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Community pays tribute to Malloy

Leaders and children show their gratitude

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

The personal side of the highest-ranking Notre Dame administrator — including his self-admitted “tendency to cry at chick flicks,” his taste for Denny’s food and his recent confusion over the sex of the baby he was baptizing — was revealed Thursday night as the Michiana area recognized outgoing University President Father Edward “Monk” Malloy. Malloy was honored for a number of roles, but most of all for being a good neighbor to the surrounding community.

“Michiana salutes Monk,” held at the Century Center in downtown South Bend, began with a dinner — during which four toasts were offered to Malloy — and ended with a program featuring a video presentation as well as talks by former Indiana governor Joseph Kernan and Malloy himself.

Malloy steps down as president June 30.

Mark Eagan, president of the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce, toasted Malloy first Thursday on behalf of the business community. Eagan empha-

sized the important role that Notre Dame plays in local commerce, noting the expenditures of its students, faculty and visitors. According to Eagan, Malloy has played a big part in the relationship between the community and the University.

“His legacy to the business community ... [will be] his personal commitment to extending the University out to the community, and the community to the University,” Eagan said. “I extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to him.”

Next, local youths from the South Bend Center for the Homeless, the Robinson Community Learning Center and the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County — the three charities that benefited from the event, at Malloy’s request — toasted Malloy on behalf of the not-for-profit community. Saying that Malloy’s “community and contribution would be too hard to measure or list here tonight,” they offered a creative poem for him.

Malloy “always went the extra mile,” the poem read. “Even God’s finest get weary helping others along the way ... our prayer for you, Father Malloy, is God’s ever-refreshing touch.”

Three priests representing the Indiana Province of the Priests of the Holy Cross then

see MALLOY/page 4



University President Father Edward Malloy speaks with South Bend residents at “Michiana Salutes Monk,” an event held in his honor at the Century Center Thursday evening.

RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Students head to NYC for Big East

Loyal fans follow teams to tournament

By PETER LEAHY
News Writer

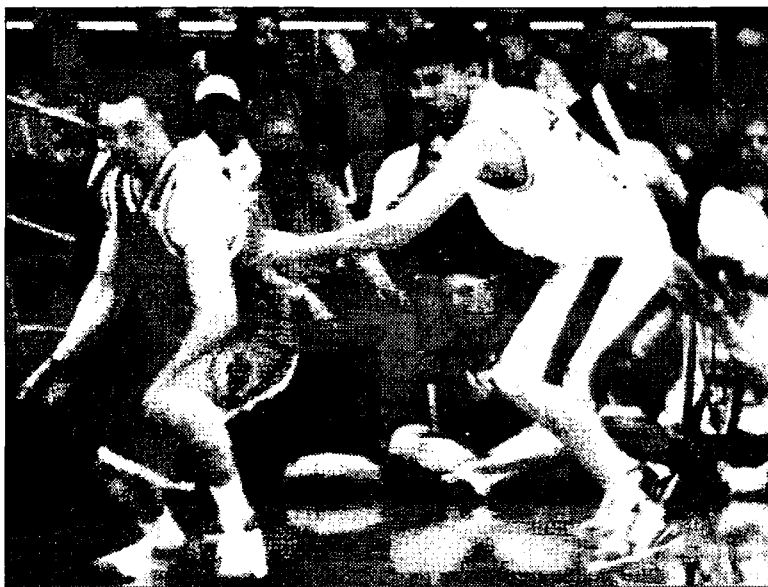
As spring break looms closer and closer, many students are looking forward to a period of rest and relaxation. This is far from true for members of the Notre Dame men’s and women’s basketball teams, who will find high levels of stress and excitement while the rest of students enjoy a much needed off season.

The reason? Both teams are headed to the Big East Tournament, and students are on their heels to watch the action.

The tournament is played in Madison Square Garden for the men and in the Hartford Civic Center for the women. The women’s tournament will run from Saturday, March 5 to Tuesday, March 8. The men’s tournament will start on Wednesday, March 9 and end on Saturday, March 12.

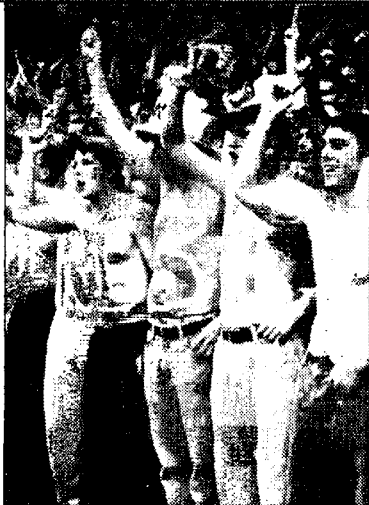
Anthony Travel vice presi-

see NYC/page 4



Above, Chris Quinn guards a Syracuse player. At right, fans cheer on the Irish at the Joyce Center.

♦
PHOTOS BY
RICHARD
FRIEDMAN



ND, SMC eager for vacation from classes

Break plans vary from service to sunbathing

By JEN ROWLING
News Writer

With spring break just a few classes away, students are planning to drop their books and head to exotic vacation spots, service trips, athletic events or even home.

Senior David Purcell scheduled the typical college spring break with fun in the sun. He and his friends are leaving the snow and traveling to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

“I’ve never been out of the country,” Purcell said. “So, I’m really excited to get out of South Bend and into some warm weather.”

Sophomore Greg Stewart will also spend his spring break in warm weather. Stewart is headed to Florida with his father and brother. He expects to spend most of his time golfing in Naples and West Palm.

“I’ve been counting the days for a few weeks now,” Stewart said. “Everyone needs a break from South Bend.”

Students’ planned spring

break adventures do not end in North America. Many students made travel plans to Europe, including junior Daniel Klauer, who said he will be traveling to Italy to visit a friend overseas.

“I am off to my motherland for break,” he said.

Junior Tim Moore and senior Ryan Mineburg also will be traveling abroad. Moore, who said he was never interested in traveling to the South, also said he is excited to go to London during break. He has traveled to Europe before and said he is excited to return without commitments to “soak up the culture.”

Mineburg also will be sightseeing in London to enrich his mind while not in class by visiting historic sites.

“I really love castles,” he said. “I am going to see every one in the area.”

While many students will be traveling and relaxing, others have sacrificed their spring breaks to help the community. Over 150 students plan to par-

see BREAK/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

What type are you?

I am away from the computer right now. Unambiguous, straightforward and direct.

This was America Online's intent when creating the now-turned phenomenon of the away message.

Katie Perry

*News
Production
Editor*

What was originally invented to serve the simple function of indicating when an AIM user was not physically at his or her computer has evolved into avenue of idiosyncratic expression, an instant indicator of personality and "type."

Consider for example, the I-am-far-too-busy-and-important-to-put-up-an-away-message AIM user.

Seeking to demonstrate their lazy or preoccupied state of being, these users will "fade away" for tediously long amounts of time. But while they hide behind their "too cool for the computer" façade, we all know they are secretly in their dorm rooms, carefully evading the mental force field that prevents them from touching their mouse and/or keyboard. For days the standoff continues until a breaking point is reached. Furiously, they work down their buddy lists, checking away message after away message, profile after profile, before propagating the cycle and drifting off into a world of light grey once again.

And let's not forget the compulsive away message changer. Movie quotes, inside jokes, song lyrics — these are all fair game for this fanatical user. Living their lives in profound irony, these users waste hours at the computer relaying to people why they are not at the computer. Feeding the greatest fantasies of his necessary counterpart, the compulsive away message checker, the compulsive away message changer is a prolific artist, and the "create new away message" pop-up box is his never-ending canvas. Tragically, however, his works are ephemeral and quickly lost in the endless abyss of a buddy list.

Finally, the most inventive of all users are those who pride themselves in the unambiguous-but-still-ambiguous away messages. Clearly there is a motivation behind their hazy words, yet when confronted they will always take the path of denial. Through their sappy lyrics, commanding quotations and revealing emoticons, these users suffer from an inability to communicate by normal means, leaving their audience to guess, "Was that about me?" Of course the answer to this question is always the same. Yes, yes it was.

So the next time you put up an away message, think long and hard and ask yourself: is this the type of person I want to be? The choice is yours.

I am away from this column right now.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHERE ARE YOU GOING FOR SPRING BREAK?



Chris Weinacht
*freshman
Carroll*

"Going home to good ol' Delaware."



Niko Diacou
*junior
St. Edward's*

"Going to see my cuz Zoe in the great state of Oregon."



Anna Rodriguez
*sophomore
Pasquerilla East*

"Arizona."



David Abram
*senior
Morrissey*

"Headed home to see my honey."



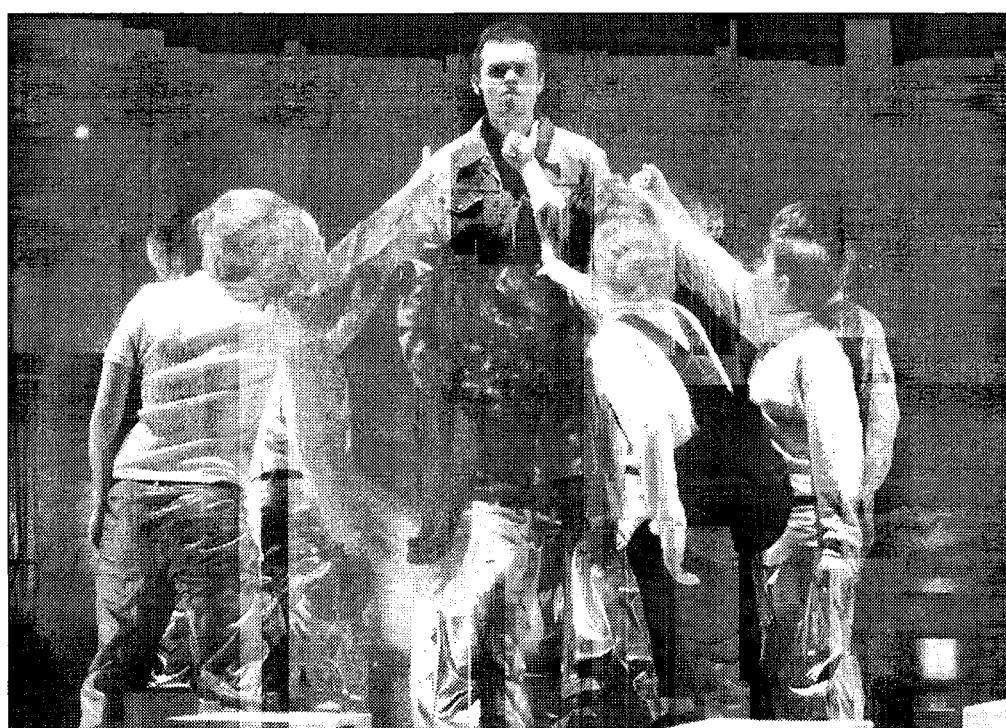
Mario Chiu de la Fuente
*sophomore
O'Neill*

"Cabo San Lucas, 'nuff said."



Scott Deeney
*freshman
Keough*

"I'm going to save starving Cuban refugees."



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

The cast members of "The Laramie Project" pose as reporters before a court trial scene. The play, by Moises Kaufman, focuses on the aftermath of the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard. Thursday evening marked the play's final performance at Notre Dame.

IN BRIEF

Frank Connolly, professor of mathematics, will be featured in the workshop "How to Prepare Undergraduates for Graduate Work and Graduate Fellowship Competitions" today from 3:30 p.m. to 5 in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune. The event is open to all Notre Dame faculty.

The men's and women's track teams will compete in the Alex Wilson invitational from 7 p.m. to 9:30 in the Loftus Sports Center today. The meet will continue Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The South Bend Chamber Singers will present a "Choral Chorles" concert Sunday in O'Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary's. The doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert will begin at 7:30. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students and are available through the Saint Mary's box office.

Saint Mary's will host the WNIT Art Auction Wednesday, March 9 in the Noble Family Dining Hall. A preview of the art begins at 5:30 p.m., and the auction will kick off at 7.

The 2004 Academy Award-winning film "Sideways" will be shown Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m. and 10 in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center's Browning Cinema. The film will also be shown Friday March 11 and Saturday March 12 at 7 p.m. and 10.

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

OFFBEAT

Gigantic lobster dies

PITTSBURGH — A gigantic lobster that may have survived two world wars and Prohibition before being plucked from the ocean will live on — but only as a shell of its former self.

The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, where the 22-pound lobster named Bubba died Wednesday, plans to keep the carapace of the corpulent crustacean and use its remains to educate school children about lobsters, said Rachel Capp, a zoo spokeswoman.

Some of Bubba's meat will be sent to labs for testing as officials try to determine why

Bubba died, Capp said.

Bubba spent a week at Wholey's fish market after he was pulled from the waters off Nantucket, Mass. He died a day after he was moved from the fish market to a quarantine area at the zoo's aquarium, where he was being checked to see if he was healthy enough to make a trip to an aquarium at a Ripley's Believe It or Not museum.

Cat survives 10-mile trip atop car

INKOM, Idaho — Torri Hutchinson's cat might just have one less life to live. Hutchison was driving along

Interstate 15 one day recently when a motorist kept trying to get her attention and pointing to the roof of her car.

The man pulled up behind her. Hutchinson rolled down her window to hear the man frantically shouting, "Your cat! Your cat!"

He reached for the roof of her car and handed the shocked Hutchinson her orange tabby.

She had driven about 10 miles with the cat on top of the car, and didn't even notice the feline when she stopped for gas.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 38 LOW 29	HIGH 29 LOW 18	HIGH 38 LOW 28	HIGH 44 LOW 31	HIGH 42 LOW 24	HIGH 35 LOW 22

Atlanta 60 / 44 Boston 35 / 24 Chicago 40 / 30 Denver 56 / 30 Houston 36 / 26 Los Angeles 66 / 52 Minneapolis 38 / 24 New York 38 / 30 Philadelphia 40 / 28 Phoenix 73 / 54 Seattle 56 / 40 St. Louis 58 / 38 Tampa 68 / 52 Washington 44 / 32

Author, therapist tells students how to get 'unstuck'

Kasl shares 7 steps for self-enlightenment

By LYNN SIKORA and LISA GALLAGHER
News Writers

Saint Mary's welcomed award-winning author and nationally-recognized therapist Charlotte Kasl to Carroll Auditorium Thursday evening for a lecture on her latest book — "If the Buddha Got Stuck: A Handbook for Change on a Spiritual Path."

Kasl has written other works involving Buddhism, including "If the Buddha Married: Creating Enduring Relationships on a Spiritual Path" and "If the Buddha Dated: A Handbook for Finding Love on a Spiritual Path."

"The Buddha can apply to anyone regardless of religion or culture — it is an attempt to reach truths to prevent suffering," she said.

Kasl's visit was sponsored by the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL), which became familiar with Kasl through her extensive work with the YWCA. She is responsible for redesigning the YWCA's Chemical Dependency Program, a 12-step model for overcoming addiction.

Kasl's model, with 16 steps, focuses on empowerment for women.

Kasl said her book centers

on getting "unstuck" by making better connections with other people through understanding. She implemented Zen and Buddhist ideas in her lecture and read several excerpts from her new book.

The book suggests seven steps for getting "unstuck" — notice where you are stuck, show up, pay attention, live in reality, connect with others, move from thought to action and let go.

"The real purpose of life is to be alive and accept every part of life — the scuzzy and the sweet," Kasl said.

Kasl encouraged the audience to move past stereotypes and images of the self, and to find out who they really are by returning to a stage before thoughts.

"It is better to do something and fall on your face than not to do it," she said. "Call a neighbor. Pick up the guitar in the back of your closet. New learning makes you uncomfortable, but it gets better with practice."

According to Kasl, the unwillingness to be miserable for too long is what separates the "unstuck" from the "stuck." Finding a positive outlook and looking at everything from a wider perspective takes a confidence the "unstuck" possess, she said.

Kasl stressed the importance of taking action and showing up. Trying new things sparks bodily energy which should be paid atten-



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Author and therapist Charlotte Kasl speaks in Carroll Auditorium Thursday evening. Kasl is best known for her redesign of the 12-step addiction program, changing it to focus on empowering women.

"It is better to do something and fall on your face than not to do it."

Charlotte Kasl
author, therapist

tion to, she said.

"Show up — now. It's the only time to do it," she said. "It doesn't get easier tomorrow."

Kasl also advised the audience to "get out of the box" and to "listen to your truth."

"Without sounding like a Nike ad

— just do it. Just go for it, fear and all," she said.

According to CWIL director of community connections Bonnie Bazata, Kasl is an

important local connection.

"It is through the underlying values of social justice and the healing of the whole person that you can see the link between her work as a therapist and her life as a spiritual seeker," Bazata said.

Charlotte Kasl
author, therapist

A portion of the book's proceeds will go toward the YWCA of St. Joseph County, which has recently redesigned their chemical

dependency program using Kasl's model and other holistic approaches. Kasl said she is passionate about raising funds for women's help.

"The only way to appreciate your privileges is to pass it on," she said. "...it is important to get unstuck in communities because they provide a safety net. If we let go of the separateness we can find unity."

Contact Lynn Sikora at siko0495@saintmarys.edu and Lisa Gallagher at lgalla01@saintmarys.edu

Students learn, serve in seminars over break

Special to the Observer

More than 220 Notre Dame students will spend their spring break in impoverished areas of Appalachia, alongside migrant workers in Florida tomato fields and in the California desert, speaking with social activists and policymakers in New York and Washington and as guests of developmentally disabled people in Canada.

The students are enrolled in the Spring Break Seminars, one-credit courses administered by the faculty and staff of Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns in cooperation with other academic departments of the University and often with assistance from Notre Dame Alumni Association as well.

Before their departure from Notre Dame's campus Saturday

and Sunday, participating students will have attended orientation classes and read Catholic social teachings relevant to the sites and communities they will visit.

The largest of the seminars, on Appalachia, will send 156 students to 15 sites in the region. In addition to assisting in various community service projects, the students will work and recreate with local residents and discuss with them such matters as environmental problems, education and the region's economy.

The Migrant Seminar will send 12 students to Immokalee, Fla., to examine social issues affecting migrant workers in the area. The students will work in the fields with migrant workers, live with migrant families, and hear from a variety of agency and political leaders.

**disability
awareness**

Notre Dame Disability Awareness Month

March 2005

Tuesday, 3/15

Sujeet Desai will be playing the violin, clarinet and piano. He graduated from the Berkshire Music Academy and was born with Down syndrome.

7p.m. Washington Hall, Free Admission

Saturday, 3/19

Come to the Best Buddies Friendship Games and interact with children and adults with special needs. 12 noon-2p.m. Logan Center Gym

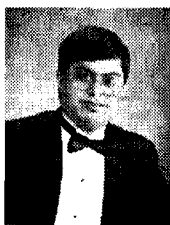
Monday, 3/21

Head Football Coach Charlie Weis, 9p.m. DeBartolo 102
Coach Weis will be speaking about disability awareness.

