Facebook use evolves at Notre Dame

Since its founding in 2004, thousands of students join the now ubiquitous networking site
INSIDE COLUMN

Thanks for the memories

Today is my last day as Editor-in-Chief of The Observer. This day was fast approaching, but I prevented myself from thinking about it for as long as possible because this after is graduation, and I don't want to leave Notre Dame. These four years have been the best of my life and I probably won't have another four years like them. They've been so enjoyable thanks in part to my time at The Observer. It was through The Observer that I discovered just how special Notre Dame is.

Last spring, we did a story on George Porter-Young, a former LaFortune employee who was originally from England. George found out he had leukemia and wanted to return home to live in England for the first time in 42 years. But because of his cancer, he couldn't fly home and needed to raise money for an expensive cruise home and to cover other costs along the way. After our story ran, the people of Notre Dame did the rest. Donations came in from staff, alumni and students and George had enough money to go home. And he did return in September to spend a few months with his family before he died in November. I hear all the time about the good that people at Notre Dame do and George's story is an example of the good Notre Dame can do.

I'll always remember George and I'll always remember the people who have made The Observer such a great place to work the past four years. Thank you to everyone who has worked late nights in our office and this list includes a lot of people. We have a fantastic staff, filled with people who have sacrificed time, energy and points on their GPA to help us put out the best paper we can.

Some of those 3 a.m., 4 a.m. and even 5 a.m. nights can be frustrating, but I was happy to share them with everyone I worked with, for it was during those long nights that I made some great friends. It amazes me how much everybody at our paper gives everyday to make our paper the best it can be, and I am eternally grateful to everyone on staff. You've given me a lot of great memories that I'll always have. (And thanks for putting up with my love of Carole King's music. I know that wasn't easy).

Thanks to our readers, who pick up our paper everyday and read us despite the occasional typo. You keep us motivated, for it was during those long nights that I discovered just how special Notre Dame is.

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-654-3706 so we can correct our errors.

CORRECTIONS

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu.

INSIDE COLUMN

QUESTION OF THE DAY: TELL A STORY IN SIX WORDS.

Ryan Gabriel  
Andy Hermansen  
Johanna Kirsch  
Mary Lemmon

"I despise the question of the day."  
"I dreamt a girl liked me."  
"Lost: Hard Drive. Files not recovered."  
"Road Trip? This is an island."

Chris Hine  
Editor-in-Chief

OFFBEAT

Teenage boys steal jewelry, hide it in Cheesecake bag

NEPTUNE, N.J. — Bet you can't steal just one. Three teenage boys from Mercer County, N.J., New Jersey have been charged with breaking into an apartment and stealing $7,000 worth of jewelry, then hiding the loot in an empty Cheesecake bag. The bag was later found inside a swing set in a local park in Freehold.

The boys, ages 15 and 16, have been charged with attempted burglary, burglary and trespassing. Face recovered most of the stolen jewelry.

The boys have been released to their parents.

Man claims military service allows him to rob candy store

 Authorities arrested a man who claimed he was justified in stealing candy at a truck stop because he had served in the military. Police said an officer confronted a 31-year-old man at the truck stop early Monday morning. The officer reported finding several packages of candy and nuts, two black T-shirts and a 20 oz. bottle of beer in his pockets.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Sexual Assault Awareness Resource Tables will be available in South Dining Hall, North Dining Hall and LaFortune today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tables are provided by Gender Relations Center.

"Guernica," a play inspired by the true story of a ship that sunk in 1937, will be performed in the Philbin Studio Theatre in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The play is being performed at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. For more ticket information, performingsarts.nd.edu or call the DeBartolo Ticket Office at 574-631-2800.

Bengal Bouts finals take place Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

The Notre Dame German Club is hosting a Sound of Music Sing-A-Long event tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the Carey Auditorium of Hesburgh Library. Admission is free, and free food will be served at intermission. A costume contest will also be held.

Saint Mary's College will host the "SMC Monologues 2009: Our Stories, Our Voices" Saturday and Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in the Vonder Vetmer Theater.

The Browning Cinema will present the documentary, "America the Beautiful: Is America Obsessed with Beauty?" Sunday at 3:00 p.m. in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

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

THEOBEESPRENDAYS.

TODAY  TONIGHT  SATURDAY  SUNDAY  MONDAY

LOW  15  20  28  30  17

MIDDLE  20  30  32  35  29

HIGH  32  40  17  35  21

LOCAL TEMPERATURES


The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu.
College hosts Lenten reflections

Bread Bowl discussions to occur every Friday during season

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

With the season of Lent now underway, Campus Ministry, the Office of Civic and Social Engagement and the Mission Council at Saint Mary's College have prepared reflection activities open to all students.

Lenten Bread Bowl Discussions begin today, and will be held each Friday during the Lenten season, except during Spring Break. The discussions will include soup bread bowls for a meal and will allow students, faculty and staff members to discuss topics relating to Lent.

"We will be using stories, prayers and discussion starters that Catholic Relief Services has prepared from their work around the world," Regina Wilson, assistant director of Campus Ministry said.

"By engaging with the stories of contemporary people from various developing countries from around the world, we are hoping that we will all deepen our understanding of the relationship between communion with God in Christ and solidarity with all those who struggle around the world," she said.

The discussions, which begin at 12:15 p.m. and will conclude at 12:45 p.m. will be held in the West Wing of the Noble Family Dining Hall at the College.

"The lunches are meant to provide a way for students to come together once a week during Lent to share their spiritual journey around a simple meal, prayer, and shared conversation.," Judy Fean, director of Campus Ministry said. 

"We hope students will join in the weekly lunches. People are invited to come whenever they can, once, twice, or weekly," Wilson said.

Fean said that she hopes the events will provide an opportunity for members of the Saint Mary's community to come together.

"We also hope that people will come together to bless the food and money as a sign of our communal fasting, almsgiving, and prayer in solidarity with the people of our community and the world." 

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@ saintmarys.edu

Asian Film Fest to premiere at ND

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
News Writer

In order to promote cultural awareness, this weekend's Asian Film Festival at Notre Dame will show four Asian films and will include panel discussions and a student piece performance-Friday and Saturday evening in the Browning Cinema, student organizer Laura Wilczek said.

"Each culture has its own way of storytelling, and film is just one such way of cultural expression," Wilczek said. "Thus, the film festival provides students with a chance to learn more about Asian cultures and how they are similar to American culture."

Wilczek is a member of the Asian Film Festival Organizing Committee, which is comprised of students and faculty and works with the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.

Senior Brandon Frost also helped plan the festival and choose the films.

"This year's festival is a unique combination of films that no other Asian Film Festivals at other universities have provided," Frost said. "It includes themes such as co-production, the Asian-American experience and cross-cultural appreciation."

One of the films, "First Person Plural," is about an adopted Korean woman's search for her birth family, Wilczek said.

Wilczek said the film has personal importance for her because she is a Korean adoptee. She and senior Kevin Prawdzik will speak on a student panel discussion following the film.

"I think it brings up a lot of pertinent identity issues that surround a Korean adoptee and therefore provides excellent insight for those who aren't aware of such identity issues," she said about the film.

Frost said "Hula Girls," another film premiering at the festival, holds personal significance for Frost, a native of Hawaii. He has been hula dancing since he was five years old. Before the film, a student from the Hawaii Club will perform a modern hula dance, Frost said.

"When I was studying in Japan, everyone mentioned the film "Hula Girls" when I told them I was from Hawaii," he said. "So we truly are showcasing some of the more famous films in Asia today."

The film "West 32nd," about Korean crime in Manhattan, will feature a question and answer session after the film. 

see ASIAN/page 9

FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 1

2/22-3/1 “Giving a Voice” Poster Campaign featuring GRC FIRE Starters
2/23 Take Back the Night
Prayer Service; 7:00 pm at Log Chapel
March around campus
Speak Out at Bonfire; 8:00 pm at Holy Cross Hill
(with hot-chocolate, smores and free t-shirts)
2/24-26 Resource Tables from 11:30 to 1:30pm in LaFortune and the Dining Halls
2/25 Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention (CSAP) Student Forum
7:00 pm in Reckers Hospitality Room
2/27 "A Time to Heal" Dinner with Faculty and Student Speakers
Carolyn Nordstrom Professor of Anthropology
John Cavaddini Department Chair and Professor of Theology
Kyle A.C. Rocca Survivor of sexual assault
Tim Latham President of Men Against Violence
Anonymous Student Survivor of sexual assault
5:00-7:00 pm at Legends. All are welcome and the dinner is free, but you must RSVP by February 23 to grc@nd.edu or 631-9340.
3/1 SAWA Sunday featuring petitions, ribbons and prayer cards at Masses
Election
continued from page 1
the end of next year will help sen­
ority find faces they recognize in the
city they'll work," he said.
Tillet said his team offers a bal­
ance of prior experience and fresh­
ness in leading the senior class.
"We have the experience neces­
sary to do the job and enough out­
side perspective as well," he said.
Pule, along with Henry Shine,
Luke Stavole and Tim Castellani,
received 51 percent of the vote, or
593 votes, while the ticket of Kevin
Kimberly, Alexa Daylin, Dylan
Fernandez and Rachel Roseberry
received 41 percent, or 471 votes.
There were 93 abstaining votes.
Both tickets were accused of
election violations after Monday's
general election. Pule's ticket was
found innocent, but Kimberly's
ticket was charged with two viola­
tions. The Judicial Council could
not reveal the nature of the viola­
tions or accusations based on
guidelines set forth in the Student
Constitution.
Pule said she does not believe
this had an effect on the outcome of
the election because her ticket had
a clear lead after the first round.
"We were in the lead and all we
needed was 11 more votes to
claim the election," she said.
But Kimberly said he believes the
allegations against his ticket took
focus away from the platform.
"In the allegations, the platform
got lost," he said. "That's where we
lost." He said if the allegations did
not happen, his ticket would have had
a chance to campaign for more
votes between the general election
and the run-off election.
Pule said the first thing she will
do in office is plan the class trip to
see a Cubs game. She said the
game will take place on a Saturday
in the fall but does not conflict with
a home football game.
The ticket brings considerable
experience to the leadership role,
Pule said.
"We know procedures, we know
people to contact," she said. "I am
absolutely thrilled to lead the
class."
Contact Madeline Buckley at
mbuckley@nd.edu

Editors
continued from page 1
Charnley is a Communication
Students and English Writing
major currently living in Holy
Cross Hall. Originally from
Angola, Ind., she has written for
the news department since her
freshman year and covered
football, men's basketball,
campus events.
Shaffer, a Program of Liberal
Studies and Spanish major from
the Washington, D.C. area, will
assume the platform editor posi­
tion. A resident of Farley Hall,
Shaffer has written for the Scene
department as the incom­
ing photo editor. Gavlick, who
is a Marketing and Graphic
Design major and currently
resides in Pasquerilla West Hall,
will lead the photog­
graphy department as the incom­
ing photo editor. Gavlick, who
currently serves as an associate
photo editor, is originally from
Vancouver, Wash. and is a com­
puter science major. He has cov­
ered football, men's basketball,
women's soccer and various
campus events.
Archcr will become the next
art editor at The Observer. A native of Redding, Conn., he
is a Marketing and Graphic
Design major and currently
resides in Pasquerilla West Hall.
The other editors previously
selected for the Editorial Board
include Managing Editor Bill
Brink, and Assistant Managing
Editors Kara King and Bill Brink,
in addition to Metz.

