**ND students observe leap year birthdays**

20-year old sophomores Kathryn Lindsey, Mike Doversberger celebrate fifth birthday

By LAURA YLIM

For people born on Feb. 29, yearly birthday celebrations are far from an easy annual routine. Notre Dame sophomores Kathryn Lindsey and Mike Doversberger are two such leap year babies. They will both be celebrating their 20th birthday (or 5th in Leap Years) this Feb. 29. Despite the unorthodox nature of their birthdays, however, they do not feel as though they have missed out on years of celebrations. They said they consider themselves lucky to be among the estimated one out of 1,506 people around the world — approximately 200,000 in the United States — who were born on such a special day.

Although Doversberger cannot recall the specific date, he said, "We had a good laugh about it," said Vijay Ramanan, who will vie with Steve Miller for junior class president. He added that being familiar with the Senate process made the announcement less of a shock. "I think it's a bit like what you don't know what's going to happen, and you kind of know what's going to happen now," he said. "It could go either way, but I don't think I'll spend time worrying." Miller said after a tightly contested primary race Monday, he and his running mates had been prepared for the Senate scenario. "In the back of my mind, I was afraid something like this would happen," he said. "It wasn't a pleasant surprise, but after the Ebersol-István situation, it didn't catch me completely off guard."

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**Fiestang celebrates Filipino culture**

By DUSTIN VON HANORD

The Filipino American Student Organization (FASO) will be sponsoring Fiestang Saturday, showcasing Filipino culture, and including traditional dancing and dinner in Steno Center.

Charlene Vinalon, co-president of FASO, said the event will include elements of both traditional and modern Filipino culture. "Fiestang will share Filipino culture, traditional food and dance, with a modern twist," Vinalon said.

The evening will start with an authentic Filipino dinner, serving dishes such as adobo, a chicken dish, lumpia, which is a traditional wrap similar to an egg roll, pancit, a noodle dish and a pork dish called lechon.

"Filipinos are very big on food, and it's a great time to share what we love," Vinalon said. The evening will continue with a presentation of various traditional dance numbers.

Eileen Magno, also a FASO co-president, said the event will include numerous types of dances influenced by a variety of cultural groups. "It will include Pintking, our national dance, Maglalatik, an all-girls coconut dance, and the Hiniasau, a candle dance," Magno said.

FASO has asked other student organizations to contribute to the evening. "It will include Pinkling, our national dance, Maglalatik, an all-girls coconut dance, and the Hiniasau, a candle dance," Magno said.

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**Mass forges friendships, community in halls**

By AMANDA MICHAELS

Father Paul Doyle likes milkshakes. He's so fond of them, in fact, that when he became rector of Dillon Hall in 1997, he bought a one-beater commercial "drink mixer" and began serving milkshakes to students who attended Father Mike Baxter's Thursday night mass in Dillon Chapel. Six years later, he's serving up 13 gallons of milk and ice cream to crowds that sometimes grow to 190 strong — almost unheard of for a weekday hurdy.

Dillon's famous "Milkshake Mass" is just one of many stories in the long tradition that surrounds Notre Dame's unique dorm-worship system. While priests-in-residence at other Catholic institutions, such as Boston College and Georgetown, occasionally hold Masses in their rooms, the concept of having an active chapel in each individual residence hall is distinctively Notre Dame's.

"Dorm Masses are a very special Notre Dame phenomenon," said Father Richard Warner, director of campus ministry.

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**Quill to design commemorative coins**

By JOE TROMBELLO

Senior marketing and art studio major Pat Quill picked the right day to read The Washington Post. One day before the Jan. 9 deadline, Quill said he noticed an advertisement calling for student artists to apply for positions with the United States Mint to design some of the state quarters. Quill joins five other student artists from around the nation as Associate Designers, who, along with 13 Master Designers -- all professional artists -- will develop future coin designs.

"I read the article, and it was emphasizing people who were focused on detailed work, and that's what I love to do," he said. "Drawing is my first love."
End of the road

I've been asked, over and over again, how The Observer comes out five days a week when we all have classes. It has also been asked why, traded most of my social life for endless hours in the basement of South Dining Hall. Each time, I give the same answer.

I don't know. Somehow, every day a newspaper appears in bins across campus. The last 140 hours have happened to have my name at the top of the masthead (today will be the last one), but The Observer is a product of over 100 students who give up some portion of their day to ensure that Notre Dame has a campus newspaper. Why they do it, I don't know, but I'm grateful that they do it nonetheless.