Tuesday, 3/29

Students with Disabilities Discussion, 8p.m. Legends

www.nd.edu/~bbuddies



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Malloy

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offered a tribute via video, including University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh called Malloy a "man of high intelligence ... not given to shows of power or pride."

"He's accomplished many good things in a modest, intelligent and at times even self-effacing way," Hesburgh said. "I'd like to offer a word of thanks [to him] for guiding this University with distinction over the years and through many crises."

The fourth and final dinner toast, representing the city and county governments from Michiana, came from South Bend Mayor Stephen Leucke. He began by recalling a lunch he shared with Malloy at the Morris Inn, where Malloy explained some of his vision for the future of University-South Bend community relations. Leucke said he was reminded of an Eleanor Roosevelt quote: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

"The community has benefited from your dreams, Father Malloy," he said.

Following dinner, a video was shown detailing the life of Malloy

and his impact on the University and surrounding community.

Malloy grew up in Washington, D.C., where a childhood friend nicknamed him "Monk." Although his family was not wealthy, he was able to attend Notre Dame because of his basketball skills. After graduating in 1963, Malloy was ordained a priest in 1970, began teaching at Notre Dame and was elected president in 1986. The various speakers in the video credited Malloy for his many improvements to the University, his humility and his ability to handle crises like Sept. 11.

Kernan then took the podium and delivered a keynote address, focusing on the inevitable affiliation between a university and its surrounding community and the positive impact that Malloy has had on the Notre Dame-South Bend relationship.

Living "a half a block from campus," Kernan said that he has had the opportunity "to reflect on what an extraordinary place" Notre Dame is. Like other speakers, he stressed the value of the University to local commerce.

"If Notre Dame wanted to move," he joked, "can you imagine where the bidding would start?"

He offered an anecdote to emphasize the value. When Notre Dame was looking to expand its stadium from 60,000- to 80,000-

person capacity, Malloy asked local leaders for their thoughts; Kernan, in turn, asked his orthopedic surgeon. According to Kernan, the doctor had an interesting answer: "That's 20,000 more people to break a bone over the weekend!"

The impact, though, has been more than "dollars and cents," Kernan said.

"Every day, Monk has reached out to and reached into our community," he said. "... The engagement between the community and Notre Dame has been a model for America."

Finally, Malloy himself walked onstage to speak, receiving a standing ovation.

Like Kernan, Malloy quoted a great historical figure to begin his speech.

"I believe it was Winston Churchill, on hearing that someone was modest, who said, 'He/She has much to be modest about,'" Malloy said, sparking a ripple of laughter among the crowd. "I recognize that I do, too."

Malloy then offered a list of things he has to be modest about,

including a mix-up at a recent baptism and his inability to swim — although it was a requirement when he graduated from Notre Dame.

After proclaiming his love for the University (which stems from "the time I set foot on campus"), Malloy turned to the issue of the surrounding community. According to Malloy, during his time as a student, the city was off-limits. Because of his love for cities, he said, as president he wanted support for the community to be "one of the hallmarks of this time of service."

Malloy discussed the establishment of the South Bend Center for the Homeless, the northeast neighborhood problems and the establishment of the Robinson Community Learning Center. He also talked about his involvement with the Boys and Girls Clubs, which began after Hesburgh's advice to "be your own person" and "get involved with things that interest you" as Notre Dame's president.

Malloy analogized his "perfect image of a University president" to

"He's accomplished many good things in a modest, intelligent and at times even self-effacing way."

**Father Theodore Hesburgh
University President Emeritus**

the conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, which recently played on campus. He was impressed by the conductor — who did not have a script and did not play an instrument — and his ability to bring together a group of talented individuals from various backgrounds.

"I'm surrounded by wonderful, good, generous people who work beyond the call of duty — that's my experience with the University and the surrounding area," he said.

Event co-chair and St. Joseph's Bank president John Rosenthal offered Malloy three gifts at the conclusion of his speech.

The first was a collection of letters written to Malloy by area individuals; the second — in anticipation of his upcoming sabbatical — a travel voucher for \$10,000. The third gift was, in actuality, a gift from Malloy to the community.

The three charities Malloy had designated to receive the proceeds of the event will each receive a check for \$12,500, making a grand total of \$37,500, Rosenthal said. He also said this donation was just a "down payment" until the event's expenditures are organized, and the final amount could total over \$50,000.

**Contact Eileen Duffy
eduffy1@nd.edu**

NYC

continued from page 1

dent of business operations Pat Walsh has been to the men's tournament the past five years. However, he said efforts to start a school-organized student trip has not gained enough support.

Walsh said the draw to the tournament is mostly to students and fans local to the respective locations.

"We've tried a couple things over the years," he said. "It seems not to catch with a national fan base like football."

Walsh pointed to the tournament scheduling as a major deterrent for students. Because there is a possibility that the team will get knocked out on the first day, he said it does not make sense financially for students and fans that live outside of the area to make the trip to the tournament.

But for teams closer to the tournament area — like Connecticut, Pittsburgh, Rutgers and Syracuse — the location provides an opportuni-

ty to make the tournament sites more like home games than neutral ones. This creates a more hostile environment for other teams, such as Notre Dame.

"It's a definite disadvantage," Walsh said.

Keough sophomore Tim Wyne shares Walsh's feelings. Wyne lives in New Jersey and went to the men's tournament last year. He says the fan bases the local teams draw are intimidating.

"UConn is the worst — they do the UConn chant," he said. "I think it hurts. It's not like a road game but more than a neutral site [for teams with large fan bases]."

Wyne, who obtained tickets from his father, an ND alum, said Notre Dame fans still make their presence felt at the tournament.

"We're probably in the middle," he said. "Nowhere near as loud as the UConn or Pitt fans."

Walsh said that ND alumni and fans from the northeast are the reason there has been a significant showing at the men's tournament in the past.

"It seems like the big contingent is local," he said.

Brian Lee, a freshman from Keenan who lives in Beckonridge, N.J., said he noticed the local fan base when he went to the Navy football game earlier this year. He said about five Notre Dame fans were there for every one Navy fan. He explained Notre Dame has a tremendous appeal even to people without University ties.

"They call [local fans] the subway alumni," Lee said.

For this reason, Stanford freshman Alex Wulz said he thinks Notre Dame will not be at a total disadvantage at either the men's or women's tournament. He noted the Notre Dame fan base is not limited to any area of the country, but fans from all over the world love to cheer for the Irish.

"The local schools are definitely going to have the home crowd advantage, but Notre Dame will have the Notre Dame advantage," he said.

Lee echoed Wulz's opinion.

"The power of the ND fan base is so much greater than any other school," he said.

Unlike Wulz, who bought his

tickets through Ticketmaster, Lee bought his tickets to the men's tournament through the University. He paid \$40 for four rounds. If the men are knocked out in the first round — their first game — Notre Dame refunds students for the final three rounds.

Wulz said he would have bought his tickets through the school as well, but they are only available to students.

Unlike Wyne, Lee and Walsh, Wulz is planning on attending the women's tournament, as well.

"I love the women's team, and I think our women have a shot at winning," he said.

The women have a bye in the first round and play either West Virginia or Pittsburgh at 6 p.m. Sunday. The future is not so certain for the men. Their seeding depends on their final regular season game, set to tip off at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Unfortunately, a majority of students will not get to see the Irish battle Pitt for seeding in the tournament. With a win, the Irish would earn the fifth seed in the tournament and a first round bye. If they lose, the

Irish get the sixth seed and will play on the first day of the tournament. This uncertainty is another reason Walsh said it is hard for non-local students to attend the tournaments.

However, Walsh also said the success of both the men's and women's teams in recent years has caused the fan base to grow.

"I think the general student interest in basketball has picked up in the last four years," he said.

A sign of the basketball program's recent success can be seen in the quality of opponents that line both teams' schedules, Walsh said.

"Seeing the schedule the Big East assigns you every year is a great testament to the programs because they want us on national television," he said.

Although this prominence may not translate into student attendance at the tournaments, Walsh said he recommends the trip.

"It's a basketball junkie's dream," he said.

**Contact Peter Leahy at
pleahy1@nd.edu**

Break

continued from page 1

ticipate in the Appalachia service learning project.

Junior Justin Doyle is one of those students. He said the trip provides students with the opportunity to practice the mission of Father Edward Sorin — the school's founder — to make Notre Dame a major source of service in the country.

"It is important to show marginalized and disadvantaged groups in our society that we care through our presence," Doyle said.

Athletic teams will also take advantage of the break to get a head start for the spring sports seasons. Ben Crouse, a junior soccer player, said while his team is headed to Florida, they will be training intensely.

"It is not going to be a vaca-

tion," he said. "It is going to be a business trip."

During the week, the team will compete against the U-17 national team and Virginia.

As some students are heading away from Notre Dame to various vacation spots, others have chosen to work and enjoy the simple comforts of home.

Junior Allison Livingston will not get much of a break next week as she travels home to Colorado Springs, Colo. to study for the MCATs. Livingston said she is not disappointed not to travel, as she is excited to spend time with her family and catch up on sleep. Many other students plan to stay on campus to study for this medical school entrance examination, which will take place after break in April.

**Contact Jen Rowling at
jrowling@nd.edu**

Yale set to be more affordable

Associated Press

NEW HAVEN — Yale University increased its financial aid for lower-income families Thursday, the latest move by the Ivy League to attract students who had seen the schools as out of their price range.

Beginning next year, families making less than \$45,000 will no longer have to pay tuition for their children, and those earning between \$45,000 and \$60,000 will see their required contributions drop an average of 50 percent, Yale said.

"The general message is that Ivy League schools are affordable," Yale President Richard Levin said. "This is a dream that can be achieved."

Levin said many qualified students don't bother applying

to Yale because they figure their parents can't foot the tuition of about \$41,000 a year, including room, board and other fees. But about 40 percent of undergraduates receive financial aid, with an average award this year of \$22,000.

The average family earning less than \$60,000 will save about \$2,700 under the new plan, the university said. It estimated the changes will cost about \$3 million, and will be paid for by using interest from the school's \$12.7 billion endowment and with money saved on operating expenses.

Yale's announcement follows similar moves at other Ivy League schools, which have pushed in recent years not just to make tuition affordable to more students, but also to remake their images. Last year

Harvard said families making less than \$40,000 do not have to pay tuition.

"Top-flight schools are all looking at what kind of barriers there are to low-income students," said Robin Moscato, senior assistant admissions director at Princeton, which replaced student loans with grants and made other financial aid changes in recent years.

Levin said the college plans to promote its new financial aid plan at high schools around the country.

Last year more than 550 families of Yale students earned less than \$60,000 a year, and more than 300 of those families earned less than \$40,000, the university said. About 5,200 students were enrolled at Yale this fall.

WORLD & NATION

Friday, March 4, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bombers target Iraqi police

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Car bombs killed six policemen and wounded 15 in new attacks on Iraq's security services Thursday as political factions wrangled over putting together a government.

The Shiite Muslim-dominated United Iraqi Alliance and a Kurdish coalition, which emerged from the Jan. 30 elections with the two biggest blocks of seats in the National Assembly, made little headway in their talks on combining forces to select the leaders of the new government.

Meanwhile, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, whose party finished third, denied rumors he had given up his effort to stitch together support from other groups, including the Kurds, that would allow him to remain prime minister.

Forming Iraq's first democratically elected government is a key step in the U.S. plan for stabilizing the country, and insurgents have been striking at Iraqi police and military forces seeking to undermine the effort.

Saudi officials demand withdrawal

CAIRO, Egypt — Saudi officials told Syrian President Bashar Assad on Thursday that he must soon begin fully withdrawing troops from Lebanon or face strains in Saudi-Syrian ties, an official said. Assad promised only to study the idea of a partial withdrawal by later this month.

The kingdom took a tough line as Assad met with the Saudi leader, Crown Prince Abdullah, and other officials in Riyadh.

The strong language pointed to increasing impatience among Arab leaders with Damascus' resistance to calling a quick pullout.

NATIONAL NEWS

Blake lawyer ridicules prosecution

LOS ANGELES — Robert Blake's lawyer told jurors Thursday it is ridiculous to think the actor would have killed his wife in his own neighborhood while she waited in a car parked under a street light.

"I'm going to kill her right by a restaurant that I've been going to for 30 years," defense attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach said during closing arguments, mocking the allegations against his client.

He also pointed out that the weapon used to kill Bonny Lee Bakley was a 60-year-old handgun that contained only three rounds of obsolete ammunition. Only two of the bullets were used, and Bakley was still breathing when paramedics arrived.

Schwartzbach said Blake wouldn't create such an elaborate plot, then leave his wife alive to possibly identify him.

GOP struggles on Social Security

WASHINGTON — Republicans struggled to sort out Social Security disputes among themselves Thursday as Democrats bought radio ads to attack President Bush and GOP allies in Congress along the next leg of his road trip pitching his overhaul.

At the Capitol, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said Congress must confront Social Security's problems this year, dialing back his comments of two days earlier that action might have to wait — a turnabout Democrats wasted little time in mocking.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana man indicted as spy

INDIANAPOLIS — A federal grand jury has indicted an Indiana man on charges he tried to sell names of U.S. operatives in Iraq to Saddam Hussein's government before the U.S. invasion.

Shaaban Hafiz Ahmad Ali Shaaban, 52, was charged with agreeing to act as a foreign agent for Iraq and with immigration violations, federal prosecutors said Thursday following Shaaban's arrest. Shaaban traveled in late 2002 from Chicago to Baghdad, where he agreed to sell the names of U.S. agents to Saddam's government.

GAZA STRIP

Youth lost in Mideast violence

Associated Press count: 514 Palestinians and 97 Israelis aged 16 or under killed

Associated Press

BEIT LAHIYA — With the deafening explosion of a tank shell in a strawberry patch, Maryam and Kamel Ghaben, a Palestinian farming couple, lost three of their sons, a grandson, and two nephews — all children and young teens.

Israeli soldiers had aimed at a Palestinian rocket squad, but witnesses say the militants were gone by the time the shell hit the youngsters, aged 10 to 16, who had been helping with the strawberry harvest.

"Sadness will never leave our hearts," said the Ghabens' oldest son, Ghassan, 35, who was first on the scene and found his 10-year-old boy Rajeh among the dead.

About 65 miles away, in Jerusalem, Arnold Roth wrestles with the death of his 15-year-old daughter Malka, killed by a suicide bomber in a Sbarro pizza parlor, and tries to help his surviving six children through the trauma.

"The children have a deep sadness, all of them," he said.

The Ghaben boys were killed in the Gaza Strip in January, shortly before Israel and the Palestinians declared a truce. Malka Roth was one of seven children, aged 2 to 16, killed in the August 2001 bombing.

They are among 514 Palestinians and 97 Israelis aged 16 and under who have been killed in the bloody 4 1/2 years since September 2000, according to an Associated Press count.

These young lives — cut short by Israeli army fire or Palestinian suicide bombings and shootings — are as strong a force as any driving public opinion on both sides to demand an end to the nightmare.

According to the Associated Press count, the Palestinian children make



A Palestinian walks next to a section of the separation barrier Israel is building to separate the West Bank from Jerusalem. Israel claims it is needed for security.

up 15 percent of the more than 3,460 lives lost on the Palestinian side. Children make up just under 10 percent of the more than 1,025 killed on the Israeli side.

The number of Palestinian child fatalities has remained steady — 121 in the first 12 months of the uprising that began at the end of September 2000, 131 in the second 12-month period, 110 in the third, 116 in the fourth, and 36 in the four months of this fifth uprising year.

The age of majority is 18 in both Israel and the Palestinian areas. The Associated Press chose age 16 as the cutoff for its

count because in both societies 16 is largely considered the last year of childhood.

Working from interviews with hospital officials, victim support groups, human rights monitors and its own daily coverage of the fighting, the Associated Press found that about one-third of the Palestinian youngsters were killed by Israeli fire in stone-throwing incidents, and the others by stray bullets at homes, on their way to and from school, while hanging around gunmen, or in Israeli air strikes against militants.

In a small number of cases, the source of fire —

Israeli or Palestinian — cannot be fully ascertained. Still in dispute is 12-year-old Mohammed Aldura, caught on camera as he died in crossfire, making him a symbol to the Arab world. The Israeli army first said its fire "apparently" killed him, later said Palestinians may have fired the fatal shots. The Palestinians have blamed Israeli gunfire, a claim backed by the TV crew at the scene.

Virtually all the Israeli children were killed in Palestinian bombings and shootings, including 72 in Israel and 25 in the West Bank and Gaza, said the Associated Press' count.

Pastor leads police to BTK suspect

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — Dennis Rader came to his pastor in January with a floppy disk, saying he had the agenda of a church council meeting and needed to run off copies on a printer. The pastor obliged.

The head of Christ Lutheran Church inserted the disk into a computer, thinking it was nothing out of the ordinary. But that routine act may have cracked the BTK serial killer case.

Last Friday, four law enforcement officers came to Pastor Michael Clark's church with a search warrant

and asked who had access to the computer. An electronic imprint in a disk sent to a Wichita TV station by the BTK killer had been traced to the church.

The officers, speaking softly but firmly, then said Rader had been arrested as the suspected BTK killer.

The pastor was stunned. Three times, he asked them to repeat it. "The world changed that very moment," Clark would later tell his congregation.

A computer disk appears to be among the key pieces of evidence that led police to Rader, the 59-year-old church council president and former Cub Scout leader who was

charged Tuesday with 10 murders in the BTK killings that terrorized this city over three decades.

Though police have been tightlipped about why they believe Rader is the BTK killer, some details of the evidence against him have emerged. Among them: the disk, DNA samples, surveillance and mocking letters with clues and grisly souvenirs.

"This was a police case that covered the span of three decades, and I don't think there's any one thing that would have cracked the case," said Richard LaMunyon, a former Wichita police chief who ran the department during most of the BTK killings.

SPAIN

Madrid bombers had plotted more attacks

Revelation comes as anniversary approaches

Associated Press

MADRID — Islamic militants blamed for last year's commuter train bombings in Madrid were plotting more bloodshed — a string of suicide attacks in the months after the massacre, Spain's counterterrorism director told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The revelation adds a chilling what-if element to Spain's national trauma as it prepares to mark the anniversary of the March 11 bombings, the country's worst-ever terrorist attack.

Fernando Reinares, the counterterrorism chief, said the militants most likely to have carried out such suicide attacks in Spain — which would have been the first ever in Western Europe — were seven men who blew themselves up April 3 as special forces moved in to arrest them.

"According to data collected so far, it can be deduced that those terrorists were probably planning suicide attacks in the months or weeks after" the train bombings, which killed 191 people and wounded more than 1,500, Reinares told AP.

Reinares said the information suggested "their terrorist campaign was not going to end on March 11, but was going to go on and include suicide attacks at a later stage."

