Students scramble for advisor appointments
College of Arts and Letters reports difficulty accommodating flood of scheduling questions

By KATHLEEN MCDONNELL
News Writer

As students scramble to put together class schedules for the fall semester, some advising offices on campus are so swamped that advisors are forced to turn away students seeking guidance before they register for classes next week.

While the undergraduate advising office in the College of Arts and Letters had openings earlier this month, Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Letters Ava Preacher said scheduling has become increasingly difficult since so many students are struggling to squeeze in last-minute meetings with their advisors.

“Our priority is seeing students, so we try to see everyone who walks through the door,” Preacher said. “There are only four of us in the office, though, so if we get a rush of students, we may simply run out of time to see them.”

About 45 percent of non-freshman undergraduates have majors in the College of Arts and Letters. Advisors try to pack every student into their schedules, but the large number of requests sometimes makes this impossible, Preacher said.

The University’s award-winning First Year of Studies (FYS) program has been ranked one of the best in the nation — pairing each first-year student with an advisor.

College applicants break record

By MOLLY LAMPING
News Writer

Saint Mary’s received a record-breaking number of applications from high school seniors for the Class of 2010 with 1,159 students vying for a spot in the College’s freshman class. And applications are still coming in.

Saint Mary’s has a rolling admissions policy, accepting students continuously as applications are received. So far, 1,159 applications have been submitted to the Office of Admissions, Vice President of Enrollment Management Dan Brown said.

The spike in applications represents a 20 percent increase over last year’s number and is the highest application total in 17 years, Brown said.

With an average high school GPA of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale and average SAT score of 1185 out of a possible 1600, the College’s incoming freshman class is very promising, Brown said. He said those numbers are relatively comparable to academic statistics from previous years.

“Our admissions policy is to accept all qualified students. It usually works itself out.”

Brown is “very confident” that numbers for the incoming class will reach 200 by mid-May, but he said he does not want that number to be the priority.

Class of Arts and Letters reports difficulty accommodating flood of scheduling questions

By KATELYNN RIELY
News Writer

The Campus Life Council (CLC) unanimously passed a resolution Monday recommending renovations for LaFortune Student Center as part of the Campus Master Plan, a 15-year plan developed in 2002 that calls for major improvements to various parts of campus.

Zahn Hall senator Pat Knapp presented the proposal — drawn up by the Student Senate Committee on Residence Life — which called for improvements to the existing social space, dining options, technological capabilities and storage space at LaFortune.

“We conducted some focus groups to determine what students’ needs were in all these areas,” Knapp said.

These focus groups allowed current students to reflect on what the purpose of a student center should be, while also discussing possible improvements or additions.

“We recommended some action venues in the future,” Knapp said. “For example, a bowling alley. Some places that’s really gender neutral, some place that involves more than sitting on a couch and watching TV.”

Knapp discussed improving the dining options at LaFortune by faculty members and a second restaurant to fill any future vacancies. The resolution moves to the next step.

Writer criticizes ‘DaVinci Code’

By MAUREEN MULLIN
News Writer

Syndicated columnist and Catholic blogger Amy Welborn criticized bestselling novel “The DaVinci Code” for depicting a version of Jesus Christ that is inconsistent with the Gospels during a lecture in DeBartolo Hall Monday.

“The big theme of the DaVinci Code is that Christianity is the enemy to the truth,” Welborn said. “But this is not new.”

In her lecture, titled “Decoding DaVinci: The Fact Behind the Fiction of The DaVinci Code,” Welborn explained that Dan Brown’s novel is simply a “fictional attempt to write a modern version of the classical Christian message.”

Columnist and blogger Amy Welborn lectures on misconceptions of Jesus in DeBartolo Hall Monday.

Mooney names final candidate for VP post

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary’s Edonor

Saint Mary’s President Carol Ann Mooney has announced that Robert Laeger will be the third and final candidate in the search for the College’s new vice president and dean of faculty.

Laeger, a professor of psychology and former Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the College of Arts and Sciences at Duquesne University, is scheduled to address the College community during open forums April 18 and 19. The scheduled times of the forums have not yet been announced by the College.

Laeger’s events at the College will mirror last week’s open forums with the College’s first two candidates — Saint Mary’s religious studies professor Joe Incandela and Dean of Faculty at College of Saint Mary’s Autumn, Jill Tiefenthaler.

One forum will be open to faculty members and a second forum will invite stu-
INSIDE COLUMN

There is no legal way?

These last few weeks I've been disheartened by the conflict and the rage with which some people view the undocumented Hispanic worker one can find behind every shovel, every mop, and every drying cloth in a kitchen sink.

I saw a man on television saying he didn't have a problem with immigrants as long as they entered the country legally. It was my 5,000 friends yesterday. I wouldn't have worried as much, because there is a simple cure for ignorance. I could've just told this man there really is no legal action the undocumented immigrants could've taken.

I have been born and raised in El Salvador, and if this country legally. I could've taken.

A little boy walking in front of me yesterday just said, because I love football playtime with my friends.

Marcela Berron
Wire Editor

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT A SUNNY AFTERNOON ON THE QUAD?

Kristie Koch, freshman McGlinn "Making Amy chase my thugs around South Quad."  
Amy Wilhelmy, freshman McGlinn "Playing football is a good excuse to not do my homework."  
Pat George, freshman Siegfried "Showcasing my football skills to all the ladies on the quad."  
Andrew Smith, freshman Dillon "I like having playtime with my friends."  
Catherine Martinez, freshman Caravanagh "Anything because I love sunny days on my birthday."  
Alden Fitzgerald, freshman Knot

OFFBEAT

Alaskans get their pizza by air
NOME, Alaska — Last Christmas, residents of the Yupik Eskimo village of Savoonga added a special dish to their everyday fare of whale, walrus, reindeer and berries — fresh pizza flown in from Nome, 170 miles away.

A tiny delivery joint, Airport Pizza, opened several months earlier just steps from Nome's busy runways, and many of Savoonga's 700 residents were eager to try something different.

Nome's first and only pizza delivery service does a robust business in the western Alaska town of 3,500. But it really stands out for its free deliveries via commuter plane to more than a dozen other remote, spread-out subarctic villages.

The village council in Savoonga, on St. Lawrence Island in the icy Bering Sea, wanted a special holiday treat for young families in the village. It ordered 50 pizzas, half topped with chicken and ranch dressing and the other half with Canadian bacon and pineapple.

Fed's seized gold caps from suspect's teeth
TACOMA, Wash. — Talk about taking a bite out of crime.

Government lawyers tried to confiscate the gold tooth caps known as "grills" from the mouths of two men facing drug charges, saying the dental work qualified as seizable assets.

They had them in a vehicle headed to a dental clinic by the time defense attorneys persuaded a judge to halt it. "I've been doing this for over 30 years and I have never heard of anything like this," said Richard J. Troberman, a past president of the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Information compiled from the Associated Press

IN BRIEF

James Lardner will give a lecture on "U.S. Economic Inequality and Why It Matters" today at 7 p.m. in room 127 of Hayes-Healy Hall.

Myla Legarzo will speak about "Women Making Peace: A Philippines Initiative" today at 4:15 p.m. in room C103 of the Hesburgh Center.

Notre Dame softball will take on Ball State at 5 p.m. Tuesday at Ivy Field.

A campus-wide stations of the Cross procession will begin at 7 p.m. today at the Grotto.

The Asian American Association will host a Night Grotto visit Wednesday from 11 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Meet in front of Bond Hall.

Notre Dame baseball will take on Manchester at 5:05 p.m. Wednesday at Frank Eck Stadium.

AcoustiCafe will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the LaFortune basement.

"Ben Hur", the 1959 film starring Charlton Heston, will be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Men's baseball will take on St. John's at 12:05 p.m. Saturday at Frank Eck Stadium.

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

**Group seeks to improve relations**

*Shappell, Andrichik to present report to University Board of Trustees*

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By KATHLEEN MCDONNELL

News Writer

Student body president Lizzi Shappell focused Monday’s Council of Representatives (COR) meeting on improving student/alumni relations in the upcoming year.

Shappell and former student body president Dave Baron will travel to Washington D.C. May 4 to present a report to the University Board of Trustees regarding their administration. Shappell asked COR for input to help prepare for their presentation and to begin the discussion on student/alumni relations.