Directing The Observer over the last year has been a tremendous challenge. And I've been blessed to work with an incredibly talented staff that is just as devoted to their jobs as I am to mine. But when I'm curling out a printer that won't print at 5 a.m. or responding to deranged e-mails from angry readers, I sometimes scratch my head and wonder if it's worth it.

Then I walk into the dining hall to go to work, and I see the stacks of papers almost depleted. I sit down for lunch at the dining hall and see everyone reading the story that took three hours to edit. I walk down the halls in dorms and see articles taped up outside the doors. I listen to professors in class start discussions by holding up a copy of The Observer.

And that's when I remember why I love this job. And why I'm going to have a tough time saying goodbye.

Today is officially my last day at The Observer, but I've never been more proud of the product we turn out every day. I've had the pleasure of leading a talented staff that poured their hearts and souls into their jobs, of watching them mature, of seeing them grudgingly pour their hearts and souls into it. Somehow, I don't think I really admit that the late nights in the office aren't that bad. And I've got one heck of a fun job working with them in the process.

When I was named editor in chief 13 months ago, one of my predecessors sent me an e-mail saying my final day on the job would be my toughest. I didn't know what he was trying to tell me, not on the days when I dealt with irate phone calls or fought losing battles with faulty computer systems. But tomorrow, somebody else gets the honor of leading The Observer's staff.

That's why, today, I understand what he meant.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu

Corrections

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

The Notre Dame Symphony Orchestra, featuring Rebecca Paul as soprano and Ricky Leal on oboe, performs its Winter Concert Thursday in Washington Hall. The program featured music by Mozart, Wagner and Brahms.

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IN BRIEF

The Guthrie Theatre of Minneapolis will perform its national touring production of Shakespeare's Othello from 7 to 10 p.m. tonight. The play will be held in the O'Laughlin Auditorium in Saint Mary's Moreau Center for the Performing Arts.

The first annual Shakespeare Scene Festival will occur in the LaFortune Ballroom tonight from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at the door.

Student Government will sponsor a free performance of the comedy Sex Signals tonight in the Hesburgh Library's Carey Auditorium from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Flipside is sponsoring a Simpson trivia contest from 10 to 11:30 p.m. tonight in the Carey Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library.

Lace up your dancing shoes and join free dance lessons sponsored by Saint Mary's Student Activities Board. Hawaiian Dance lessons will occur tonight from 6 to 7 p.m., while Afro-Brazilian lessons will take place Saturday afternoon from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Regina Dance Studio.

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

OFFBEAT

Trash truck stopped with 2 tons of marijuana

SIBERIA VISTA, Ariz. — A garbage truck was stopped carrying more than two tons of marijuana north of Tucson, a Department of Public Safety officer said.

The truck had been driving erratically late Tuesday, said DPS Sgt. Steve Fritz.

It got my attention, Fritz said. "He was driving slow and failing to signal."

The driver, who identified himself as 28-year-old Brian Rivera Martinez, said he didn't know how to drive the truck.

When a drug-sniffing dog arrived, it alerted authorities to possible narcotics. DPS officers found 4,112 pounds of marijuana bundled in the area where trash would be carried, Martinez and passenger Michael Trejo Duran Sr., 38, were arrested on suspicion of possession and possessing marijuana for sale.

Driver calls 911 as cops chase him

MARYVILLE, Tenn. — It may be right to call 911 to report someone's chasing you on the highway — but not if it's a sheriff's deputy in pursuit.

Kevin Richard Vowell, 31, of Maryville placed such a call to emergency dispatchers during a high speed chase on U.S. 411 early Sunday morning. Blount County sheriff's spokeswoman Marian O'Briant said.

The incident began when a deputy noticed Vowell driving erratically and signaled for him to stop. Vowell pulled over but then spun his pickup truck around and fled down the highway, with three patrol cars in pursuit.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.
Dining halls go meatless for Lenten season

By JEN ROWLING
News Writer

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent and the end of meat on Fridays, as the University's dining halls replaced sauteed meat, stir-fry and rotisserie chicken with items such as eggs, fish and grilled vegetables.

