Handicap access examined

Students, faculty, family members reflect on disability accommodations

Notre Dame alumni drawn to Peace Corps

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

The 21 Notre Dame alumni currently serving in the Peace Corps have earned the University a place among the top middle-sized schools involved with the organization for the 10th consecutive year, according to the “Peace Corps Top Colleges 2010” list posted on the Corps’ Web site.

“We have a huge international focus here on campus,” said Anita Rees, associate director at the Career Center. “We try to tie that in with making the world a better place.”

Rees also mentioned that alumni who have returned from the Peace Corps have “a huge impact on the students,” she said. Many of the students who inquire about Peace Corps will say, “I want to make a difference there,” Rees said.

“Some of the most important things I think I have learned while at Notre Dame has been that we, as students, are given the privileges of an outstanding education and tremendous opportunities for growth,” she said.

Senior receives Gates Cambridge Scholarship

By CASEY McMAHON and SARAH MERVOSH
News Writers

When Mary and Rick Hurd traveled to campus for Junior Parents Weekend (JPW), they were looking forward to getting to know their daughter’s friends and their respective families.

But during the weekend’s mass, Rick Hurd was separated from his daughter’s friends because he uses a wheelchair and needed handicap seating.

“[My daughter] cried and said, ‘this isn’t right,’” Mary Hurd said. “I looked around and saw these handicapped people in these sections far away from the altar, and it was like you were kept at an arms’ length,” she said. “I’m not sure that is what Jesus would do.”

Though Mary Hurd said her family’s experience with Notre Dame’s handicap accessibility has generally been satisfactory, JPW exposed glitches in the campus’ architecture and accommodations.

Mary Hurd said the Basilica’s handicap seating could also be improved.

“We have come to the Basilica. I think it was Easter we were there,” she said. “We couldn’t sit together because there wasn’t enough handicap seating.”

With many buildings on campus built around 100 years ago, some architecture does not lend itself to handicap accessibility. With newer dorms, however, the accommodations are easier for those with physical disabilities.

“The bookstore, the dining hall — we’ve been able to eat with my daughter and her friends,” Mary Hurd said. “The football stadium access has been wonderful. The usher are very accommodating.”

Program Coordinator for the Office for Students with Disabilities Scott Howland said the University has worked to include handicap accessibility into plans for renovations and new buildings.

“The University has begun to have a formal plan that will be initiated across the next few years,” Howland said. “Since I’ve been here since 1995, there has always been an attempt made by the University when they are doing renovations or projects to include accessibility issues in that.”

Students applied for the highly competitive scholarship in 2009. According to the program’s Web site, scholarships are awarded to students “on the basis of a person’s intellectual ability, leadership capacity and desire to use their knowledge to contribute to society throughout the world by providing service to their communities and applying their talents and knowledge to improve the lives of others.”

These scholars must also have exceptional research.

Youth Signed by Rick Hurd, the Basilica is where the couple first met.

When they met and started dating, Rick Hurd said he was a "light background music." But now, he is "a huge internal focus here on campus."

Senior Johanna Kirsch navigates campus on a scooter, used for students who need assistance due to injury.

By JOSEPH McMAHON and SARAH MERVOSH
News Writers

Senior Ryan Lash was one of 29 American students recently awarded the Gates Cambridge Scholarship from the University of Cambridge. Lash, a medieval studies and anthropology major, is the first Notre Dame student selected for this honor since the program was established by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000.

More than 800 U.S. students applied for the scholarship.

Peace Corps at Notre Dame

Notre Dame Ranking 23rd
Current Alumni Serving 21
Years Alumni Have Participated 49
Graduates Who Have Entered 800

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

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Rees also mentioned that alumni who have returned from the Peace Corps have “a huge impact on the students,” she said. Many of the students who inquire about Peace Corps will say, “I want to make a difference there,” Rees said.

“Some of the most important things I think I have learned while at Notre Dame has been that we, as students, are given the privileges of an outstanding education and tremendous opportunities for growth,” she said.

I think that the leadership experiences that students can take on here at Notre Dame and the breadth of classes offered on international concepts make them ready to build networks with people who are different than them,” Rees said.

A Peace Corps recruiter at the Career Fair in the fall sparked senior Elizabeth Pinto’s interest in the program. She said the agency was “an excellent fit” for her volunteer work she was hoping to find after she graduates in the spring.

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“We have a huge international focus here on campus,” said Anita Rees, associate director at the Career Center. “We try to tie that in with making the world a better place.”

Rees also mentioned that alumni who have returned from the Peace Corps will aid students applying for government positions as well as certain graduate schools. Many of the students who inquire about the Peace Corps have studied abroad, enjoyed the international perspective and “become impassioned about a sort of social issue or a vocation to make a difference there,” she said.

“Some of the most important things I think I have learned while at Notre Dame has been that we, as students, are given the privileges of an outstanding education and tremendous opportunities for growth,” she said.

Senior receives Gates Cambridge Scholarship

By CASEY McMAHON and SARAH MERVOSH
News Writers

Senior Ryan Lash was one of 29 American students recently awarded the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, enabling him to pursue a master’s degree next year at the University of Cambridge.

Lash, a medieval studies and anthropology major, is the first Notre Dame student selected for this honor since the program was established by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000.

More than 800 U.S. students applied for the highly competitive scholarship in 2009. According to the program’s Web site, scholarships are awarded to students “on the basis of a person’s intellectual ability, leadership capacity and desire to use their knowledge to contribute to society throughout the world by providing service to their communities and applying their talents and knowledge to improve the lives of others.”

These scholars must also have exceptional research.
INSIDE COLUMN

Cleverness or quota?

Whether you are an underclassman just a year or two out of the college application process or an upperclassman entering “round two” for graduate school, we are all very aware that admissions is far more complex than GPAs, ACTs and MCATs. Being a legacy or an underrepresented minority can provide an advantage; many find such admissions policies unfair, and they tend to spark controversy. I’m not going to argue for eliminating these standards or “quotas.” Quite the contrary, I think Notre Dame and other universities need to look far beyond the numbers. Give credit to the socioeconomically disadvantaged in our society.

Regardless of the varying levels of influence that inevitably emerge when discrimination may or may not be in today’s society, I do not think that it is accurate to suggest that all minorities are truly disadvantaged academically simply for being minorities. What is true, however, is that minorities are more likely to be born into poverty. That is the real problem. Why don’t we address it directly? When it comes to education, poverty certainly becomes relevant. It seems unfair that poor non-minorities be discriminated against. The result, logically, would be to spark controversy.

This policy is not the most effective, I believe. Regardless of how pervasive discrimination may or may not be in today’s society, we are all very aware that the public perception is that certain universities are discriminating against those students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

Be it Notre Dame or another university, it is difficult to argue against giving preference to the socioeconomically disadvantaged. What is true, however, is that minorities are sometimes discriminated against. This is not the most effective, I believe. Regardless of how pervasive discrimination may or may not be in today’s society, we are all very aware that the public perception is that certain universities are discriminating against those students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

Offbeat

Sleeping man wakes to find strange man in bed

PITTSBURGH — Police said a man broke into a Pittsburgh home and climbed into bed with its owner, apparently because he was drunk and cold following a rap concert.

Homeowner Frank Fontana says he was in bed when the man climbed in about 5:30 Wednesday morning. Fontana says he asked whether it was a woman who has keys to his home — and he grabbed a baseball bat when a deep male voice answered, “No, it’s not.”

Police said Fontana kept the man at bay until police arrived but didn’t hit him with the bat.

Police say the intruder told them he was looking for shelter after a Tuesday night concert by rapper Jay-Z at the Mellon Arena. The 33-year-old man faces a preliminary hearing on charges of criminal mischief and criminal trespass.

Unicorns or zombies?

WHICH DO YOU PREFER, UNICORNS OR ZOMBIES?

In a March 18 Observer article, Joseph Stanfiel was quoted as saying that the admissions office at Notre Dame "is the man at bay until police answered, “No, it’s not.”"

Police said Fontana kept the man at bay until police answered, “No, it’s not.”

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact John Cameron at jcamero2@nd.edu

IN BRIEF

The 2010 Asian Film Festival and Conference kicks off tonight at 6:30 p.m. with a screening of the film “The Unreliable People” with and introduction and post-screening Q&A with director V. David Chung. The screening will take place in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 for students, $6 for general admission and can be purchased by calling 631-2800.

The Third Annual Arabic Culture Night will take place tonight at 7 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium at the Mendoza College of Business. The event is free and open to all.

The Notre Dame Glee Club will be giving their Spring Concert tonight at 8 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 for students, $5 for seniors, and $8 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased by calling 631-2800.

The Irish dance ensemble Danu will be giving a performance Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $15 for students, $25 for seniors and $36 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased on performingarts.nd.edu or by calling 631-2800.

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

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

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Friday, March 19, 2010

Boston

Chicago

Denver

Philadelphia

New York

Pasquerilla

Pasquerilla West

Sorin

Tampa

Tulane

Minneapolis

Chicago

New York

San Francisco
Schmidt gives final address

By SCOTT ENGLERT
News Writer

Student body president Grant Schmidt reflected on his term as president and gave advice for the future administration during his final Student Senate meeting Thursday.

Schmidt said he worked to make student government more accessible and more in tune to the student body's needs.

“Since the beginning of the year, [we] have focused on making student government the go-to group of students when our fellow students or our administration has a question, an idea or a concern,” Schmidt said. “We have pushed to make sure that students are consulted before big decisions are made.”

In addition to serving the needs of the student body, Schmidt also emphasized the work that student government has done in cooperation with the administration.

“The administration is essential in making the University what it is today, Schmidt said. “This University would not be where it is today without the leadership of the student body president.”

In addition to hearing student body president Grant Schmidt’s final State of the Student Union address, Student Senate discussed addition of student leaders in the Commencement process of the Commencement speaker.

University Affairs chair Jeff Lakusta proposed the resolution. Lakusta said the student body should be present on the committee offer the student body’s opinion.

“So there can be terms of input, but it’s not the hammer or anything,” Lakusta said.

Student body vice president Cynthia Weber also said the resolution was important because Commencement is an integral part of the graduation ceremonies.

“Especially for the seniors, it’s the center of Commencement,” Weber said. “It’s something that represents the entire University.”

Activist lectures on low-wage workers

By BRITTANY VANSPENSON
News Writer

Social justice activist Kim Bobo, founder of Interfaith Worker Justice, focused on addressing the issue of low-wage work Thursday at the Student Senate meeting.

Boho said wage theft is an activity where employers either underpay workers for the work they have already completed. She said this activity is left largely unreported and unnoticed throughout the nation.

“It’s just not enough to barely make ends meet,” Bobo said.

Bobo suggested one small, yet significant, way of changing injustices to low-wage workers is by leaving a tip.

“Tipping is a pretty common way of employers stealing from workers,” she said. Boho. However, she added, “The best change can only come in the form of young adults getting more active in the cause to help low-wage workers.”

Kim Bobo
social justice activist

“These problems are not somewhere else, they’re here.”

