Author explains humans' relation to God

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Editor

Human beings cannot be understood without understanding their relationship with God, according to Igbo novelist and poet Chinua Achebe, who delivered his second lecture of a three-part series titled "The Igbo and their Perception of God, Human Beings and Creation" Wednesday.

"Oh! [the creator] gives each one of us a meaning." Achebe said, the author of the 1958 novel "Things Fall Apart.

It is impossible to generalize the relationship between God and humans, according to Achebe. "God reveals himself in as many ways as there are us," he said.

The personal nature of religion manifests itself in the blending of Christianity with traditional Igbo religion, according to Achebe, who added a Christian conclusion to a traditional prayer.

"It's something that is happening in Nigeria in the Igbo language," Achebe said. "Some people don't like it—they think their religions and their prayers shouldn't get mixed up.

"But there's no point in making rules," Achebe continued. "It's people who make prays." The primary Igbo deity, Chukwu—translated in literature means "Great Creator," is the source of all life and good, according to Achebe.

"This is a way for students to get the word out and share their stories of not just mental illness, but anything that's been on their mind," Howard said.

The postcards were filled with thoughts ranging from concern over a mental illness to worries about friends to feelings of panic.

"If they don't have support in the community, dealing with issues for many students is challenging," Howard said. "People want to talk about it, and others will be able to learn more about it.

NAMI-ND was co-founded this year by Howard and Katie Dunn. Howard said he read a New York Times article in 2006 about the organization as a whole, and decided to try to start one here.

"NAMI is a national group with state and local chapters," Howard said. "It is an important organization, often referenced by top political figures.

According to the NMI's Web site, the group is "the nation's largest grassroots organization for people with mental illness and their families. Founded in 1979, NAMI has affiliates in every state and in more than 1,000 local communities across the country.

The mission of the Notre Dame chapter is to work toward ending the stigma directed at mental illness on campus through alliance, advocacy and awareness.

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

A coalition of student groups formed an ad hoc committee to "lead student response" in condemning the University's invitation to President Barack Obama to deliver Notre Dame's 2009 Commencement address, according to a press release.

The coalition—-including Notre Dame Right to Life, Notre Dame College Republicans, the Irish Rover student newspaper and six other campus groups—created a Web site, ndresponse.com, and released a formal statement Wednesday, denouncing University President John Jenkins' choice of speaker.

"In response to the University's decision, we pledge ourselves to acts of witness that will be characterized by respect, prayerfulness, outspoken fidelity to the Church and true concern for the good of our University," the statement said.

Although outside religious and pro-life groups have been outspoken against the University, this coalition is the first formal student response.

If student email groups have sprung up with the purpose of garnering support for Jenkins' decision.

"We will be honored to have President Obama at Notre Dame," claims 3,453 members.

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

Student body president Bob Reish said improving the relationship between students and their representatives in student government was a central focus and an accomplishment of his term in office during his final State of the Student Union address to Student Senate Wednesday.

Reish will step down from his position on April 1, and student body president-elect Grant Schmidt will fill the role.

Although the student body president generally delivers the final State of the Student Union address to Student Union office during his final State of the Union address.

Improvement of student body-student gov't relations emphasized

By ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Reish gives last State of Union address

Econ prof dies at 73

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Charles Craypo, professor emeritus of economics at Notre Dame, died Sunday, May 22. He was 73. A private memorial service was held on Monday, May 23.

Craypo was the former chair of the department of economics and the director of the Higgins Labor Studies Program on campus.

"He had a real sense of loyalty to the blue collar people of Michigan," said Craypo's, said that Craypo "never forgot where he came from."

"He was a wonderful role model," Warlick said. "He walks the talk in terms of working for social justice. In particular he worked very hard for the rights of working people."

A native of Jackson, Mich., Craypo joined the Notre Dame faculty in 1978 as an associate professor of economics. After leaving to teach at Cornell University in 1982, he returned to Notre Dame in 1984 when he became the department chair.

In 1993, he became the director of the Higgins Labor Studies Program, which supports research, teaching, discussion and publication on political theory of labor and the economy.

"He was known in the academic community for his teaching and research," Connolly said.

"He was a wonderful role model."

"We will be honored to have President Obama at Notre Dame," claims 3,453 members.

See CRAYPO/page 4

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

Author explains humans' relation to God

If you have checked your mailbox lately, you probably received a postcard blank on one side except for the words "Write it down...."

These postcards were part of Notre Dame's first "PostSecret" event: Students have the opportunity to mail secrets or personal troubles to be published anonymously.

Spencer Howard, a co-founder of Notre Dame's chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) that helped to sponsor the event, said the group's goal was to raise awareness and advocate for better mental health.

The College Democrats, the Sophomore Class Council, the Psychology Club and the Senate Social Concerns Committee also helped with sponsorship duties.

"This was a way for students to get the word out and share their stories of not just mental illness, but anything that's been on their mind," Howard said.

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See UNION/page 4

Coalition condemns Obama's invitation

Campus sponsors 'PostSecret,' Irish style

Anonymous messages of students' troubles to be displayed for mental health awareness

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

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See CRAYPO/page 4

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See PROTEST/page 4
INSIDE COLUMN

Magna Cafeteria

There are many unwritten rules in life — no one should have to tell you just know. Correction — most people know, I guess, because from time to time these rules do get broken.

So let’s get the unwritten rules of one relevant location down in writing, where they can be broken so often — the dining hall.

1. Do not ever, ever stop backwards in the dining hall. This rule mostly applies during peak hours, but really all the time. Common sense says that when everyone is carrying a tray in front of them, and you move backwards, you’re probably going to hit someone’s tray. Then if the person behind you doesn’t have a cat-like reflex, food and silverware will go flying, and it creates a situation more awkward than watching American Pie with your grandparents.

2. Do not talk on your cell phone and try to get food at the same time. Judging from every time I’ve been to this attempted it, it is not possible. You need a hand for your tray and a hand to get any food, so I’m having a hard time where this secret phone hand is supposed to come from. Anyways, no one in line behind you should be subjected to your conversation about that guy that spilled your beer at Fever, it’s not a big deal.

3. Don’t invade people’s space. If you have a lot of people eating with you, way farther than you’re more popular than weed at a Pink Floyd laser show. Just don’t sit down at a table with people already there, and make them feel bad or move because you suddenly can’t fit all your buddies.

4. Do not ever take more than two cups. Three is just too many.

5. Do not try and be Rachael Ray. You do not have to travel the entire circumference of the dining hall in order to find something to eat. What’s in the home-style section? Shower buddy, it’s the same thing that’s there everyday, bad burgers and hot dogs and a lot of grilled cheese and some fries. It’s like when parents are at the dining hall after football game, easy exercise because you should know what’s where. Steve Wonder could get his food faster than you.

6. Say hi to the people that work at the dining hall. Most everyone does this, but really, they’re ridiculously nice people and the opportunity to talk and be around you is the reason they’re here and not being a greeter at Wal-Mart (or maybe the economy, but roll with it). Seriously, they love students more than they love the Weather Channel. And damn, do old people love to talk about the weather.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of information at all times. We did, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-8941 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHO WOULD BE YOUR IDEAL COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER?

Josh Espinosa
Sophomore
Knott Hall

Andy Hills
Freshman
Carroll Hall

Jon Rivard
Freshman
Carroll Hall

Larissa Nez
Sophomore
Pangburn

Students paint up to support freshman pitcher Steve Sabatino during Notre Dame’s baseball game vs. Oakland on Wednesday.

OFFBEAT

Mich, baseball park to offer 4,800-calorie burgers

GRAND RAPIDS — Well, at least the salsa is low-cal. The West Michigan Whitecaps, a minor league baseball team, will be offering up major league cholesterol, carbohydrates and calories in an enormous hamburger being added to the menu this year at the Fifth Third Ballpark.

The 4-pound, $20 burger features five beef patties, five slices of cheese, nearly a cup of chili and liberal doses of salsa and corn chips, all on an 8-inch sesame-seed bun.

That’s a lot of dough! The Grand Rapids Press reports that anyone who can finish this behemoth in one sitting will receive a special T-shirt. Sane fans can divide it up with a pizza cutter and share.

The Midwest League team is a Class A affiliate of the Detroit Tigers.

Women use a fake ID to buy fake breasts

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. — Police are seeking a woman they said used a false identity to get breast implants and liposuction, then skipped town.

Huntington Beach police said Monday that a 30-year-old woman opened a line of credit in someone else’s name in September 2008 and had the procedures worth more than $12,000 performed at the Pacific Center for Plastic Surgery. Employees said she never returned for follow-up visits.

The woman turned herself in Tuesday and was released on $20,000 bail. She faces charges of commercial burglary, grand theft and identity theft.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

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

IN BRIEF

A lecture hosted by the Theology department titled “The igbo and their Perception of God, Human Beings and Creation,” will take place today at 7:30 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium of Mendoza College of Business.

Nigerian novelist and poet Chinua Achebe will deliver the Third Biennial Blessed Pope John XXIII Lecture Series in Theology and Culture. The talk Thursday will focus on “Creation.”

The Department of Africana Studies will host a symposium titled “Change, Hope and Expectation: The Obama Presidency, in Global Perspective” today at 6:00 p.m. in the Eck Visitors’ Center Auditorium. A panel consisting of the lEkine Peters Dissertation Fellows will speak.

The Hawaii Club will be kicking off “Hula Lea: Celebrating the Evolution of Hula” on Saturday at with a dinner at 5:00 p.m. in the Stepan Center. The show will start at 6:30 P.m. Costs for students is $10 at the door.

The Black Cultural Arts Council will present “Fashion Show: Evolution” Saturday at 8:00 p.m. in the balcony of the Marriott Hotel in South Bend. Clothes will be featured from Men’s Warehouse, Man Alive, Chi-Town Fashions, Street Stylin’, Renee’s, Dee, Vanity, Bridal Boutique and Chezo’s. Tickets are $8 for students.

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

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LOCAL WEATHER

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Wednesday, March 26, 2009
Lipstadt examines Holocaust denial

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
News Writer

New forms of Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism persist, according to Emory University Professor Deborah Lipstadt, who spoke at a lecture at Notre Dame Wednesday evening.

Lipstadt, who delivered the 2009 Provost Distinguished Women’s Lecture, is a Holocaust scholar and the author of several books about the Holocaust. She is known for discrediting Holocaust denier David Irving in court when he sued for libel in 1996.

Lipstadt spoke about that trial in relation to the larger battle against anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial.

“There are two types of Holocaust denial, Lipstadt said. The first, which she called "hardcore denial," denies the very existence of the Holocaust. She defined David Irving as a “hardcore” denier.

The other form of Holocaust denial, or "softcore denial," is more difficult to fight against, Lipstadt said. Examples of this type of denial include people who refuse to hear more information about the Holocaust and seek to cancel Holocaust remembrance days, she said.

“You see softcore denial accepted by many people who you would think would reject this kind of view, this kind of attitude,” she said. “You begin to see this trend, and it’s a very disturbing trend.”

“It is difficult to decide whether to debate Holocaust deniers because doing so gives credence to their arguments, Lipstadt said.

“I, as a principle, do not believe in debating Holocaust deniers because it is like trying to nail a gloop of jelly to the wall,” she said. “You cannot debate liars.”