Notre Dame's staff began preparation for the Lenten Season in October. Tony Williams, South Dining Hall unit chef, attended a culinary academy in New York, where he learned preparation for various vegetable medleys, cornbread and tofu. These new platters are being prepared and will be served in the dining halls to replace meat dishes.

Williams said the meals being served will include cheese dishes, fish, vegetables, grilled pizzas and breakfast items such as eggs and hash browns. In addition, the popular mozzarella breadsticks will be seen more often.

Williams said students should be creative with their food selections, suggesting stir-fry, a collection of vegetables or tofu and saying that chefs are willing to fry or help with any new platter creations.

"By the third meal, you're grumpy," he said. "People will go off campus.

Williams suggested that students give the dining hall staff feedback on meals they enjoyed by filling out surveys. He said student input is valued and shared at weekly Food Services meetings.

While students will face a more limited food selection during Lenten Fridays, Williams said they can look forward to Easter dinner at South Dining Hall, which will feature a collection of vegetables or tofu. These new platters are being prepared and will be served in the dining halls to replace meat dishes.

While the dining halls will be more limited food selection during Lenten Fridays, Williams said they can look forward to Easter dinner at South Dining Hall, which will feature a collection of vegetables or tofu.

The policy has created divergent viewpoints within the student body.

"If you are Catholic, you can choose not to eat meat; they can at least put smaller portions of meat out for those who do not choose to fast," sophomore Kate Lorenz said. "I'm looking forward to this weekend's Lenten season."
Mass

continued from page 1

Alumni rector, agreed, adding

"If we didn't have Masses in the

preservation of the unique

sacred. If Mass weren't offered

in the dorm, it would change

dorm experience — adds an

element that Mass can be a

part of the total dorm

experience — adds an element

that is intangible and sacred."

Beth Maureen Skinner

McGlinn Rector

The Observer

Friday, February 27, 2004

Quill continued from page 1

Quill, who is pursuing a painting concentration, said he

remembers drawing on

the walls of his room when

he was less than two years

old. He said he has always been
drawn to art.

"I've always

loved art," he

said.

"I'm still

pinching myself," he

said. "I was

completely shocked."

The new batch of design-

ers, part of the U.S. Mint's

Artistic Infusion Program,

replaced state artists respon-
sible for designing their

coins. The 24 artists will

receive written back-
ground information

about each state to give

them ideas and inspiration

for appropriate designs.

Quill, an

Observer illustrator,
said the job will be part-
time, and he is

unsure how many coins

he will submit designs for.

"At the least, six different

coins, at the most, who

knows," he said.

Quill will receive $500 for

each submission and an

additional $500 for each

design that is accepted.

He said a submission for the

new nickel will be due in

early March.

Quill's position will last for

two years. In the interim, he

said he plans on finding a

business-related job and is

applying at several adver-
sisting firms and market-
ing departments. Although

he said he plans to pursue a full-
time art career later, he wants

to first work in the

business world.

"I hope to

find a business

job and then

turn to art as my

main source of

income," he said. "This is a

stepping stone to that."

Quill said he considers the

position to be a great honor

and exciting about getting to be a

part of history.

"I think it's a great honor consid-

ering that the coins are going to be in

 circulation for over 30 years, and then

they'll be around for history," he said.

"It's hard to

believe that I'll be looking at a

coin and it could be my

design."

Contact Amanda Michaele at

amichaele@nd.edu

Contact Joe Trombello

at jbtrombello@nd.edu

A Panel Discussion of the Mel Gibson Film
The Passion of The Christ
at the University of Notre Dame

Tuesday, March 2, 2004
7:00 P.M.

141 DeBartolo

Participants:

John Cavadini, Theology
Peter Holland, Film, Television, and Theatre
Fr. Jerome H. Neyrey, S.J., Theology
Rabbi Michael A. Signer, Theology

Sponsored by: Notre Dame Center for the Study of Christ and Culture, Campus Ministry, Film, Television, and Theatre, ND Halamka Project, ND Media Project, Theology Department

Your Shortcut to Spring Break

Gary Chicago Airport
Southwest $69
to St. Petersburg/Tampa
FlySeal.com (800-FLY-SEAL)
A Panel Discussion of the Mel Gibson Film
The Passion of The Christ
at the University of Notre Dame

Why All the PAS

• Notre Dame Graduation
  Tent Parties at Covelense Stadium - Friday and Saturday Nights
• Great for JPW and Graduation Parties

235-9985
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Officials say Britain spied on U.N. investigators in Haiti

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE

Haiti's rebel leader said his fighters were attacking the capital Thursday to end violence and restore law and order. But key council members said the United States and France said they want a political settlement first.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell openly questioned whether Aristide can continue to serve effectively as Haiti's leader — the closest Powell has come to suggesting that Aristide bow out as president before his elected term ends in February 2006.