Kim Bobo
social justice activist

Contact Brittany VanSipenson at bvansn01@saintmarys.edu

STUDENT SENATE

Group requests addition of student rep.

Observer Staff Report

In addition to hearing student body president Grant Schmidt’s final State of the Student Union address, Student Senate discussed and unanimously passed a resolution during its Thursday night meeting.

The resolution called for the addition of a student leader in the decision process of the Commencement speaker.

University Affairs chair Jeff Lakusta proposed the resolution. Lakusta said the student body should be present on the committee offer the student body’s opinion.

“So there can be terms of input, but it’s not the hammer or anything,” Lakusta said.

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“Especially for the seniors, it’s the center of Commencement,” Weber said. “It’s something that represents the entire University.”

As Schmidt reflected on his term as president and gave advice for the future administration, Schmidt also emphasized the work that student body, Schmidt also made.”

Schmidt also made.

Schmidt reflected on his term as president and gave advice for the future administration.

“Currently, we are finishing up our recommendations for the revisions to du Lac. These are extremely important as they will affect students on a day-to-day basis,” Schmidt said.

After thanking the members of his administration, Schmidt offered his advice to student body president-elect Catherine Soler and student body vice president-elect Andrew Bell.

“Like I said before, this job has been easy and a pleasure because of you. Thank you for what you do. Thank you for making this a fun experience,” he said. “Thank you for making Notre Dame one that people will talk about for forty years. Go Irish.”

Contact Scott Englert at engler01@saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary’s club hosts renowned philosopher

Notre Dame professor Alasdair MacIntyre argues individuals can be ‘good’ in many ways

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Goodness and happiness are in conflict, Alasdair MacIntyre, the John A. O’Brien senior research professor of philosophy at Notre Dame, said Thursday.

MacIntyre visited Saint Mary’s College as a guest lecturer on the invitation of the Philosophy Club.

In a lecture titled “Happiness and Goodness,” MacIntyre spoke about the ways in which humans can live a happy life and a good life.

“People constantly offer us happiness,” MacIntyre said. “Sometimes people who are in love with us promise to make us happy. Politicians often promise to make us happy.”

MacIntyre defined which terms should be used when speaking about what it means to be happy.

“The concept that I’m going to talk about is the concept that gets expressed when someone tells you that they’re happy, meaning that they feel good about themselves,” he said.

“They feel good about their lives.”

After defining which phrases can be used to describe happiness, MacIntyre discussed whether or not sources that make humans happy exist.

“It may be the case that with which we are pleased, is a different and perhaps a more desirable experience than what MacIntyre then explained that goodness and happiness can conflict.

“Caring about something or caring for something can mean that when things go wrong for that person, you feel badly about it and you act differently as a result,” he said. He discussed how humans must be sympathetic, vulnerable, truthful and self-know in order to be a good person. With these traits, he said humans will find conflict existing between happiness and goodness.

“IT therefore follows that a characteristic human life seems to be a life of good quality — to be unhappy a great deal of the time, MacIntyre said. “A good life would be one in which both happiness and unhappiness find a place, the right place.”

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Student senate
Lash

continued from page 1

skills and knowledge of how their research can be applied to global challenges.

Lash was encouraged to apply for the highly selective University’s campus. Since then, over 800 Notre Dame alumni have joined the Corps.

Byan has blended his broad interests in the medieval world with specific interests in literature and material culture in sophisticated ways that belie his age and experience,” said Thomas Noble, professor and chair of the History Department and former director of Notre Dame’s Medieval Institute, in a press release. “He combines intelligence, a good hard work and a disinterested love of learning — he’s great.”

According to the press release, Lash has fully utilized Notre Dame’s academic resources that support undergraduate research, field and international study. His major projects include archaeological fieldwork at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, travel in Great Britain and Ireland for a research project on medieval castle architecture in elite identity formation, study of medieval history, literature and archeology in Notre Dame’s Oxford program, as well as an upcoming research project at Beehive Abbey in the English countryside. In all of these projects, he has also co-presented research papers at academic conferences in several countries.

Contact Casey Kenney at ckenney@nd.edu

Study

continued from page 1

Keith Kirkpatrick said he hopes more students will begin taking advantage of this new study space.

“So far we’re seeing that it’s being used not as much as we want it to be used, but that will probably increase,” he said. “This area on the second floor has a great view — a two story window where you can see the Dome.”

The study space opened just before spring break, but Kirkpatrick said the decision to implement the space was made at the end of September. A senior class business project was to conduct a focus group dealing with the integration of the café and the Bookstore, as well as ways to increase student traffic.

Feedback from the focus group was basically that they wanted [part of] the square floor cleaned up with desks and made it into a study area,” Kirkpatrick said.

Kirkpatrick said the Bookstore is able to be more creative with it into a study area,” Kirkpatrick said. “There was a location in the Middle East — it’s almost on a weekly basis in the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic.

The interdisciplinary program gives me the opportunity to continue studying what I am interested in. I am looking to pick only one particular aspect of my interests,” Lash said. “I will study the language, history and archæology of mediæval Britain and Scandinavia.”

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Access

continued from page 1

Howland said his office does not focus on accessibility issues, but will sometimes receive calls and redirect them to the appropriate departments.

Noticeably, Howland deals with students who have learning disabilities and provides them with services to assist them in learning.

“My responsibility and my job in the office is to work with students directly for their education and for the services the University offers to accommodate her disability. "When I came here they were interested in the academic conferences in several countries.

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Export ban on bluefin tuna rejected

DOHA, Qatar — Fishing nations won a victory over environmentalists Thursday when a U.S.-backed proposal to ban export of the Atlantic bluefin tuna was overwhelmingly rejected at a U.N. wildlife meeting.

Japan won scores of poorer nations with a threat that any ban would devastate their economies. Tokyo also raised doubts that such a radical move would be scientifically sound.

In another blow to conservationists, a proposal at the meeting to ban the international sale of star and sea cups failed to pass.

**Kipniapped Brit returns from Pakistan**

LONDON — A 5-year-old British boy who was kidnapped and held in Pakistan for two weeks arrived back in Britain on Thursday.

Sahil Saeed, who is of Pakistani origin, was snatched March 4 from his grandparents' house in central Pakistan, where he was on vacation. He was returned unharmed Tuesday, and on Thursday he flew back to Manchester, northern England, where he lives with his parents.

"Sahil is doing well, is in good spirit," the boy's father, Raja Naqsh Saeed, said earlier in Islamabad after he was reunited with his son.

The case has drawn in investigators from four countries — Britain, France, Spain and Pakistan. The first calls for ransom were made from Spain, authorities say, and the boy's family was instructed to travel to Paris to deliver the payment.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

South Carolina gov. agrees to fines

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford has agreed to pay $74,000 in fines to resolve dozens of charges that he violated state ethics laws with his campaign spending and travel, including a taxpayer-funded trip to Argentina.

Sanford, who put himself on indefinite leave in January, still could face criminal charges.

Sanford said in a statement he thinks he would have been acquitted if the commission had heard the case, but didn't want to continue what he called "an endless media circus."

**Medical marijuana attracts criminals**

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — Growers and clinics in some of the 14 states that allow medical marijuana are increasingly facing victim to robberies, home invasions, shootings and even murders at the hands of pot thieves.

There have been dozens of cases in recent months that have been reported.

Critics say the increases in crime prove that marijuana and crime are inseparable, though some advocates who are pushing to pass ballot measures to allow all adults, note that in states such as Colorado and Washington, where marijuana is legal, the numbers of crimes have been too weak from marijuana to be statistically significant.

**LOCAL NEWS**

Women accused of setting fire to dogs

FRANKLIN, Ind. — A central Indiana woman faces 142 counts of arson in connection with suspicious fires in which she allegedly doused two of her pet dogs with gasoline and then used a lighter to set them on fire.

Court documents state that 36-year-old Katherine Brotherton of Franklin told police she was in the process of killing her dogs March 9 because they had bit her.

She was being held Thursday in the Johnson County Jail.

Brotherton allegedly put her 5-year-old dog and 6-month-old puppy in a plastic drum, poured gas on them and then used lighter to set them on fire outside her rural Johnson County home.

**World & Nation**

**The Netherlands**

**Writer remembers Anne Frank**

Holocaust survivor stands by her memory of Anne Frank despite skepticism of facts

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — A Holocaust survivor who says she met Anne Frank in a Nazi concentration camp is standing by her story in the face of skepticism from historians, filmmakers and a childhood friend of the diarist.

Bertie Meijer, 71, claims in a memoir to be published in Dutch this month that while she was in Bergen Belsen as a 6-year-old, she remembers the severely ill Frank trying to cheer up some of the children at the camp by telling them fairy tales.

"On its face, it seems too good to be true," said David Barnouw of the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation, who has studied Frank for three decades and edited the definitive scholarly publication of her diary.

He said his primary objections to Meijer's story are that Anne would probably have been too weak from hunger and illness to tell stories shortly before her death in March 1945, and it would have been an amazing coincidence that Meijer would have a memory about someone who was well known many years later.

"But you never know," he said. "I don't dare to judge.

Anne Frank became one of the most prominent victims of the Holocaust when the diary she kept for four years while in hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam was found after the war and published. Frank died in a 1945 typhus epidemic at Bergen Belsen, but the exact date is unknown.

Meijer on Thursday rejected criticism from Hannah Pick-Goslar, a friend of Anne Frank's who saw her at Bergen Belsen and said she was in no condition to tell stories, and from Willy Lindwer, a filmmaker who said he did not include Meijer in his Emmy award winning 1988 documentary about Anne Frank because her testimony was too vague.

"How do they think they can look into my memory?" Meijer said in a telephone interview.

Meijer's memoir, "Life After Anne Frank," focuses on how the early trauma of the camp affected Meijer's later life, and "what war does to a human life." It describes the alleged meeting with Frank in an early chapter.

"I make it clear in my book, some things are vague, some things are crystal clear," she said. "For me, the memories are paired with the emotions that went with them."

She said Frank was very ill, but still mustered the strength to tell short fairy tales while lying in the camp barracks. Meijer said she remembers it because the stories gave her a feeling of escape from the horror that surrounded her.

A spokeswoman for publisher De Bezige Bij said the house stands behind Meijer "100 percent."

Suzanne Holtzer said the Bezige Bij is discussing selling publishing rights with publishers in multiple countries, including the United States.

The Anne Frank House Museum says its historians have previously interviewed Meijer and have no reason to doubt her truthfulness — but that her story is unverifiable.

Records from Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust memorial authority, show that Meijer was an inmate of Bergen Belsen for 13 months until it was liberated in April 1945.

They also show the Meijer family lived on Amsterdam's Nieuwstraat, the same street where Anne attended a Montessori elementary school from 1934 to 1941.

Meijer says the two families were friendly acquaintances.

Psychologists say it's conceivable that if Meijer knew Frank before the war, and if she met her again in Bergen Belsen, she could form a lasting memory about it, even at a young age.