PPE
THE MINOR IN
PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND
ECONOMICS

The PPE minor invites applications from undergraduates with special interests in the intersecting areas of political philosophy, political theory, and economic analysis. Every year about 16 highly motivated and talented students are admitted to PPE. Check it out to see if it is for you. Many of our students go on to careers and top graduate programs in law, public policy, philosophy, political science, and economics.

If you are looking for
(1) an integrated approach to politics and justice, without all the requirements of a second
major, and
(2) an intellectual community of faculty and students who share your interests, then PPE wants you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION Professor John Roon, Political Science Department, 424 Decio,
1-7556, Roon.1@nd.edu.

FOR AN E-MAIL APPLICATION, simply send a request to Professor Roon. The application
deadline is noon on Friday March 20. Late applications will be accepted only if openings are
still available.

PPE INFORMATION MEETING
Tuesday March 3
117 DeBartolo
7 p.m.

DANCEARTS 2009
DANCING SALMAGUNDI
(sal-mah-guhn-dee), any mixture or miscellany
The Saint Mary's College Program in Dance presents

THE OBSERVER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009

Please recycle The Observer.
Bishop apologizes for remarks

HOPE — A British bishop whose denial of the Holocaust enraged Pope Benedict XVI in controversy has apologized for his remarks, a Catholic news agency said Thursday.

Bishop Richard Williamson, with the conservative Society of St. Pius X, had faced worldwide criticism after a television interview in which he said no Jews were gassed during the Holocaust.

Williamson apologized in a statement Thursday to all those who took offense and for the distress he caused, the bishop did not specify whether his comments were to blame or that he no longer believed them. As a result, Jewish leaders said the apology did not go far enough.

"If I had known beforehand the full harm and hurt to which they would give rise, especially to the church, but also to survivors and relatives of victims of injustice under the Third Reich, I would not have made them," Williamson was quoted as saying in the statement carried by the Zenit Catholic news agency.

Iraq welcomes Kuwait's leader

BAGHDAD - Iraq took another step toward reconciliation Thursday when it welcomed its own diplomat to the Kuwaiti embassy in Baghdad.

Iraqi Foreign Minister, Noor el-Din Jumblatt, was received by a Kuwaiti diplomat as he stepped out of an armored sedan to enter the palace. It was the first of its kind in at least five years.

The timing of the visit by Kuwait's deputy prime minister, Sheik Mohammed Al Sabah, was symbolic — it came Kuwaiti celebration the 18th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait from Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion.

But much of his tiny Persian Gulf nation was leftfooted and devastated by the Iraqi occupation, and Kuwait still claims billions of dollars in war reparations. Williamson has refused appeals by Iraq that it return much of Kuwait's border to Kuwait.

Assisted suicide ring charged

PHOENIX - A jury awarded nearly $7 million to a 56-year-old woman who said she was physically and mentally unable to go on living but was also concerned about the future welfare of her 14-year-old son.

The jury, an unusual decision authorized by Arizona law, awarded Amanda Mangan, a 20-year-old Georgia man who suffered for years with a rare disease.

The verdict against the group known as the Final Exit Network was stopped short of warning doctors to relax and allow patients to die.

But as the process stalled and the money was held in City Hall, Williamson said his lawyer had been unable to settle for $50,000.

Williamson had faced worldwide criticism after a television interview in which he said no Jews were gassed during the Holocaust.

American universities around the country are warning college students to be careful after a drug-related murder and mayhem south of the border.

"We're not necessarily telling students not to go, but we're going to certainly alert them," said Tom Dugan, vice president for state affairs at the University of Rhode Island.

There have been American students killed and American campuses that have been burned.

Mutiny ends after government force

DHAKA — Tanks rolled through the Bangladesh capital Thursday in a show of force that finally persuaded mutinous border guards to lay down their arms, ending a two-day revolt that threatened to spread across the impoverished South Asian nation.

More than 5,000 soldiers, including three civilians, in the insurrection after the 2,000 guards opened fire on their superiors, deserted and hoisted white flags in residential neighborhoods around the border.

Apparently intimidated, the guards hoisted a white flag on Thursday afternoon and resumed laying down arms. They had threatened to spread the unrest to other areas Thursday, recently elected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina warned the rebels they would "do whatever is needed to end the violence."

Hours later, tanks and armored vehicles with heavy machine guns rolled into the capital, taking up positions in residential neighborhoods around the border guards' compound. An Associated Press reporter saw several other tanks stationed in a playground.

The mutinous guards had agreed to surrender after the government on Wednesday promised them an amnesty and agreed to look into their demands.

And as the process stalled and the revolt appeared to be spreading to other areas Thursday, recently elected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina warned the rebels they would "do whatever is needed to end the violence."

The United States Department of State is warning students to be careful after a drug-related murder and mayhem south of the border.

"We're not necessarily telling students not to go, but we're going to certainly alert them," said Tom Dugan, vice president for state affairs at the University of Rhode Island.

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In the streets. More than 6,000 people were killed in drug-related violence, and certainly innocent people have been caught up in that collateral damage.

Mexico's drug cartels are waging a bloody fight among themselves for smuggling routes and against government forces, carrying out massacres and dumping beheaded bodies in the streets. More than 6,000 people were killed in drug violence in Mexico last year.

But Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora said in an interview with The Associated Press: "There is no major risk for students coming into Mexico in general terms. It is always important to advise the youngsters to behave."
Looking for an on-campus job?

The Observer is now accepting applications for 2009-10 for the following positions:

- Controller
- Viewpoint Copy Editor
- Systems Manager
- Ad Design Manager

The Controller position, which provides great accounting experience, is open to rising juniors. It is a two-year position; the 2009-10 Controller will become the 2010-11 Business Manager.

The Viewpoint position is open to any student; sophomores are preferred.

Systems Manager applicants should be highly adept at computer troubleshooting.

The Ad Design Manager position is open to all students with graphic design experience and leadership skills.

All positions are paid.

Please contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu if interested.
**THE OBSERVER**

**MARKET Recap**

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**BRIEF**

**Colorado’s oldest newspaper folds**

DENVER — The Rocky Mountain News, Colorado’s oldest newspaper and a Denver fixture since 1859, will publish its last edition Friday.

Owner E.W. Scripps Co. said Thursday the newspaper lost $16 million last year and the newspaper to fail amid a recession that has been one of the strongest industries in the industry. And the Rocky Mountain News, long the oldest newspaper and a Denver icon, said Thursday the newspaper lost $16 million last year and the newspaper to fail amid a recession that has been one of the strongest industries in the industry.

As investors became aware of the impact on the high-end housing market, said Bruce Wein, head of law firm Davis Piper's tax practice. The provision received a cool reception in Congress. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said it raises concerns and "will require more study." Among the other tax provisions:

- The Alternative Minimum Tax is indexed to inflation, providing a long-term fix that would save more than 20 million low-income families from being hit with significant tax increases. The tax was enacted in the 1980s, to make sure wealthy taxpayers pay at least some tax.

"We have been looking for signs that the economy’s rate of decline might be slowing, but can’t find any," said Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at the HSBC Global Insight consulting firm. The government reported Wednesday that oil prices were up more than 20 percent and consumer confidence remained at a 12-year low. They pay at least some tax. "We have been looking for signs that the economy’s rate of decline might be slowing, and can’t find any," said Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at the HSBC Global Insight consulting firm. The government reported Wednesday that oil prices were up more than 20 percent and consumer confidence remained at a 12-year low.

"The hope is that policy efforts by the federal government will be able to break that cycle," said Zach Pandl, an economist at Nomura Securities International. "But it’s still going to take some time before that happens.

President Barack Obama’s $787 billion stimulus package, for example, includes billions of dollars of infrastructure spending, but most of the impact will not be felt until 2010 or later, Pandl said.

The Obama administration forecast Thursday that the budget deficit would hit $1.7 trillion this year, reflecting the massive spending being undertaken to battle the severe recession and the worst financial crisis in seven decades.

Initial jobless claims jumped to 667,000 last week, the Labor Department said, from the previous week’s figure of 631,000. Analysts had expected a slight drop in claims, which are now at the highest level since October 1982, though the work force has grown by about half since then.

The four-week average of initial claims, which smooths out fluctuations, rose to 692,000, the highest in more than 26 years.
Dove

continued from page 1

she said. "Our mission became to make women take care of themselves and aspire to be their absolute best." Nadeau did not anticipate the outpouring of positive responses she received once the billboard went up in Times Square. Both the models and old Dove representatives were anxious because no company had ever done anything like it, she said. "We are actually changing women," Nadeau said. "We are actually changing culture. We are actually changing media."

After Dove launched the advertising campaign, Nadeau and the five Dove models traveled the country and appeared on talk shows, including Oprah, to share their stories and talk about the media's impact on body image. "We had to be the change we wanted to see," she said. The Dove Self-Esteem Fund began to promote positive body image in younger girls, Nadeau said. When the models appeared on the Today Show and said one dollar would be given to the fund that for every click on the Dove Web site, the

Fever

continued from page 1

"For the most part, Notre Dame doesn't have a lot of options for what to do on weekends, except for dorm parties and parties off campus," she said. "This sounds like a good opportunity for students under 21 to go off campus and meet up with friends."

There is a lack of venues in South Bend where underage students can interact with each other off campus, Conley said. "If Fever had an under-21 night, you would run into different people than you would normally," Conley said. Sophomore Gabby Moriel, 20, said she also thinks a regular event for underage young adults would be popular among students, but she said if the party turned out well, the club should consider integrating the overage and underage venues. "The clubs by my house let you in if you're 18 or over, but you get a wristband if you are 21 and can be served alcohol," she said. "If things go well, maybe they can try the wristband thing." Moriel said allowing students over 18 into the bar will fill a void in the market for fun weekend events for students between 18 and 20.

"I think they would get a lot of business because there isn't much else to do," she said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Dive chooses three additional finalists

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nick Mitchell probably won't be having the last laugh on "American Idol." The outrageous 27-year-old sketch comedian, who performed as his over-the-top alter ego Norman Gentle, was one of nine semifinalists sent packing Thursday on the popular Fox singing competition.

"I'm looking for employment — always," Mitchell of Brookfield, Conn., told host Ryan Seacrest before his dismissal.

The second group of the eighth season's finalists not headed to the unemployment line are Allison Iraheta, a 16-year-old high school student from Los Angeles; Kris Allen, a 23-year-old University of Central Arkansas student from Conway, Ark.; and Adam Lambert, a 24-year-old theater actor from Los Angeles. The trio received the most viewer votes.

"I thought Nick was hilarious, so I didn't know what was gonna happen," said Lambert.

While the show's four judges were more than satisfied with Lambert's elastic take on the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction," they had a mixed reaction to fellow finalist Allen's performance of Michael Jackson "Man in the Mirror."

The panel was also impressed with red-haired Iraheta's red-hot rendition of Heart's "Alone."

"You just blew it out the box!" Randy Jackson exclaimed after Iraheta performed Wednesday. The three finalists will join 28-year-old church music director Danny Gokey from Milwaukee, 21-year-old musician Alexis Grace from Memphis, Tenn., and 27-year-old oil rig worker Darby Sarver from Jasper, Texas, who were selected as the first three finalists last week.

