Grads work to expand impact of Haiti documentary

Former students try to raise money after Jan. 12 earthquake, form business operating out of Innovation Park

By MADELINE BUCKLEY  
News Editor

Notre Dame graduate Justin Brandon can trace the inspiration for his work on a 2006 documentary about a rural Haitian town to a summer spent doing service through the Center for Social Concerns. Now, Brandon and two friends have taken their project back to Notre Dame through the use of Innovation Park, a technology park launched by the University that opened this fall.

Brandon, along with 2005 graduates Brian McElroy and Daniel Schnorr, filmed, directed and produced the documentary, "The Road to Fondwa." It chronicles the Haitian people’s quest for development of the small rural town of Fondwa, Haiti.

"The film is not your standard guilt trip, tear jerking movie that tries to make audience feel sorry. Fondwa has a hopeful story," he said.

Brandon said he, McElroy and Schnorr wanted to expand the impact of the documentary — especially in light of the Jan. 12 earthquake — so they formed a business that now operates out of Innovation Park.

"Once earthquake hit, everything changed," Brandon said. "We needed to have a strategy to scale up the efforts of the film distribution and that's where Innovation Park came in."

As a student, Brandon, a graduate of the class of 2004, spent a summer in Ghana participating in an International Summer Service Learning Project (ISSLP). Through this project, he met McElroy and Schnorr. Schnorr had spent the summer in Ecuador and McElroy, Fondwa, Haiti.

"We all met through our ISSLPs, and we came up with the idea to shoot a documentary in Haiti," Brandon said.

Brandon, along with 2005 graduates Brian McElroy and Daniel Schnorr, operated a business out of Innovation Park to help raise funds for Haiti.

Alumni launch online faith program

By MOLLY MADDEN  
News Writer

In an effort to involve the entire Notre Dame community in the faith mission of the University, the Alumni Association has launched an online program they hope will reach out to Notre Dame family members that are no longer on campus. Alumni Association members said "Tender, Strong and True: Living the Gospel Daily" is a monthly online program that features live roundtable discussions with two panelists and a moderator. The participants talk about current issues and how faith and spirituality should play a role in how these questions are approached.

"The purpose of the program is to explore real challenges we face in life through a lens of faith," Kathy Sullivan, the Alumni Association's senior director of spirituality and service and founder of the program said. "We approach relevant issues such as being infused with the wisdom and presence of Gospel values."

Sullivan said the program is unique in that most of the questions on the show are submitted by the viewers in real time through social networking venues such as Facebook and Twitter.

"We wanted a technology that would enable people to participate with the questions in the program," Sullivan said. "We wanted to create an online community of learners.

Monsignor Michael Heintz, who served as moderator for two editions of the program, said he thinks the series serves a greater purpose.

Schmidt receives local recognition

By AMANDA GRAY  
Assistant News Editor

Student body president Grant Schmidt received local recognition at a recent awards ceremony with the South Bend Police Department (SBPD). "Grant has made it a part of his platform to really work close with the community and make sure that if there's an opportunity to enhance relations between the students and the community that we do so," Vice President of Public Affairs Tim Sexton said of Schmidt's Special Recognition Award. "He's been very successful with doing that."

The eighth annual awards ceremony was held March 14 at the Ivy Tech Cyber Café and honored 75 police officers and civilians, the South Bend Tribune reported.

"He's worked very hard regarding off-campus safety. He's worked very hard with Transpo and extending the hours that Transpo runs on Friday and Saturday nights for getting students back and forth from downtown South Bend," Sexton said. "He's just done a awful lot that the community saw and wanted to thank him for all his hard work."

Denise Baron, Community
Beginning of madness

I was talking to my friend JP after we got back from break, and in the process of our conversation he revealed that he thought yesterday was the best day of the year — even better than Christmas or the day we beat USC (soon to be a yearly occurrence), and he’s right, except for the USC thing. Why, you may ask? It’s certainly not because of the post-St. Paddy’s Day hangover you’re undoubtedly nursing as you read this. St. Patrick’s Day just happens to conveniently fall this year as a 24-hour midweek pregame for today, when the world’s greatest sports spectacle tips off at 12:20 p.m.

Yep, you got it. I’m talking about the NCAA men’s basketball tournament. March Madness simply has everything that a sports fan could want. First, it’s a full three weeks of almost constant action. Today alone there are 16 games — and then 16 tomorrow. You can turn on CBS at noon to catch the important bits of the pregame show and watch the same channel and be constantly entertained for 12 straight hours, and then do the same thing tomorrow. For three weeks, there will be one constantly developing storyline after another. They'll all be interesting, too.

Second, no matter who you are, you've got some sort of rooting interest in the tournament. In addition to rooting for Luke Harangody & Co., there's probably at least one of the other 63 teams that is your state university, your mom's alma mater, or one that's got a cool name (Wofford, I'm looking at you).

Third, the bracket is the perfect size — there's an element of mystery as to who will make the field, there are enough games for some classic upsets, and yet one of the best teams almost always comes out on top. Plus, the time-honored tradition of filling out brackets involves even the casual fan in a friendly competition that's inevitably won by someone who has no clue what they're doing. And if you want bragging rights over some other sportswriter like me, head on over to Facebook and enter your bracket against ours.

Students John Wachowicz, left, Andrew Brinkerhoff, center and Tim Ryan perform traditional Irish music on Fieldhouse Mall Wednesday in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day.

OFFBEAT

Woman faces charges after sending text to police

ALTUS, Okla. — A Mangum woman has been arrested for allegedly sending a text message that said, "If you want a hit of this stuff before it is all gone, you better get over here."

Counts sent a message asking for an address and determined that the suspect lived there. Officers said she thought she sent the message to a friend.

Man poses as policeman, pulls over off-duty officer

PHOENIX — An Arizona man accused of menacing motorists of traffic laws while posing as a police officer apparently picked the wrong driver to pull over.

A Maricopa County jury on Tuesday found 62-year-old David Word guilty of impersonating a lawman for pulling over an off-duty police officer. Sentencing is set for May 5.

Avondale police officer Matt Lydic says he was on his way to work in his personal vehicle last May when Word pulled him over while driving a black Ford Crown Victoria equipped with lights and a siren. Lydic says Word told him to slow down, then drove away.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.
**Robot football game to be held**

By CAITLYN KALSCHEUR  
News Writer

This year’s Blue and Gold football game weekend will have more than just one football game for some students. The Engineering Department will host its second annual Collegiate Mechatronic Football Competition at Stepan Center on April 23.

Jim Schmiedeler, associate professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, said the competition is a one-hour football game between robots built by students.

Schmiedeler said the competition is part of a 13-week effort to design, build, test and demonstrate the skills of the robots.

“The students have done a terrific job. They have progressed with the help of input from last year’s competition,” Schmiedeler said. This is the program’s second official year of competition.

“Last year’s game had an exciting finish,” Schmiedeler said. “The Blue team fumbled on a drive to the end zone with no time left that would have won them the game. The fans and students were jumping and cheering. It was an intense game.”

While the outcome of the game is important for the trophy, Schmiedeler said the grade students receive is based on a test that takes place the week before. The robots go through a series of tests to evaluate their abilities from controllability to kicking and throwing accuracy.

The students officially began the design portion of the project in January and started manufacturing and testing their robots after Spring Break, Schmiedeler said.

“The students have been driving prototype robots around the halls of Fitzpatrick for a while now, and they’ve been outside kicking field goals and throwing passes,” Schmiedeler said.

The event was started by a Notre Dame alumnus in honor of his son, Brian Hederman, who was a student in the Engineering Department. Hederman, who passed away before he graduated, came up with the idea of a football-playing robot.

“Alumni from the Department were interested in sponsoring the event,” Schmiedeler said. They want to evaluate the success of the competition here at Notre Dame and investigate the possibilities of intercollegiate competition.

The robots play an adapted version of football in which each team has eight players, and they play on a smaller field with a souvenir-sized football. A completed pass is the quarterback throwing the ball and hitting the receiver, who doesn’t necessarily have to catch the ball to complete the pass.

“The robots have tackle sensors that light up to indicate a tackle,” Schmiedeler said. “Essentially it shows how hard one robot slams into another.”

Students control the robots from the sidelines, and two students are allowed on the field to control the offense. Also on the field are three referees from RecSports.

Motorola sponsors the event. Schmiedeler said, “We’ve invited faculty and students from other universities to promote the idea of a possible league someday.”

“The students have done a terrific job. They have progressed with the help of input from the last year’s competition.”

**Jim Schmiedeler  
Associate Professor  
Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering**

“Alumni from the Department were interested in sponsoring the event,” Schmiedeler said. They want to evaluate the success of the competition here at Notre Dame and investigate the possibilities of intercollegiate competition.

The students officially began the design portion of the project in January and started manufacturing and testing their robots after Spring Break, Schmiedeler said.

“The students have been driving prototype robots around the halls of Fitzpatrick for a while now, and they’ve been outside kicking field goals and throwing passes,” Schmiedeler said.

The event was started by a Notre Dame alumnus in honor of his son, Brian Hederman, who was a student in the Engineering Department. Hederman, who passed away before he graduated, came up with the idea of a football-playing robot.

“Alumni from the Department were interested in sponsoring the event,” Schmiedeler said. They want to evaluate the success of the competition here at Notre Dame and investigate the possibilities of intercollegiate competition.

The robots play an adapted version of football in which each team has eight players, and they play on a smaller field with a souvenir-sized football. A completed pass is the quarterback throwing the ball and hitting the receiver, who doesn’t necessarily have to catch the ball to complete the pass.

“The robots have tackle sensors that light up to indicate a tackle,” Schmiedeler said. “Essentially it shows how hard one robot slams into another.”

Students control the robots from the sidelines, and two students are allowed on the field to control the offense. Also on the field are three referees from RecSports.

Motorola sponsors the event. Schmiedeler said, “We’ve invited faculty and students from other universities to promote the idea of a possible league someday.”

“You have about 10 percent of the college’s student body take time out of their day to participate in the College Academy of Tutoring (CAT) Program. The CAT Program links students to at-risk children in the South Bend community and, according to CAT director Olivia Critchlow, “allows them to be positive, supportive figures in the lives of those who need it most.”

“Students gain a lot of beneficial experience from participating in the CAT Program. Critchlow explains, “For many, it can be relaxing to spend time off campus in a productive environment, where they are helping others.”

“Alumni from the Department were interested in sponsoring the event,” Schmiedeler said. They want to evaluate the success of the competition here at Notre Dame and investigate the possibilities of intercollegiate competition.

The robots play an adapted version of football in which each team has eight players, and they play on a smaller field with a souvenir-sized football. A completed pass is the quarterback throwing the ball and hitting the receiver, who doesn’t necessarily have to catch the ball to complete the pass.

“The robots have tackle sensors that light up to indicate a tackle,” Schmiedeler said. “Essentially it shows how hard one robot slams into another.”

Students control the robots from the sidelines, and two students are allowed on the field to control the offense. Also on the field are three referees from RecSports.

Motorola sponsors the event. Schmiedeler said, “We’ve invited faculty and students from other universities to promote the idea of a possible league someday.”

“The students have done a terrific job. They have progressed with the help of input from the last year’s competition.”

**Jim Schmiedeler  
Associate Professor  
Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering**

When not busy with the usual classes and homework, about 10 percent of the college’s student body take time out of their day to participate in the College Academy of Tutoring (CAT) Program. The CAT Program links students to at-risk children in the South Bend community and, according to CAT director Olivia Critchlow, “allows them to be positive, supportive figures in the lives of those who need it most.”

“Alumni from the Department were interested in sponsoring the event,” Schmiedeler said. They want to evaluate the success of the competition here at Notre Dame and investigate the possibilities of intercollegiate competition.

The robots play an adapted version of football in which each team has eight players, and they play on a smaller field with a souvenir-sized football. A completed pass is the quarterback throwing the ball and hitting the receiver, who doesn’t necessarily have to catch the ball to complete the pass.

“The robots have tackle sensors that light up to indicate a tackle,” Schmiedeler said. “Essentially it shows how hard one robot slams into another.”

Students control the robots from the sidelines, and two students are allowed on the field to control the offense. Also on the field are three referees from RecSports.