Around 140,000 Jews lived in the Netherlands before the 1940-45 Nazi occupation. Of those, 107,000 were deported to Germany and only 5,400 survived.

**Obama effigy hung in Rhode Island school**

Shaffer said the department would not have any further comment.

"I was deeply saddened," Gallo said. "I was instructed to travel to Paris to deliver the payment."

"I hope this doesn't mean that the Obama administration won't do anything about the situation," she added.

AP
Private drama plagues Oscar-winner Bullock

LOS ANGELES — Sandra Bullock is on a career high. America’s Sweetheart and “Miss Congeniality” was repeatedly anointed as Hollywood royalty this year, sweeping awards season and capping it off with an Oscar for her performance in “The Blind Side.”

But as this Timeltown fairytale played out on camera, real-life drama may have been brewing behind the scenes.

With worldwide attention on the brand-new Oscar winner — who first met his wife and kids while playing a brave bus passenger in 1994’s “Speed” and went on toamas without more than two dozen movie credits — Bullock is being dogged by tabloid reports of problems with her husband of nearly five years.

Internet rumors surfaced Wednesday that the 45-year-old actress’ husband, celebrity motorcycle builder and reality-TV star Jesse James, had been unfaithful while she was making her Oscar-winning film. Bullock subsequently canceled a planned appearance next week at the London premiere of “The Blind Side,” citing “unforeseen personal reasons.”

On Thursday, James apologized to his wife and three children from previous relationships through a statement issued to People magazine and later obtained by The Associated Press.

“It’s because of my poor judgment that I deserve everything bad that is coming my way,” he said. “This has caused my wife and kids pain and embarrassment beyond comprehension and I am extremely saddened to have brought this on them.

In the past, the vast majority of the allegations reported are untrue and unfounded,” but offered no other details, saying, “Beyond that, I do not want to get into these private matters with any further public comment.”

Bullock did not respond to calls and e-mails seeking comment Thursday. A receptionist at James’ motorcycle shop, West Coast Choppers in Long Beach, Calif., said James was not expected at the shop on Thursday. Later in the day, James returned home to the couple’s waterfront home in nearby Huntington Beach without speaking to assembled journalists.

Throughout Hollywood’s lengthy award season, there was no indication of domestic wrangling as the couple appeared happily arm-in-arm while Bullock racked up the accolades.

She called her husband “sexy” as she accepted her Screen Actor Guild award. Backstage, he held her purse as she spoke to reporters. At the Golden Globes, Bullock told James from the stage, “her voice cracking with emotion: “There’s no surprise that my work got better when I met you. Because I never knew what it felt like for someone to believe in you.”

Things were different at the Academy Awards, however.

Bullock did not thank her husband, who appeared teary-eyed on camera as she accepted her award. Instead she thanked mothers and parents everywhere, including a poignant tribute to her own mother — along with her fellow nominees and everyone’s shown me kindness when it wasn’t fashionable.”

Still, Bullock and James, 40, walked hand-in-hand down Oscar’s red carpet, celebrated together at the parties afterward and were photographed outside a Long Beach burger joint the next day.

The actress and the “Monster Garage” star met in 2003 and married in 2005. Initially deemed an odd match by some — she’s the girl next door, he’s a tattooed bad-boy — the couple stayed blissfully out of the public eye while continuing their individual successes.

Bullock had dated actors, including ex-husband Matthew McConaughey and Ryan Gosling, and was engaged to Tate Donovan, but her marriage to James is her first.

James had been married twice before and is in an ongoing dispute with his most recent ex-wife over custody of their 3-year-old daughter. Sunny.

Bullock has said she loves James’ children as though they were her own and that the eldest, 12-year-old Louis, is the one who selected her regal Oscar gown.

While winning an Academy Award can be a boon to actors’ careers, it’s not always great for their personal lives. Sean Penn won the best-actor Oscar last year for “Milk” and split with his wife, Robin Wright Penn, a few months later. He didn’t thank her in his speech, either. Last year’s best-actress winner, Kate Winslet, separated from her husband, director Sam Mendes, earlier this week.

Body of child found on beach

Associated Press

SEATTLE — A child’s body was found Thursday on an island beach in Puget Sound that of an 8-year-old boy who vanished last weekend with his mother, a Pierce County sheriff’s spokesman said.

Positive identification was based on Azriel Carver’s clothing, mohawk haircut and “looking at pictures of him,” spokesman Ed Troyer said.

The Pierce County medical examiner’s office plans an autopsy Friday to determine cause of death.

The body was found on Fox Island, southwest of Tacoma.

No sign was found Thursday of the boy’s mother, Shantina “Kat” Smiley, 29, of Silverdale, who disappeared with him on Saturday night. Troyer said the beach was searched about 500 yards in each direction from the boy’s divers. On a boat searched as well as a Coast Guard helicopter and sheriff’s office plane flew overhead.

That search may resume Friday, depending on weather, he said.

Smiley’s abandoned minivan, partially submerged with its doors open, was found Sunday on a remote Olympia-area beach about 12 miles south of Fox Island.

A wallet containing her driver’s license, some cash and credit cards was found in the van, but neither she nor her son was anywhere in sight.

Jay Carver, Azriel’s father, who flew here from Buffalo, N.Y., this week, went to the beach where the boy was found. Troyer said the father was not involved in identifying the body.

“Really you don’t know what you have in your life until they’re gone,” Carver told KING-TV. “It’s a sad turn of events.”

Two mismatched shoes, a partially full and corked wine bottle, an inhaler and an orange ball have washed ashore since the van was found.

Thurston County sheriff’s Lt. Chris Mealy said the items apparently belonged to the boy or his mother.

Smiley was heading from her home in Silverdale to her stepfather’s house in southwest Washington when she and her son disappeared Saturday night. Silverdale is about 16 miles west of Seattle, across Puget Sound.

Besides searching the area, investigators looked at phone records and talked to people who know Smiley and her son or may have met her Saturday night as she drove through the back roads of Washington state. Her fiancé, Rob Simmons, told authorities she was a recovering alcoholic who had relapsed last week.

“We are grieving the loss of Azriel, and praying for Shantina. We are all severely hurting. We are getting the family together so we can grieve together, and so we can have some sort of peace right now,” Simmons told the television station late Thursday.

He told The Associated Press he had no comment.

Mealy said there was no indication that a crime took place inside Smiley’s 2005 Dodge Caravan.

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**Market Recap**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dow Jones</th>
<th>10,779.17</th>
<th>+45.50</th>
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<td>52-week close</td>
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| AMEX | 1,907.54 | +0.43 |
| NASDAQ | 2,391.28 | +2.19 |
| NYSE | 7,434.75 | +30.56 |
| S&P 500 | 1,165.82 | -0.39 |
| Nikkei (Tokyo) | 10,795.95 | +52.60 |
| FTSE 100 (London) | 5,642.62 | -2.70 |

**Treasuries**

| 10-YEAR NOTE | +0.82 | +0.30 | 3.67 |
| 13-WEEK BILL | +0.33 | -0.05 | 0.14 |
| 30-YEAR BOND | +0.37 | +0.17 | 4.59 |
| 5-YEAR NOTE | +0.03 | +0.08 | 2.41 |

**Commodities**

| LIGHT CRUDE ($/BBL) | $73.82 | 82.30 |
| GOLD ($TROY OZ) | +$3.10 | 1,127.74 |
| PORK BELLY (cents/lb) | 90.00 |

**Exchange Rates**

| YEN | 90.3900 |
| EURO | 1.3616 |
| CANADIAN DOLLAR | 1.0132 |
| BRITISH POUND | 1.5246 |

**In Brief**

**Domain ‘Sex.com’ too hot to sell**

Maltz & Co. Inc., which was handling the auction, said the company was unable to repay the debt. According to the petition, the creditors have a combined $10.1 million claim.

**Agents uncover U.N. corruption case**

“Agents uncovered a web of bribery and kickbacks that the United Nations was paying to secure part of a $15 million contract for peacekeeping equipment suppliers,” said a recent report issued by the Associated Press.

**Gas prices rise to highest since 2008**

Motorists are paying the highest prices for gas since October 2008. Retail gasoline prices rose on Thursday on an expected increase in demand and as more expensive spring and summer blends of gasoline made their way to the pumps.

**Democrats sweeten health care plan**

Supporters add new incentives to their health care plans; showdown set for Sunday

**Agents uncover U.N. corruption case**

Agents uncovered a web of bribery and kickbacks that the United Nations was paying to secure part of a $15 million contract for peacekeeping equipment suppliers, according to the Associated Press. The story of Bistrong and the military equipment suppliers shows how vulnerable the United Nations is to corruption in how the billions of dollars a year that it oversees are spent. It also raises questions about how well that spending will be monitored in the future: The anti-corruption unit that first uncovered the bribery and bid-rigging was disbanded in 2008, after quickly following, cited improved deficit cuts.

That made three conver- sations in recent days, follow- ing liberal Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio, with the White House and congressional leaders in search of more.

In Washington's time-hon- ored tradition, the conversa- tions with the president ranged widely. Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois said he agreed to vote for the health care overhaul on the under- standing that Obama and congressional Democrats would begin attempts quick- ly to pass comprehensive immigration legislation.

Within hours, Senate Democrats unveiled a bill, and the president praised it in a written statement.
LaRose, 46, was accused of conspiring with fighters overseas and pledging to commit murder in the name of a Muslim holy war, or jihad. She was arrested Oct. 15 returning to Philadelphia from Europe and was jailed.

Rep. Charles Dent, R-Pa., said he learned through meetings with the FBI and other briefings that LaRose had been cooperating with authorities pursuing the international probe, which arrested seven people in Ireland last week. LaRose lived in his district.

“I have a sense they knew much as much as she could from her, and when that happens, you move forward with the criminal complaint,” Dent, who serves on intelligence and homeland security committees, told The Associated Press. “Will she be more cooperative in the future? I hope so.

The FBI, the U.S. attorney’s office and LaRose’s public defender, Mark Wilson, declined to comment.

The indictment was filed May 4 and made public five days later, after Irish authorities detained an Algerian couple. Her Algerian husband and five other suspects are linked to LaRose, according to a U.S. official who authorized public release of the indictment.

Both women left troubled lives behind. LaRose having survived a suicide attempt and Paulin-Ramirez, according to her mother, an abusive first marriage and a childhood marked by bullying. LaRose spent most of her life in Texas, where she dropped out of high school, married at 16 and again at 24 and racked up a few minor arrests, records show.

After a second divorce, she followed Gorman to Pennsylvania in about 2004 and began caring for her father while he worked long hours, sometimes on the road. In 2008, she swallowed a handful of pills, later telling Pennsly police she was upset over the death of her father but did not want to die, according to the indictment.

As she moved through her 40s with her looks and all-American looks would help her blend in.

The suspects detained in Ireland include Jamie Paulin-Ramirez, a 31-year-old Colorado woman whose mother said she began talking about jihad with her Muslim stepfather and soon spent most of her time online, according to the U.S. official.