The seven men who died in Leganes, a town outside Madrid, included suspected ringleaders of the train strikes, which were claimed in videotapes by militants who said they acted on behalf of al-Qaida in revenge for Spain's troop presence in Iraq.

At least five men are fugitives in the case, including one who escaped from the apartment in Leganes. Reinares gave no indication these men are considered suicide-attack risks.

On March 18, a group named for Abu Hafs al-Masri — a former top lieutenant of al-Qaida leader Osama bin

Laden — said it was calling a truce in Spain to give the newly elected Socialist government time to withdraw the Spanish troops from Iraq. A video found in the rubble of the Leganes apartment a week after the collective suicide also gave Spain a deadline to withdraw from Iraq or face more violence.

These statements suggested that such a withdrawal — which took place in May — would be enough to remove Spain from al-Qaida's crosshairs.

But Reinares said the plans for later suicide attacks showed that the Madrid train bombers were probably not interested in bringing down the conservative government then in power, which had supported the U.S.-led Iraq war, but rather wanted to go on causing bloodshed.

Former Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar and his party have insisted the bombing — three days before a general election — was tantamount to a surgical strike against his government, which had defied public opinion by supporting the Iraq war and sending 1,300 peacekeepers after President Bush declared an end to major fighting.

The Socialists, who had opposed the war, won election and took power in April. They quickly brought troops home but insisted it was to keep a campaign pledge, not to cave in to terrorists.

Reinares said information about the Madrid bombers' suicide attack plans was featured in a new book by a Spanish investigative reporter, but the information wasn't carried in the mainstream Spanish media.

Reinares' comments came a day after U.S. and Spanish authorities confirmed that a crude sketch of Grand Central Terminal in New York City — which was traumatized by the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks — was found at the home of a suspect in the Madrid train bombings.

Jackson faces more allegations

Prosecution drills accuser's older sister

Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — The teenage sister of Michael Jackson's accuser told jurors Thursday about a series of unusual events that unfolded around the time of the alleged abuse, including a sudden trip in which the family was whisked away to Miami on a private jet.

The testimony was elicited to support allegations that the singer conspired to hold the accuser's family captive to get them to rebut a February 2003 documentary in which Jackson said he allowed boys to sleep in his bed. The Miami trip occurred as the program was about to air.

The dark-haired, round-faced witness also told the jury that on the flight back from Miami, Jackson shared a soda can with her brother, and also gave him a watch and a jacket decorated with sparkles.

Prosecutors allege that the boy, a cancer survivor, was molested twice by Jackson

after the program aired. They contend Jackson gave the boy wine in the soda can and the gifts as bribes to keep quiet about the alcohol.

The 18-year-old college freshman avoided eye contact with Jackson during most of her testimony as she testified about the family's encounters with him, which began during a celebrity-filled odyssey after her brother was diagnosed with cancer. The family was introduced to such stars as actor Chris Tucker and NBA star Kobe Bryant.

The defense has portrayed the family as being motivated by greed in its pursuit of celebrities.

Under questioning by District Attorney Tom Sneddon, the girl told jurors about strange events that happened after the documentary by British journalist Martin Bashir was taped.

The girl said she received an urgent call from her mother, who told her to go to their East Los Angeles apartment where she was met by an aide to Tucker.

She said they were taken to Tucker's house, driven to an airport and flown to Miami on

a private jet.

When they arrived at the resort in Miami, Jackson was waiting and in his suite they met a large group of people, she said.

The witness said that her brother quickly received special attention from Jackson, who pulled him aside and closed the door to his room.

She said the two remained in there about 15 to 30 minutes and similar private visits occurred at least three more times during their stay.

When her brother came out, she said, "He was very hyper, running around, very talkative, playful."

Jackson instructed the family not to watch the Bashir documentary that night. "He was upset about it, didn't want us to see it," she said.

Back at Neverland, she said, the family had a conversation with a Jackson adviser in which he urged her and her family to take part in a rebuttal video and gave them a script.

She said they were later instructed by Wiesner to "say nice things about Mr. Jackson and not talk about what goes on at the ranch."



Michael Jackson acknowledges fans as he walks out of court following the opening day of his child molestation trial at Santa Barbara County Superior Court Monday.

Hacker accesses Harvard admissions records

Associated Press

BOSTON — A computer hacker gained access to internal admissions records at Harvard, Stanford and other top business schools, then helped applicants log on and learn their fate weeks ahead of schedule, officials said Thursday.

Few of the people who followed the hacker's directions managed to find out if their applications have been accepted, according to school officials. But many of them could end up getting rejected now that the schools are checking to see who tried to exploit the security breach.

"Hacking into a system in this manner is unethical and also contrary to the behavior

we expect of leaders we aspire to develop," said Steve Nelson, executive director of the MBA program at Harvard Business School.

The unidentified hacker tapped into Business Week's online forum early Wednesday and posted instruction on how applicants could log onto the schools' Web sites to check their admission status.

Dozens of business schools, including those at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford, Duke, Carnegie Mellon and Dartmouth, were affected by the breach, with their Web sites vulnerable for roughly nine hours before the problem was fixed.

All of the schools use

ApplyYourself, an online application and notification program made by a Fairfax, Va., company.

Len Metheny, ApplyYourself's chief executive, said applicants could access only their own admissions records.

"There were only a small number of students who actually had a decision," he added. "For the vast majority of applicants, decisions were not available in the system to be displayed. A blank page would appear."

Metheny would not say if the company has been able to identify the hacker, who used the screen name "brookbond." Business Week removed the hacking tips from its site.

School officials hinted that applicants should expect to receive a rejection letter if they tried to hack into admissions records.

Jim Gray, an associate dean at Duke's business school, said one applicant tried but failed to search the school's Web site for an acceptance letter. He said school officials know the applicant's name.

"We're clearly looking at his application in a different light at this point," Gray said.

More than 100 applicants to Harvard tried to access the school's admissions records. "Some appeared to find a decision. Some got a blank screen," Nelson said. "But even if they got a decision, the decision isn't final until March 30."

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▲ Up: 1,515 Same: 185 ▼ Down: 1,769 Composite Volume: 1,567,437,056

AMEX 1,519.60 +6.34
NASDAQ 2,058.40 -9.10
NYSE 7,357.12 +13.98
S&P 500 1,210.47 +0.39
NIKKEI(Tokyo) 11,813.71 0.00
FTSE 100(London) 4,992.80 -7.70

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100TR SER I (QQQQ)	-0.05	-0.02	37.61
SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI)	+0.51	+0.03	5.92
INTEL CP (INTC)	-0.41	-0.10	24.52
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.08	-0.02	25.26
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+1.37	+0.24	17.74

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	+0.34	+0.16	47.37
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.16	+0.07	43.79
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.35	-0.14	39.94
3-MONTH BILL	-0.56	-0.15	26.77

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+1.37	53.05
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-0.10	433.90
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.05	89.38

Exchange Rates	
YEN	104.7400
EURO	0.7610
POUND	0.5226
CANADIAN \$	1.2393

IN BRIEF

Federal office receives complaint

WASHINGTON — The head of the federal office responsible for protecting government whistleblowers is the focus of a complaint filed Thursday by some of his own employees, who say he is undermining laws that encourage workers to expose wrongdoing.

Scott Bloch, who runs the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, refuses to enforce laws that protect whistleblowers in the federal workplace, especially gays, and is retaliating against his own staff, the employees alleged.

Bloch's office called the allegations a set of "baseless charges" and said they would be forwarded to the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency "in the hope that they will be able to put them to rest once and for all."

Analyst: slowed Medicaid saves less

WASHINGTON — Congress' top budget analyst estimates that President Bush's plans to slow spending for Medicaid and other benefits would save less money than the White House estimates. The Associated Press has learned.

According to preliminary estimates by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, Bush's proposals for trimming farm, veterans, student loans and other benefits would save \$50.8 billion over the next five years. That's \$11.1 billion, or 18 percent, less than the \$62 billion in savings the White House estimated when Bush released his new budget last month.

The re-estimate could complicate the Republican-run Congress' job of writing its own budget beginning next week. That is because it means budget writers will have to find even more savings than Bush proposed to achieve the same amount of deficit reduction he claims — a task many lawmakers will find painful.

Differing budget projections by congressional and White House forecasters are common because of differing assumptions about programs' spending rates, the economy and other factors.

The \$11 billion discrepancy is less than 0.2 percent of the \$7.7 trillion those programs are projected to spend over the next five years.

Stewart to leave federal prison

Citizens of Alderson, W. Va. prepare to say goodbye to favorite convicted felon

Associated Press

ALDERSON, W. Va. — The commemorative T-shirts and mugs have been printed up and the Dinner Bell restaurant is cooking up some Martha Stewart Swedish Meatballs as Alderson gets ready to say goodbye to its favorite convicted felon.

Since inmate 55170-054 entered the Alderson Federal Women's Prison on Oct. 8, the town has seen a long line of Stewart supporters, celebrity friends and the just-plain-curious make the 12-mile drive off the interstate to see where she spent five months locked up for her part in a stock scandal.

That comes to an end early Friday, when the 63-year-old homemaking authority leaves Alderson to begin serving the next phase of her sentence, five months under house arrest at her \$16 million Bedford, N.Y., estate, about 550 miles from here.

Stewart's Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia announced Thursday that she'll board a private jet bound for New York between 12:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. The company said she would make no public comments, but that a written statement would be posted on www.marthastewart.com.

Betty Alderson, who has sold more than 1,300 "West Virginia Living, It's a Good Thing," T-shirts, a play on Stewart's "It's a good thing" catchphrase, said the town needed the economic boost Stewart's celebrity provided.

At \$17 each, the shirts helped pay last fall's bills, the Alderson Store owner said. "Every business in town profited," said Alderson, who is married to a descendant of the town's founders.

For Stewart's release, Alderson is selling two new shirt designs and a commemorative mug that reads, "I spent time in



Martha Stewart is shown in New York in July. From scrubbing floors to raking leaves, Stewart spent the past five months in a federal women's prison.

Alderson, W.Va."

Mayor Luther Lewallen said Stewart's presence has been a good thing for his town of about 1,100. "As people came in, they found things they liked in the stores," he said.

Visitors not only purchased trinkets, but some brought mementos of their own to show their support for the gardening guru.

Jackie Hord of East Hampton, N.Y., brought hundreds of Martha Stewart-brand snow crocus bulbs last fall, hoping residents would plant them so Stewart would see a splash of spring color as she left town.

"I just want to support Martha the best way I can," she said.

The crocuses were planted, but a recent cold snap and several inches of snow have kept them from blooming. "I have been trying to force some out, but they won't even force," Alderson said, no doubt employing the kind of gardening tricks Stewart herself knows so well.

Other Stewart supporters have sent about 1,000 day lilies. Residents plan to pick a sunny spot to plant them and call it "Martha's Garden."

Linda Blaney and her friends are making a cross-country trek to show their support. "We want to make sure she knows we were there and let her know we support her," said Blaney, who lives near Seattle.

"This would not have happened to someone else. They slam-dunked her because of who she is."

Whether Stewart will stop and speak to supporters when she leaves prison wasn't clear, but Blaney didn't want to miss the chance.

"If we have to get up at 3 o'clock in the morning we will," said Blaney, who plans to hold up a Stewart-brand floral print sheet, bearing the signatures of Seattle-area supporters.

Since it opened in 1927, the minimum-security prison has seen the likes of Billie Holiday, Tokyo Rose, Axis Sally and presidential assailants Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme and Sara Jane Moore.

Workers' annual productivity rises

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The productivity of American workers rose at an annual rate of 2.1 percent in the final three months of last year, sharply higher than originally believed.

The Labor Department had initially reported a month ago that productivity — the amount of output per hour of work — had risen by just 0.8 percent in the October-December quarter, a figure that had jolted financial markets because it raised worries that inflation pressures could be mounting.

The better-than-expected 2.1 percent revised estimate for productivity left this indicator for all of 2004

rising by 4 percent, the department said Thursday, capping the strongest three-year period for productivity growth in more than a half-century of record keeping.

Productivity is the key component for rising living standards.

In a separate report, the department said the number of Americans filing first-time claims for unemployment benefits dipped by 1,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 310,000.

It marked the fourth decline in jobless claims in the past five weeks and pushed the four-week moving average for new claims down to 307,000. That was the lowest level since the week of Oct. 28, 2000 when the country was in

the final year of a record-breaking 10-year long economic expansion.

In other economic news, many of the nation's large retail chain stores reported stronger-than-expected sales in February. Analysts said new spring fashions and bigger tax refunds helped boost spending in the face of another spike in oil prices and severe winter storms in the Northeast and Midwest.

The initial reaction on Wall Street was positive to the strong chain store sales reports and the better-than-expected revision in productivity. However, in later trading the Dow Jones industrial average slipped and ended the day up 21 points at 10,833.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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THE OBSERVER

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P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Claire Heininger

MANAGING EDITOR BUSINESS MANAGER
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OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-7471

FAX
(574) 631-6927
ADVERTISING
(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu
EDITOR IN CHIEF
(574) 631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR
(574) 631-4541 obsme@nd.edu
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR
(574) 631-4324
BUSINESS OFFICE
(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK
(574) 631-5323 obsnews.1@nd.edu
VIEWPOINT DESK
(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK
(574) 631-4543 sports.1@nd.edu
SCENE DESK
(574) 631-4540 scene.1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK
smc.1@nd.edu
PHOTO DESK
(574) 631-8767 photo@nd.edu
SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS
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Bengal Bouts are a source of pride

As most students take off for spring break this weekend, a select few will leave with some unfinished business. These students will be anticipating the final rounds of the Bengal Bouts tournament, which started this week and continues after break.

The Bouts, which began 75 years ago, are a unique experience for not only the boxers, but for the Notre Dame community as well. Founded in 1931 by Dominic "Nappy" Napolitano, the Bouts have a long-standing tradition of sportsmanship and competition. Boxing came to Notre Dame in the 1920s under the watchful eyes of legendary football coach Knute Rockne as a way to keep his football players in shape during the spring. But it wasn't until Napolitano that the Bouts became what they are today — a largely competitive event with a twist.

Bengal Bouts isn't entirely about the fights. The event is about the \$45,000 the boxers raised last year to support the

Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh. These missions, run by the Holy Cross Brothers, benefit the poor, bringing education and outreach programs to those in need. Every year the boxers raise money and fight for the cause.

These boxers are a unique group. They train months just for the opportunity to step in the ring. Half lose in the first round. Months of situps, pushups and training are thus all geared towards one fight. Sure, some fighters go on to be champions, but what about the rest?

They are, in a way, even more impressive. Bengal Bouts and those who fight in them constitute another reason Notre Dame is a special place. The tradition, purpose and never-give-up attitude of the Bouts is one of a kind. So when spring break ends, students are encouraged to get out to the Joyce Center and support the fights. They will no doubt be impressed by the dedication and service found both in and out of the ring.

The Observer Editorial

U-WIRE

Raising taxes not the answer

It seems that President Bush has finally slipped away from the Republican platform. His solution for the Social Security crisis mirrors that of nearly all solutions proposed by the Democratic Party: raise taxes on the wealthy.

Adam Scharn

Although the correct solution to this crisis may not be crystal clear, it is quite clear that raising taxes is not the answer. Even if the revenue from the increase could reduce the severity of the shortage of funds, it could only serve as a temporary solution. In other words, raising taxes on Social Security will only prolong its inevitable bankruptcy. The American people should not have more money taken out of their paychecks to correct this 70-year-old oversight.

Texas A&M
University
The Battalion

The working citizens of the United States pay a total of 15.3 percent of their annual income for what is commonly known as the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax. The bulk of this — 12.4 percent — goes toward Social Security funds, with the remaining 2.9 percent earmarked for Medicare, according to CNN's Web site. There is no salary cap on Medicare, but there is a cap on Social Security, along with a somewhat complicated formula. These two components, the salary cap and the tax formula, are where the controversy lies.

The salary cap is \$90,000, an increase of \$2,100 from 2004, according to the Social Security Web site. This means that 12.4 percent can only be taxed on the first \$90,000 of gross income. Therefore, a person making \$110,000 would pay the exact same amount as one who makes \$90,000. However, President Bush's proposal will increase the income amount that can be taxed. Sound familiar? It's called the liberal solution: Take more money from the middle and upper classes of American taxpayers, and use it to continue the life of a government-sanctioned charity for the economically underprivileged.

The main problems with increasing the cap on salary that can be taxed are based on two financial concepts. The concepts in

question are self-employment and cost of living, and they are interrelated. The self-employment issue requires that the entire FICA tax — 15.3 percent — be paid by the self-employed individual. That is, an employee working on either wage-based or salary-based compensation, whether it be for a large or small business, only pays half the FICA tax, which translates to 6.2 percent for Social Security. The company pays the remaining half of the tax on behalf of the employee. However, as already stated, a self-employed person must pay the entire tax himself. It should be noted that self-employment generally translates to small-business owner.

At the current rate, the Social Security tax equates to \$11,160 for the first \$90,000 of every self-employed person. This may not seem like a great deal of money, considering most small business owners produce well over \$90,000 gross profit. This is of course only an estimation, but with the current cost of living, overall federal income taxes and so many business expenses, it is safe to assume that generating a total of \$90,000 gross profit could bankrupt a small business owner. Even considering this assumption as fact, \$11,000 is quite a large chunk to take out of someone's pocket, especially considering all the other expenses that result from self-employment. To increase the amount that can be taken out of one's paycheck will only increase the financial burden on middle-class working citizens. Perhaps the extra revenue generated will bring money to the self-employed once they enter retirement, but it will not bring much benefit right now.

Taxing for Social Security was initially to give the working class a nest egg for retirement. However, it is quite clear that this nest egg will not be around forever.

According to Americans for Tax Reform, beginning in 2018, Social Security will begin an uncontrollable downward spiral of debt. By 2027, the shortfall will be around \$200 billion, and by 2033, this number will be closer to \$300 billion. By 2042, the federal IOUs for retired people will have completely run out.

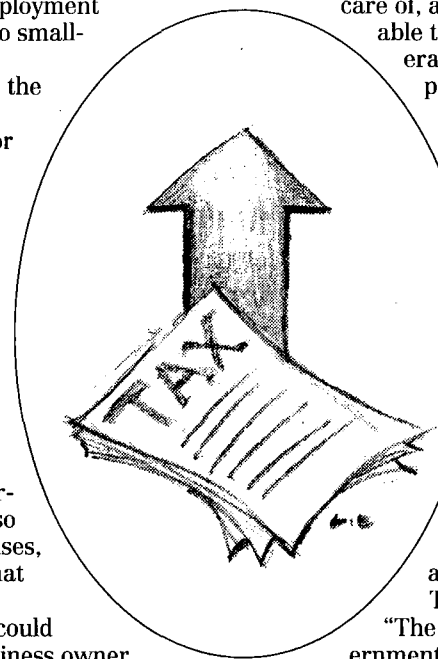
It is not easy to justify the notion that today's higher wage-earning American should have to pay even more money to the government for a retirement fund he most likely will never see. It is a noble idea that retired people should be taken care of, and it is perfectly acceptable to do so partially with federal dollars. However, the purpose of paying for Social Security now is to provide oneself with future retirement funds. The idea loses much of its appeal when a person starts to see that he may never collect all the money that was taken with promise of return. How can Bush or Congress expect much, if any, support from the people whose taxes are about to jump on the basis of an IOU with such a bleak future?