Motorola sponsors the event. Schmiedeler said, “We’ve invited faculty and students from other universities to promote the idea of a possible league someday.”

“You have about 10 percent of the college’s student body take time out of their day to participate in the College Academy of Tutoring (CAT) Program. The CAT Program links students to at-risk children in the South Bend community and, according to CAT director Olivia Critchlow, “allows them to be positive, supportive figures in the lives of those who need it most.”

“Students gain a lot of beneficial experience from participating in the CAT Program. Critchlow explains, “For many, it can be relaxing to spend time off campus in a productive environment, where they are helping others.”

**Olivia Critchlow  
Director CAT**

**For many, it can be relaxing to spend time off campus in a productive environment, where they are helping others.”**

**Special to The Observer**

You are Invited!

Please join the members of the Congregation of Holy Cross for a special Mass to celebrate

**The Feast of St. Joseph**

Patronal Feast of the Brothers of Holy Cross

Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
Friday, March 19, 2010 - 5:15 p.m.

Celebrate with us as we prepare for the canonization of Blessed Brother Andre on October 17, 2010, a special moment for the Congregation and the Brothers.
Park
continued from page 1

“We raised a little money, went down and didn’t know who we were helping. One of us took any film classes at Notre Dame.” But the Notre Dame graduates succeeded in making the film after viewing the holding screenings of the documentary to showcase the development and culture of Fondwa.

The documentary focuses on the development of Fondwa, a rural town of about 8,000. The people work to spur growth by building a road through the town then expanding the University of Notre Dame, which was established in 2004. “The university was an important first step for development of the town,” Brandon said. “After, they came in each class, and they’ve graduated one class so far. In the end of the film, we talk about the university as the crown jewel of community.”

But in the recent earthquake devastated the town, and pushed him, McElroy and Schnorr to extend the reach of the documentary to raise money for relief.

“Some of the buildings in Fondwa were destroyed, including people’s houses. The university was a huge help,” Brandon said. “But people are working to raise money to rebuild it bigger and better.”

After the earthquake, Brandon said they decided to release the film for free viewing on YouTube to draw attention to the town and the university.

“The whole world was able to see the negativity, the really dismal images of Fondwa shown on TV. We wanted to show a more hopeful message online,” he said.

Brandon said the business they ran out of Innovation Park is not for profit.

“We are covering our own costs, gauging and making the DVDs, but after that, we are using any money that comes in to keep the business going, promoting the film and its work,” he said. Anything’s that left over, we are donating directly to Fondwa.”

Brandon said he and the filmmakers are looking for groups and students who want to do screenings of the documentary in order to raise awareness and funds for the relief effort.

“We have raised a few thousand,” he said. “It isn’t all that much, but in the broader scheme of the film, they can do that for free except that they had to buy some DVDs.”

Brandon said Innovation Park is an ideal workspace for promoting the documentary.

“It’s important for me to have a place to come and work around other people that think similar way that I’m thinking,” he said. “It’s an office space but it’s more than that.”

Brandon said he uses the Greenhouse facility in the park, and has networking and mentoring opportunities from people also using the Greenhouse that have experience launching a business.

His company was an attractive option for Innovation Park as well, Brandon said.

“Our business is different from the other projects they take on. A lot are along lines of physical sciences,” he said. “Ours is quite different and it’s a good perspective to bring into the park because it’s a finished product that already has a revenue stream.”

Many of the other businesses launching out of Innovation Park are still in the early stages of establishing themselves.

Brandon said. “Innovation Park wishes to help Road to Fondwa, LLC, find ways to market this powerful documentary as a tool to help raise additional funds for critical earthquake relief operations.”

“Our business will help with the Haitian relief effort, but also draw attention to the positive side of Haiti.”

Brandon said he hopes the business will help with the Haitian relief effort, but also draw attention to the positive side of Haiti.

“It’s much more of an uplifting story, but not contrived,” he said. “People there have a hopeful spirit and have accomplished a tremendous amount in past few decades.”

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Alumni
continued from page 1

purpose for the Notre Dame community.

“This series is a way of utilizing technology to help members of the Notre Dame family stay connected,” he said. “We have a spiritual responsibility to the students, the community and this university. It allows them to stay connected to that spiritual aspect.”

Sullivan said the idea for the program came from another online spiritual venture, the pray.nd.edu Web site she helped to create. Sullivan said in looking at prayer requests that were submitted to the site by alumni and other students, a pattern of concerns over trying to figure out how to move forward in faith life during hard times.

“I began to ask why I couldn’t do to reach people and bring faith into their lives, our alumni,” she said. “Then the idea for ‘Tender, Strong’ and ‘True’ began to form.”

The actual planning got underway in September. The project is an outgrowth of an advisory group that included Sullivan, Chair of the Theology Department John Cavadini and Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Richard Warner. The pilot episode aired Feb. 7, featuring a discussion on prayer and the Lenten season, alluding to 238 watched the video after the viewing. The most recent edition, which aired on March 14 and featured the topic of job loss, had over 700 views on the Alumni Association’s Web site. Heintz said each show has only minimal planning with most of the content being left up to the questions submitted by viewers.

“We meet before so we have an idea of where we want to go,” he said. “But it’s not a script; we just try and engage in conversation.”

Sullivan said the response she has had from viewers has been overwhelming with gratitude and appreciation. She said she thinks the series touches people on a universal level.

“This isn’t intended to be an Oprah show or a psychology show,” she said. “It’s an effort to explore how we live our faith throughout our whole life and applying a faith perspective as an overlay to the challenges of life.”

Sullivan and Heintz both hope the series continues to be a servant not only to Notre Dame alumni, but to the Notre Dame community as a whole.

“A lot of alumni are a member of the Notre Dame family doesn’t stop at graduation,” Heintz said. “This series will continue to provide a forum for the University to speak to the community beyond campus.”

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden3@nd.edu

Debate
continued from page 1

Relations Committee chair of Student Senate, said the community has been appreciative of Schmidt’s work for a long time.

“This might be his first formal recognition, but he’s definitely been informally recognized,” Baron said.

Schmidt said he hopes this will help foster good relationships between the University and the greater community.

“This was a recognition by the police department,” Schmidt said. “We’ve met with [members of the South Bend Police Department] and had conversations about safety issues and general good neighbor relations. It was a great recognition to represent the fact that I think we’ve come a long way in regards to the relation between students and the city of South Bend, and I hope that relation continues.”

Schmidt’s involvement with the Campus Community Advisory Council shows his dedication to community relations. Sexton said.

“You have representatives coming to these [community] meetings, including Grant and Denise Baron,” Sexton said. “When it comes to safety and crime prevention in the neighborhood, the challenge that we have is a lot of students living in the Northeast Neighborhood for a year or two, then somebody new comes in. Sexton said he would like to see improved relationships between students and permanent residents in the community.

“For the residents that are permanent, it’s an ongoing, consistent attempt to build relationships with students living by them, make them aware of what it means to be a good neighbor,” he said. “Grant and his team from student programs have just done a great job of moving that in a positive fashion.”

Schmidt said the recognition is proof that relations have already started to improve.

“That award is representative of the fact that students in general are having better relations with their neighbors and with the city,” Schmidt said.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu
Taliban launches new operation

Associated Press

MARIJAH — A month after losing control of their southern base in Marjah, the Taliban have fought back, launching a campaign of assassination and intimidation to frighten people from supporting the U.S. and its Afghan allies.

At least one alleged government sympathizer has been beheaded. There are rumors that others have been killed. Afghans in this town that U.S. and NATO troops captured in a three-week assault that began Feb. 13 have asked to letters posted on their doors warning against helping the troops.

Winning public support in this former Taliban stronghold in Helmand province 360 miles south of Kabul is considered essential to preventing insurgents from returning.

The Marjah operation will serve as a model for campaigns elsewhere, including one expected by summer to secure villages around Kandahar, the Taliban’s spiritual birthplace and the largest city in the south.

Military commanders believe the Taliban campaign is achieving some success because of questions raised at town meetings. Do the U.S. forces want to shut down the mosques and ban the Koran? Will they use lookout posts on their bases to dictate to the women about what cooking to use to bring farmers’ land away?

“Dislocating the insurgents physically was easy. Dislocating them socially — proving that we’re here to stay and to help — that’s a lot harder,” said Lt. Col. Jeff Rule, the head of operations for Marines in Helmand.

There are no firm figures on how many Taliban are left in Marjah. Marine and Afghan military officials say they believe that of those still here are from the area and the foreign fighters have fled. Regardless of Taliban numbers, their influence is still felt.

New cell phone towers brought phone service to Marjah a little over a week ago. But the service doesn’t work at night because the Taliban threaten or bribe tower operators to shut off the network, presumably to prevent people from alerting troops and police as they plant bombs after dark.

Some of the workers on canal-clearing projects have been threatened or have been beaten up by insurgents.

At least one canal worker who received threats returned and said he will keep working despite the risk, said Maj. David Fennell, who oversees about 15 civil affairs troops working to win over the population.

“That’s when you know that you fought the Taliban and you won,” Fennell said. “I tell my team time and time again: ‘What did we just do today? We hit the Taliban in the mouth.’”

This is the struggle for Marjah now: winning people over with a job or a vaccination for a child. The victories are small because the Taliban already proved it can make good on its promises by enforcing harsh justice while in power.

My sense is that the Taliban will re-infiltrate in due course as the Afghan government fails to live up to the modest expectations NATO has of it,” says Mervyn Patterson, a former U.N. political affairs expert in Afghanistan. “I do not think that the Taliban have been weakened in Helmand by the loss of Marjah. They have been having ups and downs, and this was a modest down, but not something that is significant, in and of itself. I expect they will gradually return to Marjah.

Many of the estimated 80,000 people here share the same fears, even though there are about 4,000 NATO and Afghan troops in and around Marjah, including two Marine battalions in the town. Some say they’re afraid to take money from the military because if the Taliban find them with the cash, they’ll be punished.

Detroit schools slated to close in June

Associated Press

DETROIT — Doors are expected to shut on more than a quarter of Detroit’s 172 public schools in June as the district fights through steadily declining enrollment and a budget deficit of more than $2.219 million, an emergency financial manager said Wednesday.

There are 132 schools still operating, a reduction of 40 from last year, according to the state. The district is barely able to cover its expenses, largely due to declining enrollment.

“I am not happy about it, but the population of the city is shrinking and the people who have the means are moving out,” Williams said after picking up her daughter, Payton, from Bunche Elementary on Detroit’s east side.

The closures are part of a $1 billion, five-year plan to downsize a struggling district also is looking to improve education, test scores and student safety in a city whose population has declined with each passing decade. The 2010 U.S. Census is expected to show that fewer than 900,000 people now live in Detroit.

“You’ve got to give DPS a chance. You’ve got to give Detroit a chance,” I’m trying to,” said Williams, an unemployed General Motors Co. contract worker.

District data shows full-time, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade enrollment has decreased from about 164,300 in 2002-03 to 87,700 for the current school year. Enrollment is projected to dip to 56,500 in 2014-15.

More than half the classroom seats in dozens of buildings are empty.

Afghanistan

Taliban launches new operation

Insurgents conduct a fear and intimidation campaign in southern Afghan base

Wednesday.

A FGHANISTAN

Andrew Zykan of Florissant, Mo., sits with Afghans Tuesday as marines of the First Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment build a barrier around their base.

Detroit schools slated to close in June

Governor Daniels signs ethics bill

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels signed into law a bill tightening ethics and lobbying rules for lawmakers and the executive branch.

The bill, one of 23 Daniels signed Wednesday, bars lawmakers from becoming lobbyists and requires lobbyists to report gifts worth $50 or more. It also bars in-coming candidates or incumbents for statewide office from raising campaign funds during budget-writing legislative sessions.

Some provisions take effect July 1. Others do so later.
Archbishop Romero to be commemorated at ND

Special to The Observer

The 2010 Romero Days, a series of events commemorating the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, will be held at the University of Notre Dame March 24 to 26 (Wednesday to Friday).

Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini of San Marcos, Guatemala, will speak on the state of civil and human rights in his diocese on March 24 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 1130 of the Eck Hall of Law. An internationally recognized human rights activist, Bishop Ramazzini has been an outspoken and frequently threatened advocate for the campesinos, immigrants and landless people of Guatemala. Also on March 24, he will preside and preach at Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 5:15 p.m.