Paulin-Ramirez left Leavelde, Colo., on Sept. 11, 2009, with her 6-year-old son and told her family she had married a fourth time, to the Algerian, whom she had met online, her mother said. Irish officials later said they had released the American woman.

LaRose had left the United States on Aug. 23 for Europe, though her specific destination hasn’t been revealed.

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As she moved through her 40s with her looks and all-American looks would help her blend in.
WASHINGTON — It will be the rarest of sights: a black-hulled, two-masted replica of a slave-carrying schooner slipping into Havana’s harbor flying two flags — those of the United States and Cuba.

That’s how it is for the Amistad, a symbol of both a dark 19th century past and modern public diplomacy.

The Amistad is the 10-year-old official tall ship of the state of Connecticut and a replica of the Cuban coastal trader that sailed from Havana in 1839 with a cargo of African captives, only to become an emblem of the abolitionist movement.

As a U.S.-flagged ship, the Amistad’s 10-day, two-city tour of Cuba provides a counterpoint to new and lingering tensions between Washington and Havana and stands out as a high-profile exception to the 48-year-old U.S. embargo of the Caribbean island.

For the Amistad, Cuba also represents a final link as it retraces the old Atlantic slave trade triangle, making port calls that are not only reminders of the stain of slavery but also celebrations of the shared cultural legacies of an otherwise sorry past.

When it drops anchor in Havana’s harbor on March 25, the Amistad will not only observe its 10th anniversary, it will commemorate the day in 1807 when the British Parliament first outlawed the slave trade.

The powerful image of a vessel displaying home and host flags docking in Cuba is not lost on Gregory Belanger, the CEO and president of Amistad America Inc., the nonprofit organization that owns and operates the ship.

“We’re completely aware of the historical context, and not just as a stale remembrance,” said Miguel Barnet, a leading Cuban ethnographer and writer who has studied the African diaspora, said it is only appropriate that the new Amistad would call on the place of the original ship’s birth. Indeed, he said in an interview from Cuba on Wednesday, it is the horror of centuries that left behind a rich common bond not just between the United States and Cuba, but with the rest of the Caribbean — that is rooted in Africa. "That’s why this is an homage to these men and women who left something precious for our culture," he said.

The new Amistad has crossed the Atlantic and wended its way through the Caribbean since 2007. It has worked with the United Nations and UNESCO’s Slave Route Project using high technology hidden in its wooden frame and rigging, the ship’s crew of sailors and students has simulated to schools and even to the U.N. General Assembly.

It will do so again — with Cuban students — from Havana.

Amistad’s 10-day, two-city tour of Cuba provides a counterpoint to new and lingering tensions between Washington and Havana and stands out as a high-profile exception to the 48-year-old U.S. embargo of the Caribbean island.


**Letters to the Editor**

Has anyone seen my old friend John?

Can you tell me where he’s gone? There’s about to be a very big vote on health care reform, and wouldn’t you know that such reform includes funding for violence to the littlest among us? The president of Notre Dame, John Jenkins, is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, and he has the power to stop this bill. President Jenkins, you fight for the most innocent among us? Why don’t you join me — why don’t you sign that bill and if and when it’s presented to the House and Senate. Can there be any real doubt?

But let’s get back to John. He’s been as quiet as a church mouse ever since Commencement 2009, hasn’t he? Sure, there are now going to be Masses on the mall. Sure, there are going to be a blue ribbons panels and seminars and forums, and sure, we’ll use “fair-minded words” and look for common ground and tell each other how we need to reduce the number of instances of prenatal violence to the waiting-to-be-born. But what I’m not sure about is whether or not we’re going to hear a public pronouncement by University President Fr. John Jenkins condemning the inclusion of funding for abortion in the health care reform bill. It’s not that this bill necess-arily reaffirms the legal right of a woman to have an abor- tion, it’s that we are now going to be paying her to have one if the bill passes. I don’t think it would take a brain surgeon or a rocket scientist or a PhD philosophy graduate to understand what the impact on public debate such an action of public condemnation could accomplish. Certainly, its effect would be felt a whole lot more than a hand-written, “heartfelt, Dear Barack letter” or a “What up, dude, fringy-dong,” I would think. We are all well aware of how the very-wel-publicized Commencement 2009 shaped public opinion about Catholics in general and Notre Dame in particular.

Health Care Reform as presently proposed is a very bad bill, and the best thing that could seemingly happen would be for the process to start over so as to allow for it to get done right all the way through — but it doesn’t look like that is going to happen now. Having said that, it’s rare when any of us have the opportunity to make a real difference in life (or death) — certainly not on such a grand scale — so I’m urging you to see to the moment, Fr. John.

You know you have the platform at Notre Dame to demonstrate a true, courageous concern for the unborn if you were to go public with your thoughts, and that would be a message that would carry far and wide. But I know you’re probably thinking that you don’t want to bother the president right now during his “busiest ... week” ever. I know, Fr. John, that you were hoping for “deepened dialogue over time” on this mat-ter, but what about the message to emanate from Our Lady’s University and what better time than now? But I know there are arguments against rocking the boat. You know what it is important to get 20 million more Americans on health care, even if it is a very bad bill that can’t sustain itself or the quality of care over time. And you know what else — those women who find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy would probably get an abortion anyway — whether we pay for it or not. And they might even get it done in some back alley by some meth-addled, would-be Dr. Nix (if it weren’t for the meth) using a coat hanger as a “sur-gical instrument” rather than by a board-certified, health care practitioner in a pristine, sanitized, hospital-type setting using the latest, most-up-to-date, scientific, piercing, crushing, dismembering and suction equipment — but I digress.

And if imploring the president to do the right thing might prove to be too much for your tastes, it is unreasonable to expect a public vote of support — “We’re with you, Bart” — for the courageous Michigan congressman who has the courage to be out there all alone in his fight for the most innocent among us.

But you never know, Fr. John, do you? Who’s to say that a little help at this seemingly, most-opportunite time would really save an innocent life or two — or maybe spare a would-be mother a whole bunch of grief. But this we do know. Despite words to the contrary, dead babies can never take care of them-selves, they can not even take things off the shelves. Little voices many do not want to hear need a really big voice to speak for them — not tomorrow, not next week, not next month, not next year, but right now.

So, seize the moment, Fr. John — there will never be anoth-er one like this one. I guess it’s all a matter of “what would you fight for?” I wonder what, and perhaps more importantly, who, Notre Dame, our Mother, would fight for.

Michael Sydlik
Alumnus
Class of ’73, ’75
My love-hate relationship with Coach Brey

Four years ago a couple friends and I were sitting in a condo in Tucson on our first day of break, drinking the Amstel Light that my friend’s dad happened to have in the fridge that day when the NIT bracket was announced. Our Fighting Irish coaches probably wouldn’t respond to players and wishing him and the team players on the opposing team would create 37 points) and we Big East play (which solidified their spot their 6-10 record in Our Fighting Irish Amstel Light that my friend’s dad had

Before I continue, however, I must mention one of the perks of print journalism—because coaches must be met, events often times transpose between writing and publication that completely change the context through which pieces are read. This column was due to my editor before I knew the outcome from yesterday’s game, an outcome which will undoubtedly have Notre Dame basketball fans (the approximately 73 celebrities) of close losses the team endured during my freshman year; and since then, Brey understands how much the fans care about the team and he makes sure they know that he appreciates it. He sends out personal e-mails to the Leprechaun Legion before games to remind the students and to get them excited. These personal touches make Coach Brey endearing to me, and are reasons why I love him as our coach.

However, there are also many things that happen surrounding our basketball team that make me incensed with his work as our coach. Before the aforementioned e-mail, I was convinced that I deserved to try July 73 NCAA Tournament. Looking back over the past four years, I think we’re now lucky that Kyle McAlarney was around for most of a season as that was something the only way that sneaky team was able to gain valuable experience early in his career (the first time we can ever thank South Bend Police for anything).

The biggest problem that recurs for me with Coach Brey is how he is constantly making excuses for his teams underperforming something rather than take responsibility for the team underperform. He will go to events with students and say things like, “you can’t expect to win on the road in the Big East” and “our only goal is to get to New York” (as if that qualifies for the Big East Tournament). The excuses just don’t cut it for me.

Overall, however, all of the reasons that I loathe Coach Brey are outweighed by his defense, at least one underclassman has played a couple minutes in a game, and the close games have been turned in our favor. This has left us with a team that I believe in (probably too much if you saw my brackets) and a coach that I am once again loving for reasons both on and off the court.

That is, until something happens to make me hate him again.

Bob Kessler
The Observer

As I listen to your conversation while I sit in the basement of the library, I wonder why you think this is a good place to have a conversation about your trip to Panama City. Perhaps you have never been to a library before and do not know that they are not places for frivolity and conversation. Since we are all highly accomplished students, however, I doubt that this is true.

Perhaps it is because you want to draw attention to yourself. Perhaps you want to impress your study buddy. Maybe you’re trying (unsuccessfully) to hit on that study buddy. Maybe you just want everyone to know that you are as intelligent as the four empty bottles of Five Hour Energy with pity.

As a reader, you may be thinking to yourself, “why don’t you lay down the law and tell people to shut up instead of wasting valuable study time in order to write The Observer.” Well, just so you know, I’m that girl. If you’ve ever been to the basement of the library and struck up a conversation, then you know me. I’m the girl who marched up to your table and out-nicely pointed out to you that there are plenty of places to talk either on the first floor or in LaFollette. I’m the person who gets dirty looks from some (talkers) and girls who marched up to your table and not-so-nicely struck up a conversation, then you know me. I’m the person who says, I don’t care why you’re talking, buddy. Maybe you’re trying (unsuccessfully) to hit on your study buddy. Maybe you just want everyone to know that you are as intelligent as the four empty bottles of Five Hour Energy with pity.

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By JESS SHAFFER  Scene Writer

This Friday and Saturday Notre Dame students will be staging David Auburn’s play, “Proof.” The production is starring Julie Halloran, Chris Stare, Anthony Hopkins and Jake Gyllenhaal. After its Broadway success, it was adapted into a film in 2005, featuring Gwyneth Paltrow, Oscar winner Maria Bello and Larry Bryggmann. After its release, it won a Tony Award for best play and was selected for the Pulitzer Prize. The play tries to answer the question of the proof’s authorship. Did Catherine’s father, who had a profound mathematical proof, really own it? The typical theatrical reader will probably be carrying a trade paperback, which is not burdensome, heavy or susceptible to little bit of water. Even if they are carrying a mammoth “Harry Potter,” it is still one book, and the reader will probably be reading it continuously until the end, not switching back and forth between “Sorcerer’s Stone” and “Deathly Hallows” on a “Best of HP” chapter playlist.