To quote Ronald Reagan, "The taxing powers of the government must be used to provide revenues for legitimate government purposes. It must not be used to regulate the economy or bring about social change."

Pulling Social Security out of debt for a few more years is not a legitimate government purpose. The current salary cap must remain intact, and Congress should search for alternative solutions.

This column originally appeared March 2 in *The Battalion*, the daily publication at Texas A&M University.

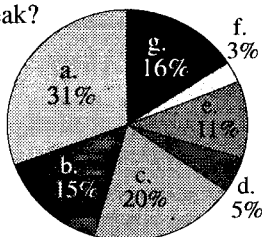
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of *The Observer*.



OBSERVER POLL

What are you doing for Spring Break?

a. Going home	31%
b. Staying on campus	15%
c. Beach	20%
d. Cruise	5%
e. Europe	11%
f. Skiing	3%
g. Other	16%



*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 199 responses.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt
former U.S. president

Tortured policies in the U.S.

While speaking at Notre Dame's 2001 Commencement, President George W. Bush praised the "great tradition of [Catholic] social teaching" and its call "to protect life in all its stages." In Brussels, Bush recently noted that democracies are marked by "the rule of law and the respect for human rights and human dignity." I wonder if there was a hint of nostalgia in his remarks. In what stage of life would Bush place Maher Arar? What does he think about his human rights and dignity?

John Infranca

Dissident Poetry

Arar is a 34-year-old Canadian citizen who moved from his native Syria as a teenager. On September 26, 2002 Arar was taken into custody in Kennedy Airport by American authorities while changing planes. He was interrogated and placed in jail for thirteen days, then shipped to Syria. In Syria, he was tortured. Over one year later, he was released home to Canada, a free man.

The Justice Department claims Arar is linked to al Qaeda, yet they have filed no charges. His torturers, through the Syrian Ambassador, declared they found no terrorist link. Arar, it seems, was the victim of bad information passed by Canadian officials to their American counterparts, who, utilizing a policy termed "extraordinary/irregular rendition," dispatched Arar to Syria. As Bob Herbert notes in a recent New York Times column, through this policy the government "seizes individuals, presumably terror suspects, and sends them off without even a nod in the direction of due process to countries known to practice torture."

Although congressional legislation banning this practice has been introduced, it has gone nowhere. Justification

for the practice relies in part on a clever reading of the U.N. Convention Against Torture, which requires "substantial grounds for believing" a suspect will be tortured abroad in order to prohibit transferring that individual to a foreign government. As with most definitions affecting the war on terrorism, the Bush administration has used an apparent loophole to its interpretive advantage.

Arar's case offers further indication that America has a torture problem. Rather than the isolated events of a few misguided individuals, as they have been portrayed, the events at Abu Ghraib appear instead to be only the most glaring evidence of profoundly misguided policies. Their philosophical basis can be traced to the days shortly after Sept. 11, when Vice-President Dick Cheney declared, regarding the response to terrorism: "A lot of what needs to be done here will have to be done quietly, without any discussion, using sources and methods that are available to our intelligence agencies, if we're going to be successful. That's the world these folks operate in. And so it's going to be vital for us to use any means at our disposal, basically, to achieve our objective."

This position was further developed in a memo written by Bush's Assistant Attorney General. It declared that for an act to be classified as torture it must inflict pain "equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function or even death." Mirroring Bush's profound respect for human dignity, the same memo declared "cruel, inhuman, or degrading" treatment legally permissible.

Some might argue that tactics aimed at avoiding prohibitions against torture are justified given the potential a confession might save countless lives. Yet such

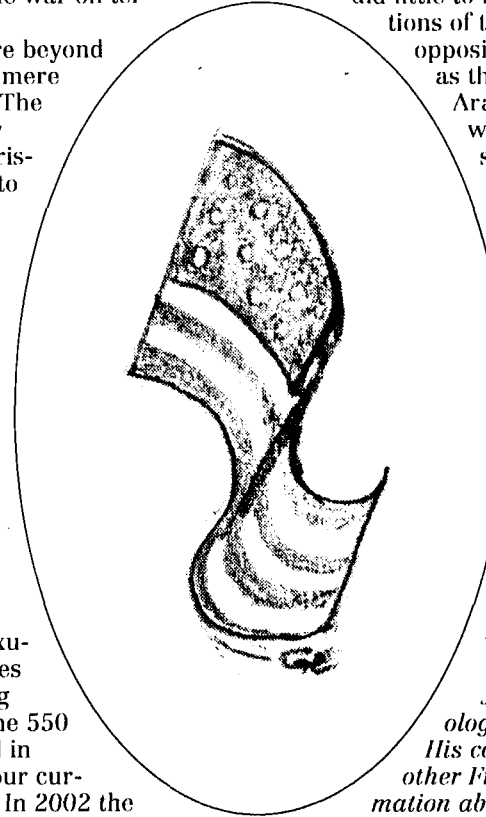
utilitarian calculation appears to contradict the good Christian president's rhetorical emphasis on protecting life in all stages and respecting human dignity. Bush is adamant about making his "faith" known, but more and more one is led to wonder what that "faith" is in and whether it has practical implications. Is nothing sacred in the war on terror?

Accounts of torture beyond Abu Ghraib are not mere liberal speculation. The FBI reported in July that Guantanamo prisoners were subject to physical mistreatment, extreme temperatures and lack of food and water. One individual was left in a cell heated over 100 degrees and found unconscious, having pulled out much of his own hair. The military acknowledged that in 2003 two female interrogators at Guantanamo were reprimanded for sexually tinged techniques aimed at humiliating detainees. Among the 550 individuals detained in Guantanamo only four currently face charges. In 2002 the FBI's director refused a CIA request to send a few agents to a secret facility in Thailand to assist in "sweating" a suspect. These incidents occurred outside of American territory, in a realm without law, inhabited by "enemy combatants," devoid of Geneva Convention protections

and due process.

In dismissing the rule of law and embracing an ethic justifying "any means at our disposal," the government endangers respect for human life and dignity. Yet this issue is not a new one. Extraordinary rendition began during the Clinton administration, which itself did little to investigate accusations of torture. Absent public opposition to practices such as those that led to Maher Arar's torture in Syria will continue. It is not surprising that a president who sent 152 people to their death while governor of Texas and who mockingly imitated Karla Faye Tucker's plea for life should witness such lack of concern for human life and dignity. When considering who is his neighbor, it appears Bush is more than willing to draw the circle tighter and tighter.

John Infranca is a theology graduate student. His column appears every other Friday. For more information about torture worldwide, he directs readers to the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition at <http://tassc.org>. He can be contacted at jinfan1@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Can you afford to be a liberal?

Can you afford to be a liberal?

Recycled toilet paper, 12 rolls — \$11.99. Cage-free eggs — \$3.99. Organic, biodegradable shampoo — \$6.99. Organic yogurt, 32 oz — \$4.19.

Going shopping without a heavy conscience and a healthy body — priceless. Last week I was driving home from campus ("Driving?" you scream — I should have biked or walked or taken TRANSPO to save precious fuels and cut down on pollutants). I had an extremely guilty craving. It was ten o'clock in the evening and I hadn't yet eaten dinner. Driving downtown I only had a few options after 10 p.m. I could cook, but I had nothing in the house; there was Fiddler's or the Oyster Bar, but nothing there I could afford. McDonalds, Burger King — but these were no good because it was a Friday in Lent. No meat. And their fish sandwich was just too greasy for me. Besides I only had about two bucks in my wallet. That wouldn't even cover a trip to McDonalds. And oh yeah, there's the Taco Bell. Taco Bell. The 7-layer burrito was calling my name: beans, rice, guacamole, sour cream — what more could a health-conscious vegetarian-for-a-day consumer of fast food ask for at this time of the night?

But no, I'd forgotten one crucial problem with Taco Bell. Tomatoes. Immigrant farmers. I didn't care. I was pushed over the edge with hunger. One little seven-layer burrito wouldn't hurt. I drove to the Taco Bell. I went through the drive-thru, looked at the menu and was saved. The voice came over the intercom and asked me, "What's your order?" I felt like crying with the shame. I was stumbling over my words and said, "I'm sorry but I don't think I want anything." I drove away back home to make myself a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Though a moral victory for me, it sent me to bed rather hungry and without a warm meal.

I don't think I can afford to be a consistent liberal. I, and others who are also in a low income bracket with no assistance from their families or enough assistance from the government, am sometimes forced to participate in the vicious cycle of perpetuating unfair labor schemes and exploitation. An old song goes, "I sold my soul to the company store." Even I don't cross the line into the Wal-Mart store ... but it's really hard, damn hard not to when so many other things that are consistent with my liberal values just aren't affordable to me. I bet Wal-Mart employees can't afford to shop anywhere but Wal-Mart.

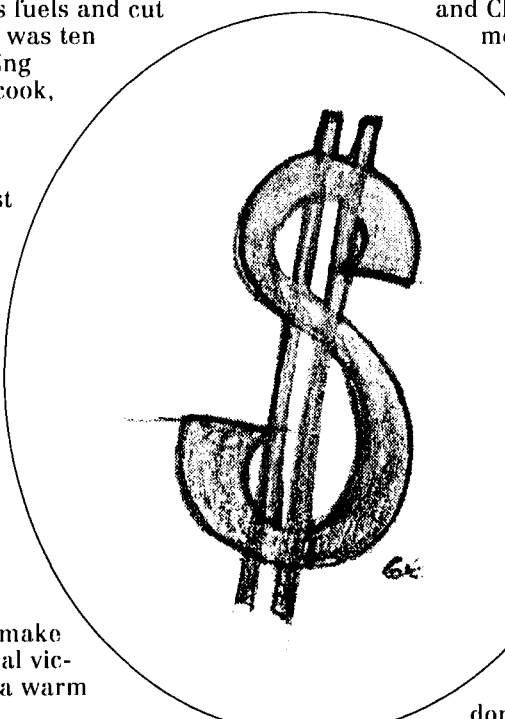
I also hear many people complain about this nation's problems with obesity,

people's lack of eating good vegetables and the success of fast food and other junk food. Health food is expensive. Being environmentally conscious is expensive. Obesity is definitely a class problem in this country. The poor don't seem to go hungry any more, but they go malnourished. Where I shop for bread, frozen veggies and other basics sometimes, the Save-A-Lot on the corner of Western Ave. and Chapin St., I think of all of the affordable yet practically poisoned meats, milk and dairy products with hormones and other treatments.

These types of foods have been known to cause early menses and sexual development of young girls, and in some extremely negative circumstances making them more vulnerable to sexual crimes or experiences at early ages. These foods, which are much cheaper, actually contribute and help perpetuate class divisions. They also are in some ways addictive and mass-marketed to children, coating nutrients with extra sugar, salt and fat.

This gets me very depressed. On my \$15,000 a year (most of which goes to rent, books and other research expenses) I can barely afford to feed myself much more than the addictive Kraft Mac & Cheese (even this gets me down because Kraft is owned by Phillip Morris), with an occasional trip to Harmons market to treat myself to eggs from organically-fed, cage-free chickens or organic hormone-free yogurt. Forget eating meat that is environmentally conscious or without hormones. How can a family possibly afford to feed itself healthy food on \$20,200 (what two minimum-wage earners could bring home in a 52 weeks)?

The next time you bite into your organic vegetables, tofu, cage-free chicken or drink your hormone-free milk, don't think about the hungry. Think about those who are hungry for the social justice of eating foods that don't pollute bodies. Change your donating habits to food pantries. Donate frozen or fresh vegetables instead of canned. Some pantries even take frozen chickens and turkeys. Grow an organic garden for the homeless shelter this summer; they will take your vegetables. Food is also an instrument of class division; let's take a bite out of it.



Sarah MacMillen
graduate student
department of sociology
March 3

Play video games for a college degree

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

Going to Notre Dame or Saint Mary's is, without a doubt, a privilege.

But after taking a look inside the DigiPen Institute of Technology, some gamers out there might think they've chosen the wrong school.

On a Thursday afternoon in class at the United States' first interactive entertainment university, students are receiving unique advice.

"This is not something your parents told you," professor Christopher Ernhardt said in a lecture on game design and production. "Play as many different games as possible."

Video games are a young industry, and DigiPen is accordingly a young institution. Twenty years ago there was no need for a university like DigiPen, but the world has changed rapidly.

Founder and president of DigiPen Claude Comair first created the DigiPen Applied Computer Graphics School in Vancouver, British Columbia (B.C.) in 1988 in response to the growing need for computer programmers and 3-D animators. As the need for a formal source of qualified video game programmers increased, DigiPen began to expand its focus. The school accepted its first class of video game programming students in 1994.

The students in the first classes began receiving job offers even before graduation. The campus in Redmond, Wash., built on land leased from Nintendo, was established in 1998.

DigiPen is still a relatively small institution, with approximately 600 students, teachers and staff but has grown since its creation.

DigiPen offers degrees in Real-Time Interactive Simulation, Computer Engineering and 3-D Computer Animation, training some students in technology and game programming and others in art game creation. The graduate program, which takes applications from outside as well as from DigiPen students, also allows students to earn a masters degree in computer science.

Students in various DigiPen programs take classes in color theory, character animation, robotics and real-time operating systems, but the focus is always on how to produce the best possible games and do it efficiently.

"How are we going to keep them hooked?" Ernhardt said. "You can't rely on graphics to sell the title. It's all about pacing. After something exciting, give them a chance to catch their breath. They need to feel satisfaction before moving on."

In an advanced art class, students are learning how to put together an impressive portfolio that plays to their strengths.

"You have to remember what you're good at," professor Abbot Smith said. "If your specialty is cute, stick with cute. If your specialty is vomiting zombies, build a portfolio around that."

DigiPen students create original games for competitions such as the Game Developers Conference and for their portfolios, although DigiPen retains the rights to ensure that the university does not begin to compete with professional developers.

DigiPen is closely associated with Nintendo — Comair is also a chairman for the Nintendo Software Company. DigiPen graduates, however, do not always stay in-house and often move on to work for independent developing companies.

Chief Operating Officer Jason Chu said graduates from DigiPen often find themselves ready for the job market without any further training, with game programmers starting at \$45,000-\$60,000 per year and 3-D animators at \$45,000-\$55,000 per year.

But for some gamers, it might be worth it just for the chance to influence the in-vogue market of video games — and maybe create that next immortal animated character.

Contact Maria Smith at
msmith4@nd.edu



Nintendo In

Childhood favorite tries to appeal to new games that are innovative

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

At Nintendo headquarters near Seattle, it's all about fun and games.

That's the goal, at least, and that's what makes it out of headquarters to the many avid video game fans around the nation. But video games are a competitive business, and keeping consoles and games at a high standard and on the edge of the market is an endless task.

In the world of video games Nintendo has the undisputed advantage of nostalgia. Older generations of gamers might have fond memories of Sega's Sonic the Hedgehog, but Mario, Donkey Kong and Princess Zelda are a quintessential childhood memory for countless college-aged and older people across the country.

But as the market matures, the tools for success change. Lately at video game and media stores around the country, Nintendo products just aren't selling as well as their counterparts on PlayStation 2 and xBox. Whether it's the wide selection of PlayStation games or the graphics capacity in the xBox, the products of media giants Sony and Microsoft have got an edge. The recently released Nintendo DS, a dual-screen portable system with a touch-screen and stylus, is going to face some tough competition from the new PSP, PlayStation's own handheld system.

What will it take for Nintendo to keep its place in the market it created? For one thing, the company will have to keep up with their aging fans.

"We're getting an older and older demographic," Brian Lucas, Best Buy public relations representative, said. "A lot of people grew up with video games, and they're maintaining a strong interest into their twenties and thirties."

But Nintendo has a lot to gain from sticking to its roots. The same qualities and characters that formed the video game market might be its best bet for maintaining its place in the hearts and minds of gamers.

At the Nintendo College Media Day in Seattle, college reporters from around the country got a look at multiple aspects of video game marketing and developing. A two-day look at Nintendo headquarters and upcoming games showed that there's a lot going for the original video game masters.

Nintendo headquarters

Nintendo headquarters itself, located in Redmond, Wash., doesn't look like a fantasyland from the outside. But inside, the building is undoubtedly the home of Nintendo. Fan art mailed in to the company is displayed periodically along the walls. Walkways between cubicles are marked with street signs reading "Octorok Circle" and "Torpedo Ted Turnpike," and the conference room is labeled "Wario Woods." Every employee has a GameCube at their desk.

At 5 p.m. sharp the video game testing room much as they would from any paid to play games, but often play the again for an entire work day.

The gift shop is, of course, a walk-in Nintendo fan — a timeline display of the company, which actually predates the onset of video games. Nintendo flashlights and other merchandise are a countless games, and a big screen TV new games as they come out. It is Nintendo fans can satisfy their craving of the pixelated world they love.

New waves in advertising

One of Nintendo's perennial problems has been able to lose its childlike image. "Night Fight Round 2" are not going to change the company's logo is a favorite childhood

"We've had to change our focus and target audience," said Brian Kaplan, vice president of Marketing. "The audience is larger. The question is how to get year-olds fall in love and still keep the

This is perhaps the idea behind the college-aged gamers. This includes the an 11-city tour continuing through April. Nintendo gives a chance to try games and an "play," as well as publicity stunts at locations such as Panama City Beach, Fla. Nintendo is aiming at an older audience in its new DS sports the slogan "Touching is good." The spot features MTV's Wildboyz, Chris Rock and others.