Next Tuesday, 12 more semifinalists will vie for three spots in the competition's top 12.
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Joining the Final Exit Network costs $50, and the privilege of membership include this: When you’re ready to die, the organization will send two “exit guides” to show you how to suffocate yourself using helium tanks and a plastic hood.

The Georgia-based organization says it is providing an invaluable and humane service. Authorities call it a crime.

Four members of the Final Exit Network, including its president and its medical director, were arrested Wednesday and charged with assisted suicide in the death of 54-year-old John Celmer last June at his home near Atlanta. Investigators said the organization may have been involved in as many as 200 other deaths around the country.

“The law is very clear, and they clearly violated it,” said Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokesman John Bankhead.

The arrests came after an eight-month investigation in which an undercover agent posing as someone bent on suicide infiltrated the Final Exit Network, which bases its work on the “Right to Die,” a best-selling suicide manual by British author Derek Humphry.

Members of the Final Exit Network are instructed to buy two new helium tanks and a hood, known as an “exit bag,” according to the Gill. In court papers, investigators said the organization recommends helium because it is undetectable during an autopsy.

The network, which was founded in 2004 and claims 3,000 members, donors and volunteers nationwide, has long operated in the open. It has its own Web site, and its leaders have held news conferences and appeared at paid speaking engagements.

The group’s members bridle at the term assisted suicide, saying they don’t actively aid suicides but rather support and guide those who decide to end their own lives.

“We’re just there to help,” said Terry Goodwin, the group’s vice president, who was not arrested. “People insist upon it. They want to do what they want to do. They’re suffering, and if they have inordinate pain, then they want to sometimes get out of that intolerable pain.”

Celmer’s death appears to be seriously ill. While his mother said he had suffered for years from throat and neck pain, investigators said the doctor as saying he had made a “remarkable recovery” and was cancer-free at the time of his suicide. Authorities said he may have been embarrassed about his appearance after jaw surgery.

Also, his doctor told investigators that Celmer asked in a letter because of arthritis, but that it could have been lessened if he had taken his medication properly and stopped drinking and smoking.

Georgia authorities arrested the group’s president, Thomas E. Goodwin, and members J. Jane Belth. According to investigators, Goodwin and Belth were Celmer when he died, each holding a hand, and the two cleaned up the scene afterward by removing the hood and the helium tanks.

Maryland authorities arrested the organization’s medical director, Dr. Lawrence D. Egbert, 81, of Baltimore, and Nicholas Alec Sheridan, a regional coordinator. Investigators said Egbert and Sheridan evaluated Celmer before his death and gave the Ok for his suicide.

Those arrested could get up to five years in prison on the assisted-suicide charges. They were also charged with evidence-tampering and racketeering.

Goodwin said in a 2006 interview with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the organization had helped as many as 20,000 people who wanted to end their lives. In court papers, investigators said Goodwin alone had assisted in 30 deaths.
On Monday, Notre Dame held elections for class council. Two of the elections, sophomore and senior class council, had no reported violations, but this wasn’t the case in the junior class council race.

Both tickets were accused of at least one election violation. The ticket of Caitlin Pulte, Henry Shine, Luke Stavole and Tim Castellon was found not guilty on their charge, but the ticket of Kevin Kimberly, Alexa Doyle, Delia Fernandez and Rachel Roseberry was found guilty of two charges brought against them. Since the election resulted in a runoff, the Kimberly ticket was not allowed to spend any additional money on their campaign during the runoff period.

What exactly was this ticket guilty of? The student body doesn’t know, because the Judicial Council Elections Committee can’t reveal the violations in accordance with guidelines set forth in the Student Constitution.

Judicial Council president George Chamberlain said it was important to protect the integrity of the candidates and that revealing the violations would further damage the campaigns.

This policy should change and student government should amend the Constitution to allow the Judicial Council to disclose election violations. While class council elections aren’t exactly the most pressing issue for the student body, students are still electing a group of their peers to represent them for the coming year and work to better their time at the University. In making that decision, students have a right to know how the tickets have conducted themselves during their campaigns because it might affect how the tickets represent the students while in office. If the tickets are cutting corners in their campaigns, who’s to say they won’t cut corners once they get in office?

By not revealing the violations, the Judicial Council said it is trying to preserve the integrity of the candidates. If anything, keeping the violations secret hurts the integrity of the candidates. The violations are hidden from the students, and those unfamiliar with the process of running for class council have no idea what the ticket could have done to deserve this punishment. If the Judicial Council revealed the violations, students could judge how bad the allegations are for themselves, rather than having to speculate what might have happened. Under the current system, students are supposed to simply place their faith in the Judicial Council and take its word that the problem has been resolved.

Instead of containing the damage done by the allegations, the Judicial Council is perpetuating it, and is not helping students make an informed decision about their future leaders.
He's just not that into you: Notre Dating

In the real world there is a step between being perfect strangers and being in a relationship. This step is called dating. What is the difference between a Notre Dame guy and a Notre Dame girl? They are different from the rest of the dating world. If you hang out at least once a week, send texts to each other the rest of the time and have either never hooked up or do nothing but hook-up, then you are "Notre Dating." The idea of "Notre Dating" was invented to help young men and young women understand that this guy wasn't a man who can call, ignores you unless he has an SYR coming up and to pacify by convincing that we are all Notre Dame. It is a step in the relationship between you and the guy having to put in relationship level commitment or effort. We have amassed a list of the common signals that guys send to girls to convince them that whatever they are doing is a relationship. Let's look at some of these signals and see if you are in fact not in a real relationship.

One: He doesn't give you at least 12 hours notice. You're telling your friends "he took me to the concert at Legnds last night" but what you fail to mention is that he asked you via a text saying "I am walking by your dorm right now on the way to Legends, come down if you want to join." He told you but this is not a real invite, nor is it a date. Two: If you only see him on weekends. Face it, babies, if a guy are really into you, then you would see him Sunday-Wednesday nights. Periodically meeting up with him every weekend and Friday and Saturday and every weekend and every weekend and every weekend and every weekend and every weekend and even every weekend and then move on.

Three: If he's only hooking-up with you. Just because Notre Dating does not require that every hook-up has a deeper connection. A booty call is a booty call. Next time he does not show up, don't answer. Find yourself someone better — unless you are only looking for a hook-up, in which case no judgment here — more power to you. Seven: If you only see him in class. Don't care how often you sit next to each other. If you are wearing a baggy T-shirt and he will want to go outside and play in the snow, but if you are wearing a baggy T-shirt and you are not going to be able to swim and have great body sculpting.

The Mission Statement of the University of Notre Dame explicitly states that the University will not serve meat products in the dining halls. You must be willing to abide by all of the objectives of Notre Dame and a willingness to enter into the conversation that gives it life and character. The University prides itself on its Catholic identity — and rightly so. However, as explicitly stated in the Notre Dame Mission Statement, students of the University are not required to accept any Catholic belief or to abide by Catholic practices. The University does encourage "a way of living consonant with a Christian community," but interpreting this suggestion in a request to abide by Catholic policies is a bit of a stretch. Let's make sure to not serve meat products in the dining halls on Ash Wednesday and on every Friday of Lent is questionable. Many of my religious feelings and beliefs have nothing to do with my indignation. In fact, having decided to reside off-campus for my senior year, if I really want to consider putting a meat on a Monday all I have to do is go back to my apartment and grill a burger. My desire to live in a commune is not a desire to have meat served in the dining halls — I can fare quite well without it. What is really the issue here is the decision by the University to make the choice for its students. Does the University believe that those students who have the practice of fasting at heart would not be responsible enough to take notice of the day of the week and remember to abstain from consuming meat? Moreover, Catholic teaching actually requires fasting on Lenten Fridays. Can you imagine how students would react if the University decided to limit the amount of foods available for sale on Hunger Friday/Fast Fridays? Go to Bend dive bars that will make his clothing smell like he's a chain smoker. You will be asked to order an apartment after calling your car driver and take your key out so that you can lock the door. But as soon as you see his key, he will probably want to shoot you and testosterone, beer, chances are... He'll ask for some eggs so that you can go into Mike Brey's house.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
**The Young Dubs Perform Tonight at Legends**

By PATRICK GRIFFIN

Scene Writer

Just over two weeks before St. Patrick’s Day, the Irish rock band Young Dubs will offer an early indulgence as one of America’s foremost Celtic rock bands comes to South Bend. The Young Dubs, veterans of the hybrid music genre, arrive tonight at Legends for an exclusive performance.

The Young Dubs’ latest effort, “Saints and Sinners,” was released earlier this month. Following their 2007 release, “With All Due Respect,” the Irish Sessions – the Young Dubs’ rendition of a handful of traditional Irish songs – Saints is the band’s first batch of original work since 2005. Mixing traditional Celtic melodies with pop hooks, the Dubliners’ songs reflect the band’s experiences following several intense years of international touring. Tracks such as “Howways Girls,” “Backseat Drivers,” and “Saints and Sinners” showcase the bands knack for melodic anthems. At the same time, the band displays its socially conscious mindset with tracks such as “This Time” and “My Town,” which discuss the political unrest of the past few years and the current economic hopelessness that grips the nation. The acoustic ballad “In the End” even discusses the problem of global poverty and negligence in place such as Darfur.

Though the band has been busy touring with the likes of Johnny Lang, Collective Soul and Jethro Tull, completing anywhere between 180 to 250 shows a year, they understand the importance of providing fans with new original offerings.

“We live on the road, but were aware that if every few years we don’t give our fans the highest quality songs we can, that level of excitement and anticipation may not last forever,” comments lead guitarist and vocalist Keith Roberts on the Young Dubs (as they are affectionately referred to by fans) Website, youngdubliners.com.

Hailing from Los Angeles, Calif., the quintet has been active since 1988. In lead guitarist and vocalist Keith of global poverty and negligence in the unrest of the past few years and the production of eight full-length albums. Tracks first released earlier this year, they understand the importance of providing fans with new original offerings.

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Spotlight on service
Bengal Bouts is a well-established institution in South Bend. By now you’ve heard about the 79-year-old amateur boxing tournament. You’ve heard about the Grant sisters from Bangladesh and the endless hours every fighter dedicates to training. You may have even heard about the infamous “1,000 day” boxers. You can’t miss the enthusiasm the boxers have when they step into the ring. To see the joy on their faces, you can’t help but be moved by their determination.

In 1968 Suddes began his career with Bengal Bouts as a freshman at Notre Dame. He said, “The workout hasn’t really changed since then. We have had the same schedule since 1970. But it was until 71 that the boxers could really make their mark.”

In his senior year Suddes became very close to Notre Dame boxing legend Dominic Napolitano. Napolitano, as he is lovingly known, had been around since the beginning. He was a close friend of Knute Rockne and the founding father of Bengal Bouts. “Nappy got really sick my senior year. He had heart problems and wasn’t around very much because he had all these medical issues. I ended up getting really into the whole program that year and I just loved it,” Suddes said.

Nappy recognized the hard work. Suddes spent the next two years serving in the Army, but after that he was right back in the gym. The legend was aging and wanted to pass his torch to Suddes. The job was far from glorious. Nappy offered his new assistant a salary of $300 a year. Luckily, Suddes landed in 1967 in a campus development office and was able to support his family while still finding time to do what he loved. The Suddes family lived in the area until 1985 when the coach’s new job forced him to move to Columbus, Ohio. Suddes still lives in Ohio managing the Suddes Group and Full Impact. Both companies are started to offer training and coaching to non-profit organizations. “We try to help people change the world,” Suddes said, summarizing his work. His workouts haven’t really changed since then. The boxers are a force that drives each and every one of these things. The force that has remained more or less unchanged for the past 40 years. That force is Tom Suddes.

