Leaders and children show their gratitude

By EILEEN DUFFY
Associated Press Editor

The personal side of the high-
est-ranking Notre Dame admin-
istrator — including his self-
admitted "tendency to cry at
chick flicks," his taste for
Denny's food and his recent
confession over the sex of the
baby he was baptizing — was
revealed Thursday night as the
Michigan area recognized out-
going University President
Father Edward "Monk" Malloy.
Malloy was honored for a num-
ber 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 princises were offered to
Malloy — and ended with a
program featuring a video presen-
tation as well as talks by former
Indiana governor Joseph
Kerman and Malloy himself.
Malloy steps down as presi-
dent June 30.
Mark Eagan, president of the
St. Joseph County Chamber of
Commerce, toasted Malloy first
Thursday on behalf of the busi-
ness community. Eagan empha-
sized the important role that
Notre Dame plays in local com-
merce, noting the expenditures of
its students, faculty and visi-
tors. 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 per-
sonal commitment to extending
the University out to the com-
munity, 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 "communi-
ty 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 princes representing the
Indiana Province of the Priests
of the Holy Cross then
honored Malloy.

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

Students head to NYC for Big East

Loyal fans follow teams to tournament

By PETER LEAHY
News Writer

As spring break boom closer
er and closer, many students
are looking forward to a peri-
od of rest and relaxation.
This is far from true for
members of the Notre Dame
men's and women's basket-
ball teams, who will find high
levels of stress and excite-
ment while the rest of stu-
dents 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 tour-
nament 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 Travell 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 sched-
uled 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 stu-
dents made travel plans to
Europe, including junior
Daniel Kraner, who said he
will be traveling to Italy to
visit a friend overseas.

"I am off to my mountainous
for break," he said.
Junior Tim Moore and sen-
or 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 sight-
seeing in London to enrich his
mind while not in class by vis-
itng 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
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. 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 a avenue of divulging away messages and/or keyboard. For days the checker, the compulsive away message checker, the fanatic user. Living their lives in the unambiguous-but-still-ambiguous away messages. Clearly these are all fair game for this phenomenon of the away message. Some of Bubba's meat will be sent to labs for testing as officials try to determine why Bubba died. Capp said.

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 at the PPG Indoor Track. The event is open to all Notre Dame faculty.

The South Bend Chamber Singers will present a "Choral Choruses" concert Sunday in O'Loughlin 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 Delhartolo 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.

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

Contact Katie Perry at kperry@nd.edu.

**CORRECTIONS**

The Observer regrets inaccuracy in a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize this. We will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-6550 so we can correct our error.

**IN QUESTIONS OF THE DAY:** WHERE ARE YOU GOING FOR SPRING BREAK?

| Chris Weinacht | St. Edwards | "Headed home to see my honey." |
| Niko Dicou | Anna Rodriguez | "Arizona." |
| Freshman Carroll | Sophomore Pasquale East | "Going to see my cuz Zoe in the great state of Oregon." |
| Mario Chiu de la Fuente | Senior Morrissey | "Cabo San Lucas, 'nuff said." |
| Scott Deeney | Freshman Keough | "I'm going to save starving Cuban refugees." |

**OFFBEAT**

**Gigantic lobster dies**

PITTSBURGH — A gigantic lobster that may have survived two world wars and Prohibition before being moved to an aquarium at a zoo on Nantucket, Mass. He died a day after he was moved 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. Hutchinson 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.
Author, therapist tells students how to get ‘unstuck’

Charlotte Kasl shares 7 steps for self-enlightenment

By LYNN SIKORA and LISA GALLAGHER
New Wilson

Saint Mary’s welcome 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 18 steps, focuses on empowerment for women.

Kasl said her book centers on getting “unstuck” by making better connections with others 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 sneaky 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.”

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

Charlotte Kasl, author, therapist

According to Kasl, the unwillingness to be miserable for too long is what separates the “unstuck” from the “stuck.” Finding a positive outlet 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 the belief that even new things sparks bodily energy which should be paid attention to, she said.

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

Charlotte Kasl, author, therapist

Kasl also advised the audience to “get out of the box” and “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 underpinning 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.

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.