During the libel trial, it was important to defeat Irving’s arguments, Lipstadt said. Researchers helped her find historical documents to dispro­ve his statements in court.

“How do you fight these people without building them up in importance?” she asked. “The one way I know how to fight is to show the facts.”

Lipstadt related Holocaust denial views to new forms of anti-Semitism, which has increased in recent years. It is most prevalent in Europe, and more worrisome than it was in the past, she said.

“It is less directed at individ­uals,” Lipstadt said. “It is more directed at Jews as a group. And sometimes it can be lethal.”

Anti-Semitism is “equally as difficult to respond to as Holocaust denial,” Lipstadt said.

“You’re immediately creating an irrefutable sentiment. You’re trying to respond to it rationally, you’re never going to win,” she said.

Lipstadt said that anti-Semitism is like all other kinds of prejudice.

“It’s the same thing as fighting racism, sexism, whatever you might be fighting,” she said. “It is a nearly impossible task to change cultural sentiments.”

Lipstadt pointed to evidence of prejudice that she has been able to change, and she said she dedicates her life to fighting these forms of prejudice.

“When you come to respond to these prej­udices you’re already in a diff­icult position,” she said.

Lecture discusses Jesus’ humanity

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

“We know that Jesus ate and drank, and put up with evaporat­ion apologies, but we do not know if Jesus laughed,” said Anita Houck, Saint Mary’s College Associate Professor of Religious Studies who spoke Wednesday for a lecture titled “Did Jesus Laugh?” at 4:30 p.m. in the Student Center.

We know that there have been stories of Jesus’ laughter, but none that were accepted into the Canon with the church follows. We cannot turn to the Bible to find the answer, Houck continued.

The talk was the second install­ment in a three-part spring lecture series called “Hope Hard Times” sponsored by the Center for Spirituality. The topic focuses on the benefits of spirituality amid the uncertainty of the current eco­nomic crisis.

One thing is undisputed: Jesus was human. And to be fully human, Jesus had to laugh like people, Houck said.

“Let’s deal with the question of why we laugh,” Houck said. “To attribute laughter to Jesus, we cannot go straight from ‘he was human’ to ‘he had to have laughed.’ We have to add the premise that it is good for humans to laugh, said Houck.

To support her claim that laugh­ter is good, Houck listed a variety of reasons centering around its importance to relationships: old­fashioned joy, comic relief, inside jokes, laughter as a sign of com­mon humanity and as a way to ward off evil and as a way to express the human side of the church.

Like Jesus, Houck practiced the art of laughter, she said.

“Inside jokes bring people together. But humor has had a bad reputa­tion with religion, since the occasional mean-spirited intent was innocent, Houck said.

“Despite humor’s negative reputa­tion, it is worth remembering that there are all kinds of laughter, and they can regulate the nature of relationships,” she continued.

Houck used quotes from G.K. Chesterton, Mark Twain, Albert Einstein, Thomas Aquinas and William James to transition through her points.

She concluded her lecture with a quote from G.K. Chesterton: “You must have mirth or you will have madness.”

Contact Megan Loney at mlooney1@stmarys.edu

STUDENT SENATE

Senate reinstates ‘Chief of Staff’ title

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

Student Senate passed a resolu­tion to amend the constitution of the undergraduate student body to restore the title of Chief of Staff at the last meeting of the term Wednesday.

The position is currently called the Chief Executive Assistant (CEA) and is the third position in the student body president and vice president line of succession.

Student body vice president Grant Schmidt officially announced that Brian Brodsky, current chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, will take the position of Chief of Staff on April 1.

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Brian Coutinho said the title Chief of Staff was changed to Chief Executive Assistant because changes made to the format of student government essentially dis­solved the staff.

“There wasn’t any staff so the name was inappropriate at the time,” Coutinho said.

Association of the Oversight Committee, which oversees changes to the constitution, said the switch was for practical reasons.

“People usually have a hard time explaining what the CEA is,” he said.

Senators voted 25-0 in favor of the amendment, with one absent.

The resolution passed with 25 votes for the amendment, two against and zero abstaining votes.

Alumni Hall senator Zach Beavers and Fisher Hall senator Jon Vu opposed the amendment.

The resolution states that the Chief of Staff will assist the student body president and vice president with daily tasks and committee efforts, attend all Executive Policy Board meetings and sit on Student Senate, Council of Representatives and the Campus Life Council as a non-voting member.

The Chief of Staff will also be responsible for Student Senate press releases and general publicity, according to the resolution.

In other Senate news:

- Student body vice president Grant Schmidt said he has been preparing for the transition that will occur when he takes his position as student body president on April 1, along with student body vice presi­dent-elect Cynthia Velez.

- Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee Brian Brodsky said his committee has been working with professors to obtain DBN numbers for texts required for University courses in order to lower the cost of books. He said the project will continue into the next term.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

15th Annual Mini-Medical School

Hosting the 9th Annual Otis R. Bowen, M.D. Lecture:

"Health Care Under President Barack Obama's An Insider's Debate"

Ralph Neas, CEO, National Coalition on Health Care, Washington D.C.
Robert E. Moffit, PhD.
The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.

Thursday, March 26, 2009
7:00-9:00 p.m. (EST)
Indiana University School of Medicine - South Bend Radin - Carmichael Hall
1234 Notre Dame Avenue
South Bend, IN 46617
(The southeast corner of Notre Dame main entrance, at Angela Blvd)

Free of charge and open to the general public.

For more information call Memorial Hospital: (574) 647 - 7381

The Observer ♦ CAMPUS NEWS page 3
Secrets
continued from page 1

While this event has no affiliation with Notre Dame, it was held on other college campuses, Howard said it earned the same name because of the use of the postcard for sending a personal note.

While the location where the anonymous messages will be posted remains confidential, Howard said he hopes it will be centrally located.

"We are looking to make a wall where people can read the actual cards we have collected," Howard said.

The group is still awaiting approval from the SAD before they can construct it. The wall will display the more than 20 postcards collected so far.

Howard, a senior, will not be on campus next year, but he wants to see the event next year continue annually," he said. "I hope it will help students feel more connected, and no one will feel isolated.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at edonell@nd.edu

Protest
continued from page 1

as of press time.

Despite the controversy, Shinn Isonye, a White House spokesperson, said the president is honored to speak to Notre Dame students.

"Notre Dame is one of the first universities President Obama will visit as president," Isonye said. "Life is honored to address the graduating class, their families and the faculty of a school with such a rich history of fostering the exchange of ideas."

Mary Daly, president of Notre Dame Right to Life, said the coalition's Web site has already gotten a massive response very quickly.

Daly said the coalition is the result of a meeting on Tuesday that was organized by Right to Life but extended to all interested groups and individuals.

"It initiated some communications amongst the groups and after deliberating, we decided it would be a good idea to collaborate on the basis of our common ground because we do believe," she said. "We thought it would be most effective if we worked together in this instance."

Daly said she cannot comment specifically about the coalition's plans because they are in the very beginning stages, but the group's Web site has an event slated for March 31 in which the coalition will deliver red cards to legislators representing Northern politicians.

According to the site, the letter will address "the panorama represents one child who died because of an abortion. It is empty because the life that was taken is now unable to be a part of our world. This envelope was going to be sent to President Obama on March 31st. However, as he is scheduled to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Laws Degree from Notre Dame on May 17th, we ask that you deliver it on his behalf at that time."

Daly said the coalition aims to "provide concrete, solid leadership" and have students primarily leading the protests, but will tap into the resources of outside groups that have offered help.

"This is an issue that's much bigger than this university to the community and affects everyone and everyone associated in any remote way with the university," she said. "Even people who have never stepped on campus have been involved."

However, Daly said the coalition has not reached out to or made any formal alliances with any other outside groups or individuals.

"Outside groups have been in contact with us, but we have not reached out to anyone because I think it's important that we are expressing a student voice," she said. "We have been receiving a barrage of e-mails, but we aren't at it a point to formally cooperate or organize anything."

Assistant Vice President for News and Information Dennis Brown told The Observer student groups can sponsor these kinds of events and the University supports the engagement of dialogue.

"It's important to have a variety of opinions on a college campus," he said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Union
continued from page 1

to speak during the last week of his term.

Reish said his transition to leading the student body last April was difficult because he did not have anyone with the experience of being student body vice president or chief executive assistant, which is traditionally the pattern.

But because Reisch and student body vice president Grant Schmidt "broke the tradition" of the succession of power in student government, Reisch said the team brought new ideas to the body.

Because Reisch and student body vice president Grant Schmidt "broke the tradition" of the succession of power in student government, Reisch said the team brought new ideas to the body.

"It took us time to get used to all the administrators," he said. "But it allowed us to get a fresh perspective."

This perspective led him to question the disconnect between the student body and student government. Reisch said as a result, he sought to create a forum among students that student government is working for the student body.

Reisch said student government administration that have been around for a while tend to lose their connection with the student body.

"Student government's job is to serve the students," he said. "This year, we've laid the foundation. Most work this term has been connecting the student body."

Reisch cited the creation of the ad hoc committee, the Student Outreach Committee, as a measure he has taken that is "between students and student government. However, he noted the committee will not continue in its current form when Schmidt takes office April 1.

Reisch said the student surveys — administered by the Student Outreach Committee — have allowed students to offer their input to student government.

The student survey, kind of like my little baby, has helped us further projects along," he said. "Students saw their efforts make a difference."

The student input helped student government to make strides in keeping the University's sexual assault policy, Reisch said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Crayo
continued from page 1

at Notre Dame of the needs of ordinary laboring people, as Notre Dame grew wealthier and tended to lose touch with them.

Contact Aaron Steinor at asteinor@nd.edu

Unemployment continues to be a vehicle to increase dialogue between the student body and student government.

Reisch thanked the senators and committee chairs for their work in helping to reach the goal of strengthening the connection between student government and the student body.

"For all of you, I wish the best of luck," he said. "Thanks for a good year."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Reisch said the DVD rental program his administration implemented this year has also increased the visibility of student government among students.

Because the rentals are available in the student government of multiple locations on campus, LaFountine Student Center, he said this is significant because students up to the second floor get to know the members of student government.

"We brought people to the second floor of LaFountine," he said. "We changed that and that's pretty cool."

Reisch said the hopes the DVD rental program will continue to be a vehicle to increase dialogue between the student body and student government.

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FRANCE

French workers protest, burn tires
3M manager held hostage as laid-off employees demonstrate against AIG

Associated Press

PARIS — French workers burned tires, marched on the presidential palace and held a manager of a U.S. manufacturer hostage Wednesday as anger mounted over job cuts and executive bonuses.

Rising public outrage at employers on both sides of the Atlantic has been triggered by executions cashing in bonus checks even as their companies were kept afloat with billions of euros (dollars) in taxpayers' money and unemployment safety nets.

The U.S. administration seeks ways of recouping some of the $165 million in bonuses paid out to executives at insurance giant AIG.

American International Group Inc., kept aloft by $170 billion in taxpayer bailout money, French President Nicolas Sarkozy is threatening new laws on bonuses and golden parachutes.

Sarkozy is also trying to deflect anger against his government's failure to ward off the job losses and economic hardships that comes with recession.

The $3.2 million ($4.3 million) bonus paid to the former head of Valeo, an auto parts maker that recently laid off workers, has fueled outrage in France.