In a tiny, cramped gym, so humbling that you can’t breathe, the sweat in the air, a couple hundred young men in peak physical conditions lie flat on the floor, exhausted. The Bengal Bouts fighters have just finished 1,000 Day. It’s not easy task, but Suddes does each one leading the way. “I decided we were going to do that about 10 or 12 years ago,” he said. “That’s really one of those days you don’t forget.”

Sudder will be 60 years old before the snow melts in South Bend this year, but he can still hang with the athletes a third of his age. He was pounding out push-ups long before any of these guys were born.

When senior captain Brian Desplinter was 10, he certainly looked up to his older brother, Desplinter’s oldest brother, Tom, graduated from Notre Dame in 2002. Tom played two years at Notre Dame and then started his own boxing career. When senior captain Brian Desplinter was 10, he certainly looked up to his older brother, Desplinter’s oldest brother, Tom, graduated from Notre Dame in 2002. Tom participated in the Bengal Bouts his sophomore year, and rubbed off on his younger brothers. “I learned boxing by holding the bag for him,” Desplinter said.

Sudder said, “My oldest brother just started his sophomore year. I don’t know where it came from.”

Seniors captain Brian Desplinter defends during his preliminary round bout in the 147-pound weight division on Timothy Gammotti on Feb. 15.

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By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

Most 10-year-old boys dream of growing up to be astronauts, or the next LeBron. Most 10-year-olds look up to their older brothers and sisters.

When senior captain Brian Desplinter was 10, he certainly looked up to his older brother, Desplinter’s oldest brother, Tom, graduated from Notre Dame in 2002. Tom participated in the Bengal Bouts his sophomore year, and rubbed off on his younger brothers. “I learned boxing by holding the bag for him,” Desplinter said.

Soon after, middle brother Mark, Notre Dame ’05, joined Bengal Bouts, winning three titles and ending his career as a senior captain. With the three sets of the family all involved in the Bengal Bouts, the family has become a family affair. “The Bouts are very important to us. It’s what we do,” Desplinter said. “My oldest brother just started his sophomore year. I don’t know where it came from.”

“I think it is what brings anybody else to the Bengal Bouts. It is the combination of family and courage. I have never been in an unlike chance to show faith in Bangladesh. You come to the school to study, and then you get a chance to show yourself in the ring. You never really would, a way to test yourself.”

Those who’ve been through Bengal Bouts can understand what Desplinter means. “You can just tell the change that comes over somebody when they have been through the experience,” Desplinter said. “There is a kind of confidence that you carry around with you afterwards, and I can see that in my brothers very clearly.”

But Desplinter has had his share of struggles to get to this point. He boxed his freshman year, losing in the quar­terfinals to the defending champion. After suffering an injury several days before, the Bouts started his sophomore year. Desplinter could not fight, and he spent the second semester of his junior year abroad.

Appropriately enough, Desplinter’s favorite moment was when the Bengal Bouts program traces back to his very first day, and to the stories he heard from his older brothers. “I had been hearing about the Bengal Bouts practices my whole life, and hearing about how they are the most difficult things, impossible to get through,” Desplinter said. “When the clock hit seven, I wanted to be done, I yet found myself still down there hitting the bag.”

And the feeling at the end of a complete practice reminds Desplinter of how he has persevered through Bengal Bouts. “The reason I stuck with Bengal Bouts was not because I wanted to win and not because I needed to look up to my brothers. It was because I didn’t think I could do it, and I needed to prove to myself that I could. I thought I wanted to be the example to others that they could do similar things.

“No one thought that I could do this, and myself most of all, but I really thought that if I could make it through one practice, make it through the fights, people who have challenges much greater than I worry have to look at me and say, ‘Well if he could do it, I could do it, too.’”

This honorable inspiration does trace back, though, to Brian Desplinter’s first sources of knowledge of the Bengal Bouts: his brothers. “I owe whatever I accomplish to the example they set,” he added. “The Bouts are very important to us. It’s what we do.”

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@sud.edu

Family tradition keeps Desplinter working hard in ring
"I'm most proud of building this bridge to Bangladesh from the Bengal Bouts," said Weber, a Grand Rapids, Mich., native. "Our relationship with Bangladesh is no longer just a check that gets sent out every year. It is a relationship, a friendship and a tie that we want to live on.

The program annually sends upwards of $50,000 to Bangladesh, primarily to fund educational initiatives — an investment, Weber said, not a donation.

"We're investing in the children there so that they can be empowered to have a better life," Weber said. "We're just giving them a handout, we're giving them an opportunity to better themselves. Knowing that your time in the Bengal Bouts is an investment both in yourself and in someone else we can take our leadership and do something for.

"If there's one thing I've really tried to do here at Notre Dame, it's to use my talents to whatever I find the needs of the world to be."
130 pounds
Joe Hof vs. Michael Sayles

140 pounds
Kris Perez vs. Eric Feduska

145 pounds
Bobby Powers vs. Mark Weber

147 pounds
Joey Leary vs. Patrick Kibble

150 pounds
Tim Thayer vs. Matt Posluszny

155 pounds
Dan Rodgers vs. John Maier

Capsules and Predictions by Dan Murphy and Ryan Simmons

Photo Illustrations by Jan Gavlick
Andres Villalba vs. Bernardo Garcia

**170 pounds**

**PREDICTIONS**

**Murphy:** VILLALBA

Villalba has made it through the 170 pound bracket effectively so far this year. The senior captain does a great job of varying his punches during long combinations. He brings a unique style to his fights that most guys aren't used to seeing. So far it has worked well for him.

**Simmons:** VILLALBA

Villalba has been as tenacious and dangerous as last year. He relies on head movement and quick flurries to punish fighters. Garcia will need to use his reach to disrupt Villalba and bring back his infamous uppercut.

185 pounds

Leo Rubinkowski vs. John Tchoula

**200 pounds**

Benford Begay vs. Pat Burns

**PREDICTIONS**

**Murphy:** BEGAY

Begay has pushed himself to the edge this year working on speed and agility. Burns remains icily calm, exploding with hooks and uppercuts. This will be a match of lucid footwork vs. concentrated power.

**Simmons:** BEGAY

Begay has been around for four years and seems to get stronger each season. He coasted through his first couple of fights and should be able to use his size and experience to take home a championship.

Begay has surprised a lot of people last year as a freshman and earned the respect he has gotten so far in his sophomore season. Garcia has a decided reach advantage in this fight and will look to use his powerful jab to set up some bigger power punches.

175 pounds

Mike Lee vs. Mike Doran

160 pounds

Jim Deveraux vs. Jordan Bucci

165 pounds

Daniel Brennan vs. Alex Duffy

**PREDICTIONS**

**Murphy:** DUFFY

Duffy has been around for four years and seems to get stronger each season. He coasted through his first couple of fights and should be able to use his size and experience to take home a championship.

**Simmons:** DUFFY

Bernard burns has proved that he is a hard worker in the ring, but Begay looked much quicker in his earlier fights. The senior should be able to avoid a lot of Burns punches. The question will be in he can score his own.

**PREDICTIONS**

**Alex "Check Out These Chicken Legs"**

Begay is a wrecking ball in the ring. Duffy gets inside on his opponents and uses short, strong hooks to punish them. Despite the chicken legs, Duffy gets plenty of power behind each punch he throws and is an experienced senior in the ring.
Love of boxing draws Lee to Notre Dame

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Mike Lee wanted to be a part of Bengal Bouts so much that he transferred to Notre Dame to do it.

The senior captain and two-time Bouts champion spent his freshman year at the University of Missouri before coming to Notre Dame.

"I came here my senior year of high school to watch the 75th anniversary for Bengal Bouts, and that was probably the moment that I realized I wanted to box and I wanted to fight at Notre Dame," Lee said. "That was one of the main things that made me want to transfer.

"At that point, I'd already gotten into Mizzou and was thinking about Notre Dame, not really sure, and then I saw Bengal Bouts Championship night, with the ring in the middle of the JACC, and that kind of just sold it for me.

With the help of his cousin, Lou Hall, Lee wasted no time getting involved with the program.

"He was a captain in 1992, and he works in my corner," Lee said. "He kind of started me off the summer I found out I got into Notre Dame. I told him I got in, and he started teaching me how to get things coming in, and I really fell in love with the program and the sport."

Lee found immediate success in the ring, winning the 175-pound crown in his sophomore year in a technical knockout that was called in the third round. His junior year, he successfully defended his title.

"I bought a very good friend of mine, [fellow captain] Andres Villalba, and we just went toe-to-toe for three rounds," Lee said. "I think that was the best fight of our lives. When we were done, we hugged and everything was great."

Lee also got more involved in leadership each year. In 2008, he served as a junior captain before becoming a senior captain this year.

"When I came in sophomore year, I really had no idea what the program was," Lee said. "I had the opportunity of being a captain junior year, and it really taught me a lot about the program."

That year, Lee traveled to Bangladesh with senior Mark Weber, who is president of Bengal Bouts. Weber was there to film a documentary about the Holy Cross Mission that Bengal Bouts supports.

"I went over there, helped out, saw where all the money's going, what all the proceeds are doing in terms of building schools, helping the missions," Lee said. "It was really an unbelievable experience."

Lee said senior captains have a lot of behind-the-scenes responsibilities, including raising money, designing tickets and posters and procuring advertisers for the program.

"Mark and I had a goal of trying to raise a lot of money this year despite the recession right now," he said. "We just had a lot of ideas. A lot of things we could improve on. I think in the end we'll meet all of our goals. We're just really excited about making the program bigger, helping out even more."

Lee, a finance major, said he hopes his experience in Bengal Bouts can help him in the business world.

"It's definitely a nerve-wracking experience to jump into that ring in front of a thousand people," he said. "I hope that when I have a board meeting or whatever and I'm nervous about it, I can think back to when I was fighting and get some courage from that."

Heading into the last week of Bouts, Lee said he feels pressure to win his third straight title, but that winning is not everything.

"Finals night is three rounds, two minutes each," Lee said. "You train for months, think about it every day, and basically you have six minutes to do what you want to do. But when I'm done with it, no matter what, I know I'm going to be so happy I did it."

"That feeling is why I transferred from Missouri."

"When you get done, and they raise your hand it's definitely a nerve-wracking experience."

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

Villalba refocuses on training after championship loss

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

So much for summer break.

After losing to his now-fellow senior captain Mike Lee in the 176-pound division title fight last year, Andres Villalba refocused himself to perfecting his technique during the summer months back home in New Mexico.

"I just tried to fine-tune everything I learned in years past," said Villalba, who will face Bernardo Garcia in the 176-pound championship fight. "I don't take that long to learn the basic - hands up, knees bent, stuff like that - but it really takes a long time to find your niche, to define the style of boxing you're going to do."

Villalba even went toe-to-toe with a professional, sparring in an Albuquerque gym with a boxer who had delivered three knockouts in three career fights.

"That helped a lot because it's not the same when you're not actually getting punches thrown at you," Villalba said.

Villalba's training program included morning runs and mid-afternoon lifts designed, he said, to add weight for interhall football. He had never received any boxing training outside of that provided in Bengal Bouts practice, and Villalba said the strict regimen improved his footwork, head movement and endurance.