Ana Carrigan, journalist and author of the recent book “The Palace of Justice: A Colombian Tragedy,” will speak on human rights and social conditions in Colombia March 25 at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies. Also on March 25, a new documentary film, “Monseñor: The Last Journey of Oscar Romero,” will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The film includes extracts from Archbishop Romero’s Sunday homilies and from his personal diary, and personal interviews of a cross-section of Salvadorans: campesinos, guerrillas, soldiers, politicians, priests, nuns and catechists. Rev. Robert Pelton, C.S.C., director of Notre Dame’s Latin American/North American Church Concerns (LANACC) will travel to El Salvador to introduce the film at its world premiere in the Cathedral of San Salvador on March 19.

Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated by a right-wing death squad while presiding at Mass on March 24, 1980, in a hospital in San Salvador. His outspoken advocacy of human rights, his denunciations of U.S. military aid to El Salvador, his call for Salvadoran military personnel to disobey immoral orders, and his insistence that the Church be inseparable from the poor all made him a figure of some controversy before and after his death.

Archbishop Romero has been officially recommended for canonization by the Catholic Church in El Salvador, and he already is widely venerated as a martyr in his native country, throughout Latin America and in the United States. Romero Days is organized annually by LANACC, which seeks to interpret Latin American Catholicism to U.S. Catholics and others through films, publications and public events.

The events of the 2010 Romero Days are co-sponsored by LANACC and Notre Dame’s Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Latin American Studies Program, the Bishop Shaeen Leadership Fund, the Center for Civil and Human Rights, the Center for Social Concerns, the Department of Theology, the Institute for Church Life, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Campus Ministry, the Institute for Latino Studies and the Department of Film, Television and Theatre.

Contact Sam Stryker at stryke1@nd.edu
Thursday, March 18, 2010

**The Observer**

**B U S I N E S S**

**Market Recap**

**Dow Jones**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMEX</td>
<td>1,907.11</td>
<td>+70.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASDAQ</td>
<td>2,389.09</td>
<td>+11.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYSE</td>
<td>7,474.13</td>
<td>+47.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;P 500</td>
<td>1,165.21</td>
<td>+6.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIKKEI (Tokyo)</td>
<td>10,821.46</td>
<td>-25.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTSE 100 (London)</td>
<td>5,644.63</td>
<td>+24.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Treasuries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-YEAR NOTE</td>
<td>-0.30</td>
<td>-1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-WEEK BILL</td>
<td>-2.33</td>
<td>-0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-YEAR BOND</td>
<td>-0.46</td>
<td>-0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-YEAR NOTE</td>
<td>-0.77</td>
<td>-0.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commodities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIGHT CRUDE</td>
<td>+1.23</td>
<td>82.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLD (per oz.)</td>
<td>+1.80</td>
<td>1,124.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORK BELLY</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>91.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exchange Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YEN</td>
<td>90.3150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EURO</td>
<td>1.3724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANADIAN DOLLAR</td>
<td>1.0106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRITISH POUND</td>
<td>1.5312</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THEOBSERVER**

**WASHINGTON** — Companies that hire unemployed workers will get a temporary payroll tax holiday under a bill that Senate Democrats won congressional approval Wednesday in what Democrats hope is just the first of several election-year measures aimed at boosting hiring.

The 68-29 bipartisan vote in the Senate sent the legislation to the White House, where President Barack Obama was expected to sign it into law Thursday. Eleven Republicans voted for the legislation, an impressive tally considering the politically charged atmosphere on Capitol Hill.

It was the first of several jobs bills promised by Democrats, though there’s plenty of skepticism that the measure will do much to actually create jobs. Optimistic estimates predict the tax break could generate perhaps 250,000 jobs through the end of the year, but that would be just a tiny fraction of the 8.4 million jobs lost since the start of the recession.

The measure is part of a campaign by Democrats to show that they are addressing the nation’s unemployment problem, but that message was overshadowed by Congress’ feverish final push to pass health care overhaul legislation by this weekend.

“It is the first of what I hope will be a series of jobs packages that help to continue to put people back to work,” Obama said after the vote.

The bill contains about $18 billion in tax breaks and a $20 billion infusion of cash into highway and mass transit programs. Among other things, it exempts social services that hire people who have been unemployed for at least 60 days from paying the 6.2 percent Social Security payroll tax through December and gives employers an additional $1,000 credit if new workers stay on the job a full year. Taxpayers will have to reimburse Social Security for the lost revenue.

“This is just the first, certainly not the last, piece of legislation that we will put forward in relation to jobs,” said its sponsor, Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. “If we don’t create jobs, the economy will not move forward.”

It also extends highway and mass transit programs through the end of the year and provides $20 billion in time for the spring construction season. That money would make up for lower-than-expected gasoline tax revenues.

The measure is modest compared with last year’s $862 billion economic stimulus bill, and the bulk of the hiring tax breaks would probably go to companies that were likely to hire new workers anyway.

“At the end of the day, I want to see performance, and we’re going to need a series of jobs tax breaks for small business owners, there’s no going to be to a huge incentive to add new workers,” said Bill Rys of the National Federation of Independent Business, which lobbies for small business.

The bill is financed in part over the coming decade by cracking down on offshore tax havens, though it would add $13 billion to the debt in the coming three years.

When are we going to stop spending money around here as if there’s no tomorrow?” said Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H. “Because pretty soon there’s going to be no tomorrow for our children as we add this debt to their backs.”

In addition to the hiring tax incentives and highway funding, the bill extends a tax break for small business owners, buying new equipment and modestly expands an initiative that helps small state and local governments finance infrastructure projects.

A far larger measure that would extend health insurance subsidies and jobless checks for the unemployed is in the works but has hit slow going. That measure has passed both House and Senate but is hung up as the rival chambers wrangle over how to partially finance the legislation, which would also extend a variety of tax breaks for individuals and businesses.

**Leadership change at Nike**

**WASHINGTON** — Nike, the world’s largest sportswear company, reported Thursday that it made a profit of $496 million, or 41 cents per share, in the quarter ending March 5, compared with 5 cents per share, it reported for the same period a year earlier. But the year-ago results included a one-time charge totaling $2.4 billion, or $5.63 per share.

Excluding those charges, Nike’s profit grew a strong 17 percent to $496 million, or 1.01 per share, for the third-quarter profit.

It’s more than double the $244 million, or 50 cents per share, that Nike earned $496 million, or $1.01 per share, for the same period a year earlier. But the year-ago results included a one-time charge totaling $2.4 billion, or $5.63 per share.

Excluding those charges, Nike’s profit grew a strong 17 percent to $496 million, or 1.01 per share, for the third-quarter profit.

The results beat the average forecast of analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters for profit of 89 cents per share on revenue of $4.6 billion. Analyst expectations typically exclude one-time items.

**Nike’s strong quarter**

Nike said its revenue grew 7 percent to $4.7 billion, helped in part by foreign exchange rates.

Revenue grew most in China and other emerging markets, Nike said. Nike’s key markets of Western Europe and the U.S. showed modest single-digit revenue gains.

For the quarter, Nike’s operating margin, a key measure of profitability, fell to 26.5 percent from 27.1 percent a year ago.

For the quarter, Nike’s operating margin, a key measure of profitability, fell to 26.5 percent from 27.1 percent a year ago.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 48 points Wednesday in its seventh straight advance to close at a new high for 10. The gain means the Dow has joined the Standard & Poor’s 500 index and Nasdaq composite index in reaching the best levels since 2008.

Stocks reached the new highs by closing almost on the upside. The Dow was up 85 points in about five weeks but the gains haven’t come in the 100-point pips that were common during much of the market’s climb in the past 12 months. There have only been a few of those big days in recent weeks. Most of the increase has come from gains that don’t make headlines, like 45 points, or 10.

The gains could always unravel but “Until business picks up for small business owners, there’s no going to be to a huge incentive to add new workers,” said Bill Rys of the National Federation of Independent Business, which lobbies for small business.

“Business is climbing to reach new highs,” said Associated Press.

**New measure offers tax breaks for companies that hire unemployed workers**

**WASHINGTON** — Legislation that we will put forward in relation to jobs,” said its sponsor, Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. “If we don’t create jobs, the economy will not move forward.”

It also extends highway and mass transit programs through the end of the year and provides $20 billion in time for the spring construction season. That money would make up for lower-than-expected gasoline tax revenues.

The measure is modest compared with last year’s $862 billion economic stimulus bill, and the bulk of the hiring tax breaks would probably go to companies that were likely to hire new workers anyway.

“Business is climbing to reach new highs,” said Associated Press.

**New measure offers tax breaks for companies that hire unemployed workers**

**WASHINGTON** — Legislation that we will put forward in relation to jobs,” said its sponsor, Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. “If we don’t create jobs, the economy will not move forward.”

It also extends highway and mass transit programs through the end of the year and provides $20 billion in time for the spring construction season. That money would make up for lower-than-expected gasoline tax revenues.

The measure is modest compared with last year’s $862 billion economic stimulus bill, and the bulk of the hiring tax breaks would probably go to companies that were likely to hire new workers anyway.

“Business is climbing to reach new highs,” said Associated Press.
EL CAJON, Calif. — A California Highway Patrol report released Wednesday said an officer saw brake lights flashing after arriving to help slow a speeding Toyota Prius on a Southern California freeway.

The lights were on “for a period of time and would turn off, indicating the driver was possibly pumping the brakes,” CHP Officer Todd Neibert wrote in his seven-page incident report.

“I was within ¼ mile of the vehicle and could smell the heated brakes which indicated they had been used extensively,” it states.

The report offered some new details and dozens of photos about events that occurred after driver Jim Sikes called 911 on March 8 to say his gas pedal got stuck on a San Diego-area freeway.

However, it did nothing to clarify the wildly divergent versions of events from Sikes and Toyota Motor Corp.

Neibert also wrote that a Border Patrol agent in an unmarked vehicle with emergency lights flashing was trying to help guide the Toyota to safety. The report didn’t say how long the Border Patrol agent had been tracking the Prius in the Chevrolet Tahoe.

“It was staying ahead of us and it was later determined that the agent driving the Chevrolet Tahoe was aware of the situation,” Neibert wrote.

The account in the report is consistent with details Neibert and Sikes gave reporters shortly after the incident.

It said the CHP officer trailed the Prius at 95 mph on Interstate 8 east of San Diego, and the car slowed to about 50 mph before the officer told Sikes over a loudspeaker to hit the floor brake and emergency brake simultaneously. Sikes gradually came to an unassisted stop and was not injured.

The car stopped in mountainous terrain 20 miles from a steep downgrade and sharp left turn.

“If the Prius made it to that location, the ultimate result would have most likely led to a catastrophic ending,” the officer wrote.

Sikes told Neibert he had tried three times to lift the gas pedal with his hand but was unsuccessful, the report states.

Sikes, 61, was initially reluctant to speak with reporters, but the officer urged him to go to the station to “put the media at ease,” according to the report.

“I advised him the media would most likely seek him out if he did not speak to them voluntarily,” Neibert wrote.
Thursday, March 18, 2010

Search resumes for mom, son

**Associated Press**

SEATTLE — Authorities in Washington state on Wednesday resumed their search for a woman who appears to have abandoned a van on a remote Puget Sound beach over the weekend and disappeared with her 8-year-old son.

A boat is searching the Boston Harbor area with a bloodhound on board to try to pick up the scent of Shantina Smiley’s bloodhound. Dogs are also searching the roads and the area surrounding the beach.

The search was back on Wednesday afternoon after someone in the area recovered several items that washed up on the beach overnight.

The items included two mismatched leather shoes, a half-full and corked wine bottle, an inhaler and an orange ball, Mealy said. He said one of the shoes could be a child’s shoe. He added that the 29-year-old Smiley purchased a bottle of wine during her travels around Olympia on Saturday.

Investigators planned to ask Smiley’s fiancé, Robb Simmons, if he can determine whether any of the items belonged to Smiley or her son.

The search and rescue operation was called off Wednesday morning when detectives didn’t turn up any solid leads and turned their focus toward other segments of the investigation.

Our parents are so happy we chose Irish Crossing for our last school year. We love the convenient location and feel really safe.