Controversy also grew Wednesday over bonuses at brokerage company Charles Schwab, a unit of the French bank that got state guarantees.

"The risks of repercussions of ill-feeling from employers who have been approved by political backslash are real if executives continue to be compensated at pro-crisis levels," said Cuibillas Ding, a senior analyst at financial research firm Celent.

"Bonuses that pay outs are now seen as the politically correct thing to do." Rising public outrage at employers has led to kidnapings, marches and strikes in France, a country with a long tradition of labor unrest.

A French 3M executive was being held hostage for the second day at a plant in Pibolle, south of Paris, as workers protested layoffs. The situation was calm, however, with labor talks taking place there Wednesday.

Detained 3M manager Luc Rousselet told an AP reporter "everything's fine" and workers planned to bring him mossels and French fries for dinner in Paris, rage boiled over into an angry march on the presidential palace and a bonfire of tires set alight by workers from Germany's Continental AC, whose auto parts factory in Clairoix, northeast of Paris, plans to shut down in 2010.

Similar resentment is emerging in many parts of Europe. Vandals smashed windows early Wednesday at the home of the former CEO of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Sir Fred Goodwin resigned in disgrace but walked out at age 50 with an annual pension of about 700,000 pounds ($1.2 million).

Bonus payments are dominating headlines in Sweden, which prides itself on a relatively egalitarian society. Big companies like truck maker Volvo and bank SEB have been forced to withdraw compensation schemes for top executives amid public outrage.

And in Switzerland, top executives at UBS AG, which is benefiting from a $65 billion government bailout, have given up their 2008 bonuses. Henri Guaino, a top aide to Sarkozy, issued an ultimatum to French employers, saying in a radio interview Wednesday that the government will step in and legislate if France's main employers' federation, Medef, doesn't come up with proposals setting guidelines on executive pay by March 31.

Employees of the Clairoix tire plant in northern France burn tires in protest on Wednesday. Many workers were laid off due to lowered production levels.

N.H. votes to repeal death penalty

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — Three months after a man was sentenced to die for killing a police officer — New Hampshire's first death sentence in 10 years — lawmakers voted Wednesday to repeal capital punishment.

The chamber voted 193-174 to send the repeal bill to the Senate, where its fate is uncertain. Gov. John Lynch, a Democrat, said he vetoed the bill if it reached his desk.

"There are some crimes so heinous that I believe capital punishment is warranted," Lynch said after the vote.

Michael Addison was sentenced to death in December for killing Manchester police officer Michael Briggs in 2006. No execution date has been scheduled because Addison is appealing the sentence.

Law enforcement has lined up against the repeal, led by Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, who prosecuted Addison. But the New Hampshire Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers says death penalty sentences are unfairly applied.

Hampton Democrat Benny Cashling, whose father was shot to death in 1988, led the fight to repeal the death penalty. After his father's murder, Cashing founded Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation.

"No matter how many times you kill, that doesn't mean anybody back," he said. Cashing asked the House to repeal the law "in the name of my father."

But Wolfeboro Republican Stanley Stevens, who supports the death penalty, listed law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty over the years. The law is a covenant with them that their deaths would be avenged, he said.

"We ask them to stand between us and lawlessness," Stevens said.
Two hundred killer whales seen in Gulf

Associated Press

It was a fish story that even veteran boat captains found fascinating. As many as 200 killer whales feeding on tuna in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

"It was like being at Sea World because they'd come right up to the boat," said Eddie Hall, captain of the Shady Lady, the 60-foot charter boat that spotted the shiny black sea beasts with white eye patches and under­sides. "It was pretty neat.

It was also hard for some skeptics to believe. Orcas, as killer whales are also known, typically are thought to live in cold water and eat seals.

But Hall's description of what the crew saw scores of the marine mammals feeding near an offshore rig in the back­water charter boat that spotted the shiny black sea beasts with white eye patches and under­sides. "It was pretty neat.

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"I think they've always been there. It's just in the last 15 to 20 years that we've been trying to study them," Hall told The Associated Press on Monday that the Shady Lady was 95 miles off the coast of Alabama when anglers and crew saw scores of the marine mammals feeding near an offshore rig in water more than a mile deep.

"There were four different pods. We estimated there were about 200 maximum. One pod had 75 in it," said Hall, who runs charters out of Mobile, Alabama, that says, contrary to common perceptions, killer whales really do live in the Gulf, far from land.

Mullin, whose outfit has been working for years to get an accurate count of the Gulf's whale population, said it may be time to dramatically increase estimates on how many killer whales are lurking in the deep waters off the Gulf Coast. His taking part in a research expedition this summer that could determine if his hunch is right.

Scientists believe the whales have been in the Gulf for years, Mullin said, and that their presence - though startling to some anglers - isn't a sign of climate change or other manmade con­dition. Their relatively small population and the speed at which pods move make them difficult to count, which could lead to lower estimates.

"I've got good records of them in the Caribbean. We see them almost exclusively in deep water, 600 feet and more," Mullin said. "I think they've always been there. It's just in the last 15 to 20 years that we've been trying to study them.

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The amount of power available for science experiments and will help support a larger crew in a few months, the astronauts said.

The half-hour call came as the astronauts were enjoying their last full day together. Shuttle Discovery departs with its crew of seven Wednesday afternoon.

Obama said he knew that the middle school students got first crack at the astronauts. Several members of Congress in attend­ance - who are big kids when it comes to talking to astronauts, according to Obama - had to wait their turn.

One boy asked whether the astronauts can play video games in space. The answer: They can, but there isn't much free time. Other children wanted to know what the astronauts eat and whether they have found any life forms up there.

The astronauts said they haven't found anything yet. "I think we'll have much more success at finding new types of life and different structures when we get to places like moon and Mars," said astro­naut Sandra Magnus, the only woman aboard.

One of two former middle school teachers who flew up on Discovery, Richard Arnold II, said the food was pretty good, consisting mostly of dehydrat­ed food and military-style reconstituted meals "that a few of us ate last year when the hurricane came through Houston."
**MARKET Recap**

**Dow Jones** 7,749.81 +99.84

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**AMEX** 1,374.78 +11.97
**NASDAQ** 1,528.95 +12.43
**NYSE** 5,127.00 +423.07
**NIXEL (Tokyo)** 813.88 +76.73
**FTSE 100 (London)** 3,900.25 -11.21

**Company**  **% Change**  **Gain/Price**

| CITGROUP INC (C) | -0.99 | -0.06 | 2.95 |
| BK OF AMERICA (BA) | -0.65 | +0.40 | 7.70 |
| S &P COMPO (S&P) | +4.75 | +0.45 | 7.50 |
| FINANCIAL BULL 3X (FA) | +7.53 | +0.45 | 6.58 |

**Treasuries**

| 10-YEAR NOTE | +4.45 | +0.16 | 2.77 |
| 13-WEEK BILL | +9.76 | -0.02 | 0.18 |
| 30-YEAR BOND | +3.00 | +0.11 | 3.73 |
| 5-YEAR NOTE | +6.50 | +0.11 | 5.81 |

**Commodities**

| Light Crude ($/bbl.) | -12.00 | -1.10 |
| Gold ($/troy oz.) | +12.00 | 938.00 |
| Pork Bellies (cents/lb) | -0.50 | 98.00 |

**Exchange Rates**

| YEN | 97.650 |
| EURO | 1.361 |
| CANADIAN DOLLAR | 1.230 |
| BRITISH POUND | 1.460 |

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**In Brief**

**EU negative towards US stimulus**

**BRUSSELS** - The head of the European Union slammed President Barack Obama's plan to spend nearly $2 trillion to push the U.S. economy out of recession as "the road to hell" that EU governments must avoid.

The blunt comments by Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek to the European Parliament on Wednesday highlighted simmering European differences with Washington ahead of a summit next week on fixing the world economy.

It was the strongest pushback yet from a European Union to the 27-nation bloc of states from U.S. criticism that it is not spending enough to stimulate demand.

Shortly before sight, other European politicians went into damage control mode, with some reproaching the Czech leader for his language and others reaffirming their goodwill diplomatic ties with the United States. The leaders of EU's major nations - France, Britain and Germany, among others - largely ignored Topolanek and his remarks.

**Not out of the worst yet, economists say**

WASHINGTON - Glimmers of hope for the economy are better home sales and higher demand for goods, plus optimism from the White House and a nearly 20 percent rally in the NASDAQ index. But some are still wondering if the worst is over.

Not so fast, say many economists. Layoffs are still mounting and home prices are still falling in an economy shrinking at an alarming rate. Recovery anytime soon doesn't seem likely.

"We may be seeing the end of the beginning of the recession, but it is not the beginning of the end of the downturn," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.

Still, the recent news has been better than expected. On Wednesday, the Commerce Department said demand for big-ticket manufactured goods, which had fallen for six months in a row, actually rose by 3.4 percent in February. LeV L. Dassin.

And reports this week have shown sales of both new and existing homes rising by about 5 percent last month.

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**Democrats stand behind Obama on the Hill**

WASHINGTON - A springtime show of unity, congressional Democrats welcomed President Barack Obama to the Capitol Wednesday and embraced his budget blueprints that embrace his key priorities and point the way for major legislation this year on health care, energy and education.

Even so, both the House and Senate versions lack specifics for any of the administration's signature proposals. And Democrats decided to cut spending — and exploding deficits — below levels envisioned in the plan Obama presented less than a month ago.

Administration officials and congressional leaders said any differences were modest.

"This budget will protect President Obama's priorities — education, energy, health care, middle class tax cuts and cut the deficit in half," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said after the chief executive met privately in the Capitol with rank-and-file Democrats.

Earlier, White House Budget Director Peter Orszag told reporters the congressional budgets "may not be identical twins to what the president submitted, but they are certainly brothers that look an awful lot alike."

Another house included the $230 billion that the administration seeks for any future financial industry bailout. Additionally, Senate Democrats assume in their version that Obama's middle class tax cuts will expire after 2010, and the House blueprint allocates $230 billion less to tax cuts over five years than the president.

But none of the details in the tax cuts can't be kept in place in 2011 and beyond, only that lawmakers would have to find offsetting revenue to pay for them, said Kent Conrad of North Dakota, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee.

The House and Senate plans both call for spending $3.6 trillion in the year that begins Oct. 1, according to the Congressional Budget Office, compared with $3.7 trillion for Obama's plan.

The House plan foresees a deficit of $1.2 trillion for 2010 but would cut that to $598 billion after five years. The comparable Senate estimates are $1.2 trillion in 2010 and $508 billion in 2014.

Obama's budget would leave a deficit of $1.4 trillion in five years' time, according to congressional estimates, a level that is viewed by numerous experts as unacceptable over time if the economy is to recover and remain healthy.

Given the strong democratic congressional majorities in both houses, there is little or no doubt the spending blueprints can clear both houses by the end of next month. But Republicans greeted them with skepticism nonetheless.

Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., who was briefly Obama's choice to become commerce secretary earlier in the year, said the president had laid out a "blueprint to move the government dramatically to the left ... hard left." The senior Republican on the Senate Budget Committee added that Democrats were masking the true deficit levels by their plans by leaving out the cost of legislation that is politically essential, such as funding to shelter doctors from payments they receive for serving Medicare patients.

In the House, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Democrats were advancing "the president's high-cost, big-government agenda in camouflage. Instead of simply righting the ship, this budget steers it in a radically different direction straight into the tidal wave of spending and debt that is already building."