"I think it's safe to say that last year I was a little bit more raw. I threw a lot of big punches and didn't pick my spots," Villalba said. "I think I do a much better job this year of keeping my eyes up and seeing the punches some and doing a lot of place with my punches. I try to be more effective and waste less energy so I can step it up each round instead of tapering down."

Villalba's development in the ring from last year to this year mirrored that he made in wrestling in high school.

"The same thing happened with that - the transition from junior to senior year was a big step for me," said Villalba, who finished seventh in the state as a senior. "I was really raw my junior year, really trying to over-power people, and my senior year I transitioned into more of a technical wrestler, kind of the same thing I did with boxing."

"It doesn't take that long to learn the basics - hands up, knees bent, stuff like that - but it really takes a long time to find your niche, to define the style of boxing you're going to do."

Andres Villalba
senior captain

His father was a two-time state champion wrestler in Arizona, so Villalba had been around that sport from a young age. His experience on the mat helped him make the switch into the ring.

"When he leaves, that's probably a lot of balance, so I had a lot of things to carry with me when I transitioned over to boxing," Villalba said.

"I basically had never done any organized boxing before arriving at Notre Dame, Villalba had put on the gloves and thrown some punches at least once before.

"At home in my room, I have a picture when I'm about six years old," Villalba said. "Me and my cousin are in my backyard with boxing gloves on and we're hitting each other."

Villalba hopes he'll leave the ring Saturday night at a pinnacle of Bengal Bouts title, but either way, he said boxing will be one thing he carries with him when he leaves.

"It's something I can do as long as I have a punching bag at home," Villalba said. "I've been a competitor my whole life starting probably with tee-ball and Pop Warner (football), so I don't know what I'll do after I graduate, I'm going to have to get hit somehow."

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Trip to Bangladesh helps define Rubinkowski

By SAM WERNER
Spers Writer

Leo Rubinkowski always knew about the charitable aspect of Bengal Bouts. The senior captain sold his ads and worked to promote the cause of Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh, but it wasn’t until he actually visited Bangladesh in June of 2008 that he fully understood how much his work meant.

"Being there and seeing what Holy Cross does with the money we send, it really, really sunk in just how important the charity aspect is," Rubinkowski said.

Senior boxer Mark Weber was responsible for organizing the trip, and Weber, Rubinkowski, senior Tomas Castillo, senior Pat Martin and 2008 graduate Pat Ryan were the first Bengal Bouts boxers to visit Bangladesh in the 79-year history of the tournament.

"We were able to create a stronger connection between these two sides of the world that are working together," Rubinkowski said.

Rubinkowski said the trip to Bangladesh was the most memorable experience from his time in Bengal Bouts.

A trained fighter, Rubinkowski had been involved in martial arts, primarily traditional Japanese karate since he was five. When he decided to attend Notre Dame, his father mentioned that he should try Bengal Bouts.

"The more I thought about it, it just seemed like a natural thing to do considering my history with sport fighting," Rubinkowski said.

His freshman year, the Illinois native was knocked out in the first round, and said the experience was much different from his past fighting practice.

"Contact in sport karate is not real prevalent, so I guess that would be the biggest difference," Rubinkowski said.

"It’s a good difference, though. Over the past four years, he developed his boxing ability and said he was confident in his abilities in both areas.

"I think of it from a self-defense point of view, and it just depends on the situation," he said. "I almost feel like I’m more comfortable with boxing now."

Since that one-and-done his freshman year, Rubinkowski has reached the finals in each of the past two tournaments. Both times, though, he walked away without the title, losing to Dan Ward in 2007 and Alex Lough in 2009.

"It sucked," he said. "It definitely sucked. I remember after my sophomore year I almost was crying right in the ring."

This year, in his quest for that elusive title, Rubinkowski will fight as a senior captain.

"The honor is the culmination of a journey that started two years before when he was named a junior captain."

"I feel like it really has been a meaningful experience," he said. "Because I feel like I’ve had a closer relationship with the Bouts."

As a senior captain, it is Rubinkowski’s responsibility to train the younger fighters, most of whom have little to no boxing experience.

"I feel like it’s a lead-by-example kind of thing," he said.

"We show up everyday, we work hard everyday, and we do it with a smile on our faces."

Rubinkowski said one of the best feelings he’s experienced from Bengal Bouts is witnessing a boxer with little experience coming in to fight and succeed in the tournament.

"It is a good feeling to see someone really grab onto it," he said. "I’m not even proud because I know that I helped them, but I’m just proud to see that they really found something that speaks to them and that they can call their own.

Even if he doesn’t capture the title, Rubinkowski will always remember his time in Bangladesh, half a world away.

"I’d be super, super excited about [winning]. But I guess over the course of four years, it’s really sunk in how big the Bengal Bouts is," Rubinkowski said.

"The real thing that people remember is the charity aspect of the Bouts. If I win, that would phenomenal. I would love it, but, win or lose, I’m fine."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

Service, med school await two-time champ Rodgers

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Spers Writer

After four years of fights and two championships, senior captain Dan Rodgers has learned what it means to give himself selflessly and completely to something, and, in that process, he transformed.

"Every year, the Bengal Bouts, in me, mean less about what happens in the JACC and more about the Holy Cross priests in Bangladesh and the people they serve," Rodgers said.

Rodgers, a senior theology and science pre-professional major, became a captain this year after winning championship in 2007 and 2008, in the 155-pound and 161-pound weight classes, respectively.

Like most boxers participating in the Bouts, the knowledge that his efforts are instrumental in addressing the plight of tribal villagers in Bangladesh drives Rodgers.

"When I met (Webber) and the others who went to Bangladesh came back and shared their experiences with me and the team, the work of the missionaries and the help we give them became more real to me," Rodgers said.

"The work we do here to raise money and awareness has a tangible benefit for the Holy Cross mission."

Rodgers, a resident of Phoenix, Md., hopes to serve as a volunteer for a year before going to medical school.

While the mission behind the Bouts fuels his passion, Rodgers’ day-to-day role in the fights revolves around his duties as a captain. Stepping into a leadership role, Rodgers had to adjust his own expectations of his newfound responsibilities.

"I had a preconceived idea of what a captain was supposed to be and I thought that I needed to change in order to fit into the role," Rodgers said. "It was only after I realized that I was picked to be a captain because of who I was — not who someone thought I could be — that I became the leader I wanted to be."

"Tking that perspective and then using it to teach the hundreds of eager boxers that tape up was an obstacle in itself. Rodgers quickly learned that he could not be there for every fighter, regardless of his effort.

"As a captain at practice, you stare at 200 guys all looking back at you, looking for corrections, help, or a sparring partner," Rodgers said. "It can be overwhelming to think that you need to help all of them fix their jab or teach them a hook."

"I learned that I can’t help everyone, but I can find a few guys and give them everything I have to offer."

Although he realized he cannot

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"I learned that I can’t help everyone, but I can find a few guys and give them everything I have to offer."

Although he realized he cannot

not "be everything to everyone," Rodgers, a resident assistant in Siegfried Hall, gives all he can to each fighter that he coaches.

"I love to teach others what I know, what I have learned from others and what I have gained from my own experiences," Rodgers said.

"Being a captain put me in a position where I can help others grow stronger and be better boxers. It’s a very rewarding position to be in."

That training shaped Rodgers into a top fighter with a 12-1 record over three years of competition. Every one of the 180 fighters who will step into the ring this spring acknowledges the formative influence of the grueling training process.

"Training for me is everything," Rodgers said. "The fights are only put on because of our training. Both physical and mental discipline is required of a fighter in the ring, and it is only outside of the ring, on those days that you don’t want to come or don’t want to do that last set of push-ups, that you learn what it means to be disciplined."

This year, Rodgers is competing for his third consecutive championship. Over the past two tournaments, he relishes training other fighters, there’s nothing like stepping into the ring and practicing the Sweet Science himself.

"I like to fight because it is a challenge each time I step in the ring," Rodgers said. "It’s as much a mental battle as it is a physical one."

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Perez goes for historic fourth consecutive championship

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

The name Kris Perez elicits different responses depending on who you talk to.
The kid who knocks people out. The YouTube kid. The best pound-for-pound boxer in Bengal Bouts. The undefeated three-time champion.

But to those that train with him, Perez, a senior captain, personifies dedication, work ethic, leadership by example and willingness to help others at all costs.

"I know any other boxer on the team that works as hard as he does or brings his focus and work ethic every day, day in and day out to practice," senior Bengal Bouts captain Mark Weber said. "That's what makes him a leader."

Perez' leadership started when he played soccer in high school. A four-year varsity player in Corsicana, Tex., Perez was a captain his junior and senior years. He also kicked for his football team.

He always liked boxing, but there were no gyms nearby, so he started when he arrived at Notre Dame to stay in shape.

"It was a different experience," Perez said. "This is not like anything I've encountered before, and not at a different level."

Before his first fight, Perez was scared, but he said the training kicked in once he entered the ring and shoved all apprehension aside.

"Basically just muscle memory took over," he said.

As Perez worked his way to a championship freshman year, his ring success caught other people's attention. Senior captain Mike Lee, a two-time champion who transferred to Notre Dame before his sophomore year, heard about Perez when he joined Bengal Bouts because of Perez's power in the ring.

Perez's teammate Will Burroughs, the heavyweight champion the past two years, had a similar experience.

"There's a rumor, that's the kid from YouTube," Burroughs said. "I had no idea what that meant."

It meant that this sophomore year Perez threw an overhand right that knocked his opponent unconscious before he hit the canvas and that a video of the fight (first result when you search "Bengal Bouts") had been watched 8,500 times.

Perez downplays the knockout.

"I just caught him with a good punch, and he went down," he said. "I like that people like to see my fights but I don't like that it's at the expense of someone else."

Weber said that attitude defines Perez.

"He's humble. You never see him running his mouth despite the fact that he's one of the best boxers on the team, if not the best," Weber said.

All three of them point to Perez's willingness to work with other boxers as what makes him captain material. They may alter workouts to practice with another boxer, offer advice when they spar and lead by example with his unshakeable work ethic.

"I never felt that I know more than someone else or the things I do know are enough to make a person better," he said. "Someone's willing to ask me a question I feel obligated to tell them what I do know."

He won again in his sophomore year, beating Chris Hartstein in the finals of the 140-pound weight class.

Junior year, he wanted a challenge. So he and Lawrence "Sully" Sullivan, a senior Marine ROTC member and former champion, decided that "Surely" would cut weight, Perez would pack on and they would meet in the middle.

"He could have stuck to his weight in the low 138s and won a championship," Lee said. "The night before weigh-ins he was at Subway eating a foot-long sub. He decided to move up a weight class to fight a past champion and a senior and one of the best fighters in the program hands down."

Sully and Perez worked their way through the 149-pound weight class. When they met in the finals, the lights in the Joyce Center dimmed and the crowd went bonkers. The two of them let each other have it. Perez came out on top.

"Fortunately it was my night and I got the victory, but you fight any other night and Sully could have won it," he said. "It's definitely going to be one of the memories I take from the Bengal Bouts experience."

Ask why Perez moves down opponents and you get a variety of answers, all of them dangerous enough in themselves but deadly when combined. Quickness, footwork, power, vision, defense, everything you don't want to face in a boxing opponent. Take it from Burroughs, a 6-foot-2, 230-plus pound former football player for Brown as an undergraduate, who sometimes practices with Perez.