Melia M., Class of 2010

Great management company, responsive and responsible. Our well is spacious, maintained in great condition clean and safe.

Sema K., Law Student

We love living here at Irish Crossing, especially after our previous house burned down while we were at home.

Effy M., Class of 2010

**The Morris Performing Arts Center**

211 North Michigan Street • South Bend, IN

(574) 235-9190 or (800) 337-6415

www.MorrisCenter.org

**Tickets On Sale Now**

Playhouse Disney Live! Children’s Show

Friday, March 19

Celtic Woman

“Songs from the Heart”

Irish Favorites

Sunday, March 21

South Bend Symphony Orchestra

Brahms Requiem

Saturday, March 27

Tim Wilson

Comedian

at Palais Royale

Saturday, March 27

Look for Morris Art on Thursdays

(574) 235-9190

www.MorrisCenter.org

**Upcoming Shows**

Saturday, April 10

South Bend Symphony Orchestra

Orchestra Concert

South Bend Symphony Orchestra

Brahms Requiem

Sarah Hibbard, Soprano

Philip Kraus, Baritone

Sunday, April 11

Cheech and Chong

“Get It Legal” Comedy

**Research monkeys die due to extreme heat**

**Associated Press**

SPARKS, Nev. — Workers at a Nevada research lab were checking on a primate room when they came across a ghastly sight. Thirty dead monkeys were essentially cooked alive after someone left the heater on. Two others were near death and had to be euthanized.

At a lab run by the same company, a monkey died last year after it was sent through a washer while still in its cage. The temperatures were so scalding the monkey never had a chance.

The two cases have led to calls for greater oversight and enforcement of the animal research industry after an alarmingly high number of deaths in recent years.

Critics say fines for violations at animal research labs are so puny that they do nothing to deter violations. The lab where the monkeys died in Nevada was fined a mere $14,000 for the two incidents, according to records from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“The penalties have given them virtually no motivation whatsoever to cease violating the law,” said Michael Bierut, the executive director of the Ohio-based Stop Animal Exploitation Now. “If they are literally killing animals through negligence, something is wrong with the system.”

The group asked Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack last month for an independent investigation into animal deaths at research labs.

Agriculture Department records show there were 97 negligent animal deaths at research facilities nationwide over the last two years, a figure that does not include labs that use non-human primates, a group that includes zoos, universities and private labs, said Christine Pearson, a spokeswoman for the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Together they imported 27,388 animals in fiscal year 2008 and have averaged approximately 25,000 primates per year over the past four or five years, she said. Charles River alone reported it housed nearly 10,000 primate deaths in recent years.

“Charles River’s work is an essential component of the research that has led to these discoveries and has played a vital role in medical advances for humans as well as animals,” Cianciaruso said.

The dead monkeys represent a tiny fraction of the tens of thousands of primates used for research around the country.

Charles River is one of 26 regulated suppliers of non-human primates, a group that includes zoos, universities and private labs, according to records from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture Department records show there were 97 negligent animal deaths at research facilities nationwide over the last two years, a figure that does not include labs that use non-human primates, a group that includes zoos, universities and private labs, said Christine Pearson, a spokeswoman for the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Together they imported 27,388 animals in fiscal year 2008 and have averaged approximately 25,000 primates per year over the past four or five years, she said. Charles River alone reported it housed nearly 10,000 primate deaths in recent years.

Congress first passed the Animal Welfare Act in 1966 and amended it in the 1980s to set new minimum standards for dogs used in research and the psychological well-being of primates. It was amended again in 2008, raising fines from $2,500 to the current $10,000 per violation for negligent acts.

**The Observer**  NATIONAL NEWS page 9
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Believing in the Irish

Irish eyes are smiling on the Fighting Irish 2010 Men’s Basketball team. We have huge momentum going into the tournament and it is time to pull out all the stops. I see an Irish victory over Kansas in the final. If every Irish fan could visualize this result, it would occur.

Brooks Smith is a junior math and English major at Notre Dame. He can be contacted at brooksmith2010nd.edu

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

Sue Lang
alumna
March 18
Why Christians are chicken

A plea for Freedom of Speech to Fr. Jenkins

Passionately Yours,

The Observer

March 18, 2010

Workout recruitment

Why Christians are chicken

It's when I'm sitting at my desk watching "Lost" and Facebook chat- ting, that I start to feel guilty. I've been trying to not get distracted, ambitiously open to give the illusion of productivity) that I feel the silly judg- ment piercing from behind. I covertly glance over my shoulder and see them starting at me. I know that I'll feel bet- ter if I put them on; slip my feet into those faithful Nikes knit with sweaty memories and whispered promises of endorphin highs and self-satisfied"...I haven't done this in years). I'm just too scared I'll lose their trust, or I'll lose that sense of pride in my physical appear- ance. My body was not hidden from you, but revealed to you. "I'm a creation...

Letter to the Editor

Dean Fellow We are graduates of the University of Notre Dame who went on to gradu- ate law school. We are among the millions of graduates of this country. We write to express our pro- found concern and disappointment regarding the University's recent treatment of a group of students who engaged in free speech to inform their classmates and the public about Catholic Social Teaching and its relation- ship to the University's investments.

We witnessed the events on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Notre Dame students peace- fully gathered in a parking lot outside the Joyce Athletic Center to inform the public about the University's investments in companies that engage in egregiously violating workers' rights. Notre Dame Security agents forced the students to halt their leafleting and confiscated the leaflets. The University, as a public institution, has the right to control the content of its classrooms and dorms, but not its public areas. Notre Dame's action is clear harassment and in violation of the rights of freedom of speech and association.

We, as students of Notre Dame, urge the University to refrain from any activity that infringes on the right of its students to free speech. This right is a fundamental aspect of our educational experience and is necessary for the open exchange of ideas that this University was founded to foster.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The daring, the beautiful and unfortunately the ugly all brought their best to the 82nd Academy Awards two weeks ago, highlighting upcoming fashion trends and sending out blaring warning signals of “Don’t try this at home” with the swish of some over-the-top gowns.

By ADRIANA PRATT
Assistant Scene Editor
Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

Sandra Bullock:
As everyone knows, this star was a winner on every level possible on March 7. The Oscar she won was a mere accessory to the gorgeous, elegant and classy yet sexy Marchesa gown she chose to clothe her fabulous figure. The sheer metallic and lacy details were perfectly balanced with simple side-swept hair and a smack of pink lipstick to add a punch of color to Bullock’s otherwise statue-like presence. She aced yet another award’s show red carpet and even has the Oscar to prove it.

Vera Farmiga:
Mixed feelings hid in every ruffle of Farmiga’s billowing fuchsia Marchesa gown. At first I loved it, then I wasn’t quite sure, then I was distracted by the beautiful Sandra Bullock and finally I reached this conclusion: Farmiga’s gown was Oscar appropriate and I appreciated that she graced the red carpet with it. It added some flavor and though it wasn’t the most flattering fit because it hid every contour of her amazing 36-year-old body, it did bring a punch of color and a fresh spring feel to the awards show.

Mariah Carey:
Mariah, Mariah, Mariah. It doesn’t always have to be about the chest. Carey disappointed once again with an obvious presence of her décolletage that left little to the imagination and an overabundance of decadent jewelry. It doesn’t always have to be “Go big or go home,” Mariah. Large earrings, stacks of diamond bracelets on both wrists and an overwhelming brooch made for an uninspiring and blatantly flashy red carpet appearance. No one, not even Eminem, is going to be “obsessed” with this look.

Sarah Jessica Parker:
You’ve got to give the woman props for trying to stay in character, even on the red carpet. Parker’s pale gold column Chanel gown with a silver embroidered crown at the bosom and gold drapery across the neckline screamed Carrie Bradshaw. Parker brought something new and daring to the red carpet and though it admittedly looked better on the runway, it was innovative and inspiring and helped up the couture quota for the night.

Ben Stiller’s Avatar:
Stiller dressed as an Avatar, complete with tail and braid

Cameron Diaz:
Finally, Cameron, you maximized on the beauty you were given. Past red carpet appearances left critics confused as to why this gorgeous woman with a fit figure and dazzling presence constantly failed to pick a gown that matched, but this year she aced it to the approval of all. Her strapless, shimmery embroidered Oscar de la Renta gown, sideswept hair and punch of red lips made her look like an old school Hollywood muse, overflowing with elegance and glamour. Though her look resembled Bullock’s, it was refreshingly new, demure and much appreciated on Diaz.

Meryl Streep:
You’re always classy, adorable and a pleasure to listen to. It almost doesn’t matter what you wear since your smile is one of the most dazzling and endearing images we’ve seen. Your white cowl neck long-sleeved gown by Project Runway’s Chris March was simple yet flattering and proved that it’s possible for a woman to age with grace.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic
BIG DANCE
in
THE BIG EASY
Taking the game-winning shot as time expires can be the most exciting thing in all of sports. Make it, and you’re featured on ESPN’s Top 10 plays and vaulted into legendary status in school history. Miss, and your entire career may be defined by what could have been.

So when senior guard Tory Jackson missed the game-winning 3 in a 69-68 loss to St. John’s, it could have marked the end of a brilliant four-year career.

“It looked good when I let it go, it felt good, but it didn’t end up going down,” Jackson said. “I think about it all the time, even when I hit the buzzer beater against Marquette, Bob Kruz, Trailing No. 7 West Virginia by two points in the final seconds of the Big East tournament semifinals, Jackson had another good look at a game-winning 3, but was ungodly as the Irish fell to the Mountaineers. Jackson said if the situation ever arises again, he won’t hesitate to let it fly.

“When Kyle and Jordan and all those guys take those shots, they miss it, a lot of game-winning shots,” Jackson said. “And when I look at it, I’ve missed some important shots, but I’m not going to lose confidence and not take that shot. I’m going to keep having confidence and taking that shot, and that’s what makes me.”

Coupled with a passion for the game and the willingness to sacrifice individual success for the sake of the team, it was an easy decision for Irish coach Mike Brey to name Jackson one of the team’s captains.

“Unselfishness,” Jackson said. “Growing up, I always loved to get my team involved. I do whatever it takes to win. At the same time, especially when a guy’s hot, why not? If that’s going to help us win, I’d rather take the shot than 50 points and lose. That’s not good.”

A prolific scorer in high school, Jackson ranks third all time on the Michigan scoring list as the state’s two-time player of the year. Upon coming to Notre Dame, Jackson said he knew he would have to rely on his ball handling skills and court vision to break into a Big East starting lineup.

Leading the conference with 5.6 assists per game to go along with a top-10 assist-to-turnover ratio, it’s safe to say the senior guard has made the transition successfully.

“Do that and take care of the ball at the same time, it’s a great thing if it can get us more possessions,” Jackson said. “Being ranked up there in the assist-to-turnover ratio, that’s real good for me, that’s real good for any point guard.”

Playing in every contest since his first day at St. John’s, Jackson had an immediate impact as a freshman. Named to the All-Big East rookie team, Jackson relied on his strengths as a defender before expanding his overall game.

“Just figuring out ways to stay on the floor,” Jackson said. “I wasn’t a big time, 30-point scorer, I played well defensively when I was younger, especially sophomore year. As the years went on, I had to become a little bit of a scorer, getting more assists, and also defending the best player on the other team.”

Guarding the likes of Villanova’s Scottie Reynolds can be a daunting task for any defend- er, let alone one who is 5-11. But what he lacks in size, Jackson said he makes up for in toughness.

“I hate when anybody scores,” Jackson said. “It’s a passion. I take pride in my defense.”

Jackson said he realized the senior forward Lake Harangody was following in his footsteps.

“I’ve been playing this for awhile, when you get a mismatch, you got a lot better. I’m more of a defender now,” Jackson said. “He’s a great guy and he knows how to play basketball.”

People’s a constant contributor in historic senior class

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Senior Sports Writer

While he may not have the accolades or number of classmates Luke Harangody and Tory Jackson, senior guard Jonathan Peoples has been a constant contributor to the winningest class in Notre Dame history in Big East play.

Peoples has played in every conference game for the Irish during his four years with the team and is very aware of the achievement.

“It means a lot to say that we did something like that,” Peoples said. “We’re always going to be remembered as the winningest senior class.”

The senior captain is averaging a career-high 18.3 minutes per game this season but has played a key role for Irish coach Mike Brey and Notre Dame from his freshman year.