“Is 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 sikora95@ saintmarys.edu and Lisa Gallagher at lgal101@saintmarys.edu

Students learn, serve in seminars over break

Notre Dame Disability Awareness Month

March 2005

Tuesday, 3/15
Sujet Desai will be playing the violin, clarinet and piano. He graduated from the Berkshire Music Academy and was born with Down syndrome. 7 p.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-2 p.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, 6 p.m. Legends www.nd.edu/~buddies
NYC
continued from page 1
dent of business operations
Patrick Walsh has been to the mecca of college basketball for the past five years.
However, he said efforts to start a school-organized student
trip has not gained enough support.
"We've drawn to the tournament is mostly to stu-
dents and fans local to the region," he said.
"We've tried a couple of things over the years," he said. "It seems not to catch with a
national fan base like basketball." 
Walsh pointed out that Notre Dame has done
some things to make sense financially for stu-
dents and fans that live outside of the area to make the trip to the tournament.
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 for teams that creates a
more hostile environment for other teams, such as Notre Dame.
"It's a definite disadvantage," Keough said.

Keough spoke with warm feelings. Wyne
had been in New Jersey for two years. The
teachers have at least 15 students in their
class, and the final amount from all
groups in the county was $5,200.

Malloy discussed the balancing of the South Bend
Homeless, the northeast neighbor-
hood problems and the establishment
of the University of Notre Dame Community
Laboratory.

He said Notre Dame fans still
would have to sign tickets for the
Irish versus Pitt for the conference
Tourney. He also said Notre Dame fans
would be able to buy tickets for the
event.

The fourth and final dinner
was to be held Sept. 11. The event
was to raise money for the University.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bombers target Israeli police

BAGHDAD — Israeli police said Saturday they had found the bodies of three policemen and wounded 15 in new attacks on Iraqi security forces Thursday and early Friday.

The Shi'ite Muslim-dominated 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 forming a government to select the leaders of the new government.

Meanwhile, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi warned that his government would not give in to the terrorists as he headed to the U.S. for discussions with President Bush.

NATIONAL NEWS

Blake lawyer ridicules prosecution

WASHINGTON — Attorney William Zeno, who was asked by detectives to be a grand jury witness, said Blake had been struggling with drug addiction and alcohol and that his account was false.

Blake had said that he had killed the two men because they had tried to rob him.

The trial of Blake, who is on trial for murder, is expected to start next week.

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 their road trip pitching their 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 be too late — a turnaround Democrats wasted little time in mocking.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana man Indiana's history of violence

INDIANAPOLIS — A federal grand jury has indicted a 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 fled to Israel and then to Egypt, where he was arrested and deported to Jordan.

The Associated Press

PASTOR LEADS POLICE TO BTK SUSPECT

WICHITA, Kan. — Dennis Rader, a man who police believe killed 10 people in Kansas with a floppy disk, said he had the agenda of a church council meeting and needed the computer to run off a printer.

The pastor, unemployed, said he was asked to help a church set up a computer for a church meeting.

That's when the officer, who is a member of the church, said he noticed a floppy disk in the computer.

The pastor, who had been a active member of the church for seven years, said he was arrested after the computer was found to be a BTK file.
Associated Press

Revelation - a former top lieutenant of counterterrorism chief, said Thursday. the militants most likely to worst-ever terrorist attack.

SPAIN

Fernando Reinares, the counterrorism 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 a special forces moved in to arrest them.

"According to data collects ed 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 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 attacks, which were claimed in videotapes by militants who said they were acting on orders from al-Qaeda 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 said authorities believe these men are considered suicide attack risks.

On March 18, a group named for Abu Hafs al-Masri - who has links to al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden - said it was calling for jihad in Spain in a video that the newly elected Socialist gov ernment 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.

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 defined public opinion by supporting the war and sending 1,300 peacekeepers after President Bush declared an end to the 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 cede in to terrorists.

Reinares said information about the Madrid bombers' suicide attack plans was fea tured in a new book by a Spanish investigative reporter, but the information wasn't carried in the main-stream 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

SANTA MARIA, Calif. - The age 16-year-old of Michael Jackson's accuser told jurors Thursday about a series of sexual assaults that unfolded around the time of the alleged abuse, including a sudden trip to which the family was whisked away on a private jet.