"When Perez hits you, it hurts," he said. "I told him the other day, he may be tiny, smaller than some of the guys that I fight, but he's hitting me harder than some of the guys I spar against who are 200 pounds," Burroughs said. "It hurts. He can throw a punch, that's for sure."

Weber, who has sparred Perez, said Perez can attack opponents from anywhere and slips away before his opponents can retaliate. But all three agreed on two aspects of Perez' fighting style that makes him so tough to fight: his amazing vision, and the fact that you can't see his punches.

"You don't see it coming," Burroughs said. "It's annoying to practice with him because I think there's no way he can hit me from where he's at, and he still lands ridiculous punches."

Perez agrees and said his ability to read opponents and stay focused in the ring helps him attack.

"I find I'm always thinking," he said. "I'm always trying to see what my opponent's doing so I can capitalize on that."

Since he's undefeated, Perez admitted that staying motivated to work hard became a challenge at times. But, he said, that's not an excuse to slack off, especially if he wants to follow through with his plans to box after graduation.

He wants to fight as a pro, he said, but first will try to fight as an amateur in the Golden Gloves program for six months in a year. He said he has to drop to the 122-pound weight class he's currently fighting 140. But before he can worry about that, he has to focus on winning the tournament.

"If I lose in the tournament, my chances of having a successful career outside of Bengal Bouts do not seem too promising," he said. Whether he goes on to fight or not, Perez said Bengal Bouts will stick with him after graduation.

"The workouts in general are different compared to any other sport I've been involved in," Perez said. "And I'm really going to miss that bond, that brotherhood that you develop through all the workouts."

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By MARK WITTE
Assistant Scene Editor

This weekend, the renowned Spectrum Dance Theater will perform "The Theater of Needless Talents," a dance piece inspired by the Jewish artists who managed to find some light during the dark times of the Holocaust.

Since their founding in 1982, the Spectrum Dance Theater (SOT) has been a pioneer in popularizing contemporary dance, as well as a leader in dance instruction by encouraging the precision and growth in quality of many other forms of dance. The dance group hails from Seattle, Wash., yet they have recently spent much time touring the U.S. and Europe.

Over 500 students participate in one or more of the 64 classes offered to people of all ages, under the direction of professional SOT members. In fact, the youngest member of the SOT is one year old, while the oldest is 80 years old. On average, 40 students are given some form of scholarships to attend the Spectrum Dance Company School.

By way of dance, the SOT has given back to their local Seattle community in numerous ways. The STD provides over 120 hours of dance education to local schools in the Seattle metropolitan area. The Theater has embraced its Washington roots by teaming up with local arts organizations. In 2007, the group collaborated with local Seattle venues, such as the 5th Avenue Theater and Seattle Opera.

Supported by the Performing Arts Fund, the SOT is an avid supporter of the right for all children to have fair access to perform, learn about and appreciate all forms of art. The Fund works in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts, an independent agency that strongly believes, "A great nation deserves great art."

Since in role in the SOT since 2002, Donald Byrd has led the dance group to immense success. In 2006, the SOT premiered the first of its Studio Series at the Madrona Dance Studios in Seattle. Byrd has also been an invaluable component in transforming the dance repertoire of the SOT; the ingenuity of the avant-garde dance pieces under his direction has attracted the attention of numerous world-class dancers, both at home and overseas.

The group is currently on a four month-long tour across the United States. Collegiate stops along the way include Duke University, The University of Virginia and Notre Dame.

The Theater of Needless Talents is a dance act in memory of Jewish artists who, while prisoners in Nazi death camps, sought to give hope to those with little spirit during the Holocaust. Through their respective arts, these brave men and women managed to give optimism and strength to those who were surrounded by pain, misery, and suffering. Since the event was first showcased in February 2008, the SOT has received immense praise from critics and audience members alike for their emotional presentation.

The program is composed of dance numbers and theatrical vignettes performed in combination with the music of Erwin Schulhoff, an exceptional Jewish composer who lost his life during the Holocaust. The title of the program in honor of Karel Svěnek; in the 1930's, his perform troupe was known as "The Theater of Needless Talents." Svěnek lost his life in 1945 while in one of the many movements of the Jewish prisoners from Auschwitz to Mauthausen.

Beginning Thursday night, the Spectrum Dance Theater offers four performances running through Saturday night. For show times, pricing, and more information, please visit performingarts.nd.edu

Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu

Artistic Director Donald Byrne, center, has choreographed the Spectrum Dance Theater's current piece, 'The Theater of Needless Talents.'

SDT is not afraid to try new things or new genres of dance, including this modern piece with hip hop music.

The Spectrum Dance Theater performs 'A Chekhovian Revolution,' a reaction to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
Panthers beat Rangers for Tortorella's second loss

Sharks rebound from loss to Red Wings with win over Senators to win fifth game in last six tries

Associated Press

NEW YORK — John Tortorella took back-to-back doses of what got former New York Rangers coach Tom Renney fired.

A painful and frustrating lack of offense has left the Rangers with little room for error over the past two months.

Tortorella's home opener as the Rangers' new coach Thursday night looked similar to his first game a day earlier as New York failed to hold a one-goal lead in the third period of a 2-1 loss.

The latest version against the Florida Panthers was worse than the previous because the defeat came in regulation and left the Rangers pointless despite a 41-22 shots advantage.

David Booth and Nathan Horton scored goals 94 seconds apart in the first period Wednesday in Toronto before falling in a defeat came in regulation and with little room for error over the past two months.

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The Rangers also led 1-0 after two periods Wednesday in Toronto before falling in a defeat came in regulation and with little room for error over the past two months.

As the Rangers have scored fewer than three goals in 14 straight losses.

“On the bench we felt the momentum was kind of changed when that happened and then we really wanted to bear down and make them pay,” said San Jose center Joe Thornton, who got his 54th assist on Marleau’s goal. “We did that and that was the reason we won."

Brian Boucher made 23 saves for the NHL-leading Sharks, who ended a four-game winning streak one night earlier with a 4-1 loss in Detroit.

“Special teams are huge,” Boucher said. “You can win the special-teams game, you’re going to win a lot of hockey games and it seems like we’ve done that this year. It was probably not a good play by Lee — I’m sure they’re not happy about it — but good for us to capitalize on it.”

Mike Fisher scored a power-play goal in the final minutes, which has lost four of five (1-3-1) following a season-high five-game winning streak.

“For the most part we played pretty well,” Fisher said. “We created some chances and even late, we had some point-blank chances and Boucher played really well. It was just in the second period, with some discipline, they knew they have a great power play and that was the game.”

Alex Auld stopped 22 shots. Lee had finished serving a looking minor moments earlier when he was sent off again for holding Mike Greco at 9:39. The rookie defenceman put his team in an even deeper hole when an unportsmanlike conduct minor added to his ticked.

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Tiger comeback falls short

Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — Just about everything went according to plan for Tiger Woods in his celebrated return to golf.

Except he didn't plan on looking this early.

Woods had no complaints with his game or his knee, but he had no answer Thursday for Tim Clark of South Africa, who played 16 holes without a bogey and knocked the world's No. 1 player out of the Accenture Match Play Championship.

So where does Woods go from here?

"I go to the airport," he said. "My swing looked as good as it did eight months ago when he won the U.S. Open. His knee felt so strong that when Woods discovered his tee shot into the desert on the 15th hole hit a cart path and went out of bounds — a shot that ended any hope of a rally — he chose to walk 350 yards back to the tee instead of accepting a ride in the cart. "I knew I had to play out of my mind to beat him," Clark said.

And he did, pouring in six birdies and constantly putting the pressure on Woods throughout a sunny day in the high desert. Clark won, 4 and 2, when he hit his tee shot 4 feet that Woods conceded for birdie after failing to chip in from off the green.

"I hit it really good today," Woods said. "I just didn't make enough birdies. Tim made some birdies there, and I didn't answer him in the middle part of the round, and consequently I got behind."

Only about 100 fans remained late in the afternoon at Dove Mountain, which surely will lack the energy it had the first two days to welcome back golf's biggest star.

Phil Mickelson, the No. 5 seed who survived another scare, was the highest-ranked player left in a tournament that is now down to 16 players.

The good news for golf is that it probably won't have to wait eight months to see him again.

Woods likely will play in two weeks at Doral in the CA Championship, although he said he would wait to see how his left knee felt. This was his first tournament since reconstructive surgery on the knee one week after he won the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines in June.

Clark, a pesky opponent with a sharp short game, didn't give him much of a chance.

"I was really working hard to keep myself calm and try to play my own game," Clark said. "I put a lot of iron shots pretty close, and I think perhaps he wasn't expecting that or not. But I don't think I'm ever going to intimidate Tiger Woods, let's put it that way."

Mets Santana scratched due to sore elbow

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — New York Mets ace Johan Santana was scratched from Friday morning's "B" game in front of Italy because of tenderness in his pitching elbow.

Mets manager Jerry Manuel said the decision was precautionary because Santana has a history of feeling elbow soreness this time of the year. Santana remains on track to make his regular exhibition game debut Tuesday.

"I am not trying to do anything crazy out there," Santana said. "I am going to take a couple days and relax and get ready for Tuesday."

The left-hander said his elbow felt stiff after a bullpen session Wednesday, and he told pitching coach Dan Warthen he wanted to take some time off from throwing before preparing for his first game.

Santana had been slated to pitch one inning Friday, added to help Italy prepare for the World Baseball Classic.
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Irish set for tough weekend

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

When you are ranked as the fifth-best team in the country, most teams will see you with a target on your back. As Notre Dame has steadily risen up the rankings this season, the Irish are used to the feeling. This weekend will simply be more of the same.

Notre Dame (9-1) hosts two top-25 teams in three days. On Friday at 3 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion, No. 12 North Carolina (9-2) faces the Irish, and on Sunday at noon the Irish host No. 23 Wake Forest (8-1).

Notre Dame has faced quite a bit of top competition this season, defeating No. 9 Stanford and No. 4 Baylor at the ITA Indoor Team National Championships before losing to No. 1, and eventual national champion, Northwestern. This past weekend the Irish defeated two more top-25 teams in BYU and Utah, both on the road. Three more Irish victories this season have also been against top-50 opponents, two of which were in the top-25.

The benefits of such a strong schedule are obvious, especially with seven of the team’s nine victories coming against stiff competition.

“Almost every match we play for the next two or three weeks is just going to be a tough match. That is good for us. Our kids want to play better teams,” Irish coach Jay Louderback said.

“Every match we play we know as we go out we have to be ready because it is going to be a tough one. Because of that, our team knows that there really can’t be a let-up as we go out,” he said.

Notre Dame shares one interesting characteristic with North Carolina: both teams faced both Stanford and Baylor at the National Championships. The difference between the Irish and the Tar Heels though, is that Notre Dame defeated both Stanford and Baylor, while North Carolina suffered its only losses on the season against the two teams.

“We always have really tight, good matches with North Carolina,” Louderback said. “They lost a couple of really close ones at the National Indoor, 5-2 and 4-3. So they are good; they are one of the teams that will be battling for the NCAs this year.”

The Irish success at the National Championships, playing three matches in three days and winning two of them, holds well for this weekend. The quick turn-around between Friday and Sunday should have little unforeseen effect on the team.