A Bellwood, Ill., native from St. Joseph High School, Peoples was recruited by Brey after averaging 15.2 points per game his senior year. After the Irish extended a scholarship offer, Peoples quickly accepted.

“The transition to Notre Dame was both exciting and challenging for Peoples.”

“It was everything I expected, everything I heard about,” Peoples said. “The beautiful campus, the people here are great.” Peoples said. “I didn’t know about partital, I was kind of heated about that. It was a great experience my freshman year though.”

In the basketball program, Peoples had to make adjustments to 6 a.m. practices.

“The workouts in the morning had me, I just couldn’t get through it for the first two months, and I was getting a little home sick,” Peoples said. “Being around the older guys like Colin Falls, Bob Kurz, Russell Carter, they helped me adjust quick.”

While Peoples was learning from the experienced upperclassmen around him, he was still seeing time on the court as a reserve, appearing in all 16 Big East contests. Peoples played six minutes of time in Notre Dame’s appearance in the NCAA Tournament, where the Irish were upset by Wichita State.

Peoples minutes and impact continued to grow through his sophomore and junior seasons when he became one of the first players off Brey’s bench.

The guard played in all 33 contests sophomore year and earned his first career starts his junior season against Marquette and Pittsburgh.

“I finally got the opportunity to start my first college game, and I was happy,” Peoples said. “I was kind of nervous, but happy at the same time.”

Advancing into a veteran leader by his senior year, Peoples was named a captain by Brey along with classmates Jackson and Harangody.

“He’s smooth, he can score, he can shoot the ball lights out,” Jackson said. “He’s a great guy and he knows how to play basketball.”

People’s was slotted as a guard in the starting lineup at the beginning of his senior campaign but has entered into a sixth-man role since the emergence of junior forward Tim Abromaitis.

Still, Peoples has played a career-high number of minutes for his career and is hitting 3-pointers at a 40.8-percent clip.

“My jump shot has gotten a lot better. I’m more of a defender now,” Peoples said. “People’s had the best performance of his career off the beach this season, scoring 23 points.”

“Really, the position is being filled in on a win over Providence,” Peoples said. When it looked like Peoples and Notre Dame had little shot of reaching the NCAA Tournament after a losing skid and the loss of Harangody to injury, the team responded with a remarkable six-game winning streak to close out the year and return to the Big Dance for the third time in four years.

“It’s been a battle. I think we stayed together as a team but we lost games by not doing a lot of things right,” Peoples said. “We still have to prove something.”

John and the Irish will look to prove they can advance to their first Sweet 16 of their careers starting against Old Dominion at 12:25 p.m. today.

Contact Michael Bryan at mnbryan@nd.edu

Irish point guard Tory Jackson drives for a lay-up in the second half of Notre Dame’s 65-62 win over South Florida on Feb. 7. Jackson leads the Big East in assists this season with 5.6 per game.
Luke Harangody returned to lead Notre Dame his senior season and will allow an all-time great

By BILL BRINK
Senior Staff Writer

On March 3, Luke Harangody became the first-ever Irish player to be induct- ed into the Purcell Pavilion's Ring of Honor. His No. 44 jersey climbed to the rafters, cele- brating four years of awards, accolades and success.

"I realize it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be with a group like this."--Luke Harangody

One of many.

Harangody will graduate as Notre Dame's second-leading scorer and rebounder. His class made the NCAA Tournament three out of four years and has won more games than any other class in school history. He was named the 2008 Big East Player of the Year, was a second-team All- American in 2008 and 2009 and became the first Notre Dame player to be named to the Big East first-team three times.

As a freshman, Harangody said he didn't anticipate it. "No, there was no way I ever saw that," he said.

Harangody received four varsity letters at Andrew High School in Schererville, Ind., where he won two conference and three sectional champi- onships. When he got to Notre Dame, he and then-freshman guard Troy Murphy played early in the season. "We threw them in there, both of them were key guys as freshman," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "We went to the NCAA Tournament because the two were the best men to be in this league. They have an unbelievable mental and physical toughness, both of them, that I think has per- meated through our group. It's helped some other guys who aren't at their level of mental and physical toughness-wise pick it up at times."

Harangody said he and Jackson entered their rookie seasons with a "business-like" attitude, which helped Notre Dame earn a No. 6 seed in the 2007 NCAA Tournament. The Irish lost to No. 11 seed Winthrop in the first round.

"It was 11.2 points per game that season in more than 20 minutes per game. And became the first freshman since Troy Murphy to score in double figures in his first five games. "The NCAA Tournament freshman year was a pretty memorable sea- son because it was my first go-around with things," he said. "It was something I'll always remember." Harangody, like any athlete, said he believes in off-season improvement, so he used the summer to hone his game as well as his fit- ness. The next season, he averaged 20.4 points and 10.6 rebounds per game.

"It all has to do with work ethic," he said. "Every summer, whether it's been working on my body or working on another part of my game, just got better every year. It was that season that earned him conference Player of the Year honors.

The Irish earned a No. 5 seed in the Dance that year and beat George Mason easily in the first round. Despite Harangody's 22 rebounds, No. 4 seed Washington State took down the Irish in the second round.

"In Harangody's junior season, Notre Dame started 12-3 but lost seven straight games and was out of con- tention for the Tournament. It wasn't for a lack of production from Harangody. He led the team in scoring for 14 consec- utive games and averaged a career-best 23.3 points and 11.8 boards per game. Harangody scored 30 points against Kentucky in the NIT quarterfinals and had a dou- ble-double in the semifinal loss to Penn State.

"Then came decision time. In April 2009, Harangody, then a junior, declared his eligibility for the NBA Draft. He didn't hire an agent, however, which allowed him the opportunity to change his mind and return to school. "I think when you are a kid shooting around at the park, every kid dreams of playing in the NBA. I think Harangody and this has always been a dream of mine," Brey said on April 16, 2009. "So I mean for me, it's next to be standing here and announcing this man's decision below." This is a new time in my life," Harangody said. But, you know, one of the best things that happen with the team I have, the team- mates I have, I told them this was going to go down and they have been so supportive and the team's leader but the guys that are going to be on the team next year and now, I wasn't very surprised at that because he's had a role of one of the best guys in the world here, in the country. Those supportive teammates played a role in Harangody's decision to forgo the draft and return to school to finish his senior year.

"It was obvious to see that the NBA is a business," he said on July 15, 2009. "It's not like being at Notre Dame around the group of guys that we have. I realize it's a once-in-a-life- time opportunity to be with a group like this." Harangody said he wasn't ready to give up one last go-around with his teammates. "It was one man year to be around the guys and get a sen- ior year," Harangody said. "It's something I truly hold special. Now I get a chance to watch these guys succeed in the postseason and also get my degree.

"But my parents and Brey and Brey helped him with the decision. "[Brey] was very helpful throughout the whole process. He wasn't like, 'Come back to school.' Harangody said. "He gave me options to go out and play in the NBA or to stay to me, which I really appreciated. In the end, my parents and I and coach Brey sat down and talked about the whole situa- tion and I just felt more com- fortable coming back to school here.

That senior season didn't pan out quite like he planned. At first the Irish played well, but once they got into confer- ence play they had two rough stretches, losing three out of five and four out of seven at various points. Worse still, Harangody suf- fered a bone bruise in his knee on Feb. 11 against Seton Hall and missed five games because of the injury. At one point the Irish were 6-8 in the conference and the season's funeral march was beginning.

Even with a serious injury, Harangody wouldn't be slowed. He missed the next game, against St. John's, but convinced everyone he would play against Louisville on Feb. 17.

"He kind of talked us into he was going to try and play," Brey said. "He had everybody, the doctors the trainers, me, I'm going. He didn't bring any street clothes. He's playing!"

It took Brey to stop him. "He wasn't feeling good (after the shoot-around)," Brey said. "I told him after shoot- around, 'Well I'm not playing you how's that? Does that make the decision easier? You're not ready.'

But then a funny thing hap- pened. Notre Dame slowed down its offense and had suc- cess. The Irish lost in double overtime to Louisville, but won their next three games, includ- ing two over top-15 opponents, to finish the season. All with- out Harangody.

"What I've been really happy with, since he's been down, how he's been helping [fresh- man forward Jack] Cooley and [junior forward Carleton] Scott," Brey said. "His voice with those guys during the game, halftime, I could hear his voice in the locker room.

"It's a leader and kind of a coach for us. "I think you just try to keep their confidence up," Harangody said of his approach with Scott and Cooley. "At first the first game against John, after I couldn't cool guys didn't really know how to approach it. But as it went on and they got more practice time it was like night and day." Harangody re- covered enough to play in Notre Dame's last regular-sea- son game, an overtime win on the road against Marquette. He came off the bench for 11 minutes and scored 19. He also played in all three of Notre Dame's Big East tourna- ment games, averaging 14 points and 24 minutes per game.

Harangody said after Notre Dame's 50-45 win over Pittsburgh in the quarterfinals that his knee was getting bet- ter but not yet 100 percent and that he was proud of what the team had done in his absence.

"I was curious to see how two games in a row would go with my conditioning so I said, 'I'm not still there yet. But I think every day it's getting a little better.'

"This run we made at the end of the season, it was pretty special. These guys have played great without me. He's back now, ready to add NCAA Tournament success to his extraordinary career. "He's got here, he's made us believe again," Brey said. "He's an impact guy. Look Cooley. At first, the first game against John, after I couldn't cool guys didn't really know how to approach it. But as it went on and they got more practice time it was like night and day."

Harangody dunks over a UCLA defender during the Irish's 84-73 victory over the Bruins on Dec. 19. "This run we made at the end of the season, it was pretty special. These guys have played great without me. He's back now, ready to add NCAA Tournament success to his extraordinary career. "He's got here, he's made us believe again," Brey said. "He's an impact guy. Look Cooley. At first, the first game against John, after I couldn't cool guys didn't really know how to approach it. But as it went on and they got more practice time it was like night and day."

Harangody dunks over a UCLA defender during the Irish's 84-73 victory over the Bruins on Dec. 19. "This run we made at the end of the season, it was pretty special. These guys have played great without me. He's back now, ready to add NCAA Tournament success to his extraordinary career. "He's got here, he's made us believe again," Brey said. "He's an impact guy. Look Cooley. At first, the first game against John, after I couldn't cool guys didn't really know how to approach it. But as it went on and they got more practice time it was like night and day."

"I'm going." --Luke Harangody
Luke Harangody and Tory Jackson will undoubtedly leave major legacies as four-year starters and the leaders of Notre Dame's winningest senior class. While walk-on senior forward Tim Andree won't leave the same mark on the face of the Irish program, his impact on the Notre Dame program could have long-term effects because of his work this season with freshmen Mike Broghammer, Jack Cooley and Tom Knight.

“I’ve done a lot of stuff in this offseason with the freshmen,” Andree said. “Just a lot of getting extra workouts with them and helping them get in shape. We haven’t really had a true group of freshmen in a while like this, they’re all really good players and fun to be around.”

As a walk-on, Andree knew his biggest role wouldn’t necessarily be on the court during games. His primary role as a practice player has taught him “to let the little things go,” he said.

“I know going into every year what the deal is,” Andree said. “Basketball’s a fun game, we’re all playing the game of basketball because we enjoy it and have fun with it.”

Andree’s father, Tim, played at Notre Dame under legendary coach Digger Phelps from 1979-83. While Andree’s career obviously didn’t follow that of his father, he said he has enjoyed his Notre Dame experiences, especially those with the Irish team.

“My dad came in here in a totally different situation than I did. He was a McDonald’s high school All-American, I clearly wasn’t,” Andree said. “I’ve just tried to come out and play hard and be my own person. It’s sometimes tough living in the shadow of it, but it hasn’t been too hard.”

Andree’s mother also attended Notre Dame, and so accepting a role with the Irish program was almost a no-brainer, Andree said.

“I grew up always wanting to come to Notre Dame, so when [Irish coach Mike Brey] told me I had the opportunity to play here, it was tough to turn down,” he said.

Andree said the bonds he has formed with his teammates has reaffirmed that decision and made his Notre Dame experience. Andree lives off campus with Harangody and senior guard Ben Hansbrough.