The testimony was elicited to support allegations that the singer conspired to hide the accuser's family's target to get the child. The accuser traveled to Spain after the 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 the flight back from Spain, Jackson shared a soda can with her brother, and also gave him a watch and a jacket decorated with sparkles.

Prosecutors allege that 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 15-year-old college freshman avoided eye contact with Jackson during the cross-examination as she testified about the family's encounters 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 celebrity.

Under questioning by District Attorney Tom Sneddon, 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 Jackson.

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.

The witness said that her brother quickly received spe cial 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. I don't want 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 connected with Steve and Toppers about "the nice things about Mr. Jackson and not talk about what goes on at the ranch."
Stewart to leave federal prison

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

Associated Press

ALDERSON, W. Va. — The commonwealth and their shirts and mugs have been printed up and the Dinner Bell restaurant is cooking up some Martha Stewart swag. Next Wednesday, the hopes of women and their family members will come true when Martha Stewart makes the trip to the federal prison. Stewart was sentenced to five months in prison for tax evasion, and she will begin serving her sentence on March 20.

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.

Social Security, one of the nation's largest programs, refused to investigate a complaint that whistleblowers in the agency's work-related workplace, especially pay issues, and is retaliating against his own staff, the employees alleged.

Blatch, who lives near the White House and who is married to a fellow worker, said the situation had become so bad that he was forced to resign.

Analyst: slow Medicare savings leaves Washington - Congress' top budget analyst estimates that President Bush's plan to slow spending on Medicare and other benefits would save less money than the White House estimates. The Associated Press has learned.

![Image](image_url)

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

The Labor Department had initially estimated 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 failed 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 357,000. That was the lowest level since the week of Dec. 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 upward revision in productivity. However, in later trading the Dow Jones industrial average slipped and ended the day up 21 points at 10,833.
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 round 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 long-standing tradition of sportsmanship and competition. Boxing came to Notre Dame in the 1920s under the watchful eye 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.

Systematic in nature, the Bouts are not entirely competitive 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, providing 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, there is training to 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 do no double duty. The dedication and discipline found both in and out of the ring.

\[f(x) = \frac{1}{x}\]

**Raising taxes not the answer**

It seems that President Bush has finally aligned himself with the Republican platform. His solution for the Social Security crisis mirrors that of nearly all solutions proposed by the Democratic Party: raising taxes on the wealthy.

Although the correct solution to this crisis may not be perfectly 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 to pay more money taken out of their paychecks to correct this 70-year-old oversight.

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 into Social Security funds, with the remaining 2.9 percent earmarked for Medicare, according to CNN’s Money File and the Social Security Administration. These eyes on federal funds, 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 America, the taxpayers, and you only 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 increases that are interrelated. The self-employment issue requires that the entire FICA tax — 12.4 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 an employee, 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, 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 be 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 $300 billion, and by 2033, this number will be closer to $300 billion. By 2042, the federal government has already stated, a self-employed person 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, but it is far-fetched to think that the government is able to do so partially with federal dollars.

However, the concept 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 out of his or her pocket as a sacrifice of reform. How can Congress expect much, if any, support from the people whose taxes are being used to provide a basis of an ROI 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.”

Palling 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.
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 Bruins, Bush himself would acknowledge that democracies are marked not just by law and the respect for human rights and human dignity, but also by whether "it was a good day or a bad day." Bush place Maher Arar? What does he think about his human rights and dignify?

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 torured. 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, the Syrian authorities, declared they found no credible link. As Arar, it seems, was the victim of bad information passed by Canadian officials to their American counterparts, who subsequently initiated a poleried " extraordinay/irregular renditions," disparaged Arar to Syria. As Bob Herbert notes in a recent New York Times column, through this policy the government "seizes individuals, promptly terror suspects, and sends them off with no even a nod in the direction of due process or a formal torture.