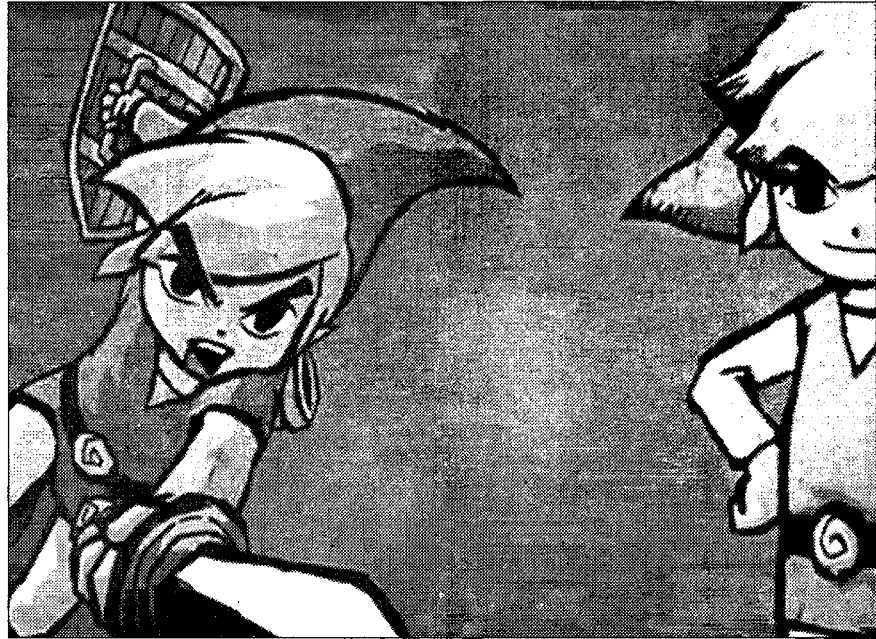
Marketing also breaks its consumer base. Budding enthusiasts are a younger market. Up games now and then. Image animators want everything the moment it comes. The most important in spreading a game to

In some ways the move toward new games is a shame, since it seems to be a move away from a unique identity. But Nintendo is right. It has the chops for older audiences. "Resident Evil" graphics and an all-too-creepy atmosphere. Nintendo can create games for an older audience. This is what will change the common perception. If the company can keep putting out quality games, it may just lose its stigma.

Quirks and traditions

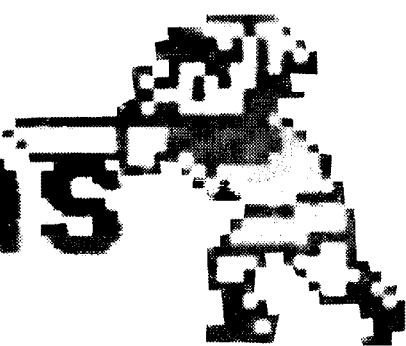
But hopefully Nintendo will continue to do, on games that are innovative and graphically better.

"Donkey Konga," with its bongo drums



Left, Donkey Konga is one of Nintendo's innovations in video games, with bongo drums for controllers. Middle, the Zelda franchise, which has a new game coming out soon, is

Innovations



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example of an innovative game that strikes a new chord, and will lead to better things. "Donkey Kong: Jungle Beat," in which Donkey Kong is controlled through levels using the drums, looks bizarre but is surprisingly entertaining and addictive. The game is likely to become extremely popular after its release on March 14.

Many games produced by Nintendo are almost directly translated from their Japanese counterparts, which is a challenge both in language and in culture. Levels of sexual humor which are acceptable in Japan won't fly in the United States, and sometimes games have to be edited to remove sexual overtones.

It can also be hard to predict whether a game like "Animal Crossing," which takes players into a real-time village populated with animals, will actually be a success in the United States. A great deal depends on how well the game is translated, and even if this is well executed it might turn out to be just a little too strange for American culture.

Nate Bildorf works in product development localizing games out of the Kyoto studio and the new Tokyo studio for the United States. This includes translating messages and descriptions as well as voiceovers.

"Animal Crossing" had over 20,000 messages — it was a nightmare to localize," Bildorf said. "You've got to fit a description in twelve characters. In kanji, you can say a paragraph."

As the need for new and innovative games increases, Nintendo has begun trying to capitalize on any of these new game ideas which might provide a new experience. The Nintendo DS offers a particular opportunity for strange and unique games. "WarioWare: Touched!" is an example of something which is initially bizarre, but has become reasonably popular.

"Maybe 10 years ago that wouldn't have made it out of Japan," Bildorf said. "It has to be very Japanese for us not to want it."

"Polarium," a black and white geometrical takeoff on Tetris-style strategy games, will probably not be a bestseller after its release on April 18, but will likely become a new addiction for other gamers.

Nintendo also does well to rely on the characters that have made it famous. Mario continues to be a huge franchise. The new game in the Zelda franchise will be Nintendo's focus for E3 2005, the hugely anticipated video game conference in May. The offbeat and the nostalgic might not be the biggest markets, but they're out there, and Nintendo has an undoubted knack for both.

It would be a sad day for video games if Nintendo lost its place in the video game scene. But Nintendo has enough innovative power to keep it going. This particular fantasy world of childhood has yet to fade away.

Contact Maria Smith at
msmith4@nd.edu

Girl gamers do exist, but in the minority

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

There aren't many serious "girl gamers" working at Nintendo headquarters, but Deanna Guay is proud to be one of them.

Video games are a male-dominated pastime. The chances of walking into a room in Pangborn Hall and finding a GameBoy are probably less than the chances of walking into a quad in Morrissey Manor and finding a GameCube, Xbox and PlayStation2 stacked next to each other.

But Guay and her husband have always been gamers. The couple had Pong and Atari before the real birth of Nintendo. They bought the regular Nintendo console when it first came out and have had every system since then. Guay's all-time favorite game is Uniracers, and her husband hesitates to play against her in Tetris Attack.

Although the corporate side of Nintendo does not seem to show particular gender disparities, the games do not often seem to catch on with women the same way they do with men. Guay estimates she is one of three or four of the women working in consumer service who really gets into the games.

Guay, who answers customer calls and works on Team Nintendo, finds women who do play games often pick up a different set of games than serious male gamers.

"Girls aren't as much into the football, baseball, Mortal Kombat kinds of games," she said. "They like the cute games, or the puzzle games."

The difference may just be in the level of difficulty learning to play — whereas mastering the controls and learning to move in a game like Halo or Metroid Prime is difficult, picking up a game of Tetris is much easier.

Vice president of Marketing and Corporate Affairs Perrin Kaplan said the Nintendo DS, with its touch screen and stylus in addition to button controls, has a slightly higher percentage of female users than the GameCube. Guay has noticed that Donkey Konga and Donkey Kong Jungle Beat, which use a set of bongo drums instead of a hand-held controller, are also popular with women.

"When we tested Metroid Prime Hunters for the DS, boys seemed to like the buttons better, but girls liked the stylus," Guay said. "We seem to be more into holding a pen and writing than boys are. Girls seem to like the bongos too."

Perhaps the different preferences also lie in the scenarios, with strategy or story-line as opposed to violence, or in attachments to familiar characters.

"I get grandmas who call in about Zelda, and they'll just talk and talk," Guay said. "Wheel of Fortune is such an addictive game, I get housewives who call in on that one."

And it goes down the line from "grandmas" to "housewives" to female students at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's.

Notre Dame senior Sarah Bates enjoys the old school Mario games but also loves Donkey Konga.

Notre Dame senior Leslie Humboldt and Saint Mary's junior Sarah Nowak both consider Tetris one of their favorites, with various Mario games close behind.

For Notre Dame junior Katie Rossi, it's Kingdom Hearts, a storyline game for PlayStation2 featuring favorite Disney characters, and Dance Dance Revolution.

"I don't think girls like the shooter games for the most part because in my experience, they're kind of repetitive and just challenging in different ways than storyline games," Rossi said.

Saint Mary's senior Kelly Hradsky prefers racing games — including Mario Kart and Crash Team Racing — partly because, she believes, many role-playing games seem to be created almost exclusively for men.

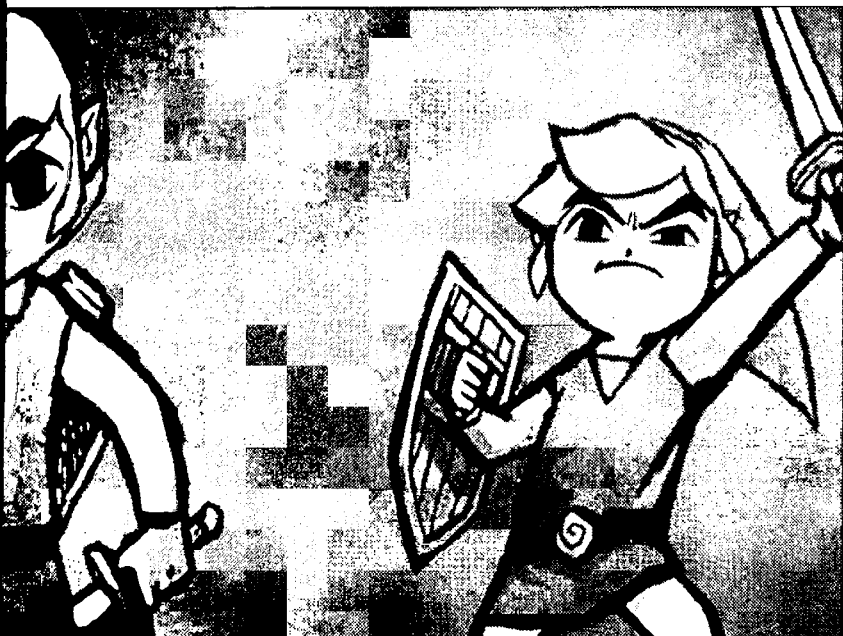
"If you want to be a female character you have to be a tiny girl with a huge chest," Hradsky said. "No girl can relate to that."

Notre Dame senior Meegan Anderson prefers to play Kingdom Hearts and The Urbz: Sims in the City. While she and her roommate both like to play, they rarely play multiplayer games with simultaneous play.

"Girls don't usually get together in big groups and play," Anderson said. "I think that's why the sports games aren't as popular."

Whatever psychological, biological or cultural differences exist between men and women, the split is obvious in the world of gamers.

Contact Maria Smith at
msmith4@nd.edu



Photos courtesy of www.gccafe.com, www.n-prime.com and www.square-enix.com

an old favorite for traditional Nintendo enthusiasts. Kingdom Hearts, a PlayStation2 game featuring several Disney characters, is popular among Notre Dame students.

FENCING

Postseason begins with Regionals in Detroit

By ERIC RETTER

Sports Writer

The postseason is here, but until the end of the finals, this weekend's match will be Notre Dame's most important one.

The championship process will begin for Notre Dame Sunday, as it travels to Detroit to compete in the NCAA Regionals. A strong performance in the tournament is critical to qualifying for the NCAA Championships, as 60 percent of the selection criteria is based on the outcome, while 40 percent comes from regional seeding and regular season performance. The slots available for each region vary by weapon, and each team is allowed to qualify two competitors from each weapon for a maximum of 12 fencers for nationals.

In their quest for a second national title in three years, the Irish — No. 1 in the women's poll and No. 4 in the men's — anticipate sending the maximum number of competitors to nationals.

"We hope we will qualify ten-to-twelve fencers, and this will give us a chance to compete for top medal positions," coach

Janusz Bednarski said.

Going into Regionals, Notre Dame is prepared to face its toughest and most crucial test yet.

"The reality is that it will be hard [to qualify 12 fencers], because there are very good teams in the Midwest," Bednarski said. "The competition [field] is small, but tough."

Those teams who pose a threat to Notre Dame's ambitions include defending champion Ohio State, who is No. 2 in the women's poll and No. 1 in the men's. The Buckeyes are arguably strongest in men's sabre, where two of the region's five slots will almost certainly go to a pair of the team's trio of Jason Rogers, Jason Paul and defending NCAA champion Adam Crompton. The Irish are looking also to send fencers in sabre, with sophomores Patrick Ghattas and Matt Stearns ranked in the top five for the region.

The Notre Dame's women's sabre is in strong position, led by Olympic gold medalist Mariel Zagunis and defending NCAA champion Valerie Provenza.

In women's epee, the Irish already have one fencer qualified for one of the region's six

NCAA finals slots.

Senior Kerri Walton, who will not compete in Regionals due to a World Cup conflict, has been assured a spot through a special petition process.

Based upon seeding, the Irish have two fencers predicted to qualify in all weapons but men's foil.

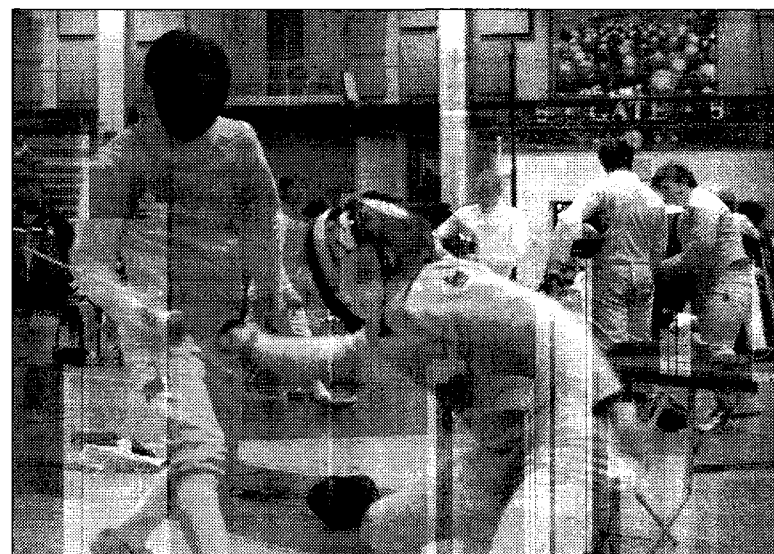
While freshman Jakub Jedrkowiak is seeded second, sophomore Frank Botempo's performance may prove critical in Notre Dame's hunt for a title, as he is currently seeded sixth in a weapon that only guarantees four fencers from the region.

A strong performance Sunday will almost certainly advance him to the next round, which would provide the Irish with a better chance to win the championship.

However, perhaps the most important challenge Notre Dame has before it will be returning everyone to top form from injuries.

"We are doing everything to prepare the fencers," Bednarski said. "The fencers are curing, and slowly they are getting to better health."

Among the injured fencers is senior women's foilist Alicja



Observer File Photo

An Irish fencer competes against a Northwestern opponent on Feb. 26. The NCAA Regionals are this weekend in Detroit.

Kryczalo, the three-time defending NCAA champion. Kryczalo has been struggling with a knee injury that limited her action in the Midwest Conference Championships last weekend, but the possibility of her recovery to 100 percent by Sunday seems promising.

"Alicja returned to training, and yesterday she felt no pain,"

Bednarski said on Thursday.

On the brink of the most important matches of the season, Bednarski trusts his team's talent won't be negated by injuries.

"I hope that the chain of health events of the last two weeks will stop," he said.

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

HOCKEY

Underdog Irish to take on Spartans in East Lansing

By JUSTIN SCHUVER

Sports Writer

It will probably take more than a spartan effort for the Irish to break their 15-game winless streak this weekend.

Notre Dame (5-23-6, 3-18-5 CCHA) will take on Michigan State (15-15-4, 10-13-3) this weekend in a home-and-home series to close out the regular season. The Irish will face the Spartans in East Lansing, Mich., Friday and return home to close out the series Saturday.

The Irish will face a Spartan team who is fighting for the last home-ice spot in the CCHA playoffs. Michigan State is currently in the league's eighth place slot, two points behind Miami of Ohio and Alaska Fairbanks, who are tied for sixth-place. The top six finishers in the CCHA get home ice in the first round of the CCHA playoffs.

Notre Dame is guaranteed last

place in the league. The Irish will face either Michigan or Ohio State in the first playoff round in a best-of-three series Mar. 11-13, depending on which team finishes first in the CCHA.

The Wolverines are 4-0 this season against the Irish, outscoring Notre Dame 29-6 in those contests.

But despite the daunting task ahead of his team, Irish coach Dave Poulin is focused on beating Michigan State and getting the Irish their first win since a 2-1 victory over Rensselaer Jan. 2 at the Joyce Center.

"After the Michigan game [on Feb. 19], we talked at length about what it feels like to have your season end," Poulin said. "It's a very hollow feeling, and we decided that we were going

to play the rest of this year with the mindset that this weekend is our two-game season, and then we're going into the playoffs.

"The beauty of the CCHA is that every team gets into the playoffs, so we can get some momentum against Michigan State and then hopefully go into the postseason on a good streak."

The Irish were idle last weekend, while the Spartans split a series with Bowling Green as each team

won at home.

Michigan State has struggled of late, losing four of its last six games. Notre Dame is 1-1 against the Spartans already this season, with the one win coming in a 3-2 overtime decision at the Joyce Center Dec. 10. That victo-

ry was also Notre Dame's last conference win.

The Irish have lost five straight, but their offense has been on a tear in comparison with the team's scoring earlier in the season.

Notre Dame has scored at least two goals in its last five games, including three goals twice. While that does not sound like much, the Irish are the worst offensive team in the CCHA, scoring just 1.65 goals per game this season.

Highly-touted freshman forward Victor Oreskovich finally picked up his first goal of the season and forward Matt Amado scored two goals in Notre Dame's last series against Michigan, but that newfound offense might be too little, too late.

"It's still not too late for this team to do something," Poulin said. "We've talked all year about how we haven't really been getting any of the breaks, and we still believe that they're coming

for us this year."

But it won't get any easier for the Irish this weekend as they face one of the CCHA's top goalies in the Spartans' Dominic Vicari. The sophomore is third in the CCHA with a 2.35 goals-against average and a save percentage of .922. Vicari also leads the league in shutouts, having blanked his opponent four times this season.

Forwards Colton Fretter and Jim Slater lead the Spartan offense with 38 and 37 points, respectively. Fretter has found the back of the net 17 times, while Slater has scored 13 goals.

Notre Dame faces Michigan State at Munn Arena in East Lansing at 7:05 p.m. Friday. The Irish then close out their regular season with a 7:05 p.m. face-off against the Spartans at 7:05 p.m. Saturday at the Joyce Center.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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ND WOMEN'S TRACK

Irish to compete in Wilson Invite

By RYAN KIEFER
Sports Writer

A group of Irish athletes will compete this weekend in an effort to get themselves off the NCAA bubble.

Sound familiar?

But this team's athletes do not pass, shoot and score — they run, jump and throw.

While the men's basketball team looks to seal an NCAA berth tomorrow afternoon in the JACC, the Notre Dame women's track team will be running an equally important meet in Loftus Sports Center at the Alex Wilson Invitational, which begins tonight.

With several athletes on the brink of NCAA qualification, the Irish will field team members in a limited number of events. Many runners who would normally compete in several events will only run once, focusing their attention on their strongest event in an effort to qualify for next week's NCAA Indoor Championships.

A handful of Irish athletes, highlighted by high jumper Stacey Cowan, have the NCAAAs within their reach. The junior currently stands No. 18 in the nation in the high jump, tied with seven other athletes at 1.80 meters. The NCAA minimum field for the high jump is 14 competitors.

"As it stands now, she'd probably be in because she's tied with the kids who are in 13th and 14th," Irish coach Tim Connelly said. "But if a few kids hit some jumps this week, she could fall out of that top 14. She needs to hit a jump this week to feel comfortable."



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Irish sprinters Brienne Davis, left, and Maryann Erigha, right, run against Marquette earlier this season. Notre Dame will compete in the Alex Wilson Invitational this weekend.

"I like her chances, though, because she always jumps well at home. Stacey is probably in the best position to qualify out of all our women this weekend."