"This topic carries over to student body vice president Bill [Andrichik] and my administration," Shappell said. "It deals with the student/alumni relationship that we’re working to improve. We want to get more students on the online alumni contact network (OLCN) to get more in touch with alumni, and have receptions for football games, senior class president Emily Chin said while student/alumni connections often develop during junior and senior year — a time when students receive e-mails about working with alumni to get internships or to help with career options — she would suggest trying to connect earlier with underclassmen.

Hall President Council (HPC) co-chair Bryan Lowery said dorms involve their own alumni in a number of ways, and the level of alumni involvement varies greatly by dorm.

"Morrisey Manor had a reunion after a football game last fall that attracted 200 alumni, and the Alumni Center made that happen by supplying contact information," Bryan Lowery, Hall President Council co-chair, said.

"There are variances across the dorms for alumni relations," Lowery said. "It is not necessarily a priority for dorms to put someone in charge of alumni correspondence. But maybe a yearly newsletter for alumni to hear about what we’ve been up to could be beneficial."

Junior class president Bridget Keating said the Golrish search engine made student/alumni relationships possible for organizations like the sailing club and Circle K service organization. She said she’d like the possibility of more clubs being able to take advantage of alumni connections.

In other COR news:

• COR confirmed John Bush as the Student Union Board (SUB) chief controller for the upcoming year.

• Carolyn White was confirmed as co-director of SUB, effective next fall after her return from spring semester in London.

• Steve Cartwright was confirmed as a COR liaison from VOICE, the student advisory board for the Center for Social Concerns.

"Cartwright promises to bring the perspective of the local community, since the CSC relies closely with local leaders.

"There are a number of issues, especially involving the community just beyond Notre Dame, that this group (COR) might be interested in," Cartwright said. "I might be able to bring to COR the issues community leaders bring forth as well as those of the Center.

Contact Kathleen McDonnell at kmcdonnel1@nd.edu

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**BOARD OF GOVERNANCE**

**Leaders anticipate College fundraiser**

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By LIZ HARTER

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**T H E N I N T H A N N U A L G O D ' S I M A G E**

an inclusive retreat for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students and their friends.

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FRIDAY, April 21st AND SATURDAY, April 22nd

Register by Tuesday, April 18:

• campusministry.nd.edu

• 114 Coleman-Morse

Questions? Contact Tiffany Thompson (thomps1@nd.edu)
**SMC**

continued from page 1

will reach 390 by mid-May, but he said he does not want that number to exceed 415.

Usually between 45 and 47 per- cent of students who are accepted to the College choose to attend. Because the applicant pool was so large this year, the danger of having too large a class is a possi- bility, Brown said, although it is not probable.

The reason for the increased applications, he said, is that applicants could be credited to the new style of admissions at the College, Brown said.

"We made the decision to visit fewer in the last couple of years, but we did more follow-up work with students through phone calls, e- mail and the Web site, trying to make the College more accessible to them," Brown said.

With the cost of college tuition steadily rising nationally, the College does what it can to ensure that attendance is financially pos- sible for students. According to Brown, the total financial aid awar ded to the class of 2010 in scholarships at this time is between $1.6 and $1.8 million.

Incoming freshmen won't be the only new students at Saint Mary's in the fall. Numbers are also up for transfer applicants. Twenty-six percent more applica- tions have been turned in by potential transfer students than last year, Brown said.

However, the numbers for the College's incoming students with Holy Cross College are down at the moment. For the past three years, approximately 50 students have participated in the program, which allows five-year Holy Cross students to take one class per semester at Saint Mary's and also live on-campus at the College while enrolled as a Holy Cross student. If students maintain a 3.0 GPA, they are then accepted into Saint Mary's as sophomores.

Contact Molly Lamping at mlamping@stmarys.edu.

**Lecture**

continued from page 1

best-selling novel describes "Christianity as the bad guy and we and our personal beliefs and our personal desires are good." Welborn explained that Brown is not the first to publish a book that establishes Christian belief.

"Beginning in the late 19th century, there were dozens of Holy Cross College students to take one class per semester at Saint Mary's and also live on-campus at the College while enrolled as a Holy Cross student. If students maintain a 3.0 GPA, they are then accepted into Saint Mary's as sophomores.

Contact Molly Lamping at mlamping@stmarys.edu.

**VP**

continued from page 1

dents, administration and hourly employees to meet the candidate. Student leaders and other committee mem- bers have both scheduled pri- vate meetings with Lueger, as well as faculty members and Tiefenthaler.

Faculty, administration and students will have the oppor- tunity to share their opinion of the candidates following the forum through the sub- mission of an evaluation form — a process that Mooney has deemed successful thus far.

Although Mooney does not attend the forums and has yet to see the evaluation forms — which are submitted directly to Human Resources — she said she has "been told responses have been coming in at a good rate.

The search to replace the current Vice President and dean of Faculty and Administration began as a result of his Jan. 22 announcement that he would be leaving the College at the end of the academic year to head Washab College in Crawfordville, Ind.

Mooney said she has not set a specific date to name White's replacement, but hopes to do so by the end of the semester.

Contact Kelly Mecham at kmechan@stmarys.edu.

**CLC**

continued from page 1

-ions that bringing in local busi- nesses could help students devel- op "meaningful relationships" and "any sense of community. The resolution also brings up a fre- quently requested discovery: who is responsible for the task force—lengthier evening hours for Burger King.

The Senate Residence Life com- mittee broached the issue of increasing storage space in the building for student groups to director of student activities Brian Coughlin.

Storage space is filled to capaci- ty right now, but Student Activities will look into adding closet space in the long-term renovation plan, Knappe said.

With regards to improving the technology offerings in LaFortune, the Senate committee recom- mended making wireless more widely available throughout the building.

In other CLC news:

- The CLC task force on social

concerns wants to alert incoming freshmen of the dangers posed by third party websites and illegal downloading and file-sharing. They intend to give cautionary information to new students dur- ing Freshman Orientation.

- Student Union Board manager Jimmy Flaherty discussed his meeting with the Office of Information Technologies to cre- ate a "database of student lead- ers."

Under this new site, prospective student leaders could fill out an application and committee members could then sift through the database to find committee members.

Flaherty said it was highly unlikely the site would be in use in this current semester.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu.

**STUDY ITALIAN THIS SUMMER**

Complete the first year of Italian in 6 weeks!

It’s like a double shot of espresso in the morning!

**ROIT 10115** is a week, 6 credit course meeting from June 20 until August 3 - MTWRF 8:30-10:30/11:00-12:00
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Returns reveal close election in Italy

ROME — Exit polls indicated Monday that the Italian parliamentary election pitting center-left economist Romano Prodi against flamboyant bil­

lionaire Premier Silvio Berlusconi was too close to call.

Projections showed Berlusconi’s coalition lead­

ing in the Senate, but the two sides running neck-and-neck in the lower Chamber of Deputies.

Based on 95 percent of polls’ Nossi’s sam­

pling, Berlusconi’s alliance won 158 Senate seats, compared with Prodi’s 151. The margin of error was between 1 and 3 percentage points.

Also, the projections did not account for six

seats that Italians abroad won.

Voter turnout was 84 percent, the Interior Ministry said.

Africa pledges to improve education

MAPUTO, Mozambique — African leaders launched a campaign to get every child in the world’s poorest continent.

African leaders expressed their support for the Free Education For All initiative.

French President Jacques Chirac and former

President Nelson Mandela and other African leaders in launch­

ing the Free Education For All initiative.

National News

Bush quells rumors of Iran attack

WASHINGTON — President Bush dismissed as “complete nonsense” any speculation that his administration was planning for a military strike against Iran.

Bush did not rule out the use of force, but he said he would continue to use diplomatic press­

sure to prevent Iran from gaining a nuclear weapon or the know-how and technology to make one.


Several weekend news reports said the administration was studying options for military strikes against Iran.

Several weekend news reports said the administration was studying options for military strikes against Iran.

Katrina victims return home to vote

Baton Rouge, La. — Hundreds of Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Texas and other states boarded buses and traveled to Louisiana on Monday to cast early ballots in New Orleans’ storm-delayed election for mayor.