“When we’re not here on the court, we’re just friends,” Andree said. “We’re not really thinking about basketball, but living a normal life.”

A management consulting major and theology minor, Andree said he is waiting to hear from law schools. While his future almost certainly won’t be in basketball, he said he will miss his experiences with the Irish basketball team, and especially with Brey.

“Coach Brey treats us all like men. There’s a lot of mutual respect between us,” Andree said. “He’s very funny, he’s got a great personality, and he’s a lot of fun to be around. He’s given me a lot more confidence.”

“My high school coaches, they relied more on a negative style of coaching. Here, it’s all about the positives, and he makes you believe in yourself.”

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu
Thursday: "The Blind Side," DeBartolo Performing Arts Center @ 3 p.m.

"The Blind Side" depicts the true story of Michael Oher, a homeless young African American boy who is taken in by a white family, the Tuohys. Through their loving support, Oher excels both in football and athletics, eventually becoming a first-round draft pick for the NFL. In developing their relationship, the Tuohys and Oher make important discoveries about themselves and each other.

The call-star cast includes Tim McGraw and Sandra Bullock, who won an Oscar for her role as Leigh Anne Tuohy. "The Blind Side" is also showing Friday and Saturday nights at 8 and 10:30 p.m.

Friday: Ras Soujhal, Legends @ 10 p.m.

Ras Soujhal comes to Legends this Friday, bringing their reggae beats and uplifting attitudes to Notre Dame. The band, started by band members Timothy and La Donna Flynn, began in the early 90s but only became Ras Soujhal with its current name and lineup in 2002. They specialize in reggae style, playing their own originals as well as popular covers. Based on an ideology of "positive and uplifting consciousness," the band is certain to bring a high energy, dynamic show to Legends. And don’t forget to stick around afterwards for Hip Hop night, one of the most popular nights at Legends.

Saturday: Sister Hazel, Legends @ 10 p.m.

Sister Hazel will perform Saturday night at Legends. An alternative band out of Gainesville, Fla., Sister Hazel has been together and making music since 1994. Their music is featured on many popular films including "The Wedding Planner," "American Wedding" and "10 Things I Hate About You." Most recently, they released an album in 2009 entitled "Release," which was the number one album on iTunes the day of its release. If spring weather and looming graduation isn’t enough to make you nostalgic, this band will surely do the trick, as they will likely play many of their hits from the past 15 years, and some new stuff too.

Sunday: "Taxi Driver," DeBartolo Performing Arts Center @ 3 p.m.

As part of the PAC Classic 100 Film series at DPAC, "Taxi Driver" will be shown Sunday at 3 p.m. Starring Martin Scorsese, Jodie Foster and Cybill Shepherd, this film follows the intense troubling story of a taxi driver, Travis Bickle (Scorsese), who is so disgusted by the low-life New York clientele he serves that he goes on a murderous rampage. As hard as Bickle tries to connect with people around him, he is so engrossed in his own alienation that he turns to violence. Scorsese plays Bickle with a brilliantly haunting quality which makes the film all the more real.

Contact Genna McCabe at gmccabe@nd.edu

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By STEPHANIE DePREZ
Scene Writer

Once every year, there comes a day when all the colobomus of this simple life wash away and we as a human race come face to face with our real dreams coming true. It is a collec-
tive experience, shared by those across the country and across the world. Warriers lay down their weapons and freda suitable, even if only on the outside. But for three hours (or so) in March, the entertainment world stands still, takes a deep breath and congratulates itself for continuing to exist. This, ladies and gentlemen, is Oscar Sunday.

It has been my favorite day of the year for some time. I think it was the moment I realized Bjork could wear a swan as a dress and get the privilege of standing on stage to sing "It Is Oh So Quiet" that I realized the Academy Awards offer a most unique opportunity for anyone to pull out pretty much whatever they want and get away with it, because everyone is so focused about being nice to each other (or at least appearing like they are).

A few weeks ago my own dreams came true when I got to interview Tom Sherak, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Adam Shankman and Bill Mechanic, the producers of this year’s Oscars and Mark Shaiman, the musical conductor. For two hours, I participated in a conference call with other students from across the country, keeping in whatsoever we had something pressing to inquire about (which was pretty much every 30 seconds). During the call, my last name magically transformed into "Deprue, so unfortunately these guys won’t be recognizing me anytime soon.

Sherak seemed most pleased to be talking. This fresh, into-office presi-
dent made the point that the Oscars should be fun, and when he hired Shankman and Mechanic, that’s what he told them to do. When I first succeeded in getting a question through, and was announced as "Stephanie Deprue from University of Notre Dame" I have to admit, I panicked. "Hey, Tom. I hope you’re warmer than I am right now!" Thus opened the barrage of comments about Notre Dame that spanned not only Sherak, but Shankman and Mechanic, too. "I love it. Midwest. I love it. I love the South too... but Notre Dame!" Pretty auspicious start, don’t you think? He said that his favorite part of the Oscars is sitting back and watching the audience’s faces. In an extreme highlight moment, he told me specifically after a rush onto the stage to present Best Picture without so much as a refer-
ence to the 10 nominees. He informed me that I was the first person (besides his wife) to receive this information. Flashbarged with joy, I did the only thing I could — tweeted the information to the Amielo Files at Entertainment Weekly.

Talking to Shankman and Mechanic was probably the high-
light of the interview, especially since it became frighteningly clear that both were USC fans. As soon as my name (Deprue, again) and uni-
versity were announced, the hits started coming. You guys gonna win one of those years against SC?"

"Oh please. Oh please. Let’s not. In retrospect, it was not the idyllic "your momma’s so fat” response I would have expected to come out of my mouth in the face of such a comment. All I could think of to do after that was, “You’re such a high question,” and proceed to present a fairly involved, probing, insightful inquiry about balancing the Oscars as a commercial event and as an honor ceremony. "I love that question." Good retort, USC.

After their answers, which were highly satisfactory, I said, “I forgot the USC comment.” (But I didn’t, really. Not in my heart.)

The last interviewee was Shaiman, who wrote the musical "Hairspay." He opted not to con-
duct the orchestra for the event, not only because he didn’t feel comfort-
able as a conductor but also because he doesn’t have the guts to cut off people’s speeches. He did, however, take great care to pair pieces of music with the different presenters that were a bit unexpected.

The chance to participate in the conference call was quite a rush, even if I did have to deal with Trojan chatter. I think the Oscars fed up to the hype. It only helped that the image of Kathryn Bigelow holding two Oscars and looking utterly dazed saved the show from its somewhat mediocre level of scripted comedy. Then again, it’s always the unex-
ected moments that make the tele-
cast so interesting to watch.

Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic
Jones has four RBIs in Sox win over Dodgers

Despite comeback attempt, Royals fall to Padres; Rockies defeat Indians but lose pitchfester Flores to an arm injury

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. —...
Men's Division I Baseball  
Baseball America Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Previous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Tech</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida State</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona State</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Carolina</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisville</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona State</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clemson</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Carolina</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa State</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCU</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Irvine</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon State</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Former NBA great and Hall of Famer Michael Jordan's bid of $275 million to purchase Bobcats was approved by the NBA's Board of Governors. The Bobcats are currently sixth in the Eastern Conference.

Jordan's purchase of Bobcats approved

NBA

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Former NBA great and Hall of Famer Michael Jordan became a basketball star at North Carolina. Now he’ll try to turn around the state’s money-losing NBA team by becoming the first ex-player to be a majority owner in the league.

The NBA’s Board of Governors on Wednesday unanimously approved Jordan’s $275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats from Bob Johnson. Jordan will take over the team immediately after serving as a minority investor with the final say on basketball decisions since 2006.

“Purchasing the Bobcats is the culmination of my post-playing career goal of becoming the majority owner of an NBA franchise,” Jordan said in a statement. “I am especially pleased to have the opportunity to build a winning team in my home state of North Carolina.”

“I plan to make this franchise an organization that Charlotte can be proud of, and I am committed to doing all that I can to achieve this goal.”

The six-time NBA champion and five-time league MVP will be charged with turning around the fortunes of the 6-year-old Bobcats, who are on pace to lose about $30 million this season because of sluggish ticket and sponsorship sales.

The 47-year-old Jordan, who will assume about $150 million in debt in the deal, becomes the second black majority owner of a major pro sports team. He replaces the first in Johnson, who paid $300 million for the expansion franchise, but lost tens of millions annually and saw the value of the team decline as Charlotte fans struggled to warm to the NBA again after the Hornets left for New Orleans in 2002.

The best decision I made since acquiring the Bobcats was to convince my friend Michael to become an investor in the Bobcats and to appoint him as managing member of basketball operations,” Jordan said in a statement. “As the new majority owner of the Bobcats, his dedication will be stronger now than ever.”

Commissioner David Stern predicted last week the deal would be approved easily by the league’s owners. Stern said last week that background and financial checks on Jordan produced nothing that would stop the deal, and expressed optimism Jordan’s iconic status in this area will boost the franchise.

Jordon grew up in Wilmington, N.C., and led North Carolina to an NCAA title with a last-second shot before starring with the Chicago Bulls. Jordan briefly ran the Wizards basketball operations and returned as a player with Washington before being fired.

In Brief

Nats release potential starting outfielder Dukes

VIERA, Fla. — Outfielder Elijah Dukes was released by the Washington Nationals on Wednesday, a sudden move with 2 1/2 weeks left in spring training.

“I don’t know what to say. It felt a little funny,” Dukes said told The Associated Press as he packed his car at the team hotel Wednesday afternoon. “I guess I wasn’t expecting it. That’s part of baseball. No big deal, no hard feelings. Just part of the game.”

The Nationals’ release of Elijah Dukes could give the outfielder a fresh start elsewhere. It could also give another player a chance to make an impact, writes Eric Karabell. Blog Insider.

The 25-year-old Dukes was expected to be Washington’s starting right fielder this season, but the Nationals announced the decision before their exhibition game at the Houston Astros.

Kemp ousted as head coach at Oregon after 13 seasons

EUGENE, Ore. — Ernie Kent, the winningest coach in Oregon history, was dismissed Tuesday after 13 seasons with his alma mater.

“You may find a better basketball coach, but I don’t think you’ll find anybody that has the passion and love that I have for this university,” said Kent, who had to pause for several moments to fight back his emotions.

Oregon went 16-16 overall and 7-11 in the Pac-10 this past season, finishing with a 90-74 quarterfinal loss to Washington in the NCAA tournament.

Kent, 55, leaves Oregon with a 235-173 overall record. But the Ducks rank among the worst in the past two seasons, going 24-39 and finishing 10th and ninth, respectively, in conference play.

Attendance has also dipped from an average of 7,922 in 2008-09 to 7,122 this past season.

NHL hoping to adopt new rule against blindside hits

TORONTO — The NHL wants to adopt a new rule against blindside hits to the head before the end of the season, according to two reports Wednesday.

The league is hoping to fast-track the proposed rule and is preparing a DVD package after a number of players suffered concussions this season. The highlight package will illustrate what would, and wouldn’t, be allowed under a proposed rule change adopted by general managers at meetings in Florida last week.

The NHL plans to circulate the highlight package to all 30 teams within the next week or so, according to the reports.

“It’s a process that has never been done before in the season,” NHL senior vice president of hockey operations Colin Campbell told the Globe and Mail in a story published online early Wednesday.

around the dial

NCAA Men’s Basketball

11 Old Dominion vs. 6 Notre Dame 12:25 p.m., CBS
9 Wake Forest vs. 8 Texas 9:35 p.m., CBS
MLS

Donovan makes plans to avoid possible strike

Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Landon Donovan will attend the resumption of Major League Soccer bargaining and says he might return to Everton if players go on strike next week.

Donovan had two goals and three assists in 13 games during an impressive 10-week loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy to Everton that ended Saturday, helping the Toffees beat Manchester United and Chelsea, the top two teams in the Premier League. He rejoined the Galaxy on Tuesday ahead of their March 27 opener against New England.

“There’s nothing concrete set up,” Donovan said at a news conference Wednesday. “I think we’ve all been very clear about the possibility that I could go back if something happens. It’s crossing that bridge when we get to it, right now.”

Negotiators for MLS and the MLS Players Union met Tuesday and talks are set to resume Thursday in Washington, D.C. More than 20 players were expected after the union accepted an invitation from the league to have a large group of its members attend the session.