Stephanie Madia faces a similar predicament in the 3000 meters. The junior currently ranks No. 21 in the nation in that event. Connelly knows Madia can improve.

"[Madia] is clearly capable of running faster," Connelly said. "She ran one of her best times of the year in her fourth race of the Big East meet."

Other Irish athletes that have the opportunity to qualify include Maryann Erigha in the 60 meters and the 200 meters and reigning Big East champions Okechi Ogbuokiri and Tiffany Gunn in the 400 meters.

"They have the opportunity,

but they know they have to run fast," Connelly said.

More than 100 teams are expected to compete this weekend, as this serves as the final opportunity to qualify for the NCAA's. As one of the only NCAA-sanctioned meets this weekend, the competition is expected to be intense. More than 80 provisional and automatic qualifying times were achieved at this meet last year. The Irish then will move outdoors following next weekend's NCAA Championships.

"We are a work in progress," Connelly said. "We've had numerous [personal records], but we've also been hurt by injuries."

Contact Ryan Kiefer at
rkeifer1@nd.edu

SMC GOLF

Belles open year in North Carolina

By ANNA FRICANO
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will kick off its spring season over the break with a spring training trip to Pinehurst, N.C. The team will depart on March 6 and remain in North Carolina until March 12.

After they return from the trip, the Belles will have nearly another month to prepare for their first competition of the spring. The season opens on April 1 when the team joins the field of the Purple and White Invitational at Capital University in Ohio.

After capturing the MIAA Conference title in the fall 2004 season — their third consecutive conference championship — the Belles are going into the spring season in a fairly confident position. The team has participated in the NCAA National Championship for the past two years, and with a team that has remained intact for the most part, 2005 could provide the same opportunity. After capturing their third MIAA title, Saint Mary's is ranked No. 3 in the nation in the national rankings of both the Golf Channel and GolfStat.com for Division III Women's Golf. Methodist College and Mary Hardin-Baylor are ranked above the Belles.

Seniors Stefanie Simmerman and Julia Adams should lead the Belles this

spring. Simmerman was a 2003 NCAA National Champion and finished No. 12 in the 2004 tournament. She has been named first team All-MIAA every year since 2001.

Adams was an MIAA-tournament medalist in 2004 as well as in 2002. She, too, has been named to the All-MIAA first team in the past, earning the honor both in 2003 and 2004. Adams also medaled for the 2004 MIAA Championship.

Both Simmerman and Adams had a very strong fall 2004 season, averaging scores of 79.82 and 81.18, respectively. They both finished in the top ten in every MIAA competition.

Senior and team captain Chrissy Dunham is expected to have an especially strong season this spring. Dunham was named to the first team All-MIAA after improving her average score from 89.67 in the spring of 2004 to 81.73 in the fall.

Saint Mary's has a positive outlook for the 2005 spring season. For two years in a row, the team has competed in the national championships and has captured three conference titles in as many years. With the majority of the NCAA team still together, the Belles are positioned for another run at the championship.

Contact Anna Fricano at
afical@saintmarys.edu

MEN'S TRACK

Runners look to earn berths in NCAA meet

By JOHN EVERETT
Sports Writer

With the NCAA Indoor Championships to be held in Fayetteville, Ark., next week, many collegiate track teams need one last chance to get some athletes qualified for the prestigious meet.

Notre Dame's Alex Wilson Invitational will offer athletes from many teams just that chance this weekend.

The Invitational will be held at the Loftus Center on Friday night and all day Saturday. Michigan, Illinois, Penn State, Wisconsin, Texas, Washington, Duke and Virginia are just some of the teams that will be sending competitors to South Bend. Most of these teams will only send a small contingent to the meet, comprised predominantly of those who are close to the qualifying mark in their event.

As for the Irish objective for the meet, coach Joe Plane set specific goals for the weekend.

"We'd like to see some more

people qualify, and others who have already qualified we'd like to have improve their times," Plane said. "Our men's distance medley has a legitimate shot to qualify at this meet."

Plane also mentioned junior distance runner Tim Moore as a runner with a good chance of making the cut this weekend in the 5000 meters.

Plane cited senior Selim Nurudeen as an example of an Irish athlete looking to improve on a qualifying mark. Nurudeen has already qualified for the NCAAAs in the 60-meter hurdles and dash, as well as the 200-meter dash.

At the Alex Wilson, he will be running the 200 meters to try and improve his time in that event.

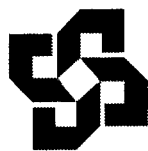
On Mar. 11-12, those Notre Dame athletes who have already qualified and those who manage to do so this weekend will travel to the NCAA Indoor Championships.

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jeverett@nd.edu

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Saturday last chance to qualify for NCAAs

By RYAN DUFFY
Sports Writer

Having capped off one of its best seasons in school history with a Big East championship two weeks ago, Notre Dame will look to add to its accolades over break, sending representatives to the Boiler-Make-It Invitational and NCAA Zone C Diving

Championships to vie for NCAA spots.

Sophomore Ted Brown will swim the 500-meter freestyle to represent the Irish at the Boiler-Make-It Invitational at Purdue University this weekend.

The invitational falls on the last day for swimmers to qualify for competition in the NCAA Championships. Brown hopes to improve his chances of being

selected with a strong time on Sunday.

"I'm very confident that Ted will post a faster time," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "I'm confident he will do a life-time best and set a new university record for the event."

Another Irish swimmer looking to qualify for a spot in the NCAA Championships is freshman diver Sam Stoner, who will

compete in the NCAA Zone C Diving Championships March 11-12 in West Lafayette, Ind. Unlike the other swimming events, the zone qualifying meet represents the only chance for divers to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

"The zone qualifying meet is extremely difficult," Welsh said. "We're in the Big Ten area, so all the divers in this entire area will go to Purdue that weekend. There is a very small number of designated spots for each zone; 40 or 50 divers will go down there, and maybe only five or six will advance."

Welsh, who earned Big East Coach of the Year honors for the second consecutive year, expects a strong showing from Stoner.

"It's a very high level of pressure, but it's very exciting for Sam to get to go as a freshman and get this great experience," Welsh said. "I think Sam will have his best performance of the year. He's been diving well, and I'm confident he'll have his best meet of the year."

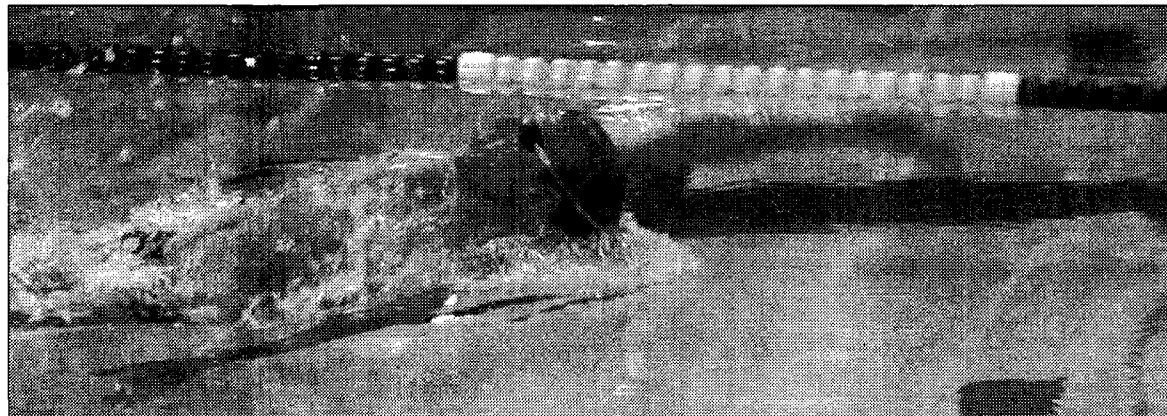
The two meets will give Notre Dame a chance to add to its list of swimmers under consideration to swim at the NCAA Championships, which currently stands at an impressive eight.

"We've never had eight people under consideration for the NCAAs," Welsh said. "As a program, we still think we're moving in the right direction, putting one foot forward every time."

Even if members of the Irish squad do not manage to qualify for the NCAA Championships with their performances over break, their coach said the season will still remain an overwhelming success.

"Everything is a win from here on," Welsh said. "The season's been great, the number of university records has been terrific and the number of guys inside of that consideration number has been terrific. "Whatever happens, we're going to be happy with it."

Contact Ryan Duffy at
rduffy1@nd.edu



Observer File Photo

Irish backstroker Andrew Mikay competes in the Dennis Stark Relays in October. Notre Dame swimmers and divers will vie for NCAA spots at two different meets this weekend.

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles kick off season with spring break trip to Florida

St. Mary's to play 11 games over an 8-day span in Fort Myers

By BRIAN CARDILE
Sports Writer

Like many of their classmates, Belles softball players are heading south for spring break. But Saint Mary's hopes to return from its trip with more than sunburns and souvenirs.

The team looks to start strong on its 2005 campaign, which kicks off this week in Ft. Myers, Fla.

The defending MIAA champion Belles will play eleven

games in the next eight days against teams from all over the country.

The team that takes the field this week in Florida will look somewhat different than last year's St. Mary's squad, which lost four starters to graduation. The 2005 club fields no seniors and is headed by a first-year head coach, Kristi Beechy, who takes the helm of her first collegiate program after serving as an assistant at Sienna Heights for two seasons. But the squad is not without experience — most all returning members played crucial roles in last year's MIAA championship run.

Three returning Belles — Audrey Gajor, Laura Helene and Bridget Grall — had double digit RBIs in the 2004 campaign and will look to continue their

offensive prowess. Catcher Sarah Miesle, with a .988 fielding percentage last year, will help anchor the defense.

The Belles' spring break slate starts today with a match against Transylvania University. Beginning Sunday, the squad will use that extra Florida sunshine to squeeze in two games

per day. The first doubleheader will pit the Belles against Mac Murray College and Alfred University.

On Monday, the team faces Lakeland College and Hiram College.

Dominican College and Saint Mary of the Woods fill Tuesday's lineup, while

Emmanuel College and Medaille College await the Belles on Thursday. Finally, St Mary's wraps up the whirlwind week with games against Rensselaer Polytech and Aurora University.

Contact Brian Cardile at
bcardile@nd.edu

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Team looks to continue hot start against Cornell Saturday

Irish take on Big Red one week after historic win over Penn State

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame dominated Penn State Sunday at University Park in their first game of the 2005 season.

Now, the Irish have to worry about continuing their solid start Saturday, when the team travels to Cornell.

But Cornell will present the Irish with an obstacle they did not encounter against the Nittany Lions.

"It's a different kind of a chal-

lenge," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "This team is much more patient and methodical offensively, [they are much more strict] about what they are going to do and what they are not going to do. They don't just let it flow. They have a plan, they are going to stick to the plan and they are going to execute very well."

Notre Dame completely outclassed its opponent last Sunday, marking the largest margin of victory on the road over a ranked opponent in the school's history with its 14-6 win.

In that game, the Irish got great production from their forwards — Pat Walsh, Matt Karweck and Jim Morrison — as all three starters collected

hat tricks.

This week, the Irish have a slightly different game plan coming in both on offense and defense, a strategy that will cater better to the type of opponent they will face.

"The challenge is to play a different kind of game than we played last week in terms of defense," Corrigan said. "Offensively, this is a team that sits back in a little more, challenges you to be a little more patient, a little more selective offensively. At the same time, you have to be care-

ful not to lose your aggressiveness while doing so."

Aside from the offense, the Irish played very well on defense, as senior goalie

Stewart Crosland saved 75 percent of the shots he faced.

The performance earned Crosland the Great Western Lacrosse League Player of the Week award.

Corrigan agreed the team certainly has momentum coming off its victory, but he said it is important not to get lost in the recent success going into Cornell.

"Obviously you've got more

momentum than if you didn't win it, but it's one game and we're certainly not going to try to make too much of it," Corrigan said.

Following Saturday, the Irish will have a quick turnaround and will play Tuesday at Villanova.

"That will be a tough one because you will be coming back on short rest and trying to play a team that has a lot of people back from a team that did very well last year," Corrigan said.

The Irish, however, have to worry about Cornell first.

The teams will meet at 1 p.m. on Saturday in Ithaca, NY.

Contact Bobby Griffin at
rgriiffi3@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Pair of Northwestern runs down Irish, 18-11

5-0 second-half run lifts No. 3 Wildcats over Notre Dame

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

The Irish knew it wouldn't be easy, but they were ready for a fight Thursday afternoon against No. 3 Northwestern.

"We were really pumped to go out there and play them no

matter what their ranking," freshman midfielder Caitlin McKinney said.

Behind McKinney's three goals and an assist, the Irish hung in for three-quarters of the game but seemed to run out of gas at the end, falling to the Wildcats, 18-11.

Northwestern jumped out to an early 2-0 lead on a pair of goals within the first five min-

utes.

The Irish quickly countered, though, as Crysti Foote put Notre Dame on the board just 19 seconds after the second Wildcat goal.

Coming off her career-high five-goal performance against Ohio University in the team's first

regular-season game, Foote finished the contest with three

goals.

The two teams spent the next 17 minutes alternating three goals apiece until Northwestern's Kristen Kjellman and Aly Josephs netted consecutive goals in just over a minute and a half.

The Wildcats then added two more goals to their lead and took a 9-4 advantage with 4:10 remaining in the first half.

Then, Notre Dame went on a run of its own.

Foote scored her second goal with 2:31 remaining, and Kaki Orr followed with a goal of her own with 1:09 left on the clock.

After another Irish goal with 22 seconds left in the half, the Wildcats led by just two at the break.

When play resumed, Notre Dame picked up right where it left off, scoring 2:55 into the half and keeping the Wildcats' offense at bay until the Irish had tied it with another Foote goal, this time on a side-armed shot to the top left corner.

"One of the good things we did was ... to force them into a slump," McKinney said. "When we had the ball, we were scoring."

After that run, though, the Irish would score just two goals the rest of the way, and Northwestern would find its offensive spark.

After failing to score for over sixteen minutes of play,

the Wildcats then lit up the scoreboard five times within the next five minutes to take a commanding 14-9 lead.

First, Northwestern's Lindsey Munday (five goals, three assists) fed Sarah Albrecht for a score.

Less than twenty seconds later, Laura Glassanos found the back of the net, and the Wildcats' attack was in full swing.

Three of the five goals during the 5-0 run came on free-position attempts caused by Irish fouls in front of the net.

"That's obviously something that we wanted to avoid," McKinney said. "Not getting position after the draws put a lot of pressure on the defense."

For the remainder of the game, the Wildcats would play ball control and drain the clock.

"It was really frustrating because that was when we needed the ball most, but ... you don't want to leave open girls," McKinney said.

By the time there was just 2:30 left in the game, Northwestern had expanded its lead to 17-10, and the outcome was no longer in doubt.

The Irish will look to rebound over break with three games against formidable foes — Cornell, Vanderbilt and James Madison.

Contact Ken Fowler at
kfowler1@nd.edu

"When we had the ball, we were scoring."

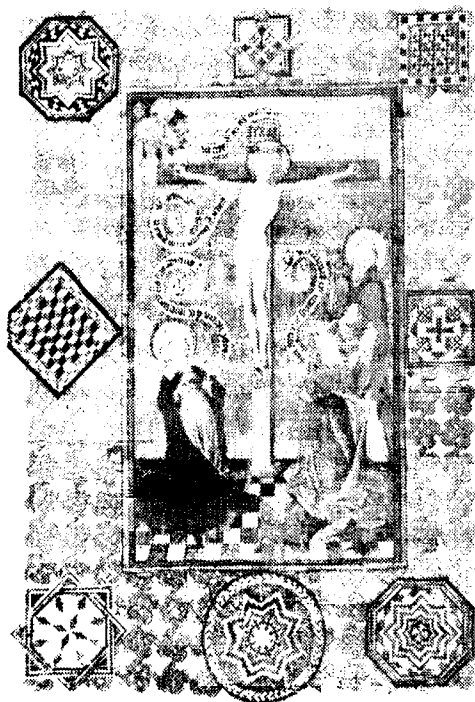
Caitlin McKinney
Irish midfielder

"Not getting position after draws puts a lot of pressure on the defense."

Caitlin McKinney
Irish midfielder

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AROUND THE NATION

page 16

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Friday, March 4, 2005

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Boston	30-28	.517	6-4	0.0
Philadelphia	27-30	.474	4-6	2.5
New Jersey	26-32	.448	5-5	4.0
Toronto	24-33	.421	4-6	5.5
New York	24-33	.421	6-4	5.5

Eastern Conference, Central

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Detroit	36-19	.655	9-1	0.0
Cleveland	31-25	.554	4-6	5.5
Chicago	29-25	.537	7-3	6.5
Indiana	28-28	.500	6-4	8.5
Milwaukee	23-32	.418	6-4	13.0

Eastern Conference, Southeast

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Miami	42-16	.724	8-2	0.0
Washington	32-24	.571	5-5	9.0
Orlando	29-27	.518	4-6	12.0
Charlotte	12-43	.218	2-8	28.5
Atlanta	10-47	.175	0-10	31.5

Western Conference, Northwest

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Seattle	40-16	.714	7-3	0.0
Denver	28-29	.491	7-3	12.5
Minnesota	28-30	.483	4-6	13.0
Portland	22-33	.400	3-7	17.5
Utah	20-37	.351	4-6	20.5

Western Conference, Pacific

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Phoenix	43-14	.754	7-3	0.0
Sacramento	36-23	.610	4-6	8.0
L.A. Lakers	28-28	.500	4-6	14.5
L.A. Clippers	26-32	.448	3-7	17.5
Golden State	17-40	.298	4-6	26.0

Western Conference, Southwest

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
San Antonio	44-13	.772	7-3	0.0
Dallas	38-18	.679	7-3	5.5
Houston	33-25	.569	6-4	11.5
Memphis	32-25	.561	5-5	12.0
New Orleans	12-45	.211	4-6	32.0

College Softball

Big East Conference

team	conf.	overall
Syracuse	0-0-0	4-2-0
Villanova	0-0-0	7-5-0
Boston College	0-0-0	6-6-0
Providence	0-0-0	1-1-0
St. John's	0-0-0	5-5-0
NOTRE DAME	0-0-0	5-6-0
Seton Hall	0-0-0	4-5-0
Pittsburgh	0-0-0	3-7-0
Connecticut	0-0-0	1-3-0
Rutgers	0-0-0	0-5-0

College Baseball

Big East Conference

team	conf.	overall
Rutgers	0-0-0	4-1-0
Villanova	0-0-0	4-1-1
NOTRE DAME	0-0-0	4-3-0
Pittsburgh	0-0-0	2-2-0
Georgetown	0-0-0	3-4-0
St. John's	0-0-0	3-4-0
Connecticut	0-0-0	1-2-0
West Virginia	0-0-0	2-5-0
Seton Hall	0-0-0	1-5-0
Boston College	0-0-0	0-4-0

around the dial

NBA

Kings at Heat, 8 p.m., ESPN
Mavericks at Lakers, 10:30 p.m., ESPN

TENNIS

2005 Davis Cup First Round, 4 p.m., ESPN2

NHL



Trevor Linden, president of the National Hockey League Players Association, answers questions during a news conference on Feb. 19 in New York. If the NHL is bought, the players could have more power in negotiations.