The election officially is April 22, but resi­

dents scattered around the country by the storm will be able to vote at voter-assisted satellite voting centers set up in Lake Charles, Shreveport, New Orleans and seven other cities around the state.

“We need to be a part of the political process,” said Cara Harrison, an evacuee from the flood-devastated Ninth Ward.

Local News

Bus accident injures five students

BEAUFORT — A bus carrying 15 students from school bus Monday, sending five students to a hospital to check for possible injuries.

All students, some still sleeping in age from 6 to 18, were released after being examined or treated for bumps and bruises at Medford Hospital.

Said Karen Cantou, a spokeswoman for the Metropolitan School District of Northwest, the south side of Indianapolis.

The bus was carrying 15 students to the BNE Learning Center, an alternative school that serves students, including some with learning or behavior problems.

Japanese parliament closes without passage of immigration reforms

Groups in North Carolina and Dallas called for an economic boycott by immigrants to show their financial impact.

The rallies had a noticeable impact on production at Excel Corp. plants in Dodge City, Kan., and Schoyer, Neb., a spokesman for the nation’s second largest beef processor said. He said there was a slowdown, but the company had no intention of taking action against workers who were gone for the day.

“We assume they will be back at work tomorrow,” spokesman Mark Klein said.

Atlanta police estimated that at least 50,000 people, many in white T-shirts and waving American flags, joined a two-mile march from a largely immigrant neighborhood Monday morning.

The protesters had two targets in the private conference in Tokyo has raised hopes they could find a way through the impasse.

The forum’s agenda will focus on energy, verifica­

tion processes regarding the North’s nuclear pro­

gram and ways to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula, according to its sponsor, the University of California, San Diego.

For several days, dele­

gates from Japan and South Korea have met with their North Korean counterparts and each other but have made lit­

tle progress.

Immigrant rallies swarm U.S. cities

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Tens of thousands of immigrants spilled into the streets in dozens of cities across the United States Monday in peaceful protests that some compared to the movements led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and farm-labor organizer Cesar Chavez.

“Now is the time to demand the changes to say this is our moment,” said Rev. James Orange of the Georgia Coalition for Social Justice in Atlanta, where police estimated that at least 50,000 people marched Monday morning.

At the Mississippi Capitol, 500 demonstrators sang “We Shall Overcome” in Spanish. In Pittsburgh, protesters gathered outside Sen. Arlen Specter’s office to make their voices heard as Congress considers immigra­

tion reforms.
Advising
continued from page 1
advisor and requiring regular meetings throughout the year to keep students on track. Notre Dame has one of the highest freshman retention rates in the nation, as 97 percent of first-year students come back for their sophomore year. But after freshman year, students must find new advisors in their respective college to adjust to a new and varied set of requirements.

"I remember them not telling us what we needed to declare majors in our fields, but there were a few classes that I had to take," said sopho-
more English major Jenni Fong. But Voog said after she made the adjustment from FYS, she has not had any serious problems with advising.

Though students often have multiple advisors available within their respective colleges, some upperclassmen still return to their FYS advisor.

"I do see some older students, especially if I had a good relationship with them," FYS advisor Mel Tardy said. "But we try and trust the other advisors with upperclassmen — it is better to go to the department of the student’s major because they know the particular classes and the new developments."

Upperclassmen seek primarily focus on helping students choose their college classes and finalize their fields of interest, Tardy said. Because they each have so many students to assist, advisors after freshman year do not call students to meet on a regular basis like in FYS.

In the College of Arts and Letters, students can visit the assistant deans to obtain information on University and college requirements as well as "an overview of how all the pieces fit together," Preacher said. They also have major and minor pro-
grams at universities, but each department determines its own structure — some have one director, some have multiple faculty advisors.

The wide degree of latitude in class selection for Arts and Letters majors usually means more students in the advising office right before registration, Preacher said.

"Many students come to us because they have more than one major or a major and a minor, or a major and supplemental major, and so forth, and are not sure how all their courses will be counted," Preacher said. "But we’d like stu-
dents to come to us not just for accounting purposes — but for developmental purposes — what are their goals in building their curriculum?"

In the Mendoza College of Business, advisors are available at both the department and college level. Students can choose to meet with any of the five undergraduate advisors sophomore year, and they can choose to switch to a specific department advisor during their junior year.

Upperclassmen in all colleges can meet with an advisor as often as they choose — the extent of the relationship is left up to the individual student, undergraduate business advisor Doug Hemphill said.

Hemphill said some 4.0 students never walk into the office with questions, while other strong students come in twice per month.

"One thing that makes this work pretty special is the personal relationships," Hemphill said. "You can talk about [a] student’s ideas for a particular program, or about what they want to do with their lives after graduation."

Advisors in the College of Business have two main purposes:

1. To counsel students on the course of study that will best prepare them to sit down and go over progress towards degree comple-
tion, Hemphill said. "Others seek out advice on possibilities for minors and second majors, on career issues, particular study options, etcetera."

2. For students in the College of Science like senior biology major Mike Tallarico, the choosing may be relatively easy when looking to schedule classes. Tallarico said he only visits his advisor to add or drop classes or for mandatory meetings.

"For the most part advisors can answer my questions, but I usually do not have much to ask," Tallarico said. "They are helpful but if a student is self-sufficient he or she should not really have to go to the advisor." Engineering students face a sim-
ilar situation. Freshman Jean Whitney, an aerospace and mechanical engineering major, does not plan to seek much advice before choosing classes, since she has few choices.

"Most of my classes are set as an engineer," Whitney said. "This semester I only got to choose which University seminar I took and what I wanted to do in physical education class. I think this does make an engineering advisor less necessary for freshmen and sophomore years."

Preacher said advisors at Notre Dame try to be problem solvers.

"I like to say that our office specializes in the art of the possible," Preacher said.

Contact Kathleen McDonnell at kmcdonn@nd.edu.
The Observer

BUSINESS

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

Market Recap

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Wage increase ends transit strike

The Regional Transportation District's 1,700 union mechanics, bus drivers and train operators walked off the job April 3 after rejecting a contract offer that their union leaders had recommended. The strike shut down all train service and more than half the bus routes in a seven-county area.

On Friday, the workers overwhelmingly approved a new contract with the same overall wage increase but a larger initial raise.

Market anticipates Alcoa earnings

NEW YORK — Stocks closed narrowly mixed Monday as investors looked past rising oil prices and awaited a sample of first-quarter corporate earnings from Alcoa Inc., after the closing bell.

There were no new economic reports to feed the market's obsession with whether the Federal Reserve will extend its series of interest rate hikes to fight inflation. Recent trading has been skittish amid investors' split opinions on how much growth the economy can manage. A fresh rise in crude oil pushed futures above $68 a barrel, as the market grew nervous about mounting political tension over Iran's nuclear program. Iran reduced its level of light crude output by $3.5 to settle at $68.74 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

I think one of the commodities the market faces is that we continue to see energy prices go up, said Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst for Jefferies & Co. "It's going to be hard to get the market to rally much this week with oil starting at $68."

Hogan said the weakening bond market may also hinder investors' confidence, but added that Wall Street could see a lift from a solid corporate earnings performance. Alcoa led the way with a sharply better-than-expected quarterly profit.

BMW and GM have sideswipe

GM has told BMW about its plans to spin off its European subsidiary, Opel, a source familiar with the talks said Tuesday. The source said BMW will announce the plant's closure during its earnings conference Wednesday. The source added that BMW will lay off about 10,000 workers and close seven plants in the region.

BMW and GM are the two largest auto makers in Europe, where they are facing intense competition from Japanese rivals. BMW is a subsidiary of DaimlerChrysler AG, while GM is a separate company.

Bush asks China to deflate currency

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Monday urged Chinese President Hu Jintao to address the issue of China's currency system during his upcoming visit and said Hu must understand the issues raised by America's $20 billion trade deficit with his nation.

Bush, labeling America's relationship with China as "turbulent," said his agenda for the talks next week would include "fairness in trade as well as human rights and freedom of religion."

"I will meet with Bush at the White House on April 20 during his first official visit to Washington. The administration is facing growing unhappiness in an election year over a record $202 billion trade deficit with China, the highest ever recorded with a single country. "The visit of Hu Jintao will be an

Bush also mentioned the issue of the widespread copyright piracy of American movies, music and computer software as another trade issue he would discuss with Hu.