American congressional legislation banning this practice has been introduced, it has gone nowhere. Justification for the practice relies on a legal precedent of the U.N. Convention Against Torture, which precludes "unjustifiable pain or suffering." Bush administration has used an apparent loophole in its interpretive advantage. The government offers further indication that America has a torture problem. He is the leader of events of a small 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. The positions central hands 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 quickly, within any out 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 considered "applied" it must inflict pain "in proportion to the damage accompanying serious physical injury," or even death. The Bush administration refined the concept of human dignity, the same memo declared "cruel, inhuman, or degrading" treatment may be permissible. Some might argue that tactics aimed at gaining prohibitions against such acts are justified on the potential a confession might save countless lives. Yet such utilitarian calculation appears to contra dict the good Christian president's "ethical 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?

Counts of torture beyond Abu Ghraib are not more liberal speculations. FBI reported in July that Guantamano 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 Guantamano were reprimanded for sexualizing techniques aimed at humiliating detainees. Among the 550 individuals detained in Guantamano 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 endorses respect for human life and dignity. Yet this is not new. Extraordinary rendition began during the Clinton administration. It was little did to investigate accusations of torture. Absent public opinion, the government was able to ignore as those that led to Maher Arar. The views expressed in future columns will continue. It is not surprising that a president who sent 150 people to their death while governor of Texas and who makiungly mocked Karla Faye Tucker's plea for life should witness such lack of concern for human life and dignity.

When considering who is his neighbor, he appears to be Bush 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 world wide, he directs readers to the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition at http://tasc.org. He can be contacted at jinfranc@udw.edu.

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. Cage-free chickens are cocoons, priceless. Last week I was driving home from campus ("Driving" you scream — I should have liked or walked or taken TRANSPO) to save precious fuel and cut down on pollution, for a healthier planet, and it was only 5 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 expensive for me. Besides I only had about two bucks in my wallet, That wouldn't even cover a tip at McDonalds. And oh yeh, there's the Taco Bell, Taco Bell. The 7-layer burrito is calling my name: beans, rice, guacamole, sour cream — what more could a health-conscious vegetarian-for-a-day consumer ask for fast food for the rest of his life? 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. This is 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 community resources, are forced to participate in the endless 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 be able to get enough of anything, but they go malnourished. Where I shop for food, frozen veg­

icles, and other basics sometimes, the Save-A-Lot on the corner of Western Ave and Chapin St., I think of all the affordable yet practically poisoned meals, milk and dairy products with hormones and other treatments.

These types of foods have been known to cause early menices 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, causing 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 Harmony market to treat myself to eggs, from organically-feed, 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 2-2 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 being sold 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 candy. Some pantries even have frozen cranberries, carrots and other such things. 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 9
Play video games for a college degree

By MARIA SMITH
Senior 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 Eberhardt 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.

Former and president of DigiPen Claude Gouinair first created the DigiPen Applied Computer Graphics School in Vancouver, British Columbia (H.E.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?" Eberhardt 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, slick 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

Childhood favorite tries to appeal to new games that are innocent

By MARIA SMITH
Senior 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," Nintendo's marketing chief Kaplan said. "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. Largely 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 wider 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 company can create games for an audience is larger. The question of Nintendo's perennial problem has yet to be solved. The company will have to keep up with its aging fans.

At Nintendo headquarters Friday, March 4, 2005

"It's all about pacing. After something exciting, give them a chance to catch their breath. They need to feel satisfaction before moving on.”

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 still popular.
The Observer

Scene

Friday, March 4, 2005

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 Fargen Hall and finding a GameBoy are probably less than the chances of walking into a quad in Montgomery Manor and finding a GameCube, Xbox or PlayStation 2, started 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.

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 Kong and Donkey Kong: Jungle Beat, which use a set of bongos 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 storyline 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 Kong.

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 Bossi, it's Kingdom Hearts, a storyline game for PlayStation 2, featuring the Disney characters, and Nancy Drew 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," Bossi said.

Saint Mary's senior Kelly Hrusky prefers racing games — including Mario Kart's 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," Hrusky said. "No girl can relate to that."

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

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FENCING

Postseason begins with Regions 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 on Friday in Notre Dame, as the Irish travel to Detroit to compete in the NCAA Regional. 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 of the regionals. Every percent point counts, as the regionals serve as the final opportunity to compete for top regional positioning.