**Post office proposes major cutbacks**

WASHINGTON — The postal service will consider a number of options to will the post office pre-pays for retiree health care to cut its annual costs by $2 billion.

If the Postal Service does run out of money, the lingering question, Potter told the House Oversight post office subcommittee, is which bills will be paid and which will not.

"Ensuring the payment of workers' salaries comes first, he said, but other bills may have to wait.

Potter first raised the possibility of delivery cutbacks in January, but the idea has not been warmed received.

"With the Postal Service facing budget shortfalls, the subcommittee will consider a number of options to restore financial stability and examine ways for the Postal Service to continue to operate without cutting services," subcommittee chairman Stephen F. Lynch, D-Mass., said.

Lynch said the financial stability of the Postal Service is "critical to the American expectation of affordable six-day mail delivery."

Even if the agency succeeds in reaching its planned cost cuts of $5.9 billion, there could still be a $6 billion deficit in 2010, Potter said.

"Without a change we will exhaust our cash resources," he said. "We can no longer afford business as usual."

Asked if layoffs would occur, Potter said it is possible but he hopes avoidable.

Last week, the post office said it planned to offer early retirement to 150,000 workers and is eliminating 1,400 management positions and closing six of its 83 district offices in cost-cutting efforts. Potter said he expects 10,000 to 15,000 workers to accept the early retirement offer.

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**Associated Press**

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Pharmaceutical residue found in fish across U.S.

Associated Press

Fish caught near wastewater treatment plants serving five major U.S. cities had residues of pharmaceuticals found in them, including medicines used to treat high cholesterol, allergies, high blood pressure, bipolar disorder and depression, researchers reported Wednesday.

Findings from this first nationwide study of human drugs in fish tissue have prompted the Environmental Protection Agency to significantly expand ongoing research to more than 150 different locations.

"The average person hopefully will see this type of a study and see the importance of us thinking about water that we use every day, where does it come from, where does it go to? We need to understand this is a limited resource and we need to learn a lot more about our impacts on it," said study co-author Bryan Brooks, a Baylor University researcher and professor who has published more than a dozen studies related to human cell responses to pharmaceuticals.

"I'm deeply sorry," Guinan told the judge Wednesday, adding that his month in jail since his conviction should be considered "sufficient time."

"This pilot study is one important step in the long-term monitoring and assessment of pharmaceutica..."
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Historian Franklin dies at 94

BALEIGH, N.C. — John Hope Franklin, a towering scholar and pioneer of African-American studies who wrote the seminal text on the black experience in the U.S. and worked on the landmark Supreme Court case that outlawed school segregation, died Wednesday. He was 94.

David Jarml, a spokesman at Duke University, where Franklin taught for a decade and was professor emeritus of history, said he died of congestive heart failure at the school’s hospital in Durham.

Born in an all-black community in Oklahoma where he was often subjected to humiliating racism, Franklin was later instrumental in bringing down the legal and historical validations of such a world.

As an author, his book “From Slavery to Freedom” was a landmark integration of black history into American history that remains in print more than 60 years after being published. As a scholar, this research helped Thurgood Marshall and his team at the NAACP win Brown v. Board of Education, the 1954 case that struck down laws requiring segregated schools.

Franklin attended historically black Fisk University, where he met Aurelia Whittington, who would be his wife, editor, helper and rock for 58 years, until she died in 1999. He planned to follow his father into law, but the lively letters of a white professor, Ted Carrier, convinced him history was his dignity and his shining intelligence.

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Franklin received more than 130 honorary degrees and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s Spingarn Award. In 1993, President Bill Clinton honored Franklin with the Charles Franklin Prize, recognizing scholarly contributions that give “eloquence and meaning ... to our ideas, hopes and dreams as American citizens.”

Clinton awarded Franklin the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian prize, in 1994, and gave him the role for which he was perhaps best known outside academia, as chairman of Clinton’s Initiative on Race. It was a job of which Franklin said, “I am not sure this is an honor. It may be a burden.”

As he aged, Franklin spent more time in the greenhouse behind his home, where he nurtured orchids, than in libraries. He fell in love with the flowers because “the full of challenges, mystery” the same reasons he fell in love with history.

In June, Franklin had a small role in the movie based on the documentary “Blood Dined Sighted My Name,” about the public slaying of black man in Oxford in 1970. Tyson, the book’s author, said at the time he wanted Franklin in the movie “because of his dignity and his shining intelligence.”

Franklin broke numerous color barriers. He was the first black professor of history and a founding member of the American Historical Association.

He often regarded his country like an exasperated relative, frustrated by racism’s stubborn power, yet refusing to give up. “I want to be out there on the firing line, helping, directing or doing something to try to make this a better world, a better place to live,” Franklin told The Associated Press in 2005.

In November, after Barack Obama broke the ultimate racial barrier in American politics, Franklin called his ascension to the White House “one of the most historic moments, if not the most historic moment, in the history of this country.”

Obama’s achievement fit with Franklin’s mission as a historian, to document how blacks lived and served alongside whites from the nation’s birth. Black patriots fought at Lexington and Concord, Franklin pointed out in “From Slavery to Freedom,” published in 1947. They crossed the mountains of Washington and explored with Lewis and Clark.

Franklin taught for a decade at Duke. “And yet, he always...
Randall Terry is the Al Sharpton of the anti-abortion movement, but with a few more arrests. That is, Terry — who runs the (really, really) pro-life group Operation Rescue — makes incendiary statements that, for better or worse, garner far more media attention than they deserve. It’s no surprise, then, that somewhere between likening President Obama speaking at Commencement to the “cultural rape of true Catholicism” and warning that he will “slow an attack on the ground” in South Bend, Terry told The Observer this week, “We will recruit people from all of the country, and we will make this a circus.”

Bad news for you, Randall: We’re way ahead of you. Anytime Fox News puts your story on the front page, P.T. Barnum’s got nothing on you.” This is what it must have been like to go to school in the 60s and 70s. Of course, graduation is a day to celebrate our class and those who have supported us for four years. But it’s also a day to celebrate our education, this University and its unique presence in American and Catholic culture. My education at Notre Dame has been the social, political and Catholic controversy that we consistently witness and participate in. We’re supposed to be the place where the Catholic Church does its thinking. Of course, graduation is a day to celebrate our education. It’s a day to continue the experience of unique education we’ve gotten for four years and fundamentally misunderstand the relationship between being Catholic and being a University.

 Contrary to a number of the letters we’ve seen on these pages in the last few days, we shouldn’t be “embarrassed” by the presence of a pro-choice politician on our graduation stage, nor should we be “embarrassed” by the calls to keep a pro-choice politician off our stage. We shouldn’t view protesters as “hijacking” our graduation. Yes, I want protesters yelling at me on the day of my graduation, showing graphic pictures of aborted fetuses, because Notre Dame has taught me that to avoid debate — as visceral as it may be — is to lack strength in my own convictions. This isn’t an empty paean to relativism and tolerance. I have no problem picking a “right” side: of course President Obama should speak at my graduation, and — like it or not — like many of my fellow graduates, I believe he stands for us. But that’s not the point. Welcoming all to our campus and allowing this critical Catholic debate to play out here are not just numb tolerance. They’re an all-too-rare opportunity to live out the mission of our University in a prominent, public way. This shouldn’t be dismissed as a “Viewpoint War,” as if we were debating the relative merits of pirates or anti–pirate color comic about Saint Mary’s. On both sides, this is Notre Dame at her best — actively navigating the place of the Church in education, and the role of religion in a world too often ignorant of its extraordinary power for good and for evil. We should welcome organized, graphic protests outside, someplace students, guests and, yes, media can’t miss them. We should welcome it when kids turn their backs to the President and boo, as some inevitably will.

We should welcome parents, scholars and Bishops to denounce the very existence of the speech and anti-Catholic. But for the same reason, we should welcome President Obama to stand at the podium and speak to us. We should welcome Mary Ann Glendon, a pro-life Catholic and Harvard Law professor, to stand next to him and speak to us.

We should welcome Notre Dame to make its rightful position as a public place where the Church does its thinking.

I’ll walk at graduation proud, armed with the knowledge that the “circus” around me is exactly what makes this University so important, and so special.

Andrew Neis is a senior American Studies major from Fairfield, Conn. He’s eager for your response. He can be reached at aneis@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**On my campus**

I feel like it was only a few weeks ago that I was sitting in LaFortune writing thank you letters to alumni for their generous donations. While their donations have been very helpful I've now resigned myself to the fact that the only good thing to come out of the experience was the free shirt and pizza I was bribed with to participate.

Unfortunately, this is another letter to respond to the president's upcoming visit to Notre Dame. However, I have noticed something underlying the general uproar I might not have fully appreciated before. My initial reaction was horror and dread when I saw news stories right on the Google News home page about Our Lady's University, many of which seemed to project the diverse and colored opinions of various groups of people from outside Notre Dame and our institution as a whole. Yes, there are 100,000 signatures on an Internet petition protesting the University's decision, but that, along with any other statements, demonstrations or fiercely worded articles from the media, other colleges or even Catholic bishops, do not necessarily represent what we as students actually believe. I know this, but will Chicago Tribune and Washington Post readers?

Outside appearances

I issue this to all alumni — you probably remember a little book called "duLac." It basically says what you can and cannot do on the Notre Dame Campus. If I may direct you specifically to page 145 of our most recent edition, the Office of Residence Life and Housing has been kind enough to include a little section on campus demonstrations. In this section begins: "All demonstrations must be registered in writing with the Associate Vice President for Residence Life." I bet you've already looked into that you seem like a very well informed gentleman. But wait there's more! All demonstrations "also must observe the following rules: A. The demonstrations must be peaceful and orderly. B. Only members of the University community may organize or participate in a demonstration. C. Demonstrators may not impede the freedom of the University community." So there is, laid out to be my own words of "duLac," a document I've come to know quite well in my four years here.

Mr. Keane as well as any other alumni who might be outraged at what's speaking at my graduation, I'm sorry for you. But please if you do wish to ruin what will be the "happiest day of my life" with your shout of hate at our Commencement, I'm sorry for you. But please if you do wish to ruin what will be the "happiest day of my life" with your shout of hate at our Commencement, I'm sorry for you. But please if you do wish to ruin what will be the "happiest day of my life" with your shout of hate at our Commencement, I'm sorry for you. But please if you do wish to ruin what will be the "happiest day of my life" with your shout of hate at our Commencement, I'm sorry for you.

Hence my horror and dread: they are getting the message right on the Google News home page about Our Lady's University, many of which seemed to project the diverse and colored opinions of various groups of people from outside Notre Dame and our institution as a whole. Yes, there are 100,000 signatures on an Internet petition protesting the University's decision, but that, along with any other statements, demonstrations or fiercely worded articles from the media, other colleges or even Catholic bishops, do not necessarily represent what we as students actually believe. I know this, but will Chicago Tribune and Washington Post readers?