In advance of Hu's visit, top economic officials from both countries will meet in Washington on Tuesday at the 17th annual meeting of the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, which was created to smooth trade problems between the two nations.

Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez and U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman will head up the U.S. delegation while Vice Premier Wu Yi will lead the Chinese delegation.

U.S. trade officials who briefed reporters Monday said they expect ed Tuesday's discussions would cover the areas of copyright piracy, where American companies claim they are losing billions of dollars.

FDIC officials John F. Bovenzi, left, and Douglas H. Jones take their seats during the public hearings regarding the Deposit Insurance Application of Wal-Mart Bank.

Wal-Mart seeks corporate bank

Retail empire promises FDIC that it will not enter branch banking industry

ARLINGTON, Va. — An executive of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. on Monday defended to federal regulators the company's proposed expansion into enterprise banking as a parade of objectors gathered to persuade the case against the move.

The first of public hearings by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. on a bank application is drawing a wave of opposition to the move by the world's largest retailer. The company insists that consumers and retail banks have nothing to fear and is seeking to stay out of branch banking and consumer lending.

Some 300 institutions operate branches in 1,150 Wal-Mart stores, and the company says it doesn't want to compete with them.

"Wal-Mart is absolutely and unequivocally committed not to engage in bank branching," Jane Thompson, president of Wal-Mart Financial Services, testified at the first day of the hearings. "In fact and in practice, Wal-Mart is clearly committed to supporting community banking, not undermining it."

Thompson said the parent company would buttress the new bank "and will formally commit to protecting it, against loss and maintaining its capital requirements."

Opponents are not convinced. They portray Wal-Mart's proposed "house bank" — which would handle the 140 million credit card payments and electronic check payments the company handles each year — as leading eventually to full-scale banking with retail branches that would destroy local banks.

Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart already is too big, they say, with 3,900 stores nearly saturating the U.S. market and unrivaled dominance — accounting for 10 percent of the U.S. retail economy, according to some researchers.

"Wal-Mart is a company that does not play by the rules," Robert E. McGarrah Jr., a corporate governance official with the AFL-CIO, said in a statement prepared for Monday's hearing.

"That factor alone makes its proposed bank a threat to the taxpayers and the nation's banking system. Wal-Mart's record in communities across America reveals a company that ruthlessly wipes out important community businesses," McGarrah said.

In an unusual alignment, the banking industry, unions and consumer groups have come together to make the case that a Wal-Mart bank would unfairly concentrate power over retail and small-business lending in one company that is already the biggest business in many small towns and rural communities.

But Wal-Mart's proposal has its supporters, too, including the American Financial Services Association, which represents credit card issuers and other consumer lenders, and the Salvation Army and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which receive donations from the retailer.

Supporters say a move by Wal-Mart into banking would benefit consumers by lowering fees and prices in an industry needing more vigorous competition.

Nearly 70 witnesses are testifying, both for and against Wal-Mart's application for federal deposit insurance for a state-chartered bank in Utah, where FDIC hearings on Monday and Tuesday in Airlie Beach, Va., and on April 25 in Overland Park, Kan.
Multitudes of people across the nation marched Monday to support immigration reform. Immigration has proven to be a divisive and hard issue, but one that must be addressed. The Senate has stalled on a bill that would have allowed for "guest workers" to enter the country temporarily. The bill would also have opened up avenues for illegal immigrants currently living in the nation to pursue citizenship. The House has already passed a harsh bill that calls for the construction of a seven hundred mile wall and changing the status of illegal immigration from a civil infraction to a felony. The stalled senatorial bill contains very little real practical guidance. Illegal immigrants exist. They do so in great numbers and have a significant role in our economy — to the tune of eleven million workers. Many illegal immigrants have been already integrated into American society, and the only thing separating them from their legal colleagues is a piece of paper. It is often argued that to provide any sort of amnesty or road to citizenship for illegals is wrong, because it allows them to go unenforced, lets people who are legally unenforced and encourages more people to break the immigration laws of this country. This sounds theoretically valid and it is true that we should not encourage laws to be broken, but the point ultimately fails. The prior argument is one that applies theoretical reasoning to a practical problem. In the purely abstract, one should not allow the laws of a nation to be ignored, about which violators and prevent similar future transgressions; practically, we must deal with the fact that we have a very large number of illegal aliens working in this nation, with more coming, and that they are not going anywhere soon. A practical solution to the problem is to allow "temporary workers" to enter the country, in order to encourage immigrants to cross legally, and to allow illegal immigrants already in the country and working a chance to make themselves naturalized. As it is impossible to remove the vast number of illegal workers, this permits them to further integrate themselves into American society. If workers are intent on entering America, and are willing to do so illegally, it makes sense to offer them a way of doing so legally — hence the "guest worker" proposal. This way the government can exert more control over the nation's borders.

The bill is entirely unethical. The erection of a security wall seven hundred miles long simply evolves from a siege mentality that is harming this nation. September 11 changed the way Americans viewed the world, and in many ways for the worse. It is important that we were made aware and more vigilant, so that such a tragedy can be guarded against. However, a sense of panic has attended the American population ever since and has caused many Americans to adopt a sharply insular view of the world, one that centers upon feelings of constant threat and danger imminent. Walls divide people and foster ill will. The creation of the proposed barrier would only promulgate the view that America cares nothing for poor third-world peoples and is desperate to keep them out. The proposal to make illegal immigrants felons is as appalling as it is cruel. This would create millions of felons overnight, who if caught would swell our already overcrowded penal system. Many children entered America illegally with their parents — are they to be felons too? Are they to suffer for obeying the commands of their parents, as any good child should? The felony proposal, as well as the wall itself, is motivated by fear. America is seeking to protect itself by adopting overly severe measures. Harsh severity only begets vulnerability. America is only considering these options because she fears terrorists entering the country or immigrants taking jobs.

Immigration is a good thing and should not be feared, but rather encouraged. The nineteenth century saw waves of Italian, German and Irish immigrants. They at first were despised and feared by seg­ments of the population because they were different and would work for less. More than a century later, America has largely absorbed these immigrants and joined their culture to the existing one to create something very unique. That is the beauty of America — we are a collection of cul­tures and peoples that have synthesized to form something that belongs to no one ethic­nic group or culture. America is an idea. We should be excited to show it to the world and welcome its adherents to come join us. Sometimes changes to the established cultural or economic norm are unavoidable, but it would harm us more to close ourselves off like hermits. Open and friendly intercourse between races and peoples leads to their mutual growth — just as it does in individuals. The Athenian statesman and orator Plato delivered the following stinging lines on the openness of democracy during his moving funeral oration: "Our city is thrown open to the world though we and we never expect a foreigner and prevent him from seeing or learning anything of which the secret is revealed to an enemy might profit him. We rely not upon management or trickery, but upon our own hearts and hands."

We must be ever sensitive to the world using the trauchery of fear.

Ian Rondos is a senior majoring in the classics with a supplementary major in ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. Having retired from the College Republicans and adopted independent poli­tics, he has entered the private life of peaceful contemplation. Ian can be contacted at irondos@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Dear Notre Dame student body

Hello. My name is Jason F.C. Laws and I am not a current member of MAC. I write this letter as a former Notre Dame student leader and in response to past articles about MAC (Minority Affairs Committee) and the Bob Lindley, Jr. article written last Friday, April 10. I want to clarify my stance regarding the MAC amendment Senate meeting, at which I was in attendance. My disgust remains with the insensitivity expressed by Senator Apollonio in his opposition of the amendment to make MAC permanent. Thankfully, concrete examples of slipshod phrases such as "shut it down" or "it can wait" have been appropriately addressed already. Furthermore, Rhea Boyd's opening statement was the least cogent and least about Notre Dame's Catholic mission. You have won for yourself a certain short-term popularity with some students and certain faculty but has done grave damage to our beloved school and its distinct place in American higher education.

By your decision you move us further along the dangerous path where we ape our secular peers and take all our signals from them. Knowing you are a good student, I suspect you recognize this in your own heart. Yet, you seemingly have not recognized the gravity of some protest cause you to back off your own stated position. You were called to be professionals for being popular. This is not your best self. This is not genuine leadership.