"We hope we can qualify ten-to-twelve fencers, and this will give us valuable experience to compete for top medal positions," coach Janusz Bodnarski said.

Going into Regions, 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," Bodnarski said. "The competition (field) is small, but tough.

"Those who are going to be able to train their way to their goal of defending NCAA champion are going to have to bring their A-game. 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 NCAA regional title in three years, the Irish will be looking to do just that, as 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.

"We're doing everything to prepare the fencers," Bodnarski said. "The fencers are eating, and slowly they are getting prepared.

"It's really to the injured fencers, senior women's foilist Alycia Bednarski trusts his team's talent won't be negated by injuries.

"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 goalfires 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 Fetter and Jim Slater lead the Spartans offensive with 38 and 37 points, respectively. Fetter has found the back of the net 17 times, while Slater has scored 13 goals.

Notre Dame faces Michigan State at the Mariucci 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.

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HOCKEY

Underdog Irish 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 12-game winning streak this weekend.

Notre Dame (5-23-6, 3-18-5 CCHA) will take on Michigan State (15-15-4, 10-13-3 CCHA) this weekend in a home-and-home series to close out the regular season.

The Irish will face a Spartan team who is fighting for the last NCAA playoff spot. Michigan State has struggled offensively over the last part of the season, with the one win coming against the Spartans already this season.

"It's really a daunting task ahead of his team," Poulin said.

"The beauty of the CCHA is that every team gets into the playoffs.

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"The beauty of the CCHA is that every team gets into the playoffs."
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.

“Sounds 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 BIG East, the Notre Dame women’s track team will be running an equally important meet in Latfus 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 Naery Beehan, have the NCAA’s 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

“I like her chances, though, because she always jumps well at home. Naery 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 Kechi Ogbohokiri and Tiffany Gunn in the 400 meters.

“They have the opportunity, but they know they have to run fast,” Connolly 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,” Connolly said. “We’ve had numerous [personal records], but we’ve also been hurt by injuries.”

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SMC GOLF
Belles open year in North Carolina
By ANNA FRICANO
Sports Writer
Saint Mary’s will kick off its spring season early 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 13.

After they return from the trip, the Belles will have nearly another month to prepare for their first competition of the season. 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 the third MIAA title in four years, 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 Stephanie Simmons and Julia Adams should lead the Belles this spring. Simmons 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-turnament 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 Simmons 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 Conference tournament.

Senior and team captain Christine Mancini has been expected to have an especially strong season this spring. Dunham will once again have a chance to earn 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 earned the conference titles in as many years. With the majority of the NCAA team still in school, the Belles are positioned for another run at the championship.

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MEN’S TRACK
Runners look to earn berths in NCAA meet
By JOHN EVERETT
Sports Writer
With the NCAA Indoor Championships 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.

“Our men’s distance medley has a shot to qualify at this meet,”

Joe Plane
Irish head coach
At the Alex Wilson, he will be looking for some of his runners to try and improve his time in that event.

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

Contact John Everett at jeverett@nd.edu

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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.

By JOHN EVERETT
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Contact John Everett at jeverett@nd.edu

The Observer • SPORTS
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 this 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."

IRISH BRIEFS

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
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 Sierra 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 Heline and Bridget Grall — had double digit RBIs in the 2004 campaign and will look to continue their offensive prowess. Catcher Sarah Mieele, with a .985 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. On Tuesday's lineup, while 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 Kenosha Polytech and Aurora University.

Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.

Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff, or fellow students.

For a nomination form, please visit our website at: http://osa.nd.edu

Nominations are due by Friday, March 4, 2005.
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 challenge," 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's 18-11 loss to a team that had lost the last eight games, and against a team rated No. 20 in the Atlantic Coast Conference, as well as a team that is seeking its first win of the season against No. 3 Princeton, will not be easy, Corrigan said.

"The challenge is to play a different kind of game than we played last week in terms of defense," Corrigan said. "Defensively, 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 careful not to lose your aggressiveness while doing so."

Aside from the offense, the Irish have played very well on defense, as senior goalie S T E W A R T Croslad saved 75 percent of the shots he faced.