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**Politics not religion**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops 2004 statement, "Catholics and Political Life," states that "the Catholic Church does not support presidential candidates who should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental and moral principles," and that those who do "should not be elected to positions of public authority or platforms which would support their actions." On May 17, I will be honored with a Bachelor's Degree from Notre Dame. In my four years attending this university I have been awarded with over $100,000 in scholarships and aid from my high school and Notre Dame, and have always been offered a platform to speak my mind, as I would in any credible University. On the day that I graduate, President Obama will have been presented with an honorary law degree from Notre Dame, and will have the privilege to present the Class of 2009 with the Commencement speaker. Both Barack Obama and I have in defense of the Church's fundamental and moral principles. I have no problem with staging a political protest. It's our right as Americans to do so. What I do have problem with is hypocrisy. If you disagree with Obama's politics, you have the right to stage a political protest, but don't turn it into something it's not. Don't hide behind the Church unless you plan to protest every speaker we have in the future that does not conform to Catholic principles. You can't have a political protest, nothing more.

**Take a stand**

I read a letter entitled, "Don't Hijack Our Day" (March 24). I would counter, "Don't be so self-absorbed." Just because it may not be your hot-button issue, protesting is all we can do. We have a right as Americans to do so. What I do have problem with is hypocrisy. If you disagree with Obama's politics, you have the right to stage a political protest, but don't turn it into something it's not. Don't hide behind the Church unless you plan to protest every speaker we have in the future that does not conform to Catholic principles. You can't have a political protest, nothing more.

**Unity, please**

Frankly, Obama as a Commencement speaker has done little but divide Notre Dame. Whether or not you believe it is a scandal or an honor, the only effect I have seen is in the student body's behavior. All I overhear, in conversations from the dining hall or on campus, are people's strong views on how ignorant or disrespectful the other half of the student body is, based solely on this issue. I've heard scurrilous, heated arguments between friends, and all manner of disrespectful behavior towards fellow students.

We say we want dialogue, yet the judgments made by the stronger personalities in a group are preventing students who do not want to be labeled by their friends, even mentally, from speaking out. There are, of course, exceptions, and I applaud them. I might have a moderate to strong view on the issue. In fact, I do. But if I told you what it was and why I believed it, would it change your mind? No. You would either agree with me because I said something you already liked, or disagree with me and think me ignorant. Why? Simply because you place a lower priority on the things that are dear to me, and care deeply about things I find false or irrelevant. And as Joey Kuhn ("Just embrace it," March 24) so astutely said, nothing is going to change about it.

This speech has implications for the University (you may disagree on that they are not), but they will choose to handle them or not. Enough sentiment has been expressed on both sides for the administration to know how the student body feels. So if we really plan on acting like a unified or Christian institution, should we not stop acting like ignorant, disrespectful and calloused?

If there were no scandals or divisive issues, Viewpoint would be a lot less fun for everyone, I suppose.
By ERIC PRISTER
Scene Writer

Wm. Paul Young’s bestselling novel “The Shack” claims to “twist[es] with the timeless question: Where is God in a world so filled with unexplainable pain,” but seems to fall short of its goal for many people. “The Shack” tells the supposedly true story of a man named Mackenzie Allen Phillips, who lives with a wife, five kids and the memory of an abusive father. Mack, as he is called by Young, a real-life friend of Mackenzie’s, lives a content life, though he cannot seem to find the affection that his wife, Nan, has for God, whom she affectionately calls “Papa.” His life is happy, for the most part, until he decides to take his three youngest children on a camping trip that will forever change his life.

On the final day of the camping trip, Mack’s pre-teen daughter, Missy, is abducted while Mack is distracted saving his son who has fallen into a nearby river. Mack and the rest of the Phillips family later learns that she has been taken by a serial killer named the Little Ladykiller, who targets young girls, leaving only a ladybug pin behind as evidence. The only trace of Missy that the police can discover is a blood-stained dress in an abandoned shack in the wilderness outside of the campground.

Missy’s death throws Mack into “The Great Sadness,” a term Young borrows from Mack himself to describe the empty feeling of worthlessness that now surrounds his everyday life. That is, until Mack receives a mysterious note in his mailbox, requesting his presence at the shack, and signed “Papa.” Despite reason telling him not to, Mack journeys to the shack and is thrown into a world of self-discovery led by the three persons of the Christian Trinity. God, in the form of a large black woman known only as “Papa,” Jesus, in all of his humanity, and the Holy Spirit, who takes the form of a mysterious Asian woman who goes by the name of Sarayu.

Throughout his time at the shack, Mack comes to understand many things about himself, about religion, and most importantly, about what it truly means to be in a relationship. Young clearly means for “The Shack” to have a similar effect on his readers as the experience had on Mack, or at least for it to open the eyes of the readers to the reality in which he believes, and for extremely open-minded believers in Christianity, it likely does just that. Unfortunately, for conservative Christians, and especially for those who are truly struggling with the question of evil in the world, it seems that “The Shack” does very little. For conservative Christians, the characters of the Trinity are too anti-religious and too anti-establishment. For those who have suffered pain and are doubtful as to the existence of God, the theology of “The Shack” is simply too powerful without giving any evidence as to why one should believe in a universe with no purpose at all. It is too clean anything from the novel, he must grant Young his special beliefs about the state of the universe and try to look for the underlying message that he is attempting to put forward.

“The Shack” is a heart-wrenching but enjoyable novel that is easy to read. It is by no means, however, life-changing for those who are actually wrestling with the important questions for which it claims to answer.

Contact Eric Prister at epriester@nd.edu

By PATRICK GRIFFIN
Scene Writer

For a trio who “don’t care about our own faults,” as they proclaim in their hit “Young Folks,” the release of their new album could not come sooner for Peter, Bjorn and John. The Swedish pop group’s latest full-length offering, “Living Thing” drops next Tuesday, March 31.

Famous for the song “Young Folks” which features an infectious yet unforgettable whistling track, Peter, Bjorn and John have been riding the popularity of this single for two years. Since their last album, “Writer’s Block,” was released in 2006, “Young Folks” has been featured in popular television, major films, and was even sampled by Kanye West. It has not always been underground success for the Swedish trio. Since 1999, the amalgamation of Peter Moren’s vocals and guitar, Bjorn Yttling’s bass, keyboard and vocals, and John Eriksson’s percussion and vocals have been striving for musical recognition.

Recently, however, the trio’s fortune has begun to run out. The single’s cult popularity has begun to wane and at the recent SXSW festival in Austin, Texas, Peter, Bjorn and John suffered from a set that was referred to as “an awful show,” by Moreno.

Peter, Bjorn and John’s latest effort arrives in a timely matter, and with critical acclaim to boot. The album is recognized by all of the major music and entertainment publications as a swiping success.

As a whole, “Living Thing” is a slight departure from the band’s familiar collections has clearly been neglected on the album, Peter, Bjorn and John salvage the audience’s attention with their dedication to the distinct ambiance of their style. At times, the tracks sound as if they were recorded in a black-curtained room. The wandering of Moren’s trembling voice accompanied only by the curious beats begs for appreciation, but in actuality is not sufficiently whole. On other instances, the songs blossom and soar as if performed in concert ball proportions.

As a complete album, “Living Thing” is rather inconsistent. At times, Peter, Bjorn and John effortlessly transcend the simple genius that has been brooding over the airwaves since “Young Folks.” Regardless, a decade of effort has resulted in a foot in the door for Peter, Bjorn and John. Whether the album has the staying power of their previous work remains to be seen. For now, “Living Thing” exhibits enough musical ingenuity to keep listeners waiting for the next earworm.

Contact Patrick Griffin at pgriffi3@nd.edu
The Animated Films of Georges Schwizgebel; "From Glass to Celluloid"; Browning Cinema; 6:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Recognized as one of the most important Swiss animated filmmakers ever, Georges Schwizgebel will make a stop at the University of Notre Dame to introduce the screening of a piece that delves into 12 of his short films. His unique approach to creating each individual frame involves painting images directly onto acetate film, a talent that has won him awards at both the Cannes and the Zagreb Film Festivals. Visit Browning Cinema for an inspiring introduction to the man who brought innovation to animation and for a unique opportunity to follow him on his creative journey.

Latin Expressions 2009; "Ritmo Latino," Century Center; 7:30 p.m.

Awaken your inner Latino this Friday night as the rhythmic movements of the First Class Steppers, Project Fresh dancers, and sounds of mariachi music and the ND Brass Band drill intense beats combined with intricately choreographed moves throughout the Century Center in downtown South Bend. Tickets are on sale at the LaFortune Box Office and more information can be found on the "Latin Expressions 2009" Facebook page. Kick off your weekend with a high-energy performance that will keep you dancing into Saturday morning.

Uptown Kitchen

303 Florence Ave. (574) 988-3030

Hours: 7a-2p Su-T, 7a-9p W-Sa
Prices: Breakfast $5-11, Entrées $5-15

10 Words or Less: Exceptional, moderately priced breakfast food; fresh ingredients and atmosphere

By J.J. Rees

"When I hold an egg in my hand I feel that it represents the image of the universe, and it awakens and increases my respect for life." This citation, taken from the world-renowned chef Michel Roux, is the first thing to greet customers at Uptown Kitchen, located in the new Toscana Park Shopping Center, just off Gumwood and north of Cleveland Schuyler 23.

Welcoming patrons in with such a comprehensive quotation, painted onto the wall in front of the door, is a bold move. The restaurant will also adopt a more environmentally friendly lighting system with LED bulbs. With food like the restaurant's — with a fresh focus. Soft, faded colors covered walls and paintings that surrounded a well-lit atmosphere while avoiding pretentiousness. The restaurant won't find itself lacking for food come through in every bite. The "breakfast all day" shirk can be easily phoned in, but as Roux would have it, Lutz seems to have devoted himself to it. The three "House Specialties" indicated on the menu are the Stuffed French Toast ($8.49), the Breakfast Burrito ($8.99) and the House Made Corned Beef Hash ($8.79). This burrito's size gives Chipotle a run for its money. With spicy chorizo, perfect scrambled eggs, avocado, potato, jalapeno, red onion and melted cheese, all stuffed in a jalapeno tortilla, this dish is everything many people would want out of a breakfast — any time of day. The salsa on the side was a fine addition to the taste, but really only got in the way of this amazing burrito.

Non-egg dishes are positively satisfactory. The 12-inch pizza made for a tasty but hefty for your budget ($20-$45.50), seeing Stomp! is not something you'll regret. With an instrument selection boasting 30 bongos, four blocks of athlete's chalk, eight bananas and more, the vibrant and eccentric cast will amaze audiences with their quick hands, invigorating beats and flashing lights that bring an extra bit of magic to the show. As they move across the stage dashing from bongo caddies and pounding out sounds on their junkyard assemblage of rhythmic tools, make sure to not even allow a small blink because every second is worth watching.
NBA
Clippers knock out Knicks 140-135 in OT

Parker scores 42 in defeat over Hawks; Nuggets end Hornets winning streak; Young puts up 29 in Sixers win

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Taylor more than doubled his career high with 31 points, while Randolph added 33 against his former team, and the Los Angeles Clippers knocked off New York Knicks 140-135 in overtime Wednesday night.

Al Thornton scored 21 and Eric Gordon had 19 for the Clippers, who won for the fifth time in the past six games and ended two games worth of dismal offensive efforts, shooting 58 percent from the field.

And for the second time this season, they benefited from a late technical foul on New York’s Al Harrington after a dunk that had cured the Clippers’ recent struggles.

Harrington finished with 38 points for the Knicks, who matched a season high with their sixth straight loss.

New York raced to a 19-point lead in the first 6:01, heard boos after blowing all of it before halftime, and couldn’t answer one last time.