In your recent "Closing Statement" you reveal a level of naivete about the process of a Catholic university engaging the broad culture that is striking and deeply harmful to our purpose as a Catholic university. We live at a time, as Yale Law School professor Stephen Carter pointed out some years ago, when the elite culture is perceived to trivialize religion. Furthermore, much of popular culture is deeply antibiblically religious in content and practice. It offers a worldview contradicted by or at odds with any Catholic vision. It is a worldview from which none of us can be sequenced and, indeed, many of our students arrive here far more deeply influenced by the reigning culture than by faith convictions.

In this context, you are ready to permit the continued production and promotion of a play which, as our colleague Paolo Carreza rightly put it, "seems to reduce the meaning and value of women's lives to their sexual experiences and organs, re-in­forcing a perspective on the human person that is itself essentially a form of vio­lence." Dialogue with this perspective is perilous. It should be contested and resis­ted at Notre Dame but never reversed. Notre Dame must hold to a higher view of the dignity of women and men. Might I ask that if this play does not meet your criteria of an "expression that is overt and insti­tutional" it may be considered "speech code" and "verbal behavior" in the Notre Dame Student Government mainstream agenda. However, much of which hope and trust in our student government was shattered as the amendment was objected and the minority members of the Notre Dame community were again marginalized.

Passing the amendment to make MAC permanent before the end of the Baron-Shappell administration could have sent a concrete message to all minority students and the student body that Student Government is committed to being inclusive. By passing the amendment to make MAC permanent while ensuring each student's voice is heard. In Lindley's testimony to the Viewpoint, I recall that he said, "It may take a week, or it may take months," to address giving MAC permanent status. I do not understand the fears of the former administration to be accountable for such an imperative task or to make more changes to the Constitution. I understand, as a former member and now Senate President, that it is time to put good work to Broad Body Constitution to its current form, that a single amendment "can" wait. I trust the leadership that Lizzi Shappell and her new administration brings to office. I simply offer the suggestion of increased sensitivity from leaders around the issue of giving all students a voice on this campus. Realize that a deeper look into the process and the properties it has given the Student Government of Notre Dame students to believe and unite wholly in our famed proclamation that "We are ND?"

Jason Laws
Fisher Hall
April 10
While “Brokeback Mountain” has garnered significant media buzz even preceding its release, the film recently received a different kind of national attention when Gonzaga basketball fans chanted “Brokeback” at the opposing team. As it turns out, these were not rallying cries in support of right- and inclusion, nor were these students simply voicing their enthusiasm for Angie Lee’s film. This incident cannot be attributed to a rare, collective case of basketball-induced Tourette’s.

Instead the “Brokeback” chant in the Gonzaga basketball arena was a taunt meant to suggest that members of the opposing team were gay. However, louder than these students’ shouts is a message about our society. From this event it is important to acknowledge that even in a social atmosphere that allows a progressive film like “Brokeback Mountain” to enjoy critical and commercial success, Americans still harbor dangerous predispositions and apprehensions regarding homosexuality.

Even after the critics’ acclaim marched across the front pages and radio dramas were distributed, and media coverage began to die down, “Brokeback Mountain” continues to hold a distinct place among college students’ vernacular, with a decidedly negative connotation. The term “brokeback” has now replaced the slang use of “gay” or refers to something of “questionable masculinity,” as it is defined at urban dictionary.com.

Although the success of the film allowed many Americans to collectively put themselves on the back for producing and consuming such a progressive piece of art, the extremely hostile way in which it was received and the problem for most people seems to stem from the fact that in this film homosexuality creeps outside of its socially sanctioned world of stereotypes. As soon as representations of gay men are being limited to the characters with impeccable fashion sense that we typically see in media representations, they suddenly become threatening.

Instead of subsequent variations of “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy”s Fab Five picking out a new wardrobe for some clueless bachelor or “Will and Grace”s Jack’s affinity for Cher, “Brokeback Mountain” presents its viewers with a depiction of gay men that not only runs contrary to the images that are most prevalent, but associates homosexuality with America’s ultimate guy’s guy—the cowboy. While this appears to be one of the most disconcerting aspects of the film for people who cannot reconcile homosexuality with a lifestyle outside of the stereotypical portrayals in the mass media, it is probably the most important precisely because it challenges this notion society has about homosexuality.

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DVD REVIEW

‘Gardener’ a gripping experience

By MARY SQUILLACE

In a world where popular cinema has become synonymous with the special effects-driven and action-packed formulaic plots of the Hollywood blockbuster, "The Constant Gardener" comes as an enormous relief. Unlike most contemporary dramas, this film is able to take the audience on a truly gripping journey without the "race against the clock" and "world on the brink of disaster" gimmicks that have become so familiar to moviegoers. Instead, "The Constant Gardener" replaces these conventions with a story that not only gets the viewers' adrenaline pumping, but is socially and emotionally engaging as well.

"The Constant Gardener" tells the story of Justin Quayle (Ralph Fiennes) and his wife Tessa (Rachel Weisz). When Justin's role as a British diplomat moves the two of them to Africa, Justin settles quietly into his position, occupying himself with his garden in his spare time. Tessa, on the other hand, picks up more perilous hobbies. Passionately invested in a variety of Amnesty International-esque organizations, she takes on a mysterious project that appears to culminate in her brutal murder.

Upon his mate Tessa's death, Justin embarks on a quest to uncover his wife's secrets. As Justin begins to delve into details of his late wife's personal past, he finds himself rapidly confronted with the disturbing and dangerous truth behind one corporation's recent venture.

The film, which begins with Tessa's death and then cuts between scenes from the past and present, is immediately engaging and maintains its momentum all the way to the final scene. Laced with tiny mysteries, "The Constant Gardener" requires the viewer's full attention and rightfully captures it with its narrative. Heightening the effects of the action-oriented side of the film — in which a seemingly omnipotent villain trails Justin as he races across two continents for answers — is the distinctly emotional aspect of the film.

Central to this emotional appeal is its focus on Justin and Tessa's relationship. The romance between the characters is more than a convention set-up in order to infuse the story with a sexy subplot. Here the character interactions emit a palpable chemistry and ultimately generate incredible sympathy for Justin, the protagonist.

The characters are also largely responsible for the fresh feel to this drama. Breaking with convention of popular cinema, Justin is a somewhat accidental hero, lacking in the self-awareness and machismo of a typical action hero.

Rachel Weisz approaches this role with subtlety in order to convey Justin's mild-mannered but emotionally complex personality. Though ultimately Justin exhibits a sort of naivete, it is clear from Weisz's performance that his every action is mediated not only by the overwhelming sense of righteousness and masculinity that drives so many of Hollywood's heroes, but with the same sensitivity with which he tends to each one of his precious plants.

Likewise, Weisz, proving herself worthy of the Academy Award acclamation she received in March, brings Tessa to life. Her apparent comfort with this role allows her inhabit both Tessa's un­
tained passion and down-to-earth attitude.

Nearby upstaging both actors' performances are the visual elements of "The Constant Gardener." Coming from director Fernando Meirelles and cinematographer Cesar Charlone — two of the minds behind the beautifully shot "City of God" — the stunning visuals of this film continue to

The characters...
MLB

Mulder, Cards christen new home with win

The Observer • CLASSIFIEDS
Tuesday, April 11, 2006

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale

WALK TO SCHOOL 2 Bed.
ROOM HOMES
MINIMALIST $539,149
3,4,6 bedroom homes.
Website: www.minimalist.org
674-2038 or 556-0604.

For Rent

A/C-security system, fenced yard, carpeted, laundry on bus route.
No smoking or pets, lease deposit required. 674-398-5556.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 224 South Dining Hall. Deadline for non-classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $.35 per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

Assoc. Pressed

ST. LOUIS — Apparently, the new Busch Stadium is both a hitter's and pitcher's park. At least for Mark Mulder.

The Cardinals' left-hander threw three strong innings and hit his first career home run to help the St. Louis beat the Milwaukee Brewers Monday in the first major league game at the $356 million complex.

Scott Rolen's two-run double in the fourth off Tomo Ohka (0-1) gave the Cardinals the lead for good and Albert Pujols hit his fourth homer, a drive to the left-center power alley estimated at 435 feet.