“We do it every year,” Louderback said. “We have a few stretches like that during the year, but it helps us get used to the end of the year. When you get to the final 1-1 teams at the NCAs, you could have to play four top-15 matches in five days.”

Two matches in three days against top-25 competition would favor most good teams. But for Notre Dame, this is just another average weekend of tennis.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer@nd.edu

NFL

Officials OK Vick for home confinement

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Imprisoned NFL star Michael Vick will be allowed to serve the last two months of his sentence near his home, an official told The Associated Press Thursday.

Vick, serving a 23-month sentence at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., after pleading guilty to bankrolling a dogfighting operation at a home he owned in eastern Virginia’s Surry County, was also permitted to participate in the killing of several underperforming dogs.

Vick’s lawyers have said they expected him to be moved any day to a halfway house in Newport News. But because of a lack of space, Vick will be released instead to his home in nearby Hampton at some point on or after May 21, said the official, who has knowledge of the case but requested anonymity because the individual was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

“We are aware of reports regarding the release of Michael Vick,” Vick attorneys Billy Martin and Lawrence Woodward said in a written statement. “As his attorneys we understand and respect that there is a process that the Bureau of Prisons follows therefore it is not appropriate for us to comment.”

Vick’s agent, Joel Segal, did not return messages seeking comment. Vick’s mother, Brenda Biddle, said in a telephone interview that she knew nothing about the arrangement.

The Hampton house is one of four Vick still owns, according to bankruptcy court papers. He sold the Surry County property that served as headquarters for his Bad Newz Kennels soon after his July 2007 indictment. The five-bedroom, 3,538-square-foot home with an in-ground pool in Hampton is assessed at $748,100, according to city tax records. Vick also owns an interest in a $2 million house he bought in Suffolk, bankruptcy court papers show. His eight-bedroom home in suburban Atlanta is scheduled to be sold at auction March 10, with a minimum opening bid of $3.2 million.

Vick will be on electronic monitoring and will only be allowed to leave home for activities approved by his probation officer, the official said.

Vick is eligible for release in July. According to Vick’s lawyers, the former Virginia Tech stand-out plans to resume his pro football career. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, deflecting Vick without pay, has repeatedly said he will review Vick’s status after the legal proceedings are completed.

Falcons general manager Thomas Dimitroff said earlier this month that the Falcons will try to trade the contract rights on Vick to another team. Vick, once the highest-paid player in the NFL and among its most popular, has a contract that runs to 2013 and calls for him to receive a base salary of $9 million and a bonus of $3.2 million in 2009. The remainder of the contract is worth $45.11 million, with an additional possible $3 million in Pro Bowl bonuses.

Officials of some other NFL teams have said they are not interested in Vick because they would rather not face the wrath of pet owners and animal rights groups such as PETA, which has been a constant fixture at Vick’s hearings.

Vick also earned substantial sums from endorsement deals with Nike and other companies, but that income vanished after the dogfighting charges virtually destroyed his image as well as his finances. Vick filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in July, claiming assets of $16 million and liabilities of $20.4 million.

NEW YORK — Michael Vick, the former pro football quarterback convicted of financing a dogfighting ring, is expected to be released from federal prison in the next few days.

I. Vick, who was sentenced to 23 months in prison last August, is serving the final stretch of his term after pleading guilty to charges of being involved in the dogfighting operation at a home he owned in eastern Virginia. He is eligible to be released after serving two-thirds of his sentence, which ends on May 24.

II. Vick’s lawyers have said he expects to be released any day to a halfway house in Newport News, Va., a move Vick himself said earlier this month was preferred.

III. But because of a lack of space at the halfway house, according to a person familiar with the case who was not authorized to speak publicly, Vick instead will be released to his home in Hampton, Va., an upmarket yacht club community near Newport News.

IV. Vick’s home is near the U.S. Coast Guard base. Vick is the subject of federal investigation for the operation of a dogfighting ring at his Hampton home, one of four properties he owns.

V. Vick, 29, was convicted in July 2008 of willfully participating in organized dogfighting.

VI. Vick owns an interest in a $2 million house he bought in Suffolk, Va., which is up for sale at auction.

VII. Vick will be on electronic monitoring and will only be allowed to leave home for activities approved by his probation officer.

VIII. Vick’s plans include returning to Virginia Tech, where he was selected as an All American quarterback in 2005.

IX. Vick attorney Joel Segal declined to comment on the expected release, saying: “As his attorneys we understand and respect that there is a process that the Bureau of Prisons follows therefore it is not appropriate for us to comment.”
Irish ready to take on Cardinal

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

Coming off a solid victory over Ohio State, Notre Dame looks to continue its winning ways against visiting Stanford.

The No. 11 Irish (2-1) sustained their only loss of the season to national No. 1 Northwestern last weekend at home.

“We rely on a tough, tight schedule now to prepare us for the postseason” Irish coach Tracy Coyne said.

“Competition is tough, so big games are important for us.”

Junior attacker Gina Sciascia is pacing the team’s offense with six goals and four assists. The sophomore scoring trio of Kailene Abt, Jillian Byers and Shaylyn Blaney have all scored eight goals each in their three games.

Senior Erin Goodman will likely get her 39th career start at goal for the Irish.

The matchup will take place at the Loftus Sports Center, 2 pm.

Contact Nathaniel Lee at nlee5@nd.edu

The Observer • SPORTS
Friday, February 27, 2009
FENCING

Irish set to host Midwest tourney

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will host the 11th Midwest Conference Championships this weekend at the Joyce Center, featuring both individual and team matches throughout the event. Head coach Janusz Bednarski said, "I feel very positive for the team, and I know they will continue to remind the country why Notre Dame's fencing program is truly world class," assistant coach Marek Stepien said. "They have been training extremely hard and I'm certain that at [the Midwest Conference] Championships and on into next season you will see some very impressive results."

The Irish head into this weekend at the top of the college fencing world after a set of remarkable regular seasons in which the men's team posted a perfect 33-0 mark and the women's squad finished 32-2. Both win totals are records in a program that has produced two national championships and dozens of All-Americans since the arrival of head coach Janusz Bednarski seven years ago.

Despite being a young and relatively inexperienced group, the Notre Dame fencers have placed themselves in a prime position to compete for a national championship after posting wins over so many ranked teams this spring.

"It's very hard for coaches to predict results," Bednarski said. "I've been in this business for so long. There are so many factors we can't control, especially on such a young team. But anything can happen if we make it to the Bloody Four."

The Midwest Conference Championships are one of the first steps on that road. Individual play begins Saturday in a pool format, and eliminations are expected to begin by the early afternoon. Sunday features team play throughout the day.

The biggest obstacle for the Irish this weekend is last year's winner, No. 3 Ohio State. The Buckeyes edged out the Irish by 70 points total to earn the victory. Unlike the Irish, Ohio State returns much of its talent from last year.

Competition will begin at 8 a.m. at the Joyce Center. The tournament marks the final event for Notre Dame before the NCAA Regional Qualifiers in mid-March.

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mblasco@nd.edu

NFL

Holmes scheduled for marijuana hearing

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers receiver and Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes waived his right to a preliminary hearing Thursday on a misdemeanor marijuana charge stemming from an October traffic stop.

Holmes' attorney, Robert DeGreco Jr., said he waived the hearing because district judges cannot assess witness credibility or constitutional challenges.

District Judge Gem Biccard commended Holmes for donating the gloves he wore when he caught the Super Bowl-winning touchdown pass for charity, saying it showed fine character.

The auction raised $70,200 for the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Inc. Holmes' 6-year-old son, Santonio III, has the blood disease.

Holmes did not speak to reporters. Pittsburgh police said they found three marijuana-filled cigars in Holmes' car when they pulled over the Wide receiver for a game following the traffic stop. He was not arrested and received a court summons, which is common with misdemeanor charges in Pennsylvania.

Holmes told the media that he had dealt drugs for a year in his hometown of Belle Glade, Fla. A first-round draft pick out of Ohio State in 2006, Holmes has had two other run-ins with the law since the Steelers drafted him. In June 2006, he was arrested for disorderly conduct and domestic violence counseling through the NFL.

In May 2006, Holmes was arrested for disorderly conduct by police in Miami, who later dropped the charges.

No trial date has been set on the marijuana charge. A formal arraignment was scheduled for April 29.
**Irish host A&M, travel to Madison**

By KATE GRABAREK  
Sports Writer

Notre Dame fell to Kentucky Monday but will have a busy weekend to try and forget about the No. 25 Irish (6-6) lost No. 13 Texas A&M tonight before traveling to Wisconsin Sunday.

Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said the Aggies may boast the nation's best top-three lineup with senior Connor Pollock and sophomore Austin Kraijcek and Wil Spencer.

"After that they are pretty solid, but they count on dominating you at the top," Bayliss said. "They are outstanding at No. 1 doubles as well ... Their coaches, Steve Denton and Bobby McKinley, are truly outstanding and will have the Aggies prepared."

Wisconsin will also prove to be a tough foe for the young Irish lineup with strong players at the top.

Wisconsin is coming off a win over No. 21 Wake Forest Saturday, Notre Dame edged the Badgers last season, 4-3, when the last match went to a tiebreaker.

Despite the loss to the Wildcats Monday, the Irish did receive some strong individual performances.

Sophomore Stephen Havens were able to come up with a big doubles win over Kentucky's Graeme Dyce and Eric Quigley.

"It was gratifying to see Casey and Stephen come out of the blocks so quickly and play well against Kentucky," Bayliss said. "In particular Casey's level was very high. When they are fully engaged they can be pretty difficult to play, as each returns serve well and they hurt you in different ways."

"Stephen is more of a classic doubles player while Casey is such a great athlete that he can go outside the norm that most opponents expect in his shot selection."

"Notre Dame's top singles player, senior Brett Helgeson, suffered a foot injury Feb. 19 against Northwestern, but he played against Kentucky and should be good to go this weekend," Bayliss said.

"Brett's injury held up well against Kentucky," Bayliss said. "He was close to 100 percent and is better today than he has been after competing, so we hope to have him for A&M."

"Notre Dame will return home after Sunday's contest to host Michigan on Wednesday."

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrabarek@stmarys.edu

**NHL**

Colt players to test free agency

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts knew the salary cap would put them in a pinch. They were hoping it wouldn't hurt too much.

No such luck.

The team, already prepared for Marvin Harrison, Jeff Saturday and Hunter Smith to become free agents Friday, now must add Josh Thomas and Dominic Rhodes to the list.

Thomas, agent, Craig Domann, told The Associated Press Thursday the backup defensive end and sometimes starter plans to test the market.

Rhodes' agent, Todd France, told The Indianapolis Star that the team's second-leading rusher last season would do the same.

Calls to France Thursday afternoon by The Associated Press weren't immediately returned.

The news came a day after the Colts officially released the record-setting Harrison to free up $6 million under the salary cap. Saturday, a three-time Pro Bowl center, turned down Indy's most recent offer even though he said he wanted to stay in Indianapolis.

The team, already considering the replacement of the long-time punter also would do the same.

Harrison, Saturday and Smith were three of the longest-tenured Colts on the 2008 roster. All could be with new teams within days or weeks.

Rhodes' best season was his rookie year of 2001, when he rushed for 1,104 yards after his salary cap. He became the starter when Edgerrin James suffered a season-ending knee injury. He spent 2007 with the Raiders before returning to the Colts, where he had 538 yards and six touchdowns last season.

He also caught 45 passes, including three TDs.