Ostensibly, e-readers are like the Amazon Kindle and Sony Nook. They are like iPads for books. You load them up with digital goodies that you can use but aren’t supposed to share. It is an enormous, real-but-not-really-library of content that can go pretty much anywhere you can carry it. The imminent release of the Apple iPad, with its purported e-book capability, makes the comparison even more apt. So far, though, I’ve only used the Kindle. The Kindle seemed to combine many good things — no more paper, lots of books and immediate access to them. But e-readers have definite drawbacks. First of all, the Kindle, even before you start buying books, is pretty expensive. The first version, which I have, was $360. With the Kindle box in my lap, all I could think was, “Dear God, that is a lot of money.”

The Kindle’s “revolutionary” purpose is to make entire libraries of books easily accessible, the same way the iPod did for music. The iPod can condense days of songs into a device the size of a credit card. Before the iPod, you simply couldn’t carry around all your music anywhere. You needed a Sony Walkman (cassette tape or CD player) stereo, boom box or maybe a little radio — but those didn’t always make the music private, and people still had to bring several different records, tapes or CDs if they wanted to have a variety of music. The iPod and other digital music players make entire collections portable and easy to organize. The problem with the Kindle is that most books are already portable in the first place. Gone are the leather-bound tomes of past centuries, those unwieldy vinyl records of the book world. And because books — most of them, anyway — take more than four minutes to finish, it’s not as if the audience can really want or need 1,500 of them (the Kindle’s average capacity or “storage”) just in case.”

The problem with the current crop of e-readers is their embrace of access over ownership. You can read the books, you can make them travel with ease, but you can’t line them up on a shelf to display with pride (or smugness) and you especially can’t share them because they only exist in your access to their content, not as physical possessions. Buying books for the Kindle is a farce of shopping; you pay money for it, you use it but you don’t really have it.

This separation between content and physicality is annoying for someone who likes to flip through a book with ease, to write down notes in the margins with a pencil or to keep a mental picture of a particular passage in order to find it later just by moving to “about here” in the book’s pages.

Maybe later versions of the Kindle or other e-book readers will find a way to mimic the hands-on experience of book reading. But right now they are woefully inept in the ease-of-ownership. Pleasure reading may not need lots of pencil marks, but serious, close-reading for class often needs lots of annotation. Textbooks end up being annotated in code, with weird acronyms and zig-zagging lines and the occasional “I don’t plan to sell the book back to the bookstore, another thing to do with digital ‘property’.” The Kindle does offer ways to interact with the digital text, though. There’s a way to book-mark and search text that is connected to the wireless network, you can even highlight words and connect instant to an online dictionary. But when it comes to making that treasure map of clever phrases, obscure allusions or main ideas, the going is tough. You can make notes, but it involves scrolling through the page, highlighting a line, choosing “add comment” from the menu and then typing out the note on the tiny QWERTY keyboard. The notes are nice and neat, but they don’t come with a margin or footnotes or underlines.

Even though the content is all there, the experience is somehow diminished. No rustle of pages, no eye-catching cover art, no connecting to the book. The iPod doesn’t take away from the experience of recorded music. If anything, I think having that much music so easily available has made me appreciate the songs more, not less. But the e-book reader takes all of this out of the reading experience. The world on the page already forms in my imagination — but I think it’s one step too far to make it intangible, too.

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
IRISH INSIDER

Friday, March 19, 2010

THE OBSERVER

LAST CHANCE TO DANCE
**Irish focused on Vikings**

By JARED JEDICK  
Senior Staff Writer

The postseason is about to begin for the Irish women at Notre Dame, who earned a No. 2 seed in the NCAA Tournament and are set to take on No. 15 seed Cleveland State on their home turf in the Purcell Pavilion.

"We had a great season," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "But the second season starts now, and we want to have a great second season." The invitation marks the 17th time in school history that Notre Dame (27-5, 12-4 Big East) has been included in the NCAA tournament and is the team's 15th consecutive appearance. The Irish were upset by Minnesota in the first round last year, putting an early end to their tournament hopes.

"I think after last year, we're going to really concentrate on Cleveland State," McGraw said. "I don't think there's any question that this team knows what can happen." Hopefully we'll play a little better than we did last year if we can make the tournament and round, because Cleveland State is an incredible team too.

You know, you're good. And at this time of year, you've got nothing to lose, you just go out and play. The Irish have the advantage of playing in their house for the first two games of the tournament, an advantage lost on freshman guard Skylar Diggins.

"It is always good to have the crowd on your side, and this crowd is so electric," Diggins said. "They know that the crowd is on our side, so they are going to come out with all the chips on their shoulders." The Vikings (19-13, 11-7 Horizon) finished the regular season fourth in the Horizon League, but managed to put together a run in the conference tournament, defeating favored Butler 66-57 to earn the automatic bid. McGraw said that the Cleveland State might come in with a lot of momentum.

"You know, everyone's good. And at this time of year, you've got nothing to lose, you just go out and play." Muffet McGraw, Irish coach

"You know, everyone's good. And at this time of year, you've got nothing to lose, you just go out and play." Muffet McGraw, Irish coach

Three players named All-Region

By JARED JEDICK  
Senior Staff Writer

Freshman guard Skylar Diggins is one of three players named All-Region. Diggins and all-region guards Ashley Barlow and Lindsay Schrader, which were announced Tuesday by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, will all return to Notre Dame to become members of the 2010 State Farm Coaches' All-America Team.

"This is the first time in team history that three Notre Dame players have received this honor in the same year," McGraw said. "We have only fielded multiple selections three times in their history, and only ten different players have earned the honor." Diggins is one of just three freshman this year to earn the honor along with Delaware forward Elena Done and Baylor center Brittney Griner.

"[Diggins] is doing it all every single day, she has been incredibly consistent for a freshman," McGraw said. "She has really had a fantastic year and wants to get better."

Barlow said she is pleased that the entire team has put into the team working hard has finally paid off.

"I feel like people are noticing what I am doing. It is a big accomplishment for me," Barlow said. "I have been working really hard. I feel like I got rewarded this year. It is a really big honor." Senior guard Schrader has been McGraw's go-to player all year when she has needed a big shot, but Schrader is focused on just doing the little things every game that give her team a better shot at winning. "I was pretty shocked [about earning all-region honors]," Schrader said. "I always consider myself a really blue-collar kind of player. I am not going to score twenty points for you, but I will do all the little things that we need to do to rebound, set a good screen, do things like that for our little things for our Notre Dame is among just three teams in the country with three all-region selections. The other two are top-seeded squads Connecticut and Tennessee.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu

Freshman guard Skylar Diggins sends a behind-the-back pass to junior forward Natalie Novosel against Connecticut.

**Sports Writer**

Laurana Myers

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The Observer's coverage of the Irish women at Notre Dame

Laura Myers

**COMMENTARY**

South Bend takes on vital role of sixth man

A few weeks ago, a cookie cake at the Mishawaka Meijer caught my eye. It was situated on a shelf with the other generic decorated cakes that said “Happy Birthday,” or just contained a few flowers. This one, right in the middle of the display, was decorated with an orange-frosting basketball. In blue letters, it read:

“Go Irish women!”

I thought it was surprising to see that the bakery had thought of that particular message to sell a gigantic cookie. But it probably went quite unnoticed.

A few days ago, two stories in the South Bend Tribune caught my eye. Both were short staff reports containing nothing particularly interesting about South Bend’s women’s team. The stories were labeled as “Notre Dame basketball.”

A little searching found a recent story about the men’s team. It was titled “Native, said the community.” Bend native responsible in no way for the team. Many fans have followed the career for years.

“[Delaware] forward Elena... was even better native, said the community.”

Lechlitner, another area native, said the community had really been focusing on Cleveland State, where she has grown up. The stories were in the South Bend Tribune over the past week.

When she signed her letter of intent for Notre Dame, the stories were caught my eye. Both were about the Creates entertainment, and the stories were in the South Bend Tribune over the past week.

Friday, March 19, 2010 page 2
A ‘sense of urgency’
Leading Notre Dame’s attack, five seniors get their final crack at the NCAA Tournament

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Despite the buzz traditionally associated with March Madness, Notre Dame’s NCAA Tournament run last year could not have been more anticlimactic. There were confetti pouring from the ceiling, no unruly fans rushing the home court — just a first-round defeat at the hands of No. 10-seed Minnesota in front of a stunned home crowd.

While that scene never made the Irish postseason highlight film, the defeat has become ingrained in the memory of those on the court. "I don’t think it’s ever been fully behind us," senior guard Lindsay Schrader said. "It’s always been in the back of our minds because that’s where our motivation came from, that’s why we worked so hard this summer because of that and how we felt. We never want to feel like that again.

Yet with no seniors on the 2009 team, no tears of disappointment were shed. Watching the Sweet 16 bid be decided on their home court could have been a dehumanizing experience, but the desire to make a return was fueled that day.

"If I was a senior last year, I would have been very, very disappointed with the way we went out," Schrader said. "And good thing we didn’t have that feeling either because I would have felt bad for them. The year I just want to end my career on a win.”

To do that the Irish will have to make a run to San Antonio, the site of this year’s Final Four, as the No. 2 seed in the Kansas City Region. But unlike the team from a year ago, this year’s squad features five seniors not willing to finish their collegiate careers just yet.

"Last year we lacked that sense of urgency in terms of ‘This is our last game’ because we had no one graduating,” senior forward Erica Williamson said. “With five people who are saying ‘This is my last chance to wear a Notre Dame uniform,’ we’re going to go out and play to the best of our ability.

They are a unit of five seniors. Or maybe three guards, a forward, and a hybrid that can play any position on the floor. Or maybe two fierce competitors, two unselfish distributors, and a motivator that brings out the team’s best. Whatever classifications are thrown on this year’s graduating class, one unifying thread can be used to describe them all:

"First and foremost, I think all of us bring leadership, senior guard Ashley Barlow said. "We’ve been here four years, some of us even five. We just get along with each other, we know how to work well with each other.

Barlow’s leadership was put to the test in one of the toughest stretches of the season, a two-game road trip beginning with a matchup against Syracuse in the hostile Carrier Dome. Down by two with less than a minute to play, Barlow’s game-winning 3 after missing her previous four attempts.

"She’s got such a great personality, and obviously everyone sees what she does on the court," senior guard Melissa Lechlitner said. "She brings such a great energy to the team. That’s why I’m grabbing that huge rebound or making that key pass. Just the epitome of what a senior should do."

"This is our last game," Schrader said. "It’s our last chance saying ‘This is my last chance’ to wear a Notre Dame uniform,‘ to keep the memories five seniors not willing to finish their collegiate careers just yet. "I don’t think it’s ever been so meaningful to me of what a senior can do.‘"

Leading Notre Dame’s attack, five seniors get their final crack at the NCAA Tournament
When asked if she could have drawn a better bracket for her team, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said: “I would’ve put us in a bracket with all 15- and 16-seeds.”

That means no.

While the team will not look past its opening-round opponents, the two home games should be a breeze.

This year’s Irish have two things they didn’t have when they were shocked in the 2009 first round: an increased focus drawn from that early exit, and Skylar Diggins.

Combine those with a bracket whose other top teams are No.3-seed Oklahoma, which the Irish have beat, and No. 1-seed Nebraska, the best possible draw for the Irish, and the road to San Antonio looks pretty clear.