The day began on a festive note, with Pujols and Chris Carpenter, the NL MVP and Cy Young Award winners, throwing out dual ceremonial first pitches to retired Cardinals greats Willie McGee and Bob Gibson. It stayed festive most of the day for a sellout crowd of 41,936.

Bill Hall's two-run homer in the second was the only damage off Mulder (0-1). Hall was 3-for-3 with a pair of doubles for Milwaukee, which has lost two straight after a 5-0 start that put the Brewers in first place in the NL Central.

Mulder allowed seven hits in eight innings, struck out five and walked one. He also was 2-for-3 with a double on a hop off the center-field wall and a walk — his first career base hit — in his 84 at-bats with four RBIs.

Cardinals beat White Sox 6-4

The St. Louis Cardinals line up prior to the beginning of their home opener and the inaugural game in the new Busch Stadium. The Cardinals won the game 6-4.

Lance Berkman is greeted by third base coach Doug Mansolillo after hitting a first inning home run in Houston Monday afternoon.

Machine gun

Ah, the straight line.

"We didn't have a lot of good swings," Garner said of Biggio. "True to the Hall of Fame manager, he's more than a couple of years when he comes through."
NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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NCAA Men's Lacrosse

DNA tests prove negative in Duke case

DNA tests failed to connect any members of the Duke University lacrosse team to the alleged rape of a stripper, attorneys for the athletes said Monday.

The results of the hearing won't be known whether investigators tested for DNA other than the players', Cheshire said the report indicated authorities took DNA samples from all over the alleged victim's body, including under her fingernails, and from her possessions, such as her cell phone and her clothes.

"They swabbed about every place they could possibly swab from her, in which there could be any DNA," he said. District Attorney Mike Nifong has said he would have other evidence to make his case should the DNA analysis prove inconclusive or fail to match a sample.

IN BRIEF

Williams appeals drug suspension

NEW YORK — Ricky Williams and his lawyer met Monday with NFL counsel Jeff Pash, seeking to have the league overturn a positive drug test that could cost him the entire 2006 season.

The appeal, which doesn't acknowledge drug tests until there is a final determination, had no comment on the appeal. Williams' lawyer, David Cornwell, acknowledged that the hearing was taking place, but had no further comment.

The results of the hearing won't be made known immediately but if the positive test is upheld, it would be Williams' fourth violation of the NFL's substance abuse policy, meaning at least a one-year suspension.

Previous positive tests were for marijuana, which Williams acknowledged using. But the latest test apparently involved a drug other than marijuana.

Crisp out for 10 days with fractured hand

BOSTON — Boston Red Sox center fielder Coco Crisp has a fracture on the base of his index finger on his left hand and will be sidelined for at least 10 days.

Crisp's hand will be immobilized in a splint for 10 days and then reevaluated, team medical director Dr. Thomas Gill said Monday. No surgery is needed to treat the injury, sustained when he tied to steal third base Saturday in Boston's 2-1 victory at the Baltimore Orioles.

"Once sufficient healing has occurred, Coco can begin batting and return to baseball activities," Gill said in a statement.

The 26-year-old Crisp, a switch-hitter who throws right-handed, was acquired in January from Cleveland after Johnny Damon signed with the New York Yankees. Crisp is batting .333 (8-for-24) with a double, triple and six runs scored.

Lee signs with Cubs for $65 million

CHICAGO — NL batting champion Derek Lee and the Chicago Cubs agreed to a $65 million, five-year contract, a deal expected to be announced Tuesday.

"It's fairly likely something will be worked out," agent Casey Close said Monday. "We still have to iron out some things."

The Cubs called a news conference for Tuesday but did not specify its subject, and Cubs general manager Jim Hendry declined comment.

Lee is making $8 million in the final season of a $27.5 million, three-year deal. His new contract calls for a $13 million annual salary from 2006-10 and contains a no-trade clause, one person familiar with the agreement said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Late last week, Lee said he would break off negotiations for the rest of the season if the sides did not reach an agreement by last Saturday.
NHL

Kings Robitaille to hang up skates

Los Angeles' all-time leading scorer set to retire at season's end

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Luc Robitaille, the highest scoring left wing in NHL history, will retire at the end of the season, the Los Angeles Kings said Monday.

Robitaille, the Kings' career leader in goals, will hold a news conference Tuesday to discuss his decision.

"Tomorrow is the opportunity for the Kings and Luc Robitaille to acknowledge his Hall of Fame-caliber career and give him an opportunity to address his decision to retire from the game of hockey," said Michael Altieri, the Kings' vice president of communications.

Altieri declined further comment.

Robitaille, who turned 40 in February, has 1,426 points and nine assists in 62 games this season, his 19th in the NHL. He has 660 goals and 726 points in 1,394 points in 1,428 regular-season games with the Kings, Pittsburgh, the New York Rangers and Detroit. In 15 playoff games, he has 58 goals and 69 assists. He helped Detroit win the 2002 Stanley Cup.

"It came to a point after 19 years that I felt it was time," said Pat Brisson, Robitaille's agent. "Some mornings he wakes up and says, 'Should I or should I not?' since he's so passionate for the game."

Robitaille has made a career of breaking records at his position. He scored the most goals in a season for a left wing, with 53 in 1992-93. He is also the only one to record eight straight seasons of at least 40 goals.

"He's going out on his own terms," Brisson said. "He is walking out with his head up."

The native of Montreal played on Canada's gold-medal winning team at the 1994 World Championship. Robitaille scored the winning goal in a shootout, giving his country its first world title in 33 years.

In January, the fast-favorite nicknamed "Lucky" broke the Kings' franchise record for goals with a hat trick in a win over Atlanta.

"He's given this organization so much, and an identity," Brisson said. "The L.A. Kings logo is right next to Luc Robitaille. His face is recognized in L.A. as being one of the best athletes in this town."

Robitaille broke in with the Kings in 1986 and was the NHL rookie of the year. He spent most of his career in Los Angeles during three stints with the Kings. He returned to the team for the 2003-04 season and had 22 goals in 80 games.

"This is where I started my career and this is where I believe I will end my career," Robitaille said in 2004. "This is where I belong. This is my home."

But he was benched for four games in December by new coach Andy Murray, who was fired last month.

And then he was held out again for three games last week by new coach John Tortorella.

Robitaille was back in the lineup Saturday against Anaheim.

"When he was scratched this year, he was extremely frustrated and disappointed," Brisson said. "I don't know if he has it in him to go through another year where it could be more and more like that."

MLB

Big Papi signs new four-year deal

Ortiz signs $52 million contract extension with Red Sox on Monday

Associated Press

BOSTON — David Ortiz agreed to a four-year contract extension with the Boston Red Sox on Monday, a deal that will guarantee the American League MVP runner-up about $52 million.

The deal keeps his powerful bat, bright smile and sharp wit in Boston's clubhouse without the possibility of him departing after the 2007 season, when Ortiz could have become a free agent. But he loves Boston and didn't want to be besieged by suitors.

"You have a lot of people coming right at you," he said during a news conference at Fenway Park. "I feel this is my house and I've got to protect this house."

The designated hitter was in the last year of a $12.5 million, two-year extension he signed in May 2004. That deal called for a $6.5 million salary this year and gave Boston an option for 2007 that currently was valued at $4.4 million with a $1.4 million buyout.

While the final numbers of his new deal were not immediately available, the sides discussed an agreement that would include a $2 million signing bonus, keep this year's salary the same and add annual salaries of $12.5 million from 2007-10. The Red Sox would get a $12.5 million option for 2011 with no buyout.

"I want to finish my career as a Red Sox player," Ortiz said. "I'm going to be around for a while. I'm pretty sure New England is going to take this as good news."

Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein certainly did.

"I can't think of a player who contributes in so many ways," Epstein said. "He's a guy with a smile on his face. He sets the right mood for the team in our clubhouse. ... It was just an easy decision for us to give the deal to him."

Had Ortiz become a free agent, Epstein said the player would have had a lot of options "that would have made it difficult for him to stay in Boston.

Epstein said the new deal was 98 percent complete during spring training.