"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 will be to play a different kind of game than we played last week.*

Kevin Corrigan
Irish head coach

For the second straight game, this time against the Wildcats, the Irish will look to play a different kind of game. They played a methodical, offensively, and much more patient offense, and this will not be easy, Corrigan said.

"That's what a tough one because you will be coming back from a loss 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. Saturday in Ithaca, NY.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriff30@nd.edu

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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 know 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, 17-11.

Northwestern jumped out to an early 2-0 lead on a pair of goals within the first five minutes of the game. The Irish quickly countered, though, as Cristy Foote put Notre Dame on the board just 19 seconds after the second Wildcat goal.

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

Caitlin McKinney
Irish midfielder

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

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

Foote scored her second goal 2:31 into the second half, and Kari 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 then 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 falling to score for over sixteen minutes of play, the Wildcats then put up the scoreboard five times within the next five minutes to take a commanding 17-10 lead.

First, Northwestern's Lindsey Munday (five goals, three assists) fed Sarah Albrecht for a score. Then, the Wildcats added two more goals to their lead and took a 9-4 advantage with 10 minutes remaining in the first half.

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

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

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

After falling to score for over sixteen minutes of play, the Irish finally broke through with a goal by senior midfielder Caitlin McKinney with 12:13 remaining in the game. The Irish then added two more goals to their total, and the final score was 17-10.

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

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 kfowler@nd.edu

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**NBA**

Eastern Conference, Atlantic

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**NHL**

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**College Softball**

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**College Baseball**

Big East Conference

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**NHL offered $3 billion to sell entire league**

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.

**IN BRIEF**

Buffalo defensive tackle sigmoid 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 spokesman for Waxman, who last week wrote Davis to urge hearings on baseball's response to the steroid scandal, said he doesn'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 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 Myers.
succession of punches later sent him staggering to the corner. After hitting the canvas a second time with blood drawn from his face, Bozouska was unable to continue, ending the shortest fight of the night.

130 lb.

Senior Jon Valenzuela established the tone for the division by knock­ ing out opponent John Bozouska at 140 lb. over 2 rounds. Valenzuela, with his left jab followed by numerous shots to the body put Valenzuela in control and led to a second round, landing a left to Valenzuela’s face that drove blood, and was able to force him to the ropes. Fatigue set in late in the fight as Valenzuela’s jab fully connect with any substantial blows in the third. Valenzuela’s strength early gave him the unanimous victory.

In the undercard battle, graduate student Dynmoyo “Fan Sun” Aponte was victorious over fres­ her Jordan Matera by unanimous split decision. Carlson went on the offensive in the closing rounds to try to up Dynmoyo, and eventually sneaking a combination. The fight ended with a high kick to Matera’s head. Dynmoyo won the fight with a right-left combination right giving the decision.

140 lb.

Timothy Bozouska defeated Junior Bryan Looney by unanimous decision. After being knocked down early in the first following a right-left combination from Tyrell, Huling methodically took control of the fight. Bozouska’s combination to assert himself fol­ lowed by a huge right that sent Tyrell flying on the canvas. The fighters traded big punches in the second round, Bozouska, and humiliated Bozouska with a de­ cisive 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 longer Panzica continued to land punches later on as he pushed. With Grissinger tiring, Panzica seized the opportu­ nity, landing a right-left combina­ tion that forced Grissinger to the mat. In a similar bout, graduate student Brian Warden defeated sophomore Stephen “Wiggles” Huchings in a unanimous deci­ sion. Huchings’s punches had landed on the run early, but Warden responded with right-left combinations that backed Huchings into a corner twice in the third round. Sophomore Chris Calderone advanced on defeating Paul Hagan, driving the junior into the corner early with a left jab fol­ lowed 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 victory.

Behind a large fan base, senior Galen Loughrey was victorious over Mike Ronney, Ronney was hit early, using his jab effect­ ively and responding to blows to the head with a flurry of punches. The match took a decisive turn when Loughrey opened a cut on Ronney’s head during a left-right combination at the end of the second. Loughrey continued to press the offens­ e in the third and used his powerful punches to emerge victorious.

Contact Ryan Kiefer at kiefer11@udel.edu

165 lb.