Players want greater free agency and a higher percentage of guaranteed contracts. MLS owns all player contracts and restricts movement within the league when deals expire.

“Nobody wants to go on strike if it can be avoided,” Donovan said. “We’ve made it very clear from the beginning that we’re not trying to bankrupt the league and ask for tons of monetary increases. But we need basic rights if we’re going to continue playing. We want rights afforded other players in other countries that we don’t have. We’re very unified on the way we think.”

The union said last week that if it will strike if agreement is not reached by March 25, when the expansion Philadelphia Union plays the league opener at Seattle.

The league outlined the union that medical, dental and vision insurance would expire March 31, and in the event of a strike, players would have to continue coverage under the federal COBRA program. Life insurance would end on the start date of a strike, and players could convert to individual coverage.

If and when the Galaxy start the season, Donovan said his role would not substantially change because of David Beckham’s Achilles’ tendon injury. The English midfielder was hurt Sunday while on loan to AC Milan and will be sidelined about six months, causing him to miss the World Cup. Beckham, starting the fourth season of a five-year contract with the Galaxy, was not due back until July.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Urban Meyer makes comeback at practice

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — With a whistle around his neck and a smile on his face, Florida Gators coach Urban Meyer returned to practice Wednesday following a leave of absence that turned out to be shorter than everyone expected.

His stay could be longer than anticipated, too.

Although Meyer declined to divulge any details about his health, he said his return was permanent.

“I feel fine and I feel good,” Meyer said following a rain-soaked practice that lasted nearly three hours.

His brief break came as a result of chest pains, a hospital stay and brief resignation. He had planned to step away after Florida’s bowl game in early January, but he stuck around to hire four assistant coaches and lock up the nation’s No. 1 recruiting class.

He was supposed to return for spring practice, which began Wednesday, but his first day back actually came two weeks ago.

Nonetheless, he eased into things Wednesday and was considerably less involved in several aspects of team drills.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” he said. “Usually I’m more involved in kicking game and a little more involved in the offense. I will get back involved. I think spring time I’m usually like this. I like to let the guys coach and let everybody do their job and see what we’ve got.

“We’ve got four new coaches, and I want to see them go. Meyer said of his starting quarterback (John Brantley) and several other new starters.

Nonetheless, he believes he has enough talent to avoid a drop-off after Tebow’s departure. The Gators finished 13-1 and lost the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner (Tim Tebow), their top three receivers (Riley Cooper, Aaron Hernandez, and David Nelson), and their best three defenders (Carlos Dunlap, Joe Haden and Brandon Spikes).

“It is a kind of rebuilding I guess or reloading or something like that,” Meyer said. “But there’s a lot of good players still here, a lot. A lot of good ones coming in, too.”

Citing health concerns, Meyer announced his resignation in late December. He changed his mind the following day, deciding instead to take an indefinite leave. He scaled back in January — he didn’t go on the road recruiting — but still worked steadily through national signing day.

He finally got away after that and took a trip to Hawaii with his wife, Shelley, but even that was merely a college coaching junket.

It wasn’t very relaxing, either. A tsunami warning forced them to evacuate their hotel and get to higher ground.
Be the one to save a life.

BE THE MATCH

The Women of Howard Hall and ND Glee Club Unite to Save Lives!

Howard Hall’s biannual marrow donor drive is in honor of members of the Notre Dame Family who are, or ever have been, in need of a marrow transplant to treat or cure their life threatening blood disease.

Carl “Chip” Stam was the ND Glee Club and Chorale Director from 1981 – 1991. In the spring of 2007 he was diagnosed with non-hodgkins lymphoma. Today he is looking for a marrow donor through the Be The Match Registry of the National Marrow Donor Program.

Help us help him and many others. It just takes a cheek swab to get registered.

You have the power to heal, the power to save a life. Take the first step. Join the registry.

JOIN THE MARROW REGISTRY

March 18th
11:00 am – 9:00 pm
LaFortune-Dooley Room
- 7:00 pm Undertones performance!
- Free food!
- Free t-shirts!

March 19th
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

To join, you only need to be between the ages of 18 and 60, be willing to donate to any patient in need, and meet the health guidelines.

Sponsored by:

Howard Hall

Can’t make it to a drive above?
Join online at: http://join.marrow.org/CarlStam2010
SURPRISE, Ariz. — Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington admitted he made a "huge mistake" when he used cocaine and failed a Major League Baseball drug test last season.

In his first public acknowledgment, Washington apologized Wednesday for his behavior, eight months after he told Rangers president Nolan Ryan, who turned down the manager's offer to resign.

"I made a huge mistake and it almost caused me to lose everything I have worked for all of my life," Washington said at a news conference Wednesday. "I am not here to make excuses. There are none."

Washington said he used cocaine only once and called it "stupid" and "shameful."

The failed test first was reported by SI.com.

Washington said he told the commissioner's office and Rangers officials about using cocaine before he had a routine drug test.

"He came forward and said he would resign," Ryan said. "He understood the consequences. We had a lot of discussions and a lot of soul-searching on it."

"He stood up to it. We felt like he was sincere and forthright," he said. "We are very disappointed by this. We are upset we were put in this position."

Washington met with his players earlier in the day and told them about testing positive in July.

"He was very emotional, you could tell that he's a broken man from this one bad choice he made," Texas star Josh Hamilton said.

Hamilton has a long history of drug abuse and was suspended for the 2004 season when he was in the minors for Tampa Bay. The All-Star outfielder is the most prominent player in the last decade to be disciplined for a so-called recreational drug.

Hamilton has been outspoken about his crack cocaine habit. He said there were no parallels between his problems and Washington's admission of one-time use.

"I was addicted to drugs. All I cared about was getting more and using more drugs. I didn't care who I hurt," Hamilton said. "This was something of a weak moment, a decision of choice ... Our stories are nothing alike. The fact is he made a mistake. He learned from it very quickly. I made a mistake a few too many times and didn't learn from it."

Hamilton said he could understand how a 57-year-old man could use the drug only once.

"You either like it or you don't like it. Either you do it once or you do it more than once," Hamilton said. "That's the way it is. I know people from my past that have done it once with me and have not liked, have not cared for it."

Six-time All-Star Michael Young said his Texas teammates were behind their manager.
Jackson comes alive in second half for Bobcats

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Stephen Jackson scored 18 of his 20 points in the second half and Charlotte rallied to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 100-92 on Wednesday night to give Michael Jordan a victory in his first game as Bobcats majority owner.

Hours after the NBA's Board of Governors approved Jordan's $275 million purchase, he watched his team stage a dramatic recovery from a horrible start. The comeback from a 19-point, second-quarter deficit matched the largest in franchise history.

Stephen Graham matched a career high with 19 points filling in for the injured Gerald Wallace, and the Bobcats won for the seventh time in eight games.

Kevin Durant had 26 points and 10 rebounds, but was 9 of 26 from the field for the Thunder, whose five-game winning streak was snapped.

Jeff Green had 17 points, and Russell Westbrook added 15 points and 10 assists, but the Thunder became undone after dominating much of the first two quarters to lose for only the fourth time in 21 games.

While the loss prevented the Thunder from clinching a winning record and putting heat on Utah for the fourth seed in the West, the victory helped the Bobcats maintain sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Jackson's 3-pointer with 4:48 left put Charlotte ahead 89-85 and the Thunder never threatened again as the Bobcats got contributions from many.

Raymond Felton had 17 points and seven assists, Boris Diaw added 13 points, and rookie Derrick Brown scored 11 points to make a smiling Jordan 1-0 since becoming the first former player to be a majority owner.

The new ownership regime meant few immediate changes, although Bobcats coach Larry Brown joked before the game that at least he was "still working" after Tuesday's loss to struggling Indiana. He added that Jordan "picked a tough night to be his first night as owner" with the Bobcats facing the surging Thunder.
Valdivia
continued from page 24

fields, paces the Broncos with a .421 batting average to go along with three home runs and two triples.

Notre Dame’s recent success has not gone unnoticed. Valdivia was named Big East Pitcher of the Week while junior outfielder Sadie Pitzenberger earned Player of the Week honors, giving the Irish the sweep of the weekly awards, the first-ever sweep by a pair of teammates.

Pitching has been really good,” Ganoff said. “Jody Valdivia has been doing a great job leading the team in the circle. She has really taken to being the one to get it done for us. Our freshmen

NFL

Tebow impresses at Pro Day

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Tim Tebow took a significant step Wednesday in the slow, methodical process of convincing teams that he’s worth a relatively high draft pick in April’s NFL draft.

In the slow, methodical process of convincing teams he’s worth a relatively high draft pick in April’s NFL draft, Tebow, the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner and two-time national champion. “I’m not a person who wants to wait and see if my way is the only way.” That I’m coachable and not be one of the top national teams, including Ohio State.

Overall, the Irish have maintained a high level of play. “Defensively we have been playing really well and creating minimal errors on defense,” Ganoff said. “This is an area we will continue to enhance every single day. We need to continue to be aggressive and smooth on defense so we can ensure that we don’t just give the opponent an opportunity to score.”

Notre Dame looks to continue its winning streak when it faces Western Michigan at 5 p.m. in Kalamazoo.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at
mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

The Observer  ◆  SPORTS
Thursday, March 18, 2010

page 20

Valdivia
continued from page 24

fields, paces the Broncos with a .421 batting average to go along with three home runs and two triples.

Notre Dame’s recent success has not gone unnoticed. Valdivia was named Big East Pitcher of the Week while junior outfielder Sadie Pitzenberger earned Player of the Week honors, giving the Irish the sweep of the weekly awards, the first-ever sweep by a pair of teammates.

Pitching has been really good,” Ganoff said. “Jody Valdivia has been doing a great job leading the team in the circle. She has really taken to being the one to get it done for us. Our freshmen

NFL

Tebow impresses at Pro Day

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Tim Tebow took a significant step Wednesday in the slow, methodical process of convincing teams he’s worth a relatively high draft pick in April’s NFL draft.

In the slow, methodical process of convincing teams he’s worth a relatively high draft pick in April’s NFL draft, Tebow, the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner and two-time national champion. “I’m not a person who wants to wait and see if my way is the only way.” That I’m coachable and not be

problems in college. First, he often held the ball too low. Second, he looped his arm back and lowered as he went through his motion. Third, his stride was too long as he threw.

That trifecta made for a brutally long delivery for Tebow, who still has issues just reading complicated defenses.

On Wednesday, Tebow unveiled his improved delivery, which came from working with former NFL assistant coach and quarterback guru Zeke Bratkowski. The motion was decidedly faster with Tebow keeping the ball high from the start and eliminating the loop.
Bleacher tickets 50% off on select dates

April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUES</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THUR</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ATL 3:10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>ATL 6:10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>ATL 6:10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>CIN 12:10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>CIN 12:10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>CIN 12:10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>MIL 1:00</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>MIL 1:00</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>MIL 1:00</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>HOU 1:20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>HOU 1:20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>HOU 1:20</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>WSH 1:00</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>WSH 1:00</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>WSH 1:00</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>AZ 1:20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>AZ 1:20</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>AZ 1:20</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUES</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THUR</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>AZ 1:20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PIT 6:05</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>PIT 6:05</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>PIT 6:05</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>PIT 6:05</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>PIT 6:05</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>CIN 12:10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>MIL 1:00</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>MIL 1:00</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>MIL 1:00</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>MIL 1:00</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>MIL 1:00</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>COL 7:05</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>COL 7:05</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>COL 7:05</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>TEX 7:05</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>TEX 7:05</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>TEX 7:05</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>LAD 7:05</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>LAD 7:05</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>LAD 7:05</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Schedule key: [WINNER GAME] [REPLAY GAME]

To Order:

1. Go to cubs.com
2. In the Ticket Center box, click on college discount to view select dates available
3. Type in your promo code: FIGHTING IRISH

CALL 773-404-4242 FOR GROUP ORDERS OF 20 OR MORE.
Monarchs
continued from page 24

past six seasons. The CAA has a history of teams winning in the tournament, notably Virginia Commonwealth upsetting Duke in 2007 and George Mason making a historic run to the Final Four in 2006.

One of the few weaknesses of this Old Dominion squad is their shooting from the free-throw line, where the team has converted just 64 percent of its opportunities.