Since Ortiz joined the Red Sox in 2003 as a free agent from the Minnesota Twins, he and Manny Ramirez have developed into perhaps baseball's top power duo. Ortiz led the AL with 148 RBIs last year.

They combined for 68 homers in 2003, 84 in 2004 and 92 in 2005, when Ortiz's career-best 47 were one fewer than New York's Alex Rodriguez, the AL leader. Ortiz and Ramirez became the first teammates in major league history to each have 40 homers and 40 doubles in one season in 2004.

Last year, they totaled 292 RBIs.

Ortiz is one of Boston's club-house leaders, smiling and joking with teammates. He also is one of baseball's top clutch hitters, leading the league last year with 21 game-winning RBIs, while 19 of his homers gave the Red Sox a tie or the lead.

In Boston's first six games this season, five of those wins, Ortiz has one homer, four RBIs and a .292 batting average. The Red Sox had Monday off before Tuesday's home opener against the Toronto Blue Jays.

Since joining the Red Sox, Ortiz has been the most productive addition at the plate since John Henry became owner in 2002 and Epstein took over as general manager in 2003.

Ortiz was fifth in the AL MVP voting in 2003 and fourth in 2004 before finishing second to Rodriguez in a tight vote last year.

In those three seasons, Ortiz leads the majors with 388 RBIs, is second with a .600 slugging percentage and fourth with 119 homers.

In the previous six years in the Twins organization, Ortiz spent just two full seasons in the majors, batting .282 with 10 homers and 63 RBIs in 2000 and .272 with 20 homers and 73 RBIs in 2002.
Men's rowing takes three of four from Purdue

**Special to The Observer**

The Notre Dame men took three out of four races from Midwestern rowing power Purdue University at the April eighth State of Indiana, Reservoir. The racing, set on the turbulently rough waters of Eagle Creek Reservoir, included several school versus school challenges for men and women crews.

In the past five years no Notre Dame men's crew has taken a race from a Purdue boat in the annual ND-PU challenge. This year's racing paid tribute to the dedication and preparation of each crew on Notre Dame's team. The racing began with Notre Dame's Novice 4 of coxswain Radhika Deva, (stroke) Craig Wiberg, Tomas Castillo, Johann deSousa and Matt Napierowski defeating Purdue's four-man crew with a time of 7:24. Coming in second was Tara Morin's crew of Nick Kluesner, Dan Murphy, Brandon Carroll and Jordan Frankel, who at 7:39 finished just two seconds behind the Purdue 4. Notre Dame's powerful Novice 8 of coxswain Bryce Chung, (stroke) Karol Czeslak, Thomas Mazzacavallo, Andrew North, Nick Dwyer, Matt Klaiber, Rob Bowen, Taylor Donaldson and Matt Degnan led from start to finish and crossed the line in 5:52 with open water and ten seconds between them and the best finisher of Purdue's three tradition rich crews.

In varsity racing, Notre Dame's second Varsity 8 battled back and forth with Purdue's second Varsity 8 and led the eight to a crew on an adjusted course. The race finished with (cox) Julie Lambe's crew of (stroke) Scotty Campbell, P.J. Mcaward, Evan Bowler, Matt Hloucky, Andrew Baker, Michael Lukas and Michael Giordano finishing in 5:02 to outdistance Purdue's best finish (5:05) by about a boat length. Notre Dame's top boat, the first Varsity 8 of (cox) Gigi Gutierrez, (stroke) Dan Pearson, Nick Mathew, Jake Odegren, Joe Blakely, Tedd Howks, Steve Maher, Kane Pithey and bowman Nick Catella, suffered the only loss of the day against Purdue's highly regarded Varsity 8 crew. The Purdue V8 (5:51), which a week ago defeated nationally-ranked Temple University in San Diego, held off the sprint of the fast-charging Notre Dame crew. Purdue's V8 won the race by just more than a boat-length.

Notre Dame's Varsity 8 stroke seat Dan Pearson commented, "We were greatly encouraged but not satisfied with our team results. Taking three of four races from a program like Purdue's top crew, but our Varsity 8 is hungry to compete Purdue's top boat. We will see them twice more this year, and we intend to do more than just give them a good race. We want to sweep Purdue by leaving them with four boats that we put out to race."

Notre Dame Varsity coach Kurt Butler and Novice coach J.P. Oleksiuk were similarly encouraged and remain optimistic for the second half of the racing season.

**Cycling**

Eleven members of cycling team traveled to Kalamazoo, Mich. to compete in a pair of races at Western Michigan University this weekend. Building on last week's success, the Irish again claimed more wins and top finishes.

Saturday's race featured a long flat road race that finished with multiple loops. Three team riders competed in the 27-mile Men's D race, as sophomore Peter Kissler, in only his second race, unleashed a strong sprint and rode away with the victory. Three Irish riders started in the 40-mile Men's C race, as sophomores Pete More, in only his second race, unleashed a strong sprint and rode away with the victory. Three Irish riders started in the 45-mile Men's B race. Freshman Andy Stevens once again won the race, claiming his fourth individual victory this season. The final four Irish riders on raced to the 55 mile Men's B race. McCormack appeared as if he would win as he approached the finish line, but crashed hard after the rider in front of him slid out in the final corner. Tim Campbell was not far behind, taking fourth place overall, and Mike McNicholas finished right on his wheel in fifth place out of 60 riders.

Sunday's circuit race, an extremely hilly 2.75-mile loop featured two hard climbs on every lap. In the 45-minute Men's C race, James Staves gained his second win of the weekend as he sprinted clear of his competitors up the climb. Staves has claimed five wins in nine races this season. The Men's B race was an hour in duration. The team plan was to give each rider a hill climbing power. Three laps into the race, Przyski was able to break away from the main pack with an IU rider. The rest of the ND team worked with IU at the front of the main field, slowing the pace in Przyski's favor, and chasing down any threat to his victory. The Irish staged a comeback with tough defense and opportunistic tactics. The Irish took the lead late in the third quarter and kept it for the rest of the game, for a 13-11 victory. Greg Szewczyk, Zhanwei Khaw and Tom Fletcher all contributing to the solid win. The Irish played a gutsy "B" squad Sunday morning and used the game as a learning experience for the younger players on the team.

In the tournament finale, the Irish were matched against Chicago Club Team, who had beaten Michigan State earlier on Sunday. The Irish came out fired up and ready to play as the first half ended in a 2-2 draw. With stifling defense, a well-balanced offense and several pressure blocks from goalie Scott Tagwerker the Irish went on to win 7-4. Mike Silhasek, Colin Dunn and McNicholas had outstanding performances in the win.

**Equestrian**

Most collegians claimed first place in intermediate fences at Zones this weekend and qualified for Nationals. Schmieg will join Kelsey Ostberg, who qualified this year. The Nationals will be held May 4-7 in Harrisburg, PA. In other Zone results, Heather LaDue and Alishia Wiersz finished first and sixth respectively in advanced walk-trot-canter, and Allie Minnich took fifth in open flat. In team standings, Kansas State won the event, followed by Indiana and Wisconsin.

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TENNIS

Haas advances in U.S. men’s clay court play

Associated Press
HOUSTON — Fifth-seeded Tommy Haas started fast and then had to push hard in the second set before beating Oscar Hernandez 6-1, 6-4 Monday night in the first round of the U.S. Men’s Clay Court Championships.

Third-seeded Roger Federer played Albert Montanes in a later first-round match.

Haas, who won the title here in 2004, breezed through the first set in 25 minutes before Hernandez stepped up in the second set. He broke Haas in the sixth game to take a 4-2 lead, but the German broke back in the seventh game.

Haas took charge of the match when he went up 3-4 after he had Hernandez down love-40. The Spaniard fought off two break points but lost it at the third break point with a double fault. Haas then served for the match and won it at the second match point when Hernandez’s return of serve sailed wide.

Haas, ranked 27th in the world, extended his match record to 21-5 this season. He played Hernandez for the first time.

“I didn’t know what to expect from him,” Haas said. “You could have put 20 players up there and I couldn’t have picked him out. I asked a few friends and they said he was a typical clay-court player. I decided to play a little clay-court tennis at times and to get aggressive.”

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Sandman continued from page 20

was great.