**The Irish may be pleased with this draw — if the two face each other in the Elite Eight, it will not be their first time. Notre Dame defeated Oklahoma 81-71 on a neutral floor on Nov. 28. However, the Sooners have had a strong season and could still present a challenge.**

The top-seeded Cornhuskers, who lost just one game this season and have tackled seven ranked teams, look to be the biggest challenge to the Irish; if both teams win throughout, they will meet in Kansas City to determine who moves on to the Final Four.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw said her team was just one of the 63 who were undoubtedly hoping not to be put into the same bracket as No. 1 Connecticut. Notre Dame, at least, got its wish and will not have to face the Huskies unless both squads make it to the title game in San Antonio.

Freshman guard Skylar Diggins said the two will meet, “If everything goes as planned.”

Laura Myers

**Prediction: Notre Dame loses to Stanford in semifinals**

Chris Masoud

**Prediction: Notre Dame loses to Stanford in semifinals**

Jared Jedick

**Prediction: Notre Dame loses to Connecticut in championship game**

Notre Dame’s fast-paced offense and aggressive style on defense will be too much to handle for its early-round opponents. Beginning with the statement win over Cleveland State, the Irish break in Purcell Pavilion’s postseason debut in style. Freshman phenom Skylar Diggins will give the home fans what they want to see, as she should have no trouble tearing up opposing defenses. Don’t be surprised if she averages over 20 points a game.

The highlight of the NCAA tournament comes in the Sweet 16, when the Irish beat Nebraska in a matchup of the top two seeds in the region. Nothing the Cornhuskers have seen in the Big 12 will prepare them for McGraw’s four-guard offense.

The Irish run ends in the Final Four. Notre Dame lacks depth in the post. An almost certain meeting with Stanford should exploit that weakness.

Notre Dame’s depth will help them easily roll past their early opponents, Cleveland State and likely Wisconsin, but once they meet a team that can match their bench, things will get a lot more difficult. It all comes down to how well freshman Skylar Diggins can play in her first ever NCAA tournament. If she turns it on and consistently produces 20 points a game the Irish could challenge to reach the championship game, where juggernaut Connecticut will await for a fourth time. If she cannot, it will be an early exit for Notre Dame.

I see a Skylar Diggins ready to take that next step and begin to build her legend. Expect Notre Dame to gain early momentum at home and carry that all the way to the championship game, topping Big 12 sweetheart Nebraska and powerful Stanford along the way. The championship game is another story.
Director Rick Famuyiwa’s “Our Family Wedding” advertises itself as an ensemble romance dramedy with a promising premise and strong cast. Unfortunately, the film does not find success due to an overabundance of main characters, clichés and contrived situations.

Newly engaged Lucia (America Ferrara) and Marcus (Lance Gross) must meet each other’s parents for the first time and tell them that they plan to get married, but this normally joyous occasion is complicated by the fact that Lucia is Mexican and Marcus is Black. Lucia’s grandmother is especially dismayed. Furthermore, Lucia’s father Miguel (Carlos Mencia) and Marcus’s father Brad (Forest Whitaker) already hate each other due to a prior run-in. The families take control of the wedding, making it all about them instead of their children’s love. The motto they make the kids reiterate is, “Our Marriage, Their Wedding.” And these characters do make everything about themselves. Lucia’s mother (Diana Maria Riva) wants to make it her dream wedding, while the egotistical men argue simply to argue.

The racial tensions are a bit over the top and continue throughout the film, quickly becoming annoying. Cross-cultural marriages can be difficult, but Carlos and Brad’s issues stem mostly from an encounter over a towed car. While this culture clash could have being interesting, it simply isn’t and you find yourself wishing they would realize that it is 2010 and move on. After all, the characters are inherently good people, they just come from different backgrounds.

Another fault of the film is that Lucia, Marcus, Miguel and Brad all have significant storylines that the film attempts to follow. Lucia dropped out of law school and is hiding that information from her father, causing tensions with Marcus, who wants her to tell the truth. Meanwhile, Miguel is having marital woes because he pays more attention to his rebuilt cars than to his wife. Divorce Brad is a ladies’ man with a best friend (Regina King) who is quietly in love with him. Each storyline could be worthy on its own but due to the length of the film, they cannot all be explored properly, leaving the audience with underdeveloped characters and a lack of empathy for the woes in their lives.

What little time the film had left was spent on silly gimmicks. An electronically controlled overflowing bathroom in one scene — not funny — plagues Miguel. The old men get drunk and are arrested for fighting — not funny. A wild goat (already ridiculous) wreaks havoc after consuming Viagra — definitely not funny. These scenes make the film stale, old and oddly familiar. “Our Family Wedding” seems to have cut scenes from other films of a similar vein and pieced them together. There is nothing fresh or original about this film, making it highly predictable.

The actors did their best with an average script. Ferrara is cute as a young woman trying to escape her role as daddy’s little girl. Plus, it is always nice to see her without her “Ugly Betty” braces. Gross, a relative newcomer, is charming and handsome as Marcus. The young couple, Ferrara and Gross are the best part of the film. They are sweet and endearing, leaving you to root for them to make it and survive their families’ wacky antics and incessant bickering.

Mencia, a great stand-up comedian, does a good job balancing a loving but pesky father. However, Forest Whitaker, an Oscar winner, is just awkward as a womanizer. Whitaker is an accomplished actor but he fails to be a convincing lothario. Also, his serious moments while discussing love and marriage with his son fail mostly due to poor writing. “Our Family Wedding” is watchable but not enjoyable. By the end of the film, you just wish Lucia and Marcus had eloped. Save yourself and don’t R.S.V.P. to this wedding.

Contact Caitlin Ferraro at cferrar1@nd.edu

By CAITLIN FERRARO
Assistant Scene Editor

“Directed By: Rick Famuyiwa
Writer: Wayne Conley, Malcolm Spellman, Rick Famuyiwa
Release Date: March 12, 2010
Starring: Carlos Mencia, Forest Whitaker, America Ferrera, Lance Gross, Regina King”
Murray State shocks Vanderbilt on final shot

Villa Nova survives overtime scare from Robert Morris; Brigham Young outlasts Florida; Saint Mary's upsets Richmond

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Murray State coach Billy Kennedy went to the bench with his gut and drew up a play his team had never run before, with Mike思 the go-to guy at the end.

The foul option Danero Thomas became the hero instead.

Thomas hit a 15-foot buzzer-beater to give Murray State stunned No. 4 seed Vanderbilt 66-65 on Thursday in an NCAA tournament game in the West Region.

"The shot was bigger than he could imagine," Murray State’s B.J. Jenkins said. "It wasn’t just a game-winning shot. We’ll remember this for the rest of our lives."

For B.J. Jenkins, Tuesday had been nothing but a string of bad breaks. The Mid-Major had been out of bounds off a Vanderbilt player on the other end, but the ball went out of bounds a first-round upset victim by Siena in 2008 when seeded fourth.

Murray State, the mid-major team that entered the NCAA tournament with a 19-12 record and an all-time NCAA tournament record, will play again Saturday at the San Jose Convention Center after Butler beat UP 77-59.

Jermal Beal made two free throws with 12.7 seconds left to give Vandy the lead. B.J. Jenkins missed his fourth foul with 7.1 seconds left but the other end, but the ball went out of bounds off a Vanderbilt player with 3.2 seconds left to give Murray State the final shot. When it went down, Murray State’s players sprinted to the other end of the floor and fell into each other’s arms, celebrating the team’s first NCAA victory.

Murray State’s Danero Thomas, right, releases the game-winning shot just before the buzzer sounded and 13th-seeded Murray State stunned No. 4 seed Vanderbilt 66-65 on Thursday in a NCAA tournament game, he couldn’t have known it would sound prophetic.

The BYU star told Parsons, the only Gators player to ever hit two true buzzer-beaters to clinch victories, to make no game-winning shots tonight.

"This was a long time in coming for our program, and it’s a big win against Vandy," Rose said, who was successful treated for pancreatic cancer last June. "One of the most important goals we had at the start of this season was to get into this tournament and advance, and we’re advancing. I’m proud of our guys."

Boytton railed the Gators in the second half with a series of four 3-pointers, the last one putting Florida up 75-70 with 2:36 left in regulation — their first lead of the second half.

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"This was a long time in coming for the team," Boytton said. "And I’ll die by his sword to the end."

Murray State’s Danero Thomas, right, releases the game-winning shot just before the final buzzer in an NCAA tournament game.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 920 South Dining Hall. Deadline: 3 p.m. Monday. The charge is 5 cents per character, including spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit classifieds for content without incurring a charge.

Murray State's Danero Thomas, right, releases the game-winning shot just before the final buzzer in an NCAA tournament game.

If you or someone you love needs help and you're not sure where to turn, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) or text 741741 to reply. It’s free, confidential, and available 24/7.

"Austin, you can come — but only if you're coming Tuesday."
Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington admitted Thursday to using marijuana and amphetamines as a player. A day earlier, Washington was found to have failed a drug test for cocaine just last year.

Washington admits to drug use as player

SURPRISE, Ariz. — A day after acknowledging he failed a drug test for cocaine last year, Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington admitted he used marijuana and amphetamines while he was a player.

“When you’re young you make mistakes,” Washington said Thursday. “I wish I could take back some of the mistakes I may have made, but I can’t.”

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said Washington would keep his job. He said the team was aware Washington used drugs.

“There’s a distinction between what people do in their youth vs. later in life,” he told a group of reporters, according to the Web site of Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

“I’m sure there are things in our past we’re not proud of. Ron could have avoided the question or lied and chose not to. I’m not going to punish him for being honest. That doesn’t excuse the behavior but that’s reality,” Daniels said.

Washington made his latest admission before Texas played against Milwaukee on a practice field.

On Wednesday, Washington said he tested positive for cocaine in a Major League Baseball test last July. He told Rangers management and MLB about the cocaine — he said he used it only once — before the test result and offered to resign. Texas president Nolan Ryan and team management allowed him to keep his job.

Washington did not detail how often he used marijuana and amphetamines, or describe what kind of amphetamines he took. The 57-year-old Washington played 10 seasons in the majors, mostly as an infielder for Minnesota in the 1980s — a decade when cocaine and amphetamine use in the majors was uncommon.

Washington said his mistakes from years ago have nothing to do with the issue he’s facing now.

“I made mistakes in my younger days,” he said. “I want to get past it, move forward and get back on the field and start winning.”

All-Star third baseman Michael Young said what Washington did as a player was a non-issue in his eyes. He said discussion about amphetamine use among players in the 1970s was a “slippery slope.”

“We’re hopeful this will bring us together, and we can rally around each other a little more,” Young said. “Asking about adiction, it’s a fair question. But it’s not relevant in this club house. We have a solid group of guys in here and they’re not going to judge somebody on a mistake and not on their worst moment.”