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

In the next fight, Sophomore Preston “The Punch Thrower” Carter of Carroll stung out like a hurricane in the first round against junior Daniel Lien of Morrissey. The victory, how­ ever, went to Lien 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 Uhlman. Using his quickness to get inside on Uhlman, Gorynski prevailed in an unanimous decision.

170 lb.

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

Sophomore Patrick “No Tomorrow” McMorrough of New Orleans overcame the longer reach of senior Chase Heath using land key inside punches. McMorrough continued to dominate the fight his way to an unanimous decision.

Graduate student Brian “Huggy Boy” Nicholson faced off against senior Chris “Count of Monto Fistos” Million in an extended fight. Nicholson knocked big shots in the first two rounds but humiliated following a decisive four punch combination just before the bell.

In a must-see bout, graduate student Doug “Sudden Death” Bartels kept in mind quality not quantity in his fight against sophomore Matt “Touch Me And I’ll See You” Smith of O’Neill. Bartels landed heavy jabs on his way to an unanimous victory.

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 Hughes a trip to the semifinals.

Sophomore Andy “Doogie” Houseman of Alumnus controlled the initial pace of his fight against graduate student William Zice. After a slow start, Zice took over in the third round and gained the win in a tech­ nical knockout.
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 given 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 Irish this season. The Irish, however, beat the Eagles twice, giving them the edge. As a result, the Irish will play either seventh-seeded West Virginia (16-11, 10-9) or ten­seeded Pittsburgh (13-14, 5-11). Notre Dame has beaten both by sizable margins this season.

McGraw, for Notre Dame, winning games in the Big East tournament has been chal­lenging. The Irish, who dropped their first round game to Rutgers, 51-45, after relinqu­ishing a 17-2 lead to the Scarlet Knights during the third 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 in 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 put 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 face their first opponent. Then they play the winner Sunday evening, and if they win their first game, they could face No. 3 seed 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 had 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 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 hvangoed@nd.edu

Trip
continued from page 20
Tuesday is a travel day as the team makes the trip to San Antonio for the NCAA Sweet 16.

The field consists of Texas A&M, San­ Antonio, Southwest Missouri State and Oral Roberts. In the 1950s, the 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.

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Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvangoed@nd.edu

Busj
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 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 — really embar­rassing loss. We know what we need 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. Pitches Heather Booth and Steffany Sienglein have done an admirable job in dealing with the lack of offense, with Booth holding a 2.13 ERA and Sienglein maintaining a 2.16 ERA with 46 strikeouts.

One exception to Notre Dame's sputtering offense has been Player of the Year candi­date Megan Ciocli. Ciocli 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, when she can run into trouble. She's a very talented player but she's the only one 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 Schoonert was shifted from second base to shortstop, while Mallorie Lenn moved back to catcher from designat­ed player. With Schoonert'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 hat 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 their bye, the Irish will have just one more road tour­nament — March 19-23 in Columbus, Ohio — before play­ing their first home game of the season against Western Michigan March 23.

Contact Justin Schuver at jcschuer@nd.edu

Irish Basketball

Irish Hockey
VS #24 Pittsburgh
Saturday March 5th Action!
@ 7:05PM
Joyce Center Fieldhouse
*Senior Night*
*First 1000 fans will receive a set of all-century team trading cards*
*Come out and celebrate 100 years of exciting Notre Dame Basketball*

Irish Basketball
VS Michigan State
12:30 to 3:30 PM
Loutsport Center
*Senior Day*
*First 1000 fans will receive a set of all-century team trading cards*
*Come out and celebrate 100 years of exciting Notre Dame Basketball*

Track and Field
Gold Game
Irish Classic
Alex Wilson
Invitational
12:30 to 3:30 PM
Joyce Center Arena
*First 1000 fans will receive a set of all-century team trading cards*
*Come out and celebrate 100 years of exciting Notre Dame Basketball*

Visit www.ndpromotions.com for all the latest promotional information.