In his first tournament of the season, the Administaff Augusta State Invitational, Sandman carded a three over-season, the Administaff one playing better golf [than Josh] right now," Irish head coach Jim Kubinski said. "With everything he's gone through, in addition to making the transition to college, he's just been outstanding."

This weekend at the Bellmaker Invitational, Sandman got into a rhythm again, shooting a three under-par 69 in Sunday's final round to finish the tournament at four-over-par 220. That was good enough for a second place tie with fellow team member Cole Isban.

"I always felt pretty confident," Sandman said. "But I didn't think I would make as big a splash as I did."

In addition to dealing with his back, Sandman has also had to adjust to a new swing changes suggested by his coach back home, along with an eye from me on occasion," Kubinski said. "I think we really saw what Josh is capable of with that 69 on Sunday."
"Against us, [Chicago State starter] Jonathan Kuhn pitched pretty well and [Oakland] knocked him around," Mainieri said. "It doesn't matter who we're playing. We respect all our opponents, and we respect Oakland."

Kuhn threw eight innings and allowed six runs on 11 hits in a 6-4 loss to Notre Dame April 4. He surrendered nine runs on 14 hits in 7.2 innings Sunday.

Mainieri said he is confident about Notre Dame's chances in the game because of the team's top two hitters in the lineup. First baseman Craig Cooper will lead off for the Irish and third baseman firstсет Lilley will bat in the No. 2 hole.

"Cooper has been hot for a long time. Ever since we put him in that leadoff spot, he has sparked our team," Mainieri said. "He's playing like a top player in the conference should play — which is what we always thought he was." Cooper is batting .429 on the season with a .612 slugging percentage thanks to three homers, seven doubles and a triple.

Lilley had his best series of the season this weekend against South Florida. He was 9-for-13 with four runs and an RBI (7-for-7, three walks in his first 10 plate appearances) in Notre Dame's three-game sweep of the Bulls. The performance lifted his batting average on the season to .333.

In the series, Cooper and Lilley combined for 18 hits; the Bulls had 25 hits total in the three games. Cooper has an 11-game hit streak, and Lilley enters on a 10-game hit streak of his own.

"You've got two guys at the top of the order who are really setting the tone for us," Mainieri said. "Brett Lilley really fired up against South Florida. It just goes to show when Brett Lilley plays the way he's capable of playing, we've got a much better team."

Paul Mainieri
Irish head coach

"When Brett Lilley plays the way he's capable of playing, we've got a much better team."

SMC Golf
Belles take third in Spring Fling

Meagan Mattia leads team with 162 in two-day tournament

By BECKI DORNER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's captured third place this weekend in the annual Illinois Wesleyan Spring Fling.

Saint Mary's two-round total of 661 was only one stroke shy of second-place William Woods University, and the Belles edged out Wisconsin Eau Claire for third place by only one stroke.

DePauw was largely unchallenged, beating the other 10 teams handily with a final score of 634. Sarah Gates of DePauw was the individual medalist with a 78 on round one and a 75 on day two that forced a playoff win against Jana Mosseen of Lindenwood.

Senior Megan Mattia was the top individualplacer for the Belles, tying for seventh with a two-round total of 162 (80-82). After Oklahoma's record, Mainieri said Notre Dame must continue that hot hitting against Oakland today if it wants to earn the win.

"Every team that plays us, it's like the World Series for them," he said. "Our kids have to realize when you put on that uniform everyone's gunning for you. So we have to be ready to play against these guys."

After Oakland, Notre Dame faces Manchester College Wednesday at 5:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Field.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

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**BASEBALL**

Rollin' home

12-game stand at Eck begins today with Oakland matchup

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

No. 21 Notre Dame (22-8, 8-1 Big East) begins a 12-game home stand against Oakland today at 2:05 p.m. and looks to extend its winning streak to 13 in the midweek non-conference matchup at Frank Eck Stadium.

"We'd like to just keep it going," Irish head coach Paul Mainieri said Monday. "We're playing extremely well."

Oakland senior right-hander Kevin Hale will throw for the Golden Grizzlies (7-20, 4-0 Mid-Continent Conference). Hale is 0-4 in 5 starts (12 appearances) with a 5.30 ERA. He has given up 46 hits and 14 walks in 22.2 innings.

Irish sophomore left-hander Wade Korpi will start for Notre Dame. Korpi is 2-1 on the season in five starts with an ERA of 2.53. He has 44 strikeouts in 32 innings.

Oakland enters on a six-game winning streak of its own. After starting the season 2-20, Oakland topped Rochester in the second game of a doubleheader April 1 and won the rubber game of the three-game set April 2.

Oakland swept Chicago State in consecutive twin bills Saturday and Sunday, beating the Cougars by a total of 3-9.

see KORPI/page 18

**ND SOFTBALL**

Cardinal bats meet Irish pitchers

Booth returns to mound after throwing a complete-game shutout

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame (23-12, 7-1 Big East) will take a brief break from its Big East schedule to play Ball State at 5 p.m. today at Ivy Field.

Irish senior infielders Meagan Ruthrauff and Sara Schoonaert lead a high-powered Notre Dame offense into the matchup. Schoonaert, who was 4-for-9 Sunday against Pittsburgh, played a key role in the weekend's onslaught, as the team posted 21 runs and hit five homers in two games. Notre Dame won the first game 7-0 and the second contest 14-4.

Ruthrauff set two school records with three home runs and seven RBIs in Sunday's second game. Her third and final home run was a grand slam in the seventh that capped a perfect day at the plate. The unprecedented production also won her Big East Player of the Week honors Monday.

"I am seeing the ball very well right now, and this is the most confident I have been with my swing all year long," Ruthrauff said.

After racking up 30 runs on 50 hits this weekend, she said everybody on Notre Dame seems to be seeing the ball very well. Ball State's pitching staff will have to step up for the Cardinals to slow down the Irish offense and leave South Bend with a victory.

The Irish also used the long ball effectively the last time they met Ball State. Notre Dame junior Megan Mattia led the Irish as she went 2-for-3 with two home runs and four RBIs.

see BOOTH/page 17

**SMC SOFTBALL**

Belles sweep Bethel with two 8-5 victories

Saint Mary's takes both games of teams' annual meeting at ND

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

It seemed like Saint Mary's had lost its momentum in the top of the fourth inning of the second game of Monday's doubleheader with Bethel at Ivy Field. Bethel freshman Staci Hitch homered for the Pilots, tying the game at two with her two-run blast. It got worse for Saint Mary's when Bethel jumped ahead in the top of the fifth with two Pilots singles for a 4-2 lead.

But the Belles answered Bethel's call and came back to complete a sweep of the doubleheader, winning both contests 8-5.

In the second game, Saint Mary's fought back in the bottom of the fifth when Belles' first baseman Katie Rashid singled in two runs, tying the score at four. The Belles' Sarah Meisle had reached on an error by Pilot shortstop Brittany Beneker, and Saint Mary's Ashley Fusaro and Laura Helene followed with singles to load the bases.

Freshman right-hander Kristen Amram then helped her own cause, reaching base on another Bethel error as Saint Mary's took a 5-4 lead.

Bethel tied the game in the sixth, but Saint Mary's answered once again.

Fusaro gave the Belles the lead for good in the bottom of the sixth with a bases-clearing double in the gap that gave Saint Mary's the decisive 8-5 advantage. Saint Mary's Martha Smid started the inning off with a single, and the Belles' Audrey Gaylor reached on another Bethel error. Meisle then walked to load the bases for Fusaro.

Fusaro said the batters who

see SWEET/page 17

**SPORTS AT A GLANCE**

SMC GOLF
Megan Mattia led Saint Mary's to a third-place finish at this weekend's Illinois Wesleyan Spring Fling.

page 18

TEENNS
Tommy Haas advanced in the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships Monday.

page 16

CLUB SPORTS
Notre Dame men's rowing won three of four races this weekend in the State of Indiana Regatta.

page 15

NHL
Los Angeles Kings' all-time leading scorer Luc Robitaille will announce his retirement tomorrow.

page 14

MLB
David Ortiz agreed to a four-year contract extension with the Boston Red Sox Monday.

page 14

MEN'S LACROSSE
Lawyers said Monday DNA testing failed to connect any members of the Duke University lacrosse team to the alleged rape of a stripper.

page 13