"Whether or not he is able to effectively continue as president is something he will have to carefully consider in the interests of the Haitian people," Powell said reported.

Powell's comments came days after French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin condemned Aristide for Haiti's crisis and called for him to resign.

Earlier Thursday, Aristide's government agreed that Aristide must resign and called for him to resign.

"If Aristide goes, cut off the rebellion will begin building defenses in the United States and against a rebel assault, police force not expected to put up much resistance against a rebel assault, government loyalists threatening death and torchings began building defenses in front of the National Palace in Port-au-Prince.

The insurgents have overrun half of the country since the rebellion began three weeks ago.

Hundreds of Aristide supporters, some armed with machetes and pistols, gathere Thursday in front of the National Palace and, with teenagers driving bulldozers and forklifts, started building a defensive rampart.

"We are fighting for every­body to stay home, not to fight against us because we are fighting for them," Philippe said in an interview with The Associated

Senate approves handgun safety lock

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Senate agreement to key provisions of a bill to tighten child safety locks on newly purchased handguns would help reduce the number of accidental shootings and not prevent every single avoid­able firearm-related accident. But

The fact is that all parents want to protect their children. This legisla­tion will ensure that people purchase child safety locks when they buy guns. Those who buy locks are more likely to use them. That much we know is certain.

The Senate in 1999 passed similar legislation but the House refused to approve the measure.
Debate team encourages support at weekend tournament

By K. AARON VAN OOSTERHOUT
News Writer

The Notre Dame debate team is inviting any and all students to heckle, cheer or simply observe the upcoming "Irish Invitational" this weekend.

Starting Saturday at noon and continuing until Sunday afternoon, the team is hosting the largest Midwest invitational of the spring semester, bringing 16 schools to engage in parliamentary-style debate at DeBartolo Hall.

"Crowds are definitely encouraged," team president Meghan Callahan-Peters. "There's heckling involved, and you can shame people."

This is the second invitational in as many years Notre Dame has hosted. The number of schools attending has doubled, this year including such institutions as Indiana University, Hillsdale College, Purdue and the University of South Carolina.

"I think this is a school of prestige. The program as a whole gets a boost," Callahan-Peters said. "It brings more involvement from the Notre Dame community."

As tournament director, team coach Kate Huesterman sent out invitations to each school, petitioned alumni to judge for the tournament and selected the "resolutions" for the debate.

Resolutions, or debate topics, come primarily from the political realm, ranging from international relations to domestic politics. Past topics include Bush's policy on Iraq both before and after the war.

"You usually have to be more up to date as well as just have a wider knowledge base, because you never know what the topic is going to be," Callahan-Peters said.

On the other hand, policy debate demands more facts and evidence to be successful.

"Parliamentary debate definitely teaches you how to think on your feet," Callahan-Peters said. "Even if you don't know an exact fact about a topic, you can come up with a logical problem with it."

Already a formidable opponent in debate circles, the team finished eighth last year in the National Parliamentary Debate Association's season-long sweepstakes. "Sweepstakes awards" are given only to the top schools at any particular tournament.

According to Callahan, the Notre Dame team is one of the best in the nation. This coming weekend still looms large, however, and "there's definitely more pressure" to perform well at home, Callahan-Peters said. "It should be a good tournament."

Contact K. Aaron Van Oosterhout at kvanoost@nd.edu

Leap year

continued from page 1

when he realized his birthday was celebrated differently from his friends, he has been aware of the uniqueness of his leap year birthday for as long as he can remember. Rather than believing his birthday loses significance because he can only celebrate it on its exact day once every four years, Doversberger thinks that it becomes more special because of its rareness.

"Unlike a typical yearly birthday, when I explain to people when I was born and how I go about celebrating my birthday, they remember it. As a result, I think it gains significance because it is unique," he said.