After a season missing the tournament, senior forward Luke Harangody said he was thrilled to return to March Madness.

“Especially as a senior, it’s a great feeling to see your name pop up on the board on Selection Sunday.”

Luke Harangody
senior forward

Martin
continued from page 24

“His a senior and I think he’s played with a lot of confidence,” Irish coach Dave Schrager said. “It’s kind of funny, out of all our hitters hitting in the cage live, he was probably struggling the most. I tell you, his first hit was a swinging bunt, but it’s a base hit and as a hitter, that gives you confidence. I’m hearing at the .500 mark with a 1-7 record. Notre Dame has struggled to find the consistency it had hoped for leading into conference play next week. The Irish have yet to pull off a winning stretch since they opened the season with a road win.

You might call this first season as a starter, Martin’s contributions have had an immediate impact. Needing a win to advance to the title game of the Irish Baseball Classic, Martin launched a three-run home run in the first inning to give the Irish a lead they would not relinquish.

“It’s what we try to do,” Martin said. “We’ve struggled a bit this year with guys not knowing what their roles are or where they’re going. It’s huge when you can give your starter some support early in the game.

“Just knowing this is my last year of college baseball, I’m just trying to go out there and have fun.”

Casey Martin
senior first baseman

Monarchs faced a tough test against the second-seeded Bears. Due to an injury, Irish junior guard Ben Hanshorough was not available to play.

Hanshorough said the team’s defensive strategy was to prevent the Bears from driving to the basket.

“Their offensive explosion is not really unexpected. The extent of his offensive explosion has taken many by surprise, including opposing pitchers. Martin has spent the last two seasons and in out of the starting lineup and was competing for the starting job, but this week we’re looking to help out with the discipline and patience that Marc is an excellent baseball player. We’re not going to let him go into the shot clock and wait for the ball. We’re going to keep the ball moving and get him going, and he’s doing a great job at the plate. He’s a great leader on the field and that gives us the advantage.”

Hanshorough said, “Just knowing this is my last year, I’m just trying to go out there and have fun.”

Martin said, “Just knowing this is my last year of college baseball, I’m just trying to go out there and have fun.”

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Unplanned Pregnancy?

If you or someone you love needs help or information, please call. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you.

Confidential support and assistance available at Notre Dame:
- Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, Student Affairs, 631-7819
- Ann Fisher, Student Affairs, 631-2085
- Sylvia Dillo, Campus Ministry, 631-7461
- John Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7461
- Dr. Susan Stiles-Paigal, Counseling Ctr., 631-1493
- Ann L. Kleve, Health Services, 631-2086

South Bend Community Resources:
- Women’s Care Center: 234-0060
- Catholic Charities: 234-0111

Visit our website at: http://pregnancy-support@nd.edu

Don’t go it alone.

Become a fan of Observer Sports on Facebook.
Observer in your home. nytimes.com/crosswords ($39.95 a year)

Crossword

TIDE AND CURRENTS

ACROSS
1 Spherical beginning? (5)
5 1960's top talker? (5)
10 Third-place presidential candidate of 1932 who ran his campaign from jail (8)
14 Handle user (4)
15 Character in all six "Star Wars" films, informally (4)
18 Shade at the beach? (4)

DOWN
1 1992 multiplatinum album (8)
2 Letter-shaped bridge support (6)
3 It's sometimes given to prisoners (1)
4 Florid (4)
5 Problems in synchronization (4)
6 "Maid of Athens, "We Part" (Byron poem) (4)
7 Draw (6)
8 Twists in a batonna (1)
10 He wrote lyrics, "Mamma Mia!" (Byron poem) (4)
11 Memorialization for a physics lab (6)
12 Knot (6)
13 Spherical (6)
16 "A Prairie Home Companion" (4)
20 Tropical trees (4)
21 Measure of resistance (6)
22 "I'm in the Le Neant" (6)
27 Rogers hit (6)
29 Insurance giant (6)
30 Brand whose ads once featured Michael Jackson (6)
31 Letter-shaped bridge support (6)
32 Bill blockers (6)
33 I.C.U. locale (6)
34 Mezza ___ (6)
35 Challenged (6)
36 First responder, for short (6)
38 Beat in a race (6)
39 Mezza ___ (6)
40 Masseuse's offering (6)
41 Utah ski resort (6)
42 Lock (6)
43 Crusader's foe (6)
44 ",'___ Live," 1992 offering (6)
45 Article in the "New York Times" (6)
46 Nadirs (6)
47 Mich. neighbor (6)
48 Bowl game (6)
49 Article in the "New York Times" (6)
50 He wrote lyrics, "Mamma Mia!" (Byron poem) (6)
51 Ambassador of old autodom (6)
52 Japanese chess (6)
53 Cry at a canyon (6)
54 Venus de Milo (6)
55 Caulk (6)
56 H. Ross Perot's Marcos (6)
57 Salad alternative (6)
58 Yens (6)
59 Eyed (6)

5077A/45A, was issued the address at 18A, (2/12/1809) who man (born (6)
60 A Party, and president of the first elected (5,6)
60A Party, and president of the first elected (5,6)
62 Nickname of the party's main whose name can be found in this puzzle's main diagonal (5,6)
63 Course (5,6)
64 Small rugs (5,6)
65 One-cellar (5,6)
66 Eyes (5,6)
67 ___-eyed (5,6)
68 Ebbs (5,6)
69 Capital of Vaulx (5,6)

6512A/11B, was issued the address at 18A, (2/12/1809) who man (born (6)
60 A Party, and president of the first elected (5,6)
62 Nickname of the party's main whose name can be found in this puzzle's main diagonal (5,6)
63 Course (5,6)
64 Small rugs (5,6)
65 One-cellar (5,6)
66 Eyes (5,6)
67 ___-eyed (5,6)
68 Ebbs (5,6)
69 Capital of Vaulx (5,6)

Across
1 Spherical beginning? (5)
5 1960's top talker? (5)
10 Third-place presidential candidate of 1932 who ran his campaign from jail (8)
14 Handle user (4)
15 Character in all six "Star Wars" films, informally (4)
18 Shade at the beach? (4)

Down
1 1992 multiplatinum album (8)
2 Letter-shaped bridge support (6)
3 It's sometimes given to prisoners (1)
4 Florid (4)
5 Problems in synchronization (4)
6 "Maid of Athens, "We Part" (Byron poem) (4)
7 Draw (6)
8 Twists in a batonna (1)
10 He wrote lyrics, "Mamma Mia!" (Byron poem) (4)
11 Memorialization for a physics lab (6)
12 Knot (6)
13 Spherical (6)
16 "A Prairie Home Companion" (4)
20 Tropical trees (4)
21 Measure of resistance (6)
22 "I'm in the Le Neant" (6)
27 Rogers hit (6)
29 Insurance giant (6)
30 Brand whose ads once featured Michael Jackson (6)
31 Letter-shaped bridge support (6)
32 Bill blockers (6)
33 I.C.U. locale (6)
34 Mezza ___ (6)
35 Challenged (6)
36 First responder, for short (6)
38 Beat in a race (6)
39 Mezza ___ (6)
40 Masseuse's offering (6)
41 Utah ski resort (6)
42 Lock (6)
43 Crusader's foe (6)
44 ",'___ Live," 1992 offering (6)
45 Article in the "New York Times" (6)
46 Nadirs (6)
47 Mich. neighbor (6)
48 Bowl game (6)
49 Article in the "New York Times" (6)
50 He wrote lyrics, "Mamma Mia!" (Byron poem) (6)
51 Ambassador of old autodom (6)
52 Japanese chess (6)
53 Cry at a canyon (6)
54 Venus de Milo (6)
55 Caulk (6)
56 H. Ross Perot's Marcos (6)
57 Salad alternative (6)
58 Yens (6)
59 Eyed (6)

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, $1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You'll be triggered in different directions when it comes to emotional matters. The changes of home may not be welcome at first, but once you gain a sense of a choice to settle down, you'll realize there are better times ahead. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You don't have a strong choice in the cards, but someone is putting pressure on you. Someone in a malicious manner from someone you got back together, perhaps, leaves them feeling vulnerable. They must take a stand. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Life may be a little confusing if you try to figure out who some one is telling you. Exert control by an ethereal will of fate. Paints a rough road you can have and, if you do, you'll live up to it and prove yourself. ***

PIECES (Feb. 19-March 20) You'll be caught in an emotional whirlpool. Don't let temptation lead you to make one final push to some changes that may not be wise. Find out where you stand and what is required of you. ***

Birthday Baby: You are unique and quick to act. You are an opponent, an disputant and a competitor. You communicate expressively.

Eugenia's Web site: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenia@eugenialast.com for eugenialast's blog, eugenialast.com for free.

THE OBSERVER
Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

Make checks payable to: and mail to:

The Observer
P.O. Box 779
Notre Dame, IN 46506

Enclosed is $120 for one academic year
Enclosed is $65 for one semester

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip___________

The Observer ◆ TODAY

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

page 23
MEN’S BASKETBALL

Win streak propels Irish to New Orleans

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Senior Sports Writer

A No. 6 seed in the NCAA Tournament seemed impossible just a month ago. But today the streaking Irish will open as a favorite in their opening round matchup against No. 11 seed Old Dominion.

A six-game win streak to conclude their regular season and to begin the Big East Tournament made Notre Dame a lock to make their third NCAA Tournament in four seasons. And while Notre Dame was surely happy to play its way into a higher seeding than anyone would have expected, it will face a tough test against the Monarchs, the regular season and tournament champions in the Colonial Athletic Association.

“I think it’s a heck of an honor. We’ve been caught up in the midst of the run to finish the season,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “Obviously, we feel it’s a very good run. It’s better than we thought we’d be able to do.”

Placed in the South Region under 60 points on the year. 18 of their opponents to shooting from the perimeter, a potent approach and balance can even elude professionals from time to time. But if the season ended today, Casey Martin could make a pretty good case for having mastered his craft.

Leading the team in nearly every offensive category, Martin has emerged as the Notre Dame’s most dangerous hitter, hitting 3-pointers at only a 31-percent rate, they’ve held 18 of their opponents to under 60 points on the year.

Brey and the Irish will not be underestimating Old Dominion, a team that has already upset one Big East power this season, beating Georgetown on the road in December. The Monarchs and coach Blaine Taylor also have tournament experience, and will be playing in their third NCAA Tournament in the midseason résumé that features a .434 batting average, three home runs and 16 RBIs.

A month ago, it looked like Notre Dame had a better shot at a No. 6 seed in the NIT than in the NCAA Tournament. After

BASEBALL

Senior Martin leads offense

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

The art of hitting can take years, even decades to perfect. Plate discipline, a consistent approach and balance can even elude professionals from time to time. But if the season ended today, Casey Martin could make a pretty good case for having mastered his craft.

Leading the team in nearly every offensive category, Martin has emerged as the Notre Dame’s most dangerous hitter, hitting 3-pointers at only a 31-percent rate, they’ve held 18 of their opponents to under 60 points on the year.

Brey and the Irish will not be underestimating Old Dominion, a team that has already upset one Big East power this season, beating Georgetown on the road in December. The Monarchs and coach Blaine Taylor also have tournament experience, and will be playing in their third NCAA Tournament in the midseason résumé that features a .434 batting average, three home runs and 16 RBIs.

ND SOFTBALL

Streaking Irish travel to Western Michigan

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Coming off an 8-1 Spring Break trip to California, the Irish are back on the road today to face the Broncos of Western Michigan. Notre Dame (16-5) ended its road trip Sunday with a 3-0 defeat over Purdue in a non-conference match at the Long Beach Invite to cap a successful trip. They face a Broncos team struggling to find the win column.

“It was a great stretch for us over the past 10 days on our Spring Break road trip to Southern California,” Irish assistant coach Kris Ganoff said. “The team stepped it up in all areas including offense, defense and in the circle for us. We had some nice wins over good programs and really created a sense of confidence for this team.”

Junior pitcher Jody Valdivia (12-2) picked up her 13th straight win as she pitched a one-hitter, complete with nine strikeouts. Seven of those came in the first three innings.

Valdivia will lead the effort from the circle against Western Michigan (15-7), Utility fielder Lexi Jager, a solid hitter with power to all...