Thomas, who replaced the injured Dwight Freeney in the starting lineup during the second half of the 2007 season, had a career-high three sacks in 2005 and a career-high 55 tackles in 2007.

Others who are unsigned include linemen, Wynton Haller and Freddy Keiaho, cornerback Kevin Bartell, safety Matt Giordano and offensive lineman Dan Federkeil. All have started at least once over the past two seasons.

The Colts did take care of two other players Thursday.

**JUST DANCE**

**Date:** Friday February 27  
**Time:** 9 pm - 12  
**Where:** Hagger Parlour  
@ Saint Mary's College
Creighton continued from page 24
and you can't let Darin [Ruf] beat you," said Schrager of the Jayhawks' slugging first baseman. "You've got to be sure you get the guys out around them. They try to play a real fast game, and Gonzaga is the opposite—they'll take a lot of pitches and try to play a longer game.

After being shut out in their season opener by Ohio State last Friday, the Irish topped Illinois and Purdue in successive days to complete their opening weekend in Florida.

This weekend marks the second of four tournaments Notre Dame will play to open its season. The Irish will play nine games March 6-15 in either Houston or San Antonio as part of the Rice Classic and the Irish Baseball Classic.

"Especially the first three weeks when you're getting down and playing in warm weather, you want to get better each weekend and minimize your mistakes," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "Our first nine games are all against great competition, so we'll find out a lot about our team and what we need to work on. At the same time, we're trying to look at lineup combinations, guys' roles out of the bullpen, things like that."

One who began to solidify his spot in the Irish pen last weekend was Steven Mazur, Schrage said.

The junior right-hander threw three innings of no-hit ball over two appearances last weekend, striking out three and walking one. He appears to be the frontrunner for the closer's role, which was left empty when would-be senior Kyle Welland chose to sign with the Boston Red Sox.

"Steven Mazur did a nice job closing out two out of three games there," Schrage said. "That's an area, losing Kyle Welland, we weren't quite sure who'd be in that role. We're going to give Steven an opportunity."

Sophomore left fielder Golden Tate started and led off all three contests for the Irish and had at least two hits in each game. His seven hits, four runs and two doubles are all team-highs for Notre Dame.

"You've got to be real happy with how Golden Tate played," Schrage said. "He got an opportunity to play out in left field, and he made some nice defensive catches out there. That was a plus, not surprise, but a nice start for him."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Irish want more D vs. Friars

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Defense defense defense defense.

That's not a chant. It's Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw's mantra.

She said after No. 23 Notre Dame's 90-79 win over Syracuse Tuesday that she wanted to see better defense and was comfortable playing a game with the score in the 60s. This after a game where senior guard Lindsay Schrader scored 23 points, and all five starters scored in double figures.

But the team is on board. McGraw said the players realize the defense needs improve.

"I think they're a little disappointed at what's been going on also," McGraw said.

Notre Dame (19-7, 8-6 Big East) will have a chance to improve Saturday when it travels to play Providence at 2 p.m.

The Friars (10-17, 4-10) only score 58.1 points per game, while the Irish score 69.3 with five starters scoring in double figures.

"We'd sure like to," McGraw said. "That's our goal is to hold them under their average. If we can do that, especially on their home court, that would be a good sign for our defense."

A large part of McGraw's defensive focus this season has been on guarding the perimeter, and the Irish will have a chance to put it to use against Providence. Senior guard Catherine Bone has made 33.7 percent of her 3-point attempts and junior guard/forward Brittany Dorsey has sunk 32.9 percent of her shots.

McGraw said she continues to work on perimeter defense and search for the definitive answer.

"We pretty much try to do the same thing and sometimes we're more effective than others," she said. "I wish I knew what the answer was for when we've played it well.""To play strong defense, Notre Dame will have to neutralize senior guard Chelsea Marandola. The Irish hold the team in points per game (11.5) and free throw percentage (85.1). McGraw said she sat out last season because of an injury, so the Irish haven't seen her in a while.

"She's their best player, she led their team all year long, she can handle the ball and shoot the ball," McGraw said.

The Irish have gotten good production out of Schrader and sophomore forward Becca Brzozowski for the past few games. Against Syracuse, however, junior center Erica Williamson took full advantage of her 29 minutes and had 18 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks.

"We expect that she's going to continue to rebound well and score around the basket," McGraw said. "That's what she's working on. We also need to give her more opportunities."

Williamson's blocks, combined with her willingness to take a charge, McGraw said, make her a tough defender in the paint.

"The great thing about Erica is I don't know whether she'll take the charge or block the shot," McGraw said. "If someone comes in there out of control she's going to take the charge. She can be really difficult to score on."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Belles continued from page 24
with just over six and a half minutes to play, holding a 31-23 Nine lead.

Most of the Belles success in the first half came from points in the paint by senior forwards Erin Newsom and Anna Kammrath.

The Belles played well defensively against the Knights in the first half. Newsom and Kammrath dominated the defensive glass, preventing the Knights from having many second-chance opportunities.

After halftime, it seemed that the Knights had made some second-half adjustments, playing the Belles much closer in defense and preventing Kammrath and Newsom from getting rebounds off missed shots.

"We'd like to do that," McGraw said. "It's our goal is to hold them to under their average. If we can do that, especially on their home court, that would be a good sign for our defense."

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The Belles had a 49-32 lead about halfway through the second half until the Knights had two consecutive three-point plays that sparked a Calvary run. The Knights cut the Belles lead to just points with eight minutes remaining in the contest.

The determined Knights continued the chip away at the Belles lead, cutting the deficit to as low as eight points with 2:15 remaining. With under a minute to play, Newsom hit four free throws that sealed the game for the Belles and put the Knights away for good.

Saturday's finals match up is a rematch between Hope College. The season series is tied, with the Belles giving Hope their only loss of the season. The game will be played at Hope Saturday at 3 p.m.

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Revenge
continued from page 24
“The way to get there is to lose once, but it’s also a bad thing, but it’s also a bad thing, and our guys are ready for it,” said head coach Jeff Jackson.

Revenge began last year with a 4-2 win over Michigan State in the season opener. The Spartans (10-19-5, 7-7-5 CCHA) have a young team with seven points, but they have been able to keep up the scoring in the Big Ten, currently ranks second on the 2009-10 conference standings.

The Spartans (4-2-2) are currently in third place in the league, behind Penn State (4-0-2) and Ohio State (4-2-1).

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

“Sometimes the wounded animal is the most dangerous.”

The Irish (10-15-4, 5-5-4 CCHA) have been playing well in recent games, and they have a young team with a good mix of experience and youth. They have won three of their last four games, including a 3-2 overtime win over the Spartans.

The Irish have played well against the Spartans in recent years, and they have the confidence to win this game.

The Spartans, on the other hand, have struggled against the Irish in recent years, and they will be looking to turn things around in this game.

Revenge continues from page 24

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Revenge factor

Irish hope to avenge loss, boost NCAA tournament resume

By FRAN TOLAN
Assistant Sports Editor

On Wednesday, Notre Dame narrowly escaped with a win over lowly Rutgers for the second year in a row. Now, the Irish will try to salvage a season split against mighty Connecticut for the second year in a row.

Notre Dame has won four out of its last five games and, after dispatching the Scarlet Knights, the Irish are concentrating on the No. 2 Huskies. Connecticut snapped Notre Dame's 45-game home winning streak on Jan. 24, but on Saturday the Irish will get a chance for revenge in Storrs.

BASEBALL

Team heads to the desert for three games down south

By MATT GAMBER
Assistant Sports Editor

Notre Dame will again escape the dreary conditions of the Midwest this weekend as the Irish head west to Arizona for the inaugural Phoenix College Classic. Notre Dame (2-1) will play three games against Gonzaga Friday, Dayton Saturday and Creighton Sunday — in the tournament, which Dayton is hosting. Friday and Saturday's games will be at Diablo Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., and Sunday's contest will be played at Marich Field in Phoenix.

Sophomore right-hander Cole Johnson (1-0, 3.00) will take the ball tonight against the Bulldogs' (3-1) right-hander Matt Fields (0-0, 0.00), who threw seven shutout innings in his first start of the year. Schrage said Johnson is still recovering from a shoulder injury but should be fine after allowing one run in three innings in his first outing.

"We've been bringing him back slowly, but he'll get the start Friday night on a pitch count," Schrage said. "It's important we get him out there." Brian Dupra (0-1, 2.84), another sophomore righty, will get the nod Saturday against the Flyers (1-2). Dupra stranded two runners in 6 1/3 innings in Notre Dame's opener against Ohio State on Feb. 20 and was charged with the loss.

Dayton will send left-hander Quinn Haselhorst (0-1, 12.46) to the mound.

"They have a little bit of power, and they'll be scrappy," Schrage said.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles on to MIAA title game

By ALEX WEST
Sports Writer

With a win over Calvin on Thursday night, Saint Mary's has punched its first ever ticket to the MIAA Championship.

The Belles defeated the Knights 67-58 at the Angela Athletic Complex to add one more chapter to their already successful season.

In the first half, the Knights (16-10) took an early 7-2 advantage. The Belles (17-9) were able to respond with an eight-point run, primarily from taking advantage of second chance opportunities.

The Belles continued to lead for the rest of the first half, leading by much as 11 points.

No. 8 Notre Dame will close its weekend Sunday against Creighton (0-0), with last four games at Sam Houston State last weekend by a combined six runs. Junior right-hander Eric Maust (0-0, 5.40) will get the start against the Bulldogs' (3-1) right-hander Sam Maust.

HOCKEY

ND ready for two vs. MSU

Seniors to be honored during Friday night's game at Joyce Center

By MATT GAMBER
Assistant Sports Editor

Tonight's home game against Michigan State may be senior night, but Irish coach Jeff Jackson knows that this senior class still has to take care of some business in the Joyce Center.

"For me personally it'll be a bittersweet moment," Jackson said. "It'll be bitter to see them play their last home regular season game, but it's also sweet to know their work is not yet complete."

No. 2 Notre Dame (12-5-3, 19-4-3-3 CCIAA) has already wrapped up the league's regular season crown and the Irish forward Luke Harangody, right, looks to move the ball against Connecticut center Hasseim Thabeut during the Huskies' 69-61 win on Jan. 24.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Squad opens home season with Dartmouth

Hicks leads red-hot offense in matchup against Big Green

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Even though junior attack Neil Hicks is coming into the weekend as the reigning Great Western Lacrosse League (GWLL) player of the year, Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said it would take a balanced effort across the board for Notre Dame to run its record to 3-0 this weekend against Dartmouth.

"If teams adjust defensively and take him away, we're not concerned with how many points Neil Hicks has, but how many points we have," Corrigan said.

Corrigan specifically pointed to senior attacks Ryan Huff and Duncan Swiezy as players who could put the ball in the back of the net, but added that his entire attack and midfield lineup was capable of picking up any scoring slack.

"We don't see any reason why all of those guys shouldn't be contributors," he said. "If we can attack people from that many different directions, I think we become a very tough team to play against."

The No. 8 Irish (2-0) will be put to the test this Saturday against the Big Green (1-1), who won 11-10 in overtime against Hartford on Feb. 21.

"They play with a great sense of themselves," Corrigan said. "They're very disciplined, they have a plan."

Irish sophomore Calle Riddewall canties the puck past a Northern Michigan defender during Notre Dame's 5-2 win on Feb. 14.