The Clippers won’t come partly because they had three players at each end of the court.

Chris Paul had 19 points and Denver led 46-45 at halftime. The Nuggets converted 10 of 14 shots after the break, led 65-62 after two meaningless free throws by New York, and the Nuggets trimmed the deficit to seven.

The fans began getting up and leaving as the Nuggets pulled away after Paul’s 3-pointer to open the fourth quarter, a 9-2 lead that stretched for 7:07.

The Nuggets beat New Orleans 101-88 on Wednesday night, snapping the Hornets’ three-game winning streak.

Chauncey Billups scored 26 points, hitting four of his five 3-pointers in the first half to help the Nuggets pull away after Paul’s 3-pointer to open the fourth quarter, a 9-2 lead that stretched for 7:07.

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**A Round the Nation**

**NCAA Women's Tennis Division I Top 25**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTRE DAME</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami (Fla.)</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Tech</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern California</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clemson</td>
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<td>Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno St.</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMU</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
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<td>Miami</td>
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<td>Maryland</td>
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<td>St. Lawrence</td>
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<td>Arizona St.</td>
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<td>Georgia Tech</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Tech</td>
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<td>Villanova</td>
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<td>Connecticut</td>
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<td>Arizona</td>
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<td>SMU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida St.</td>
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**NCAA Men's Lacrosse Division I Top 20**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syracuse</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTRE DAME</td>
<td>6-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Princeton</td>
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<td>Harvard</td>
<td>4-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins</td>
<td>3-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>3-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>2-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke</td>
<td>2-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>2-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>2-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>2-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyola (Md.)</td>
<td>2-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>2-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>2-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State</td>
<td>2-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>2-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bucknell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>1-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Villanova</td>
<td>1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany (N.Y.)</td>
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**USCHO Men's Ice Hockey Division I Top 15**

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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boston U.</td>
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<td>NOTRE DAME</td>
<td>21-3-3</td>
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<td>Michigan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>21-11-5</td>
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<td>Yale</td>
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<td>Northeastern</td>
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<td>North Dakota</td>
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<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>21-12-0</td>
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<td>Cornell</td>
<td>21-12-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td>21-12-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>20-15-6</td>
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<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>20-12-5</td>
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<td>Miami (Ohio)</td>
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<td>Ohio St.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence</td>
<td>21-12-5</td>
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</tbody>
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**NCAA Basketball**

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**Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said he and the university are looking into a Yahoo! Sports report claiming the school broke NCAA rules during the recruitment of former basketball player Nate Miles, but added Miles is not at UConn and his team remains focused on the NCAA tournament.**

Yahoo! reported Wednesday that Miles, a 6-7 guard from Toledo, Ohio, was given lodging, transportation, meals and representation by sports agent Josh Nochimson, and a UConn assistant coach knew about the relationship between the player and the agent. The story cited interviews, documents obtained under Freedom of Information laws and other sources.

Nochimson, a former student manager for UConn, was considered a representative of UConn's athletic interests by the NCAA and was prohibited from having contact with Miles or giving him anything of value, Yahoo! reported.

Records also show that five UConn coaches called Nochimson and text-messaged him at least 1,565 times during a nearly two-year period before and after Miles' recruitment in 2006, and early 2007, Calhoun had 16 of those communications, Yahoo! reported.

Miles was expelled from UConn in October without ever playing a game for the Huskies after he was charged with violating a restraining order in a case involving a woman who claimed he assaulted her. He is now attending the College of Southern Idaho and plays for the school's basketball team.

Miles could not be reached for comment. A cell phone number used by The Associated Press to contact him in the past was answered Wednesday by his uncle, Thomas, a native of Toledo, Ohio, who said the NCAA needs to do more to prevent recruiting violations.

"I just think he got mixed up with the wrong people," Pettigrew said.

"There was a whole bunch of adults who should have been doing their job instead of doing what they did."

"That's how society is," he said. "They chew you up and spit you out. If they can use you, they use you. I think the whole situation is funny, because I'm sure there are people who are supposed to be looking over that."

**in Brief**

**Pacers Murphy injures MCL, misses game**

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Pacers forward Troy Murphy missed Wednesday night's game against Miami because of a sprained ligament in his left knee. Coach Jim O'Brien said Murphy injured his MCL at the end of a swirling around the dial.

**UCONN looks into NCAA violations**

Associated Press

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**Pacers Murphy injures MCL, misses game**

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers forward Troy Murphy missed Wednesday night's game against Miami because of a sprained ligament in his left knee. Coach Jim O'Brien said Murphy injured his MCL at the end of a swirling around the dial.

The 6-foot-11 Murphy, who is averaging 14.1 points and is third in the NBA in 11.8 rebounds, will have an MRI on the knee Thursday.

O'Brien said the injury would not affect the team's workout routine on days of games.

"You've got to practice if you want to get better, and you have to practice to get ready for games. That's what we do," he said.

**Armstrong still recovering from collarbone surgery**

AUSTIN — Lance Armstrong was recovering Wednesday from surgery on his broken collarbone.

Surgeon Doug Elenz inserted a steel plate and 12 screws to stabilize the collarbone, which was broken in four places. Rating the surgery on a scale of one to 10, from easiest to most difficult, Elenz called Armstrong's procedure an 8.

"This was a challenge. It was a hard case," Elenz said in a conference call with reporters.

Armstrong broke the collarbone Monday when he crashed during the first stage of the Vuelta of Castilla and Leon race in northern Spain. He flew home to Austin on Tuesday and went straight to visit Elenz.

The 37-year-old American cyclist has said he still hopes to ride in the Giro d'Italia, which begins May 9, and the Tour de France in July.

Armstrong is currently ranked No. 14 in the world, but he has said he will leave his cycling team to focus on his business interests.

**College Hall of Fame inducts ten players**

Lubbock, Texas — Former World Series star Joe Carter of Wichita State and Mississippi State's Rafael Palmeiro, who hit 569 home runs in the major leagues, are among 10 inductees into the College Baseball Hall of Fame.

Carter was a two-time MVP of the Missouri Valley Conference with the Shockers. The outfielder won the 1993 World Series for Toronto with a home run in the bottom of the ninth inning of Game 6 against Philadelphia closer Mitch Williams.

Other 2009 inductees announced Tuesday include pitchers Darren Dreifort of Wichita State and Kirk Dressendorfer of Texas; shortstop Barry Larkin of Michigan; second baseman Todd Walker of LSU and catcher Keith Moreland of Texas.

Longtime coach Ron Polk also made the list. He's the only coach to lead three teams to the College World Series: Mississippi State, Georgia and Georgia Southern.

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Compiled from The Observer's Wire Services
ACOUSTICAFE
10 PM THURSDAY: BEST OF. PRESENTED BY SUB.

POKER
MIDNIGHT THURSDAY: DOOR PRIZE

OPHIRA EISENBERG
10 PM FRIDAY: OF COMEDY CENTRAL & BEST WEEK EVER FAME

MASQUERADE NIGHTCLUB
MIDNIGHT FRIDAY: COME IN MASK OR GET ONE HERE

THE HOOD INTERNET
10 PM SATURDAY: THE BEST IN THE MIX SCENE

MASH-UP NIGHTCLUB
MIDNIGHT SATURDAY: ALL YOUR FAVORITE SONGS TOGETHER

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Thursday, March 26, 2009

**NFL**

**Vick accused by Dept. of Labor**

**Suspected NFL star allegedly spent his pension plan funds illegally**

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — The U.S. Department of Labor filed complaints Wednesday accusing suspended NFL star Michael Vick of illegally spending about $1.3 million in pension plan funds for his own benefit, including paying restitution ordered in his dogfighting conspiracy case.

The department filed the complaints in federal district and bankruptcy courts the same day Vick left a federal lockup in Kansas, apparently bound for Virginia to appear at a bankruptcy hearing the next week. Vick was at the Federal Transfer Center in Oklahoma City late Wednesday afternoon.

Mark Lichtenstein, one of Vick’s bankruptcy attorneys, declined to comment on both the Labor Department allegations and the specifics of Vick’s apparent temporary move to Virginia for the April 2 hearing.

The Labor Department said Vick made a series of prohibited transfers from a pension plan sponsored by MVL, a celebrity marketing company owned by the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback. The department alleges that Vick violated his duties as a plan fiduciary by approving a plan that covered nine current or former MVL employees.

“This action sends a message that the Labor Department will not tolerate the misuse of plan money and will take whatever steps necessary to recover the assets owed to eligible workers,” Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis said in a prepared statement.

The department also accused two of Vick’s former financial advisers, Mary R. Wong and David A. Talbot, of participating in some of the transfers.

The filing further complicates Vick’s bankruptcy case, which has gradually moved along in Newport News while Vick serves a 23-month prison term in the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan. The judge presiding over the bankruptcy case has ordered Vick to testify in person at next week’s hearing on confirmation of his Chapter 11 plan.

U.S. Bureau of Prisons spokeswoman Felicita Ponce said Wednesday that Vick was at the Oklahoma transfer facility but added that she could not disclose the inmate’s ultimate destination until he arrives. There was no indication of when Vick left Leavenworth or when he would arrive in Virginia.

Vick will likely be kept in a southeastern Virginia jail until the hearing, but it wasn’t known which one. Newport News Sheriff Gabe Morgan said he had not been notified that Vick would be staying in the jail, but it was possible Vick and federal marshals could show up unannounced.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Frank Santoro earlier this month rejected the idea of allowing testimony by video hookup, saying he needed Vick in the courtroom so he could assess his demeanor and credibility.

Vick’s plan for paying his creditors is based largely on his intention to resume his NFL career. Vick was suspended indefinitely after his 2007 indictment, and Commissioner Roger Goodell has said he will review Vick’s status after he is released.

The Falcons still hold the contract rights to Vick but have said they will try to trade him. Vick’s bankruptcy plan would allow him to keep the first $750,000 of his annual pay. After that, a percentage would go to his creditors based on a sliding scale.

Vick is eligible to move into home confinement no earlier than May 21 and is scheduled to be released from custody July 20.

**MBL**

**Pirates’ prospect cleared by police**

Associated Press

BRADENTON, Fla. — Pittsburgh Pirates prospect Jose Tabata is not involved in any wrongdoing in a bizarre case in which an older woman is charged with abducting 2-month-old girl from a Florida couple, police told the team.

Tabata, a 20-year-old outfielder who is one of the Pirates’ top minor leaguers, said in a statement Wednesday that he is “hurt, frustrated, and sad about this.”

Tabata’s wife, Amanita Tabata Pereira, is accused of taking the girl from a woman at a health clinic in Plant City, east of Tampa, on Monday night.

Tabata’s wife was turned over Wednesday to authorities in Hillsborough County after she was held Tuesday night in a Bradenton jail in lieu of $750,000 for the annual salary of the couple’s 2-month-old girl, Amalia Tabata Pereira.

Pirates president Frank Coonelly said Wednesday that the team will not comment further on the case.

Tabata was questioned by Manatee County authorities on Tuesday and is now under protective custody of her wife’s arrest, but they later told the Pirates the outfielder is not involved in the case.

“Jose was as shocked as the rest of us upon hearing the news and has cooperated fully with law enforcement officials,” Pirates president Frank Coonelly said Wednesday in a statement. “The Pirates organization will continue to do anything and everything we can to assist and support Jose during this difficult personal time.”