Friday, March 4, 2005
The Observer • SPORTS
**DILBERT**

BY SCOTT ADAMS

**PEANUTS**

BY CHARLES SCHULZ

**CROSSWORD**

**ACCROSS**

1 Heavy overcoat
24 Certain furniture ensembles
39 Little-seen examples
49 Having a knack for
50 Not suitable for plumbing
51 Some card players

**DOWN**

2 Surprise at the park
3 Certain claimant
4 Beat it
5 Trail (Everglades highway)
6 Floral ornament
7 Creosendos
8 Play the peacemaker
9 Pain in advance
10 Former first family
11 Perfume ingredients
12 Lab work
14 They're often found near body intersections
15 Book books
20 Kitchen gizmos
23 Keeps in print, in a way
26 Not very casseroles
29 Kitchen gizmos
30 Producers of major reports
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 Rediculous sham
38 Kind souls

**HOROSCOPE**

**EUGENIA LAST**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jessica Biel, 23; Jackie Joyner-Kersee, 43; Herschel Walker, 43; Mary Page Keller, 44

**Happy Birthday:** You will have a lot on your plate this year, managing your personal and professional life. This is not the year to rely on others or to expect any kindness. If you work hard, you will reap the rewards. If you pass the buck, you will lose. Your numbers are 5, 11, 17, 34, 36.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): You can do all if you are on the move and eager to get things done. Your ability to take control and problem-solve will give you an opportunity to exceed your expectations. Don't be too trusting.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Money matters may be a problem, especially if you are involved in banking. However, making any financial or legal decisions will bring you greater insight into decisions for the future.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Focus on what you want to do. There will be no point in arguing with someone you know won't budge. Change is inevitable.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): You will be into having some fun today. A good friend will give you something that surprises you. Take the opportunity to make a personal change that will update your looks. Love relationships will flourish.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stay low-key today. You will get far more accomplished working by yourself than something that you know inside and out. Difficulties will arise if you disagree with someone you are close to. Protect your reputation.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stay calm and keep things cheery, and you will avoid some of the trivial troubles that are going on around you. Follow your own best instincts and use your intelligence to avoid mistakes. Love is in the picture.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may want to make a change in how you make your living, but it is not too late. Do a little research into the possibilities for now. Someone may pay you more if you shoulder down the wrong financial path if you are not top of your game.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be overly emotional today, so prepare to step back and let some of the little comments made by others go. Someone you depend on is likely to become upset if you don't get your way. Do a little research into the possibilities for now. Someone may pay you more if you shoulder down the wrong financial path if you are not top of your game.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will not be able to treat even your closest friend to keep a secret today. You are also likely to say something that should remain amongst the closest. Little sets.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be into having some fun today. A good friend will give you something that surprises you. Take the opportunity to make a personal change that will update your looks. Love relationships will flourish.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may need to make some changes that will affect your finances. Keep a balance to take a unique route to increase your abilities or earn money.****

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be disappointed if your self-esteem is not what you expected it to be. This is not the day to be a chameleon. Everyone else will be looking out for his or her own interests, and it's important that you do the same.****

**Birthday Baby:** You are eager to please, but if you don't get your way, you can be difficult. You are a dreamer, an inventor and a master of persuasion.

Check our Eugenia's Web sites at auswolstein.com and eugeniast.com.

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**THE OBSERVER**

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

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**JUMBLE**

BY HENRY ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION

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

HOPAC

REFAT

TULIY

ELBLOW

Answer blanks: A, B, C, D

Good boy. Let's get back to work.

Yesterday's Jumbles: IDOT FINES QUAKER PUSHER

Answer: ____________

What the trainer says the dog is doing during his morning workout.

Answer: ____________

(American Inversion)

---

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(American Inversion)
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, having found a way to beat good teams on the road. Notre Dame even defeated No. 13 Notre Dame at Seton Hall, 65-59, on Jan. 30, snapping the Huskies' 112-game home Big East winning streak.

"We've played so much better on the road," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "Anytime we're away from home we're a good team on the road, and I think that speaks for itself 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.

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

PHOTOS BY GEOFF MATTESON

see BIG EAST/page 18

BENGAL BOUTS

Quarters fights completed

By RYAN KIEFER
Sports Writer

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

Sarpong gained the upper hand late using his left jab and right hook to land shots to Navere's body and head, opening a gash late in the third round. Sarpong was able to block a majority of Navere'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, Nevada, 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 in the tournament.

But the Irish finished on a positive note, knocking off No. 2 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,"