NHL offered \$ 3 billion to sell entire league

Associated Press

BOSTON — Two Boston companies have offered NHL owners a way out of their labor woes: Sell the entire league — pucks, Penguins and penalty boxes — for more than \$3 billion.

Bain Capital Partners LLC and Game Plan LLC made the proposal on Tuesday in New York, where NHL owners were meeting to discuss their next step in the lockout that canceled the entire 2004-05 season. The offer received an icy welcome.

"I don't think it's realistic, and I don't think there's much interest, and I know there's no interest on the

part of the Bruins," said Jeremy Jacobs, whose Delaware North Cos. owns the Boston team, its building, part of its TV broadcaster and the concession contracts for several NHL clubs. "And I think it takes 30 [team owners] to do it."

The Toronto Star and Globe and Mail reported Thursday that NHL commissioner Gary Bettman invited the two Boston companies to present the offer. If accepted, the league would become a single entity, an ownership structure where most decisions are dictated by the central office and the teams have the autonomy of a fast food franchise.

Sports leagues structured

in that way — Major League Soccer and the WNBA among them — have been able to avoid some antitrust scrutiny in the courts, and that can translate into greater power in labor negotiations.

Steve Ross, a sports law professor at the University of Illinois Law School, said courts would want to examine whether the new arrangement stifled competition.

"If some investment firm wanted to buy Ford and General Motors and Honda and Toyota, that would be illegal," he said. "I think that would be a huge problem for them."

Mired in a lockout since

Sept. 16, the NHL last month became the first major North American pro sports league to cancel an entire season. The league has said its teams have lost a collective \$500 million over the past two seasons.

Before the work stoppage, the total value of the 30 NHL franchises was estimated by Forbes Magazine at \$4.9 billion. The Detroit Red Wings topped the list at \$266 million, with the Edmonton Oilers last at \$86 million.

A bigger problem is that, by selling their hockey team, owners who also own their buildings or networks might be selling off the synergy that makes the whole thing profitable.

IN BRIEF

Buffalo defensive tackle signs with Vikings

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings wasted little time addressing their defensive needs, agreeing to terms with veteran defensive tackle Pat Williams late Wednesday night.

Williams agreed to a three-year deal worth \$13 million, with a \$6 million signing bonus.

Williams spent the first eight years of his career in Buffalo, where he became one of the NFL's best run-stoppers. He'll line up next to Pro Bowl defensive tackle Kevin Williams to form a stout tandem up the middle for the Vikings, who ranked 21st against the run and 28th overall on defense last season.

Vikings coach Mike Tice said Thursday that the biggest advantage to the signing is that it allows them to play Kevin Williams, who has emerged as a young star, exclusively at tackle rather than nose tackle, where he would be easily double-teamed.

"That makes us significantly better against the run," Tice said.

House committee invites Canseco to testify

WASHINGTON — Former slugger Jose Canseco and several players he has accused of joining him in abusing steroids have been invited to testify before a House committee.

"There's a cloud over baseball, and perhaps a public discussion of the issues, with witnesses testifying under oath, can provide a glimpse of sunlight," said Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., chairman of the House Government Reform Committee.

Davis and the top Democrat on the panel, Rep. Henry Waxman of California, announced Thursday that they were inviting Canseco and six other former or active players, including the New York Yankees Jason Giambi and former St. Louis Cardinal Mark McGwire, to testify at a March 17 hearing.

A spokeswoman for Waxman, who last week wrote Davis to urge hear-

ings on baseball's response to the steroid scandal, said they don't know if the players will agree to attend. Commissioner Bud Selig has also been invited.

Owens among three Eagles to undergo surgery

PHILADELPHIA — Wide receiver Terrell Owens was among three members of the NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles to undergo successful offseason surgery, the team revealed Thursday.

Owens, who put forth a heroic effort in the Eagles' 24-21 loss to the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXIX on February 6, had the screws in his left ankle removed by Dr. Mark Myerson in Baltimore.

Owens suffered a broken fibula below the right knee and ligament damage to the ankle after being tackled from behind by safety Roy Williams in a Dec. 19 game against Dallas. Three days later, he had two screws and a plate inserted in the ankle by Myerson.

Bouts

continued from page 20

succession of punches later sent him staggering to the corner. After hitting the canvas a second time with blood drawn from his face, Serazin was not allowed to continue, ending the shortest fight of the night.

130 lb.

Senior Jon Valenzuela established himself early in his bout against Senior Joshua Odelson, connecting with a left to the body followed by a right to the face that scored him points early. A combination later in the round followed by numerous shots to the body put Valenzuela in control. Odelson responded in the second round, landing a left to Valenzuela's face that drew blood, and was able to force him to the ropes. Fatigue set in late in the fight as both fighters failed to connect with any substantial blows in the third. Valenzuela's strength early gave him the unanimous decision.

In a hotly contested battle, graduate student Dymytrio "Fun Size" Aponte was victorious over freshman James Carlson in a split decision. Carlson went on the defensive in the second trying to tie up Dymytrio, and eventually sneaking a combination. The fighters traded combinations in the third, with Dymytrio's right-left-right sequence giving him the win.

Thomas Goldrick used a textbook fighting style to emerge victorious in unanimous fashion over fellow sophomore George Hay. Goldrick's repeated use of a left jab followed by a straight right scored him the hits necessary to take control. From there, he used his agility and quickness to avoid hits from Hay.

In a battle of nicknames, senior Robert "Shoeless" Maher was defeated by senior Michael "A Reading from the Book of the Prophet" Feduska. Feduska was able to land high-low combinations. Feduska's combination of left jabs and straight rights landed several punches, one opening a wound on Maher's head. Feduska wore out Maher and moved into the semifinals.

140 lb.

Sophomore Andrew McGill defeated freshman Lawrence "Sully" Sullivan by unanimous decision. After a series of straight rights to the head followed by a left uppercut, McGill used his jab to seat up a powerful right. A right landed in the second that left Sullivan grabbing his shoulder. Despite a valiant effort in the third, "Sully" could not overcome the strength of McGill, eventually losing his mouthpiece, and later, the match.

Junior Mike McCann took out senior Timothy "The Irish Frenzy" McKenzie at 1:40 into the second round. McCann put McKenzie on his heels early, using a right jab, left, then right uppercut combination to send McKenzie to the canvas early. A similar combination in the second sent McKenzie to a knee, forcing the referee to stop the fight.

A fast-paced bout saw junior Will "The Thrill" Bezouska defeat sophomore John "Brave Little Toaster" Cycon by unanimous decision. Bezouska drew blood from Cycon in the first round with a left and used his left jab throughout the fight to control the action. "The Thrill" used his patented left to open the cut several times, overcoming a courageous effort from Cycon.

A close fight saw sophomore Michael Hennig defeat senior Jon "I Wouldn't Want to Fight Me Either" Streit by a split decision. Streit avoided damage in the first round despite being driven into

the corner twice early. Hennig saw a greater percentage of his punches land in the second, especially toward the end of the round. Hennig's left-right-left combination sealed his victory early in the third.

150 lb.

Nathan "The Bonzai Kitten" Lohmyer defeated Patrick O'Brien in a unanimous decision. Lohmyer's experience was evident as he used his left jab to set up rights to the body and head. A punishing right hook late sealed the decision for Lohmyer.

Lohmyer's semifinal opponent will be Clayton "The Texas Tickler" Lougee after the sophomore scored a split decision victory over sophomore Zachary Jara. In a match that featured solid punching sequences on both sides, Lougee's ability to set up his right was the difference as he sealed the win with a left-right combination in the third.

Sophomore Jordan Runge advanced to the semis on the heels of a dominate victory over graduate student Guillermo Tijerina. Runge attacked early, using a jab combination to back Tijerina against the ropes, forcing the referee to intervene. A big right 12 seconds into the second left Tijerina dazed and unable to answer the 10 count, giving Runge the win.

Runge will face senior Tim Huml in the semifinals after Huml defeated sophomore Brian Tyrrell in a unanimous decision. After being knocked down early in the first following a right-left combination from Tyrrell, Huml methodically took control of the bout. He used a four-punch combination to assert himself followed by a huge right that sent Tyrrell flying to the canvas. The fighters traded big punches in the third, leaving both bloody, but Huml victorious following a decisive four punch combination just before the bell.

155 lb.

The opening match at the 155 lb. level saw sophomore Bryan Grissinger come out firing in an attempt to knock off senior Mike Panzica. Grissinger landed several punches early, but the more experienced Panzica weathered the storm, taking control late in the second. With Grissinger tired, Panzica seized the opportunity, landing a right-left combination that knocked down Grissinger and gave Panzica a unanimous decision.

In a similar bout, graduate student Brian Weldon defeated sophomore Stephen "Wiggles" Hutchings in a unanimous decision. Hutchings's punches had Weldon on the run early, but Weldon responded with right-left combinations that backed Hutchings into a corner twice in the third round.

Sophomore Chris Calderone advanced by defeating Paul Hagan, driving the junior into the corner early with a left jab followed by a right. Calderone had Hagan against the ropes in the second as well, using a similar combination. Though he was unable to land the uppercut, it put Hagan on the defensive and allowed for Calderone's unanimous win.

Behind a large fan base, senior Galen Loughrey was victorious over Mike Rooney. Rooney was active early, using his jab effectively and responding to blows to the head with a flurry of punches. The match took a decisive turn when Loughrey opened a cut on Rooney's head during a left-right combination at the end of the second. Loughrey continually opened this cut in the third and used his powerful punches to emerge victorious.

Contact Ryan Kiefer at
rkiefer11@nd.edu

BENGAL BOUTS

Golen, Christoforetti advance

By STEVE COYER

Sports Writer

After a slow first round, junior Mark Basola of Keough landed a string of combos against graduate student Jeff Christoforetti in the first 160-pound class fight. The stellar third round secured a unanimous win for Basola.

Sophomore Adam Burns of Zahm secured an automatic spot in the semifinals due to a pre-match injury to Billy Henderman.

In the next fight, sophomore Preston "The Punch Thrower" Carter of Carroll stormed out like a hurricane in the first round against junior Daniel Liem of Morrissey. The victory, however, went to Liem after Carter suffered a broken nose in the second round.

Senior Bobby Gorynski wasted no time and came out aggressively in his match against senior Tim Uhalde. Using his quickness to get inside on Uhalde, Gorynski prevailed in a unanimous decision.

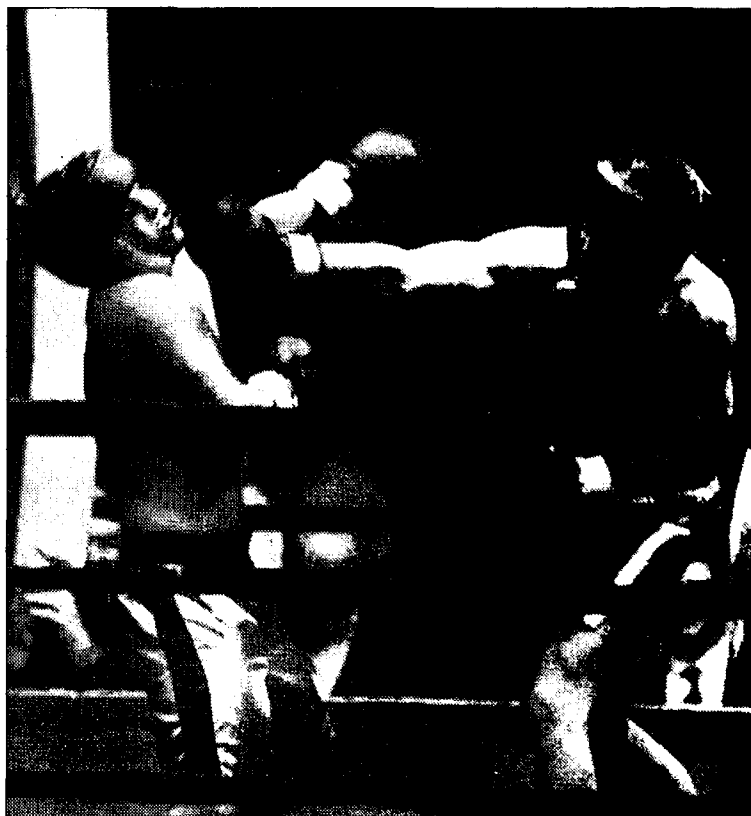
165 lb.

Senior Mark "Rambo" Desplinter had no intentions of a long fight against freshman Michael "Tyson" Thompson of Keenan. With a flurry of combos, Desplinter gained the victory with a technical knockout in the first round.

Senior Patrick "No Tomorrow" McMorrow of O'Neill overcame the longer reach of senior Chase Heaton by landing key inside punches. McMorrow continued to dominate on the way to a unanimous decision.

Graduate student Brian "Huggy Boy" Nicholson faced off against Senior Chris "Count of Monto Pisto" Milliron in an extended fight. Blood was drawn repeatedly until the fight was stopped in the second round giving the victory to Nicholson.

In the next fight, senior Colin Kerrigan of Fisher



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

Senior Nathan Lohmyer, right, delivers a blow to the chin of freshman Patrick O'Brien in his unanimous decision victory.

came up against junior Jeff Schaaf of Morrissey. Kerrigan gained a unanimous victory after a strong third round.

170 lb.

Senior Justin "Fleece" Alanis got off to a slow start against sophomore Tom Digan of O'Neill but that all changed in the second round. Alanis knocked down Digan twice with devastating jabs that ended the fight in a technical knockout in the second round.

Senior Brad Wanchulak of Siegfried and graduate student Matt "Touch Me and I'll Sue You" Smith waged one of the most closely contested bouts. In the end, Wanchulak used vicious left hooks to record the split decision victory.

Junior Andrew "Goes Down Frazier" Breslin only needed a few well placed left hooks to take down freshman Guy Hippleheuser of Carroll. Early in the first round, the

match was halted giving Breslin the nearly flawless victory.

Sophomore Dan Ward of St. Edward's jumped off to a quick start in his fight against senior Craig Thompson. Ward kept his momentum to score the unanimous victory over Thompson.

180 lb.

Senior Michael Schmied failed to repel the vicious inside punches from senior Jim "Where Did the Day Go" Christoforetti, who won in a unanimous decision.

Junior Jeff Golen of Alumni fought evenly with junior Nicholas Klein of Morrissey for the first two rounds. In the third round, Golen made an aggressive push to earn a unanimous win.

In the next fight, freshman Mike Reilly of Fisher gained the edge in the first round but failed to hold off senior Dana Collins with ferocious combos to win in a split decision.

Graduate student Doug "Sudden Death" Bartels kept in mind quality not quantity in his fight against sophomore Stu Stypula of O'Neill. Bartels landed heavy jabs on his way to a unanimous victory.

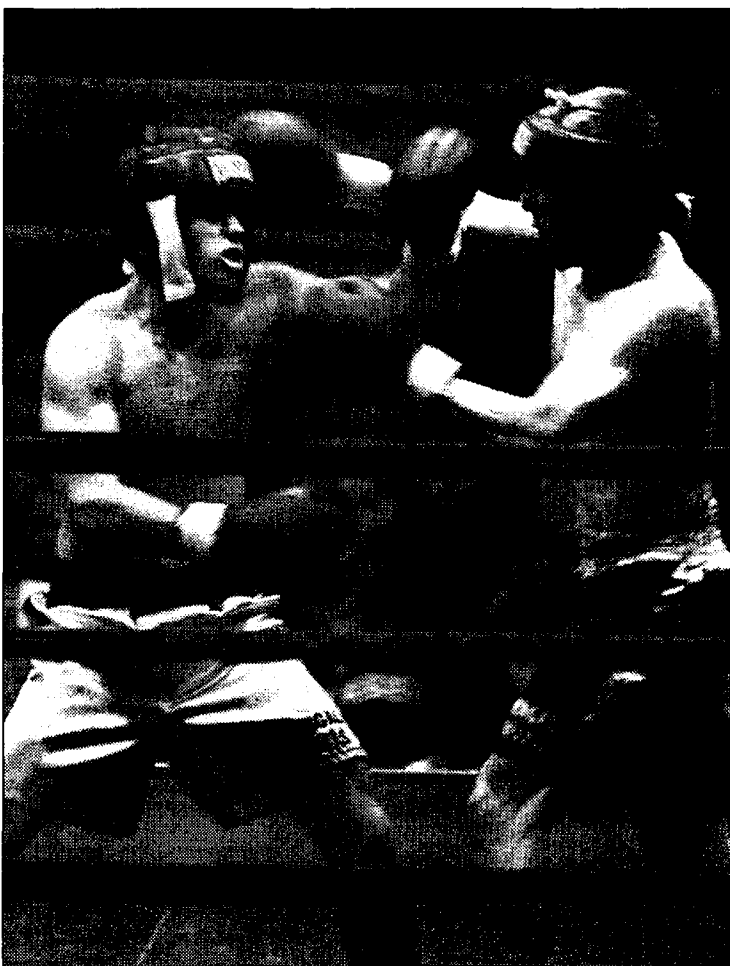
190 lb.

After gaining an early advantage, freshman Patrick Ryan of Keenan could not hold off the sweeping hooks of junior Chris "Youngblood" Adams of Keough. In a close split decision, Adams came through with the win.

Junior Chris Cavanaugh of Morrissey fully exploited his height advantage against senior John "Stitch" Hughes of Siegfried. The fight was ended in the third round to give Cavanaugh a trip to the semifinals.

Sophomore Andy "Doogie" Houser of Alumni controlled the initial pace of his fight against graduate student William Zizic.

After a slow start, Zizic took over in the third round and gained the win in a technical knockout.



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

Sophomores Clayton Lougee, left, and Zach Jara trade punches in Lougee's split decision victory over Jara.

Contact Steve Coyer at
scoyer@nd.edu

Big East

continued from page 20

"I think the Seton Hall game took us by surprise," McGraw said. "But then to look and say, 'That's as bad as we can play, and we still won,' that has to give us a little more confidence."

No. 9 Rutgers (23-5, 14-2 Big East) won the regular season conference title outright, and No. 14 Connecticut (20-7, 13-3) finished third. The Irish won the tiebreaker with the Huskies after the two split the season series.

The fourth place team, No. 22 Boston College, knocked off the Huskies once this year, and Notre Dame beat the Eagles twice, giving them the edge. As a result, the Irish will play either seventh-seeded West Virginia (16-11, 7-9) or tenth-seeded Pittsburgh (13-14, 5-11). Notre Dame has beaten both by sizable margins this season.