Tabata, who spent part of spring training with the Pirates, was part of workouts at their minor league complex Wednesday and declined to tell reporters about the incident.

“I was shocked to be told that my wife was arrested for kidnapping,” Tabata said in a statement issued through the Pirates. “I am hurt, frustrated and confused by her actions. I have and will continue to cooperate with law enforcement officials in any way I can. Until I have all of the facts, I cannot comment any further.”

The Pirates also said they could not further discuss the incident.

“Due to the nature of this ongoing investigation, we cannot discuss any specifics of the case, other than to say that, like Jose, we are extremely frustrated the young child was safely returned to her family,” Coonelly said. “Our hearts go out to her and her family for the pain they must have endured over the last two years in a state prison.”

The incident probably won’t keep Tabata off the field for an extended period. He is expected to begin the season in Double-A Altoona of the Eastern League, where he was optioned last week after hitting .270 in 27 exhibition at-bats with Pirates last season.

“We continue to be enthusiastic about Jose Tabata as a playing member of the Pirates’ family,” general manager Neal Huntington said. “Jose will return to the fold in the coming days when he is ready from his injury. His wife is in the right. Jose has been a pleasure to work with and we will continue to work closely with him with respect to his development and growth in all areas.”

The incident, Sandra Cruz-Frazzini’s first major news story, occurred on Friday when she said her 7-year-old son, Jose Tabata, had taken the baby.

The baby was handed over when police responded to that call.

Tabata was considered one of the New York Yankees’ top prospects last year, only to walk out of a game involving their Double-A Trenton Thunder farm club early last season. Tabata apparently was frustrated by his lack of playing time.

The incident partly led to the Pirates dealing outfielder Xavier Nady to Arizona and signing free agents Dante Pichette and Kevin Maitan.

After the trade, Tabata hit .348 in 22 games with Altoona — or 100 points higher than what he hit in Bradenton — and had three homers and 13 RBIs in 89 at-bats. Tabata also impressed the Pirates this spring with his line-drive power, throwing arm and ability to learn quickly.

Upon making the trade, the Pirates currently were unaware that Tabata was married to a woman more than twice his age who, according to the St. Petersburg Times, is more than two years in a state prison about 10 years ago for armed robbery.

When Tabata’s wife members told the newspaper that she is a 40-year-old Puerto Rican, has four children of her own, all of them teenagers or older.

The woman apparently was used at least four names in the past, and the name given to police does not match the one — or the Pirates’ media guide.

Tabata and the woman were married in January 2008 in Hillsborough County.
Goodell looking for more season games

Associated Press

DANA POINT, Calif. — More games that count, perhaps as early as August 2011? That’s exactly what NFL owners are thinking that will better meet the needs of Goodell wants.

The NFL faces several hurdles before the league can expand its regular season from 16 to 17 or 18 games. Among them is reaching a new collective bargaining agreement with the players’ union.

Still, the commissioner hopes to present a proposal to the owners in May after the matter was discussed at length this week at the owners meetings.

“It’s possible that we could vote in May, but we want to have done with our internal analysis before we make any final votes,” said DeMaurice Smith, the NFLPA’s incoming executive director, in a phone interview on Wednesday.

His hope is that the concerns and interests of the players will be seriously considered,” said Smith during his transition. “He was elected by the players to be their advocate on such issues and is more than ready to serve them.”

Among the issues team owners must discuss is when the regular season would begin; how many bye weeks would be scheduled; how deep into the playoffs and Super Bowl would go; and when the offseason programs — including the combine and the draft — would be held.

Plus, where would the extra games be played, particularly with 17 of 18 teams fielding a complete nine-game schedule.

“I think the quality of NFL programming, that every one of our network partners would say, if they have the chance to have more regular-season programming, they’d be interested in it,” Goodell said. “Our fans also recognize players they want to see are not in those pre-season games; that’s why they’re not attractive. They want to see those players play.”

As for those players and their union, Goodell recognizes an expanded schedule will be part of CBA negotiations. Owners opted out of the current deal last year and it expires after the 2010 schedule, which would be an uncapped season.

“Under the current agreement, additional regular-season games would not be covered,” Goodell said. “I think our most important priority after we get done with internal analysis is talking to our key partners, and that includes the players. I think we want to make sure that the right dialogue takes place before we make any final votes.”

DeMaurice Smith, the NFLPA’s incoming executive director, in a phone interview on Wednesday.

He also recognized players they want to see are not in those pre-season games; that’s why they’re not attractive. They want to see those players play.
Mets' pitching struggles in 10-6 loss to Tigers

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Oliver Perez’s setting Wednesday afternoon was as bad as his manager’s, Jerry Manuel, considered it, because he walked six in 3 2-3 innings of the New York Mets’ 10-6 loss to the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday.

Tigers starter Nate Robertson left the game with a sprained thumb on his pitching hand. Robertson, competing for the No. 5 spot in the rotation, was hit by a throw while trying to cover first base in the bottom of the first inning.

Mets manager Jerry Manuel said he will watch Perez, who gave up five hits, carefully in his next couple of outings.

"I think when you don’t have command and you don’t have that extra velocity, you’re going to struggle and that’s what happened today," Manuel said. "Perez had neither. We have some things to work out.

Perez’s outing comes a day after Mike Pelfrey gave up six earned runs and 10 hits, and fellow starter John Maine has struggled, too. He has a 10.38 earned runs and 10 hits, and felt good to see him make the adjustments.

After allowing a home run to Henry Blalock in the third, Pavano walked 13 in the next two games, giving up four hits in four innings for the Yankees after signing a $39.95 million contract in 2005, has had his share of struggles this spring. He entered the game with a 9.82 ERA, but threw 53 of 77 pitches for strikes Wednesday and was the first Mets pitcher to go six innings this spring. He gave up six runs over four innings in his last start.

"I still have to make some adjustments on the mound, but I felt really good today," said Pavano, who complimented his defense — in particular two sparkling plays by second baseman Asdrubal Cabrera in the fifth inning.

"I was getting frustrated with some things, but I spoke with our pitching coach (Carl Willis ) and he simplified some things that gave me a piece of mind," he said. "I was rushing my delivery a bit and he got me back in sync. I feel good to go out there and do a job like this.

Manuel manager Eric Wedge has penciled in Pavano as the No. 3 starter in the rotation this season, and was happy to see the positive results.

"I thought he threw well. He was on line with his pitches all day and did a good job moving his fastball around," Wedge said. "He came up in the zone that one inning and was able to get it back down and it was good to see him make the adjustments.

"I've done stuff like this before for Mexico in the World Baseball Classic. Mexico was eliminated in the second round March 16. On Wednesday, he entered the game in the top of the eighth with the score tied at 3 and faced four batters, surrendering only a double to Hunter Pence.

"I wanted to throw strikes," said the 31-year-old Reyes, who spent the last three seasons with the Minnesota Twins.

"It was the perfect situation, just like during the regular season in the eighth inning of a tie game. You have to go out there and throw strikes and I concentrated on that and getting my pitches over the plate.

"I felt like I throw the ball well, but I’m looking for some results at this point," Correia said. "We reset to zero when the season starts, but any time you go out there you want to pitch well. You’re not always going to feel good out there. I got to 90 pitches (actually 92) and now I need to get some kind of a springboard into the season.

Astros 4, Cardinals 3

Dennys Reyes made his debut in a St. Louis Cardinals uniform Wednesday, pitching a scoreless inning of relief in a 4-3 loss to the Houston Astros.

Reyes, who is with his 10th club after signing a two-year deal with the Cardinals earlier this month, showed little signs of rust after having not thrown since making three appearances for Mexico in the World Baseball Classic. Mexico was eliminated in the second round March 16.

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Aztecs hold on to defeat St. Mary's

Associated Press
SAN DIEGO — The Aztecs' Season, a court and Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" echoed over the sound system.

The biggest game in San Diego State hoops history ended with Steve Fisher's Aztecs earning a trip to the NCAA Tournament and sending Patrick Mills into his offseason.

The Aztecs raced to a huge lead at noisy Cox Arena, blew it all, then rallied to beat Mills and the Saint Mary's Gaels 70-66 on Wednesday night to reach the semifinals of the NIT.

"It's an understatement for me to say that this is an important victory for our program," said Fisher, who arrived at SDSU in 1999 and revived its sad-sack program.

Billy White scored 17 for the Aztecs (26-9), who will play Baylor (25-14) in the semifinals on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden.

Fisher was part of two NIT championships while at Michigan, as an assistant to Bill Frieder in 1988-89 and as head coach in 1997. Fisher coached Michigan to the NCAA title in 1989.

SDSU and Saint Mary's (28-7) both felt they should have been in the NCAA tournament. As it is, the Aztecs are the last Mountain West Conference team still playing in the postseason.

This is the deepest SDSU has advanced in a national postseason tournament in its Division I history.

SDSU blew a 13-point second-half lead, but Saint Mary's never took the lead.

Tim Shelton posted up for the go-ahead basket with 48.6 seconds left and Richie Weihe made the free throws in the final 26 seconds as the Aztecs held off the Gaels.

The fast, normally exciting Mills — a misfit and a misfit and his season. He was on the bench at the final buzzer, having fouled out with 10.8 seconds to go. He scored a game-high 18 points but had a horrible night shooting, going 7-for-24 overall and 4-for-13 on 3-pointers.

"It was one of those days," said Mills, the Australian Olympic star who is widely expected to turn pro following his sophomore season.

Mills drew a foul on a three-pointer with 18.3 seconds left that tied it at 64-64. After a timeout, the Gaels inbounded the ball to Mills but he inexplicably lost the ball out of bounds.

Mills drew his fifth foul and Williams again made the second of two free throws for a 70-66 lead.

The Aztecs were just 4-of-8 from the line in the final 1:42.

SDSU had lost to Saint Mary's in consecutive appearances in the John Wooden Classic, including 67-64 on Dec. 13.

SDSU jumped to leads of 13-0 and 18-3 as Mills and the Gaels started cold. Saint Mary's pulled within five late in the first half before SDSU took a 39-28 halftime lead.

"We were better tonight," Fisher said of the opening salvo. "We were making every shot. We were turning them over. They were on their heels.

"We jumped off to a phenomenal start," Fisher added. "We owe our crowd. In the 10 years I've been here, I have not heard a louder crowd for the duration."

SDSU "I'm proud of our pitchers for staying in two tight games." Sullivan said. "I am hoping today's games were a good wake-up call for us to make sure we play our game and play the sport with passion, the way it is meant to be played."

For better or for worse, the Belles have had a full week off to recover and to prepare for a Grizzlies team that can be dangerous when underestimated.

Saint Mary's will look for strong performances in the lineup from freshman Lauren Ensayati and senior Ashley Fasano, who have been instrumental in the Belles' success thus far. But in the end, strong pitching and solid defense will play a dominant factor in today's outcome.

