of Sunday, Schrage said. “In the double we were like, boy, this is just a repeat. We need pitchers to either close the door and make a pitch, or we’ve got to make a play behind them.”

Pollock drove a two-run home run in the third with two runners on base to give the Irish a 3-1 lead over Central Michigan. Ipsas allowed just four hits and two runs in six innings, while the Irish offense continued to roll. Ipsas was named the game’s MVP.

“arid it’s great to see him come through that,” said Vogel. “That was kind of what we were asking for — to play another home game which is great.”

The Wildcats have had Notre Dame’s number in their meetings over the years, Kentucky leads the all-time series 41-17 and has won the past two games in meetings between the two schools. The last Irish victory over the Wildcats came on March 5, 1998.

This year’s Kentucky squad doesn’t possess the talent of many past teams, but does own one of the most dynamic players in the country. Moe — who beat a house a house to beat the Wildcats last year — is in the midst in the nation in points per game, with 24.2.

A 6-foot-4-inch slasher with range, Moe has topped the 30-point plateau seven times this season. He drew national attention on Jan. 13 when he scored 34 points in leading Kentucky to a 90-72 win over Tennessee.

“You have to be really aware of him at all times,” Corrigan said. “We have to defend him, because he is the heart of their team.”

Irish forward Ryan Ayers said of Moe, “You have to be on his hip the whole time, make him feel uncomfortable. Maybe deny him the ball a little bit, so he can’t set up his game. You just really concentrate on team awareness and helping out.”

Wednesday’s game will begin at 7 p.m. and will be televised on ESPNU. It will be the final game in the current Joyce Center, which is set to be renovated at the end of the season.

Contact Greg Arbasog at garbasog@nd.edu

NIT
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But it was the Irish who scored on a two-out single by Scott Rodgers, who started every game for the squad. He will be faced with a Bellarmine offense that comes in averaging 11.86 goals per game.

Even if Corrigan is concerned with Notre Dame’s offensive efficiency, the one positive point for the Irish on that side of the field is the team’s ability to spread the scoring around. So far this year, several different Irish players have netted hat tricks, and 16 have registered a point. Most recently, it was senior attack Ryan Helfer who netted five goals in the win over the Catamounts.

The Irish are averaging 12.33 goals per game, while giving up only 7.33. The defense is anchored by senior netminder Scott Rodgers, who has started every game for the squad. He will be faced with a Bellarmine offense that comes in averaging 10.78 goals per game.

Those in attendance Wednesday night will be treated to an opponent usually occupied with another tournament held in March. The winningest team in the history of college basketball, Kentucky had made the NCAA Tournament each of the past 17 seasons.

The history of the Wildcats’ program is a laundry list of accomplishments. In addition to topping any other school in all-time wins (1,454) and all-time winning percentage (.758), Kentucky also leads the nation in NCAA Tournament appearances, victories and games played. The Wildcats’ seven national titles put them behind only UCLA.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

Senior midfielder Peter Christian makes a move during Notre Dame’s 19-7 win over Dartmouth on Feb. 28.

Senior leftfielder Sam Elam delivers during Notre Dame’s 14-8 victory over Central Michigan Tuesday. Elam threw three innings of one-run ball in relief of freshman Dustin Ipsas.

"You have to be really aware of him at all times," Irish forward Ryan Ayers said of defending Moe — who beat a house a house to beat the Wildcats last year — is in the midst in the nation in points per game, with 24.2.

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Contact Greg Arbasog at garbasog@nd.edu

One of the famous names in college basketball," Irish forward Luke Harangody said. "That just adds to it. This is the matchup we kind of were waiting for — to play another home game which is great."
Back to the Big Apple?

Team can advance to New York with victory

By GREG ARBOGAST
Senior Staff Writer

In an odd bit of symmetry, the finish of Monday’s Kentucky-Creighton game ensured that this year’s seniors would go out in style.

Just days after Tory Jackson’s last-second shot put Notre Dame one game away from the NIT semfinals in New York City, Jodie Meeks’ last-second basket ensured that its next game would take place in the Joyce Center — and that it would be against Kentucky, arguably college basketball program’s most storied program.

“I was trying to rally the spirit of Adolph Rupp throughout the game,” Jackson said.

Irish junior guard Tory Jackson runs the point during Notre Dame’s 74-62 loss to West Virginia in the Big East tournament on March 11 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

ND SOFTBALL

Solid defense keys nonconference win over Ball State

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame used a pair of crucial double plays and a three-run homer by freshman second baseman Dani Miller to top visiting Ball State 5-1 Tuesday.

“We put the ball in play hard and consistently, we put constant pressure on their defense, and we capitalized on mistakes that they made,” sophomore right fielder Erin Marrone said.

Neither team managed to score in its first inning, as Irish (12-11) junior Brittany Bargar and Cardinals (9-13) pitcher Elizabeth Milian each started strong.

In the bottom of the second, an overthrow from Cardinals shortstop Alicja Burkeley moved Irish runners to second and third. Senior Brianna Jorgensborg hit a grounder that brought in junior Christine Lux for an RBI and put the Irish in the lead, which they kept for the remainder of the game.

“Defense is where we took control of the game,” Marrone said. “We shut down any momentum that they had.”

The game was a defensive gem for the Irish. A double play from junior third baseman Heather Johnson to Lux at first base and back to Johnson gave the Irish a little defensive momentum. Later in the game, a double play from Miller to sophomore shortstop Katie Fleury at second to Lux showed that defensively, the Irish were on top of their game.

“The double plays just pump us up. They were big plays, and they ended innings,” Marrone said. “It switched the momentum in our favor.”

Notre Dame’s big inning came in the third. Both senior designated hitter Beth Northway and Johnson singled early on. Shortly after, Miller hit a home run, bringing Northway, Johnson and herself around the bases for a 4-1 Irish lead.

In the fourth inning, the Irish found a big hole in left field as Jordan How can do. We saw that first hand in the future.

By DAN MURPHY
Senior Staff Writer

With four CCHA teams in this year’s NCAA Tournament, Notre Dame and its conference mates are one of the most dangerous groups in this year’s postseason.

Both Notre Dame and Miami both received No. 4 seeds despite falling to the semifinals of the conference tournament. Both of them have won over Notre Dame and Michigan this year. If not for their early exits in the CCHA playoffs they most likely would have received a better draw. Irish coach Jeff Jackson said they will be a tough challenge for any No. 1 seed.

“I think Boston University is going to have their hands full against Ohio State and we know what Miami can do. We saw that first hand in the beginning of the year,” Jackson said.

Miami beat the Irish at home back in October, and the RedHawks are the only team in the country to beat Notre Dame more than once.

Notre Dame and Michigan, which met in Saturday’s CCHA Championship game, were both given No. 1 seeds. Michigan is playing out of the Bridgeport, Conn. bracket, and Notre Dame is staying close to home in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Neither of those teams will have to face off against the tough CCHA No. 4 seeds because the NCAA rules prevent a team from playing someone in its own conference in the first round.

Each team is in separate brackets, giving the opportunity for an all-CCHA Frozen Four.