However, for Notre Dame, winning games in the Big East tournament has been challenging. Last year's No. 2 seed dropped its first round game to

Rutgers, 51-45, after relinquishing a 17-2 lead. In 2003, the Irish lost in the second round to Villanova as a No. 6 seed.

"This team, this group, has not won a lot of games in the Big East tournament," McGraw said. "It's something that at the beginning of the year was one of our goals to do a lot better at. I think it's a stepping stone to the NCAA tournament — you want to be peaking right now."

The Irish, whose 25-4 overall record is the second-best in McGraw's tenure, have a lot to be happy about thus far this season. However, McGraw doesn't want her team to be too complacent.

"We've put ourselves in great position," she said. "We have a lot to be happy about, but we have a lot of work to do yet. You want to pat them on the back and say it's been great, but let's not get carried away because there are still some games to play."

The Big East tournament kicks off Saturday, when the Irish will find out who their opponent is. Then they play the winner Sunday evening, and if they win their first game, they could face No. 3 seed



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Irish guard Megan Duffy attempts to dribble around Eagle guard Kindyll Dorsey during Notre Dame's 64-57 victory over Boston College Feb. 2 at the Joyce Center.

Connecticut Monday.

"You've got to be ready to play a great team every night," McGraw said. "And we're well prepared because we played all the top teams twice, so our strength of schedule has been really good, our RPI has been really good. So it's an opportunity — it's one and done, but

your season's not over, so there's not quite the same pressure."

Tip-off for the Notre Dame game is 6 p.m. Sunday at the Hartford Civic Center, the site of last year's tournament.

Notes:

♦ McGraw was named one of 20 finalists for the Naismith

Coach of the Year award Thursday.

McGraw is in her 18th season at the helm of the Irish and won the award in 2001 when Notre Dame won its first national championship.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

Trip

continued from page 20

Tuesday is a travel day as the team makes the trip to San Antonio for the Notre Dame Baseball Classic.

The field consists of Texas-San Antonio, Southwest Missouri State and Oral Roberts. The tourney takes place Wednesday through Saturday at Wolff Stadium.

With a close 3-1 loss to Rice and a tough 4-1 victory over Texas San-Antonio, Texas A&M sits at 9-4 and comes off a 2-0 sweep of Evansville.

The showdown with Rice (11-2) marks the first time the squads will meet each other since an elimination game in the 2002 College World Series — a game which ended in dramatic fashion on a Brian Stavisky two-run, walk-off home run for the Irish.

Notre Dame won the barn-burner 5-3, in what was named an ESPN Top Ten moment in CWS history.

While Texas State (10-4) might not be a nationally-known powerhouse or have the star-studded lineups of Rice or A&M, the Bobcats are a feisty group.

They proved they can compete with the college baseball's top teams when they knocked off the Aggies last year in College Station 1-0 and competed with Rice and LSU for three straight games apiece.

Texas-San Antonio (0-11) poses a threat for an upset. They faced Texas A&M earlier this season and fell short 4-1. The Roadrunners desperately need their first win after playing a brutal early season schedule.

Southwest Missouri State (2-5) has struggled early this season, but the Bears look to start a win streak after a win against Kansas and a series against Iowa. SMS went to the College World Series in 2003 following a strong performance in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Ranked in the preseason,

the Oral Roberts Golden Eagles own a 6-3 record, including solid wins against Baylor and South Alabama.

The potent Irish offense averages eight runs per game.

Junior shortstop Greg Lopez tops the team with a .421 batting average, and freshman third baseman Ross Brezovsky leads the pack with 12 hits.

Freshman pitcher Joey Williamson (0-1) leads the pitching staff with a 1.69 ERA and six strikeouts. Workhouse Tom Thornton has carried the load with 11 innings pitched and a 1-0 record.

No game in the next eight days warrants a letdown.

Whomever the opponent, the Irish take the field against seven of the toughest baseball teams in the country.

The tests for the Irish come over the break.

Contact Tom Dorwart at tdorwart@nd.edu

Busy

continued from page 20

Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "But at the same time, when we show up and play our best game, we can also beat anyone."

In Loyola Marymount, the Irish face an opponent they have already seen once this year. The Lions crushed Notre Dame 7-0 in their first game of the Palm Springs Classic on Feb. 25.

"I don't have to tell our girls anything before those games Sunday," Gumpf said. "That game [against Loyola in Palm Springs] was a slap in the face to our girls — a really embarrassing loss. Our girls know what to do now to beat Loyola, and if they don't show up this weekend it will be their own fault."

One reason for Notre Dame's slow start to the season has been a weak offense. The Irish as a team are currently hitting just .232, well below their .278

average of last season. Pitchers Heather Booth and Steffany Stenglein have done an admirable job in dealing with the lack of offense, with Booth holding a 2.13 ERA and Stenglein maintaining a 2.16 ERA with 46 strikeouts.

One exception to Notre Dame's sputtering offense has been Player of the Year candidate Megan Ciolli. Ciolli leads the team in all offensive categories, including RBIs (eight), batting average (.382), hits (13) and stolen bases (five).

"Megan will always be a good player on this team as long as she doesn't try to do it all," Gumpf said. "When she tries to do it all, that's when she can run into trouble. She's a very talented player but she also has the ability to make things happen."

"She's so fast that she forces teams into a lot of errors, and then she can wreck havoc on the bases. If she puts the ball in play anywhere, she's deadly."

Gumpf made some changes to the team's lineup after

Notre Dame's early struggles at the Palm Springs Classic, moving several players to different positions. Sara Schoonaert was shifted from second base to shortstop, while Mallorie Lenn moved back to catcher from designated player. With Schoonaert's shift to shortstop, both sophomore Stephanie Brown and freshman Katie Laing will see action at second base.

"At that point I was ready to do anything," Gumpf said. "I'm going to do whatever it takes to get this team some momentum. I want to put the bat in the hands of the girls who are hot, and if the girls aren't getting it done on defense, then I'm taking them out."

Upon returning home after spring break, the Irish will have just one more road tournament — March 19-20 in Columbus, Ohio — before playing their first home game of the season against Western Michigan March 23.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu



Saturday March 5th Action!



<p style="text-align: center;">Track and Field Gold Game Alex Wilson Invitational 12:30 to 3:30 PM <i>Loftus Sports Center</i></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Irish Basketball VS #24 Pittsburgh @ 2PM <i>Joyce Center Arena</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">  <div style="text-align: left;"> <p><i>*Senior Day!</i></p> <p><i>*First 1000 fans will receive a set of all-century team trading cards</i></p> <p><i>*Come out and celebrate 100 years of exciting Notre Dame Basketball</i></p> <p><i>*Last regular season home game</i></p>  </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Irish Hockey VS Michigan State @ 7:05PM <i>Joyce Center Fieldhouse</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">  <div style="text-align: left;"> <p><i>*Senior Night!</i></p> <p><i>*Pre-game health fair. Starting @ 6 PM</i></p> <p><i>*First 500 fans to visit the health fair will receive a ND hockey t-shirt.</i></p> </div> </div>
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SO?

SO, INSTEAD OF PITCHING IT, WHY DON'T YOU JUST DROP IT?

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

- ACROSS**

1 Heavy overcoat

7 Pet that's likely to purr

13 Wandering rogues, as in Cervantes stories

15 Tax max

16 It hangs over the ocean

17 Prince _____ Land (historical Canadian region that drains into Hudson Bay)

18 Movie preview, e.g.

19 Having a knack for

20 One way of seasoning

21 Some card players

22 Earth-scanning satellites, e.g.

24 Certain furniture ensembles

25 Indian author _____ Mehta, a staff writer for The New Yorker for more than 30 years

26 Occult sciences, collectively

34 Little-seen examples

36 Cubist Léger

37 Ate quickly, slangily

39 Big name in auto parts

40 Not suitable for passing

41 Revel without restraint

42 Rouyn-_____, city and county of Quebec

43 _____ Last Stand

44 Small laugh

45 Ancient Spartan magistrates

46 Has the wheel
- DOWN**

1 Surprise at the polls

2 Certain claimant

3 Beat it

4 _____ Trail (Everglades highway)

5 Explorer from ca. A.D. 1000

6 Floral ornament

7 Crescendos

8 Play the peacemaker

9 Plan in advance

10 Former first family

11 Perfume ingredients

12 Lab work

14 They're often found near busy intersections

15 Bookstore books

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	C	T	S	A	S	S	O	W
R	O	W	G	O	U	L	A	S
T	U	E	I	T	S	A	L	I
S	P	L	O	T	C	H	S	C
A	L	F	A	S	I	S	A	K
L	E	T	T	A	B	C	S	W
E	T	H	S	R	A	H	E	A
P	O	S	S	E	S	L	O	T
I	N	C	A	N	A	T	N	O
C	A	R	L	I	T	Z	A	C
K	L	A	T	S	C	H	S	C
S	E	T	P	O	E	T	I	C
O	R	C	A	N	N	E	A	L
N	T	H	A	N	N	H	T	S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46

Puzzle by Frank Longo

23 Keeps in print, in a way

26 Not very cushiony

27 Automaker Maserati

28 Make further modifications to

29 Kitchen gizmos

30 Producers of major reports

31 Be willed

32 Amount deducted from the price of goods to compensate for loss

33 Gallimaufry

34 Get back

35 One going to the post office

36 Ridiculous sham

38 Kind souls

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HOPAC

REFAT

TULJYS

ELLBOW

Good boy. Let's get back to work

WHAT THE TRAINER GAVE THE GREY-HOUND DURING HIS MORNING WORKOUT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: IDIOT FINIS QUAVEL PUSHER

Answer: What the kids faced after dinner — A "DISH-PUTE"

THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Big East bound

Second-seeded Irish travel to Connecticut for annual tournament

By HEATHER
VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

Last year at this time, Notre Dame was 5-7 on the road. Losses at Seton Hall, Georgetown and West Virginia put a damper on the Irish's second place finish in the Big East.

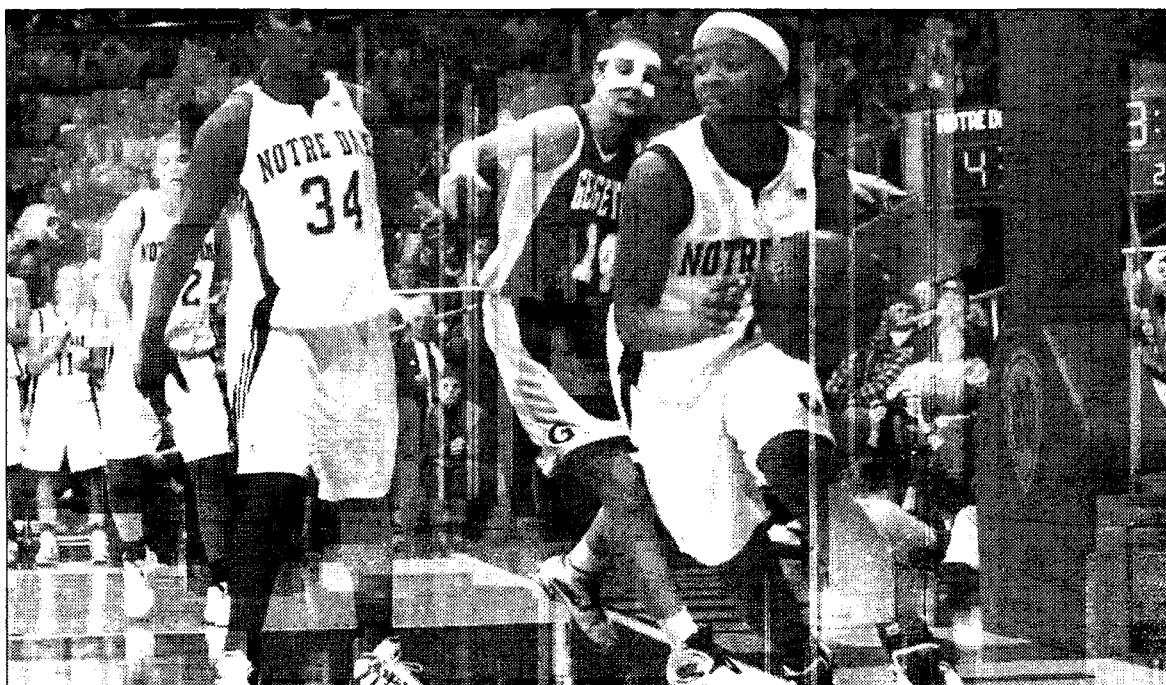
But this season, the No. 10 Irish are 11-2 on the road going into the Big East tournament, having found a way to beat good teams on the road. Notre Dame even defeated Connecticut in Storrs, Conn., 65-59, on Jan. 30 to snap the Huskies' 112-game home Big East winning streak.

"We've played so much better on the road," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "And the upperclassmen have really led that because of their maturity — making it the same every time, trying to get them to focus."

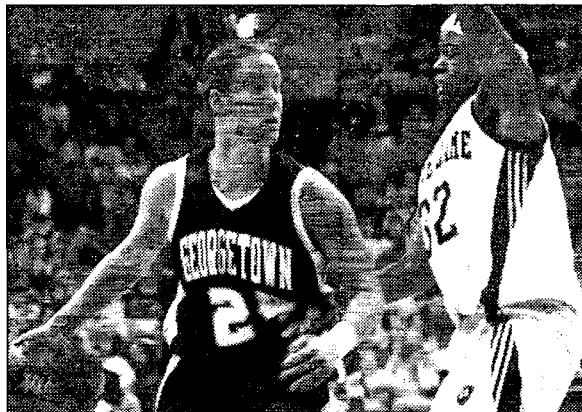
"I think we're in a pretty good routine on the road right now, so it's been good."

Notre Dame finished second in the Big East after Tuesday's ugly 41-35 win at Seton Hall moved them to 13-3 in the conference — the victory was Notre Dame's twelfth in its last 13 games.

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Above, guard Charel Allen drives against Georgetown. At right, guard Breona Gray defends Georgetown's Bethany LeSueur.



PHOTOS BY
GEOFF MATTESON

BASEBALL

Team set for long Texas trip

ND slated to play 7 games in 8-day trip over spring break

By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

After a 1-2 series against Dayton last weekend, the Notre Dame baseball team takes its high-powered offense to Texas for spring break in search of a few statement wins against the nation's elite.

The Irish travel to the Lone Star State for seven games in the next eight days.

Saturday at 8 p.m. the Irish square off against the No. 15 Texas A&M Aggies in the opening game of the Round Rock College Classic at 12,000-seat Dell Diamond.

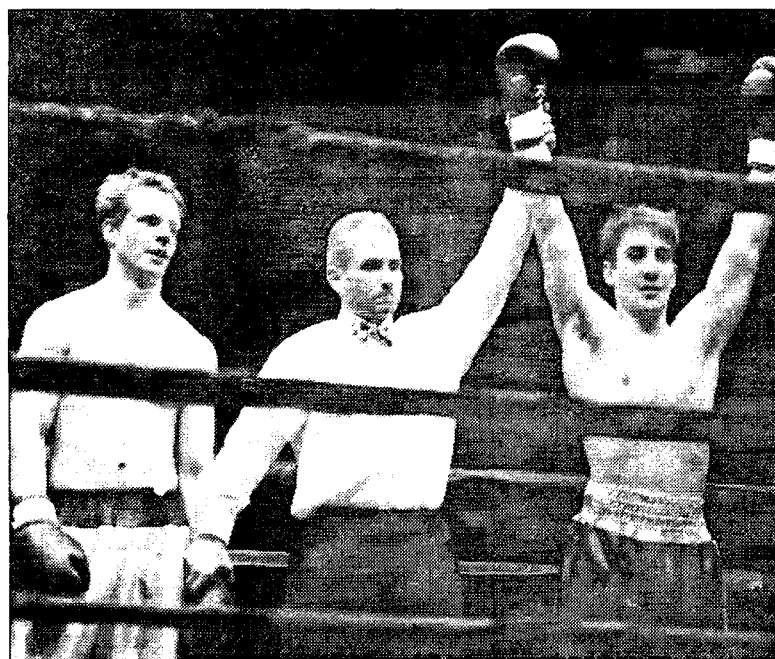
The No. 10 Rice Owls, who have yet to leave the state of Texas this season, await the Irish for a 7 p.m. Sunday matchup.

To finish up the Classic, the Irish take on the Texas State Bobcats on Monday.

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BENGAL BOUTS

Quarters fights completed



Sophomore Chris Calderone celebrates his victory over junior Paul Hagen during the Bengal Bouts Quarterfinals Thursday night.

By RYAN KIEFER
Sports Writer

An exciting night of Bengal Bouts quarterfinal action opened with the 126 lb. weight class and a leadoff fight featuring junior Peter Sarpong and sophomore Sager Nave.

Sarpong gained the upper hand late using his left jab and right hook to land shots to Nave's body and head, opening a gash late in the third round. Sarpong was able to block a majority of Nave's punches, giving him the split decision win.

In one of the most dominating performances of the evening, Freshman Steve Buchanan needed only 1:10 to take out freshman Nate Serazin. Combinations of left jabs and right hooks sent Serazin to the canvas early, and a

see BOUTS/page 17

ND SOFTBALL

Irish have full slate scheduled for break

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Writer

The Irish might not be going on any cruises with buffets, but they've still got a full plate for spring break this season.

Notre Dame (5-6) will travel to Los Angeles for a doubleheader against Loyola Marymount Sunday and remain in California for a single-game match-up against California-Santa Barbara Monday. The Irish then will trek across the Pacific Ocean to take part in the University of Hawaii's Spring Fling Tournament in Honolulu.

The tournament runs from Mar. 9-12 and will include

games against Campbell, Hawaii, Virginia and Nevada.

Notre Dame didn't have much success on its last trip to California and will look to fare better this weekend. Last weekend, the Irish traveled to Palm Springs to participate in the Palm Springs Classic, dropping their first four games at the tournament.

But the Irish finished on a positive note, knocking off No. 5 Tennessee 5-2 Sunday in Notre Dame's final game of the tournament.

"Anytime you lose to teams that are unranked and then beat a team ranked No. 5, it shows that when we don't focus we can lose to anyone,"

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SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame at Cornell

Saturday, 1 p.m.

The Irish travel to New York for tough test against the Big Red.

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Wildcats 18 Irish 11

Notre Dame can't keep up with No. 3 Northwestern in first loss of season.

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Boiler-Make-It Invitational

Sunday, 11 a.m.

Sophomore Ted Brown looks to set record at Invitational.

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WOMEN'S TRACK

Alex Wilson Invitational

Friday-Saturday

The Irish welcome multiple schools to Loftus Friday at 7 p.m.

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FENCING

Midwest Regionals

Saturday-Sunday

The Irish journey to Detroit to begin post-season Saturday at 9 a.m.

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HOCKEY

Notre Dame at Michigan State

Friday, 7:05 p.m.

The Irish travel to East Lansing to take on the Spartans.

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