Saint Mary's takes the field at 3:00 p.m. at American Legion Field in Franklin, Ind.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu
Homers
continued from page 24
slow pitchers," Gump said.
"But what was really impor-
tant was when their pitchers
missed, they took advantage."
Jorgensborg sparked the
offense twice more with an
HR single in the third inning
and a home run to left center
in the sixth to cap the scoring
for the Irish.
Our Dame out fast in
the second game of the
doubleheader as well.
Fleury began the bottom
of the first with a walk and
advanced to second on a sac-
rifice bunt. Junior third base-
man Heather Johnson and
Lax then walked to load the
bases for sophomore second
baseman Dani Miller, who
promptly placed the ball
behind the left field fence for
a grand slam.
Miller, who went from little
playing time at the beginning
of the season to a starting
job, has been an offensive
force for the Irish during
their current homestand.
"She really deserves it," Gump said. "There isn't any-
one who works harder than
Dani. She fires me up, the
way she approaches the
game."
The Broncos scored their
only run of the game in the
third inning on a walk and an
error.
Sophomore pitcher Jody
Valdivia (5-5) allowed just
one hit and an unearned run
in her seven innings of work.
She struck out eight batters.
"It was one of [Valdivia's]
best outings," Gump said. "She had good stuff and
it was really moving. She kept
the other team guessing."
Gump said the early runs
for the Irish were helpful for
both pitchers.
"It takes all the pressure
off," she said. "I know Bargar
and Jody really appreciate
it."
The Irish added an extra
four runs in the bottom of the
sixth. Jorgensborg began the
inning with a single and
advanced to third on a walk and
a wild pitch. Fleury then
batted her in with a single.
The Irish added three more
on two walks, a sacrifice fly
and an error.
Our Dame will have two
days' rest before traveling to
Georgetown and South
Florida this weekend to play
in their first conference road
games.
Contact Laura Myers at
lmyers2@nd.edu

NBA
Pacers stymie Wade, squeak out home win
Associated Press
INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's
home-court mastery of cold-
shooting Dwyane Wade and
the Miami Heat came down to
one possession, one last shot and
one big scare.
The 90-88 victory Wednesday
night was Indiana's 17th straight
home win against the Heat, but it wasn't certain until
Wade throughout the game was
blocked but only two rebounds.
Wade has never won in
Indianapolis. "I got a hand up
every time he shot it," Wade said. "Naw, I got a
really don't," Granger said.
"It's just one of those nights," Granger said of Wednesday's
season-high 16 rebounds.
Wade finished with 18
points and 14 rebounds, and
O'Neal had 13 points and three
rebounds but only one assist.
Ford added 20 points and
Jarrett Jack 13 for the Pacers.
Joe Ford, starting in place of
injured Troy Murphy, had a
season-high 16 rebounds.
The bulk of the defense on
Wade throughout the game was
by Indiana rookie Josh
Rush.
"I just tried to challenge him
on every shot he took and tried
to stay in front of him," Rush said. "I tried to contest every-
thing he put up and make sure
I got a hand up every time he
left his feet."
Wade hit only three of 13
shots in the first half but kept
Miami close from the free-
throw line.
He hit all six of his first-half
foul shots, including the first
two during a 10-2 run that
erased an early seven-point
Pacers lead. A 3-pointer by
James Jones and a basket by
Michael Beasley put the Heat
up 29-27 early in the second
period. Wade pushed Miami's
lead to 49-45 with two more
free throws with 1:37 left
its left in the half, but a 3-pointer
by Jack with 2 seconds to go
got the Pacers within one.
Miami took its biggest lead at
74-70 on two free throws by
Mario Chalmers before a bas-
ket by Ford started Indiana's
decisive run.

Hoosiers
continued from page 24
Katy Zapadakova, who com-
peted in the NCAA singles
tournament last year as a
freshman.
Our Dame enters the final
stretch of its regular season
schedule with only seven
games remaining until the Big
East championship tourna-
ment. After the Irish host
Baylor next week at home,
they will head on a four-game
road trip where they will play
games in five days, simi-
lar to the pace they will run
into at the NCAA tournament
in May.

Thinking about Grad School?

Abandon all hope
The Medallion has been found
Thanks for playing
Corrigan was not pleased with offensive execution in particular. "In the first half we were too quick, offensively, and not very good," Corrigan said. "We didn't take advantage of opportunities from the outset.

The Knights remained within striking distance for much of the day, and the Irish (17-0, 1-0 GWLL) only had a 7-5 lead with 1:15 left in the third quarter. However, senior anchor Duncan Swezey scored three of his four goals in just over 1/2 minutes at the end of the third and the start of the fourth quarter to give the Irish a 10-5 lead and squandered hopes of a Bellarmine rally.

Corrigan thought that Swezey's efforts have had an even stronger performance, but the team was pleased with it nonetheless.

"Duncan was like a lot of our guys," Corrigan said. "He should have had seven goals, but I'm glad he had four."

Bellarmine scored the first goal of the game at the 12:47 mark when Knights sophomore attacker Jarrett Davis tallied his first of two scores on the day. The Irish responded nearly two minutes later with Swezey's first goal off an assist from sophomore midfielder David Earl at the 10:49 mark.

The teams remained tied until Irish sophomore midfielder Zach Brannen scored with 2:35 left in the first quarter. Senior midfielder Dan Gibson scored 29 seconds later to make the score 1-1, but a goal by Bellarmine sophomore Derek Hooper made the score 2-1 at the end of the period.

Bellarmine tied the game at three with a goal from junior Brian Doyle nearly two minutes into the second quarter. However, two goals from junior midfielder Grant Krehe put the Irish on top 3-3 with just over one minute to play in the half, and a tally from junior attackman Matt Cambeila put the Irish on top 4-3 just 50 seconds into the third quarter.

Irish junior attackman Dan Gliot popped a hit to left but the Knights were unable to get it into the net. Irish sophomore attackman Stephen Zagnit scored with 7:47 left in the third quarter to give the Irish a 5-3 lead.

Gliot's score was just one of two for the Irish in the fourth period.[idx]

"It looked like we were on the verge of putting them away but he is such a potent guy," Irish coach Mike Brinck said. "You know, two three and all of a sudden it's a game again. And he's got ten of those guys here on us. We just can't get away.

But the Irish responded to the Wildcats back, cutting the deficit to single digits. When Meeks hit a 3-point-ker to 64-55, the thousand of Kentuckians in attendance rose to their feet. But the Wildcats were able to stave off the comeback and hold on for a win.

"It's a great atmosphere in there," Brinck said. "One thing about the Kentucky fan base, man, they travel. And they made our fans compete tonight so it was really a great way for us to end their season.

A dunk by Ayers in the final minute put an exclamation point on the Irish victory.

Scully was named a senior, playing with these guys that you love to play with every day is really special, and we're just thankful for everyone coming today to support us, and it's been a part of our four years here," Ayers said.

After the win, the Irish now look ahead to a semifinal matchup against Penn State Tuesday. The NIT final will be played Thursday.

"We're extremely excited and we're looking to cut down the nets here in Pittsburgh, so it's not over yet," McAlarney said.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu
The Observer

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Team advances to NIT semis, seniors get win in final game at JACC

By FRAN TOLAN
Senior Staff Writer

For the four Notre Dame seniors who led the Irish to a 52-3 record at home the past three seasons, the final game at the old Joyce Center could not have been any better.
The hosts never trailed and held off a late Kentucky rally to beat the Wildcats 77-67 on Wednesday night. The Irish advance to the semifinals of the NIT, which will be played in New York City's Madison Square Garden starting next Tuesday.

"What a way to go out. Kentucky is the most storied program in college basketball, and to get a W," Irish senior guard Kyle Alcalary, who led five seniors who scored, said Thursday.

Senior guard Kyle Alcalary five seniors of the Leprechaun Legion Wednesday after Notre Dame's 77-67 win over Kentucky, the last home game before the Joyce Center renovation.

BASEBALL

Eights walks, hit batter doom ND in 6-5 loss to Oakland

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Eight walks and a hit batsman doomed Notre Dame (14-11), who lost 6-5 to Oakland at Ford Stadium Wednesday. "That's the difference in the ballgame," Irish coach Dave Erickson said. "We talk about it all the time."

Junior Andrew Estes (2-0) picked up the win for the Grizzlies (6-11), going two-thirds of an inning and giving up no runs on one hit. Oakland's starter, sophomore Greg Welke, went 6 2-3 innings, giving up five runs on six hits. Freshman Matt LaMorthe picked up his first save.

Freshman Joe Spano took the loss for the Irish, dropping his record to 0-1. Spano relieved freshman starter Steve Sabatino after four innings and allowed three runs on two hits.

Sabatino had trouble locating his breaking pitches, something Schrage said allowed the Grizzlies to wait for their pitch.

"When our pitchers can only throw one pitch for a strike, obviously they're sitting on a fastball and they're going to drill it," Schrage said.

Senior Grizzlies shortstop Andrew Stafford went 3-for-5 with two runs and an RBI, and sophomore second baseman D.J. Jarrad went 2-for-4 with an RBI. Junior designated hitter Matt Grosso and sophomore first baseman David Casey each had two hits for the Irish.

"I've been pretty spotty the last couple weeks now," Grosso said. "I just was just getting up there trying to get something in the zone and swinging at it. I just tried to be a little more patient today." Down 5-2 in the seventh, the Irish tied the game with a two-out rally. Freshman second baseman Tommy Chase reached after he got hit by a pitch and junior center fielder A.J. Pollock's double down the left field line scored Chase to tie the game at 6-6.

"I wasn't real pleased with our effort," Corrigan said. "Our execution wasn't good, our preparation wasn't good, and that's on me."

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Team hits courts at local rival Indiana

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

No. 3 Notre Dame will try to continue to rebound from a loss to Georgia Tech and stretch its win streak to three today when the Irish travel to Bloomington, Ind., to take on No. 37 Indiana.

This past weekend, the Irish were able to bounce back from their second loss of the season against the Yellow Jackets to defeat No. 12 Tennessee and No. 29 Vanderbilt, posting scores of 5-2 and 6-1, respectively, to push their record to 16-2 on the season.

Irish coach Jay Louderback touted the wins as steps in the right direction for his team. "They were very big wins for us because we always have trouble with both Vandy and Tennessee, especially at Tennessee," he said. "Getting the win at Tennessee (playing outdoors) really helps our team's confidence."

Even with all of their experience playing and beating high-ranked opponents this season, the Irish are making sure they aren't overlooking the lower profile foes like Indiana.

"Indiana has had a solid year and is always a tough team to play. They make you finish points in doubles and don't give away any free ones," Louderback said. "We have played a tougher schedule than Indiana up to this point and so I think we will be tough to beat."

The Hossiers are led by two-time all-Big Ten selection Alba Berdala and sophomore Andreea Jorgensborg.

ND SOFTBALL

Long balls propel two victories

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

It was a windy evening, but the Irish bats didn't need any extra help to clear the fences at Melissa Cook Stadium.

Notre Dame (14-11) hit five home runs to fuel its 6-1 and 8-1 victories over Western Michigan (6-12) on Wednesday. "They crushed those balls," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "Every single one was a home run."

The Broncos jumped on senior pitcher Brittany Bargar (9-6) early, scoring one run on two singles in the top of the first. However, it was all they would get, as Bargar gave up only four hits for the rest of the game.

The Irish answered with one of their own in the bottom of the frame on a sacrifice fly by junior first baseman Christine Lux. Then the show really began. Sophomore left fielder Brianna Fleury added another run with a solo homer.

"We usually struggle with more second baseman Katie

Irish started in the bottom of the second with a one-out walk. Junior catcher Alex Clay followed with a two-run blast to left that put the Irish on top. One out later, sopho-