IN BRIEF

Ducks’ Wisienski suspended for 8 games

TORONTO — Anaheim Ducks defenseman James Wisniewski has been suspended for eight games without pay on Thursday for delivering a hit to the head area of Chicago Blackhawks defenseman Brent Seabrook.

The incident occurred at 2:22 of the second period during Wednesday night’s 4-2 win by Anaheim. Wisniewski was assessed a minor penalty for charging. Seabrook suffered an injury on the play.

Wisniewski, who was suspended two games on Oct. 31, 2009, is considered a repeat offender under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. He will forfeit $26,092.92 in salary.

“Mr. Wisniewski delivered a retaliatory hit to the head of an opponent who never had possession of the puck,” said Colin Campbell, NHL Senior Executive Vice President of Hockey Operations.

Running Back Bryce Brown to leave Tennessee

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee coach Derek Dooley says running back Bryce Brown has left the Volunteers’ program.

Dooley says Brown told him Thursday, the first day of the Vols’ spring practice, that he was leaving with personal and family problems. Brown was not present for practice.

The Wichita, Kan., native averaged 38.3 yards in 12 games as a freshman in 2009. Brown was one of the top recruits in the nation in 2009, and the NCAA investigated whether money was improperly raised for Brown to visit colleges while in high school. Neither Brown nor Tennessee, who was not recruiting him at the time, were punished.

Dooley says Brown will remain enrolled at Tennessee for the rest of the spring semester. He did not indic ate if he would then transfer.

Report: 49ers cutting ties with GM McCloughan

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers are cutting ties with general manager Scot McCloughan because of personal issues, according to several reports.

AOL Fanhouse reported Thursday that the move is based on a personal matter and is not related to team issues.

ESPN, citing anonymous sources, reported later Thursday that the 49ers are giving McCloughan an extended leave of absence and also referred to him dealing with personal issues. McCloughan told Fanhouse via text message, “I’m fine and moving forward.” The Fanhouse report said he would not elaborate.

If McCloughan departs, the timing is highly unusual for the 49ers’ top personnel executive since 2003. San Francisco has two picks in the first round of the draft, which is just five weeks away.
Baylor holds on for first Dance win since 1950

Bears get past pesky Sam Houston State; Butler uses explosive second half to play spoiler to UTEP's upset bid

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Baylor coach Scott Drew's postgame locker room chat with his team dragged on longer than usual before he emerged — behind schedule — to discuss as big a victory as many Bears fans can remember.

"Sorry I'm late. We haven't won a tournament game in a long time," Drew said. "I know there are happy players in there."

It had been six decades since Baylor last won an NCAA tournament game, but Ekpe Udoh did everything the Bears needed to stave off upset-minded Sam Houston State and end the drought.

Udoh had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Baylor dominated the last three minutes of a 68-59 victory Thursday in the first round of the South Regional.

"Oh, man, just joy in my heart, man," Udoh said. "But, whew, that was close. Sam Houston, that's a great team. ... It's tourney time. You've just got to be ready."

Udoh also had five assists, two blocks and two steals for the third-seeded Bears (26-7), who were dominating and had a 33-27 lead.

"Really, the game was pretty simple: Get the ball to Ekpe," Drew said. "He's got 20 and 13, 16 for (shooting), let him either create for somebody or let him score. When we did more and more of that, things got easier and easier."

LaceDarius Dunn scored 13 points for Baylor, 10 in the second half. His short, spinning fade and one-handed jam fueled a late 8-0 run that clinched it.

Gilberto Clavell had 23 points and Preston Brown added 13 for 14th seed Sam Houston State (25-8), which tied it at 55 on a short floater by Ashton Mitchell with 3:48 to go.

The game remained tied until Quincy Acy dunked with 2:30 left to spark Baylor's decisive surge and put the Bears ahead for good.

"We knew once Quincy got a dunk or did something crazy on the floor, it would all of us going," Dunn said. "He's got 20 and 13, 9 easier."

Baylor players said they were unfamiliar with the triangle-and-two — effectively man-to-man coverage on the guards and a zone inside — and had trouble adjusting.

"We were just shocked. We never faced nothing like that," Dunn said. "When we got out there and faced them we were like, 'Wow, what are we going to do?' So it just took us time to calm down."

Butler 77, UTEP 59

Shelvin Mack's second-half surge helped Butler to keep the nation's longest winning streak intact.

Mack hit a career-high seven 3-pointers and scored 18 of his 25 points after halftime Thursday, leading fifth-seeded Butler to a 77-59 victory over UTEP in the first round of the NCAA tournament's West Regional.

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PROVIDENCE, R.I. — How about a standing O for Ohio! The MAC champion Bobcats, who had a losing record in conference play, have found their way in March and now boast an NCAA tournament win for the first time in 27 years. Georgetown might want to skip the tourney next time it’s in Providence.

Armon Bassett scored 32 points to lead the 14th-seeded Bobcats to a convincing 97-83 win over the Hoyas in the Midwest Regional. In early March, no one expected Ohio (22-14) to be in this position. The team had just finished a 7-9 season in Mid-American Conference play and entered the conference tournament as the ninth seed. Four wins later, Ohio was in the 65-team field. Forty minutes later, the Bobcats are in the second round.

Coach John Groce wouldn’t call it the biggest win in team history. “I certainly think it’s one of them,” he said. “What it does more than anything is it gives belief in our guys in what we’re doing.”

Ohio seized the lead early on its 3-point shooting and never had a serious letdown the rest of the way. The Hoyas (23-11) made a small run in the second half that cut a 19-point lead down to seven. No worries. D.J. Cooper, who scored 23 points, nailed a 3 to the delight of all those green-clad fans who made the trip and cheered them on the whole way. The Bobcats cruised from there and now have won six straight games.

Ohio joined Murray State, which knocked off Vanderbilt 66-65 at the buzzer, as the two big upset winners Thursday.

“From time to time when the only people that believed in what we were doing and where we were going were the guys in the locker room and the administration,” Groce said.

Chris Wright led the third-seed Hoyas (23-11) with 28 points. Georgetown coach John Thompson III said a day earlier his team was playing their best basketball of the season. It certainly didn’t extend into the tournament opener.

The Hoyas looked sensational in winning the first three games of the Big East tournament, before losing to West Virginia in the championship, and appeared to have positioned themselves as a legitimate Final Four threat.

It wasn’t to be.

“We really thought we could make some noise in this tournament,” Georgetown guard Austin Freeman said. “We really didn’t imagine we would be one-and-done.”

The Hoyas had a rough time in Providence back in 1989, too, when they narrowly beat No. 16 seed Princeton 50-49. At least they won in ’89.

This time the Hoyas were flustered and frustrated throughout. When Greg Monroe was on his back after being whistled for an offense foul, he pounded the court in disbelief and anger.

Monroe had 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Hollis Thompson scored 16 points.

Bassett, the MAC tournament MVP, made it look easy. After a 3-pointer made it 39-26, he just turned toward the crowd with a shrug and smiled.

Ohio led by 12 at halftime and kept on rolling against the Big East power. Cooper picked Georgetown’s Jason Clark clean, sprinted toward the basket and tossed the ball backward high over his head where a streaking DeVaughn Washington slammed home the alley-oop in the play of the game. The Bobcats have something to show for a turbulent season. They opened conference play with four straight losses, lost one player for the season with a broken hand and Washington was suspended five games for team violations. Groce even kicked a player off the team.

“Tm excited for our guys with everything they’ve been through,” Groce said.
Saint Mary’s ready for doubleheader

By KEVIN BALDWIN
Sports Writer

After splitting a doubleheader with Goshen Tuesday, the Belles are ready for another doubleheader Saturday at Manchester College.

Saint Mary’s started the day with a decisive 4-2 victory, but could not repeat their success in the second game, which the Maple Leafs won 5-3.

In the first game, the Belles came back from a 2-1 deficit. Saint Mary’s bats came to life in the fifth inning when they scored two runs to take the lead after a series of clutch base hits. With the support of the defense, including a solid performance on the mound by sophomore Monica Palicki, the Belles were able to hold off Goshen for the win.

Palicki pitched the entire game, closing with seven strike outs, one walk and not giving up any earned runs in her fourth win of the season. Seniors Maureen Healy and Sara Montelongo and sophomore Kristen Nelson each went 2-3 in the game. Healy had a pair of hits while Montelongo had a RBI and a run.

Despite a good offensive effort from the Belles in the second game, the team was unable to produce at the plate and many times left runners stranded at the end of an inning.

The second game saw the Belles unable to keep up with the Goshen scoring drive after scoring three runs in the bottom of the fifth. But Belles coach Erin Sullivan was happy with her team’s overall performance.

“Our pitchers both had good days,” she said. “I was very happy with Kristen Nelson. She has been really hot at the plate lately and continued to help make things happen for our team on offense. Maureen Healy and Sara Montelongo came up with some key hits for us as well.”

Healy was responsible for batting in the two winning runs in the fifth inning of the first game while Nelson batted in Montelongo in the seventh inning to seal the win.

“The hitters were thinking too much at the plate. Goshen’s pitcher wasn’t throwing exceptionally well, but she kept our hitters guessing. We also let the umpire’s liberal strike zone affect us in a negative way. It took too long for the team to start hitting in the second game,” Sullivan said.

This week, the team has sharpened their game in preparation for Manchester. Sullivan said she sees it as a prime opportunity for the Belles to continue the improvement they have shown throughout the season.

“I think we have more confidence, but we’re still trying to find ourselves,” Sullivan said. “What’s great about that though is we haven’t peaked yet, so I’m hoping we will peak near the end of the season when we need it most.”

The Belles will travel to North Manchester, Ind., to take on the Spartans in a doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Contact Kevin Baldwin at kbaldwi2@nd.edu

Belles team eager to take revenge Saturday

By JOHN HELMS
Sports Writer

After a successful 4-1 trip over Spring Break, the Belles will take to the court again Saturday, traveling across the state to take on Indiana Wesleyan.

Saint Mary’s (6-2) is looking to average last year’s loss to the Wildcats. “It can be slightly intimidating playing a team that has beat us previously, but I think everyone feels very confident that we have improved immensely since last year,” top singles player Jillian Hurley said. “I think if everyone can go into their matches with a positive attitude and a strong drive to win then who beat whom last year won’t matter.”

Belles coach Dave Campbell said his team will come out with a chip on its shoulder, using the loss from last year as motivation.

“We need to use that as motivation and expect to play our best against them,” he said.

The team will also look to build on the momentum from Spring Break. “The team traveled to Orlando, Fla., and performed at a high level throughout the trip. The Belles defeated Wartburg, 8-1; St. Francis, 9-0; Ursinus, 9-0 and Carthage 5-4. Even their one loss was close, falling 5-4 to a different Wesleyan.”

“I think overall the team is feeling good about our wins over Spring Break. Winning the majority of our matches definitely boosted our confidence going into our regular season,” Hurley said. “The momentum is definitely going to carry over as we head towards our match this Saturday.”

Now the team will look to take their progress a step further.

“I think we go into every match expecting to succeed, and this match is no different. However, because we did so well over Spring Break, our expectations to do well in this match are even higher,” she said.

The Belles play on the court has been helped by their bonding off the court. Thanks in large part to the Orlando trip, the girls are gelling as a team at the right time.

Their play and team chemistry on the court is noticeably improving as a result.

“I think as a team we are not only improving on the court, but also off of the court. Our team really bonded over Spring Break, which has affected our overall team spirit and drive to succeed,” Hurley said.

Saint Mary’s will face Indiana Wesleyan in Marion, Ind., Saturday in an 11 a.m. match.

Contact John Helms at jhelmsm2@nd.edu

Recycle The Observer.
Irish have multi-hit effort

By MEAGHAN VESELIK

Sports Writer

The Irish hit their way to an easy 13-4 win over Western Michigan Thursday as sophomore Kristina Wright came on fire tonight.

Seven of Notre Dame’s runs came in the fourth inning of the six-inning contest. The Broncos (8-5) trailed the Irish 11-0 going into the bottom of the fourth but got one run in that inning, adding three more in the fifth. Western Michigan’s Gracie Barstad and Kayla Valdivia each had two RBI.

Junior Jody Valdivia (13-2) kept the strikeouts coming with 11 and giving up only one earned run on three hits in 5 2/3 innings. She had a much better day than the three Western Michigan pitchers, none of whom gave up fewer than two earned runs. The Broncos Meredith Whitney (2-4) gave up seven earned runs and seven hits in three innings.

Ganeff felt that the Irish went into the contest with a positive mindset that definitely helped in gaining their fourth straight win.

“I think we came out there with a great mentality.”

Kris Ganeff

Irish coach

“We had two RBIs and was one of four Irish players to score twice.”

“Each of the hitters did what we needed them to do.”

Kris Ganeff

Irish coach

“I think we came out there with a great mentality.”

ND WOMEN’S TENNIS

Notre Dame looking to rebound outdoors

By CHRIS ALLEN

Sports Writer

The No.4 Irish look to rebound as they start their state-side outdoor schedule at No.17 Vanderbilt after losing to No.7 Duke on outdoor courts in Puerto Rico over Spring Break.

Vanderbilt (7-4) is coming off a loss to Georgia at home March 14. Irish coach Jay Louderback said he believes Vanderbilt will challenge his squad as they adjust to the outdoor schedule.

“They lost to Georgia, but they also beat a ranked team in Tennessee.”

Louderback said. “With them, you’re talking about a team that’s coming off a bunch of close matches that they lost. They’re always a top-20 team that plays well and more importantly plays well outside.”

The Irish (12-2) split two games in Puerto Rico over the break, defeating William and Mary 5-2 and losing to Duke by the same score.

After playing their entire slate and the match against the Commodores at the Brownlee O. Curry Tennis Center in Nashville today at 2:30 p.m.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu
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Terriers continued from page 24

In their wins, the Terriers have averaged nearly 12 goals per game, but in their two losses they have scored only slightly more than five. If the Irish maintain strong defensive performances the way they have so far this season, the goals will come on offense and a victory should follow.

The Irish have continually gotten contributions from sophomore attack Maggie Tamasitis, junior midfield Shaylyn Blaney and senior attack Gina Scioscia, but Coyne will need more diversity than those three in the scoring department.

In what should be a high scoring affair, the Irish will face off against Boston University Saturday at 12 p.m. at Nickerson Stadium in Boston.

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

BASEBALL

Irish ready for home opener

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

The Irish are set to host their season home opener this weekend when they meet Michigan State for three games over two days in Eck Stadium. Saturday features an early afternoon double-header followed by the rubber match on Sunday.

“They are a very well-coached team, that is first and foremost,” Irish coach Dave Schrage said. “I think that they are probably the most improved team in the Big Ten this year, and they really have a chance to challenge Ohio State for the Big Ten title.”

Schrage said that his team is enjoying the warmer weather and getting some good practices in, and the matchup against the Spartans 9-4, 0-0 (Big Ten) gives the Irish an advantage that he appreciates.

“Yes, it is always good to play at home,” Schrage said. “I think we have always had a nice record there at home. It just feels more normal to you, and the surroundings are familiar. You always play more relaxed and a little bit better. So we are excited to get our home season underway.”

The Irish (7-8) will need that good practices the way they have so far this season, the goals will come on offense and a victory should follow.

The Irish have continually gotten contributions from sophomore attack Maggie Tamasitis, junior midfield Shaylyn Blaney and senior attack Gina Scioscia, but Coyne will need more diversity than those three in the scoring department.

In what should be a high scoring affair, the Irish will face off against Boston University Saturday at 12 p.m. at Nickerson Stadium in Boston.

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Monarchs continued from page 24

gave the Monarchs their final lead, 48-46, with 1.27 remaining. Harangody missed a jump shot on Notre Dame's ensuing possession, and Lee made 1-of-2 from the line on Old Dominion's next possession to extend the lead to three with 5.6 seconds to play.

Harangody's first basket, a putback off an offensive rebound, cut the Irish deficit to one with 12 seconds remaining. Monarchs forward Keyon Carter made a pair of free throws with nine seconds to play and, after a Notre Dame timeout, Scott barely missed a 3 from the baseline that would have tied the game. Earlier, with 1:49 remaining, Scott answered a Darius James 3-pointer to tie the game, 46-46, and break a six-minute scoring drought for the Irish.

"These guys made a lot of clutch 3s," Carter said. "So I thought it was going to be another scenario. I was kind of thinking overtime, but gracefully it rimmed out. Little help from above, I guess. Divine intervention a little bit."

After Scott's jumper from the free-throw line put Notre Dame up 39-32 nine seconds into the second half, the Irish were held scoreless for more than six minutes, as the Monarchs rattled off a 9-0 run to take the lead, 39-31, three seconds early in the first half. A layup by Scott put the Irish back up one with 1:36 to play, and neither team led by more than four points the rest of the way.

"I think it reflects the magic of March, the way the two teams battled," Monarchs coach Blaine Taylor said. "One of the officials told me to the two-minute mark and said, 'It's been a heck of a game,' and I really think it was." Senior guard Ben Hansbrough, who will return for a fifth year, led the Monarchs with 16 points and 10 rebounds and was Notre Dame's lone scoring threat near the basket, as Harangody was held to four points — all in the final 12 seconds.

"He got the two fouls and I thought he could never really get into a flow," Brey said of Harangody. "Also, when you're playing against zone for long periods of time, it probably a little harder to establish him, you know, offensively.

The Monarchs led 6-5 the minutes into the game, but the Irish used a 10-0 run over the next five minutes to open a 15-6 lead. Old Dominion quickly responded with a 7-0 run of its own to cut the deficit to 15-13, but a 3 by Scott, a three-point play from junior forward Tim Amobi and a transition layup by Hansbrough sparked another 8-2 spurt for the Irish, who then led 23-15. Keyon Carter made Old Dominion's first 3 of the game with 18 seconds to play in the half to cut the Notre Dame lead to 26-22, and an Abromaitis jumper closed the half with the Irish up 26-22.

Notre Dame outshot and out-rebounded the Monarchs in the first half. Old Dominion was 10-29 (34.4 percent) from the field and 1-for-8 (12.5 percent) from 3-point range in the first half. The Irish held a 21-14 rebounding edge at halftime while shooting 11-for-27 (40.7 percent) from the field and 4-for-14 (28.6 percent) from three-point range in the opening half.

But in the second half, the Monarchs heated up while the Irish cooled down. Old Dominion made 52.6 percent of its field goals in the second half and knocked down 4-of-10 (30 percent) attempts. Notre Dame shot 31.3 percent from the field and made only 2-of-12 3-pointers in the second half.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu
The Observer apologizes for the absence of T.I.N.D. The comic will return Monday.
Irish fall one point short in first round

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — A pair of six-minute scoreless droughts in the second half doomed No. 6 Notre Dame as the Irish fell to No. 11 Old Dominion, 51-50, in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Thursday.

The Irish (23-12) made just 6-of-20 3-point attempts, including 2-of-12 in the second half. Junior forward Carleton Scott’s game-tying 3-point attempt rimmed out in the final seconds, and senior forward Luke Harangody’s put-back at the buzzer left the Irish a point short of Old Dominion.

“It just sounds so simple, but we had some really clean looks. You’ve got to make some shots,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “We’d been a good shooting team. It’s not like I’m saying something the percentages say we can’t do or haven’t done.”

A jumper by center Gerald Lee with the ball in the hands of Notre Dame has:

Brey’s offense not able to burn fast enough

NEW ORLEANS — Notre Dame’s slow-burn offense burned just a touch too slow.

The strategy works, especially with the personnel Notre Dame has: good ball-handlers who can pass and create threats. It spreads out opposing defenses, opens drive lanes and with the ball in the hands of Notre Dame’s guards, who can find the open shooter, it creates good shots.

The strategy works — but when it doesn’t, it can’t be the only option.

Senior guard Tory Jackson walks off the court upset after Notre Dame’s 51-50 loss to Old Dominion in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Thursday.

Team looks for another win

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Editor

The Irish opened Arlotta Stadium in style Tuesday with a 14-7 win over Denver and they now look to continue this success in their new home Saturday against Ohio State.

No. 9 Notre Dame (4-2) visited the Buckeyes last year at The Horseshoe on the day of Ohio State’s spring football game. In front of the largest attendance in NCAA lacrosse history, the Irish captured a 14-8 win behind junior midfielder Zach Brenneman’s four goals.

After Brenneman scored three in Tuesday’s victory, Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said the team needs to keep playing as it has been.

“We’re looking to continue to improve, and play smart against a team that is always very athletic and very crafty with the ball,” Corrigan said.

In the victory over Denver, senior midfielder Grant Krebs and sophomore attack Sean Rogers also tallied hat tricks.

CORRIGAN, Kevin / The Observer

Irish players celebrate Tuesday’s 14-7 win over Denver to open the home season at Arlotta Stadium.

Irish players celebrate Tuesday’s 14-7 win over Denver to open the home season at Arlotta Stadium.

Corrigan said the offensive outburst was a team accomplishment.

“The fact that you had three guys do it means it was more about the team than it was about the individual. When your team is playing good offense and creating opportunities, than a lot of people have opportunities to contribute,” he said. “That means you’re moving the ball, moving people around."

Although the matchup is a nonconference, non- regional game, showdowns with nationally-ranked opponents such as the Terriers are crucial not only for seeding teams come NCAA Tournament time but also for building steam leading into conference play.

“This game is an opportunity to prove to ourselves what we can accomplish this season,” Coyne said. “It’s going to be an exciting matchup."

The Irish will need to improve upon areas that have caused them trouble the last two games in order to beat the Terriers. Coyne said she was slightly disappointed with the play of the attack during the games against Dartmouth and Harvard.

“[Boston] is a solid team all around,” Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. “I expect and tough and physical game.”

Although the matchup is a

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For Podcasts, photos and a running blog live from NEW ORLEANS, and PURCELL PAVILION, check out The Observer Sports Page at ndsmobserver.com/sports