Lindsey agreed with Doversberger, saying that leap year birthdays are more exciting to celebrate because they happen so infrequently. She first learned that her Feb. 29 birthday was special when she and her family celebrated one of "real" birthday when she turned four. Instead of being disappointed in what appeared to be a lack of actual birthdays, Lindsey found humor in her situation.

"I thought it was funny," Lindsey said. "Of all the years, months, days and times to be born, I was born on a leap year. It's the story of my life."

In non-leap years, both Doversberger and Lindsey celebrate their birthday on March 1, as they were born on the 60th day of the year. While neither one has specific traditions for the day, each one celebrates with a little more fanfare when Feb. 29 rolls around every four years.

"Someone usually gives me a 'you're turning three, four or five years old' card," Lindsey said. "They also [jokingly] tell me I'm tall or smart for my age."

Over the years, both students have also found other perks to being a birthday-celebrity of sorts. Doversberger has appeared in a local newspaper and on television every real birthday of his life and has received free $25 gift certificates from the University Park Mall in Mishawaka.

Although Lindsey has not received any special treatment as of late, when she was younger she often won extra prizes at fairs or in games. Recently, her birthday has been of more use to friends and family who have tried to utilize it to win free items of their own.

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits Doversberger and Lindsey gained due to their birthdays is the fact that it sets them apart from the multitude of other students at Notre Dame.

"Another great thing about being born on a leap year is that I will always be able to tell people I was a student at the University of Notre Dame before my fifth birthday," said Doversberger.

Contact Laura Vilim at lvilim@nd.edu

Fiestang

continued from page 1

dent clubs on campus to perform, including the First Class Steppers and the Ballet Folklorico.

"We are aiming to showcase Filipino culture and celebrate it with the Notre Dame and South Bend communities," Magno said.

Vinalo said PAFSO, a student organization that is dedicated to sharing culture and building a Filipino community on campus, hopes to raise awareness of the Filipino culture by hosting the event.

The program will include dance at 6 p.m. Saturday. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., and the dance show will start at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the door, costing $5 for faculty and students, and $7 for general admission.

Contact Dustin Van Handorf at dvanhand@nd.edu

Fiestang continues from page 1

Leap year continued from page 1

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Contact Laura Vilim at lvilim@nd.edu

Come and join the Campus Bible Study

Learn what Jesus taught by reading and discussing His words.

1 day a week-1 hour per session

Attending CBS would be a solid Lenten practice.

Meeting every Tuesday at 7:00 pm

in room 114K Coleman - Morse Center

If needed, Bibles provided.

For more info call Fr. Al 631-5955

Campus Ministry
 Бо вейх. Но это дает больше оснований принять некоторые мерки. Хотя индексы, с которыми связывают скорость отставания. В то время как индексы "Волшебной Долины" остаются неизменными, индекс "Доллар" упал на 21,48, или на 0,2 процента, до 10,580,14, после 10,580,14, после.

Я не вижу ничего ужасного в этих колебаниях, поэтому рынок их «достойно».

Однако некоторые аналитики не были обеспокоены тем, что этот рост на 3,3 процента в январе ограничил инвестиционный энтузиазм, поскольку он не компенсировал бы роста за последние 14 месяцев, и время на стороне Oracle.

Судьба антитрестного процесса в суде, но суды могут ухудшить ситуацию, если Oracle не сможет убедить в суде остановить процесс.

Семь штатов присоединились к ведомству в ответ на закрытиеOracle.

Судьба Oracle может быть решена в федеральном суде, но по всей вероятности дело будет занято до конца года.

Маркетинговые продукты, используемые в будущем, могут быть проданы для получения прибыли на основе будущей стоимости на рынке.

Вот некоторые из обозревателей Oracle, которые считают, что у компании есть шансы выиграть процесс.

"Мы видим, что у Oracle есть средства, чтобы проиграть процесс, и мы не думаем, что это приведет к росту стоимости акций Oracle." — сказал один из аналитиков.

"Мы думаем, что Oracle может выиграть процесс, и это будет хорошим новостью для акционеров Oracle." — сказал другой аналитик.

"Мы думаем, что Oracle может выиграть процесс, и это будет хорошим новостью для акционеров Oracle." — сказал третий аналитик.

"Мы думаем, что Oracle может выиграть процесс, и это будет хорошим новостью для акционеров Oracle." — сказал четвертый аналитик.

"Мы думаем, что Oracle может выиграть процесс, и это будет хорошим новостью для акционеров Oracle." — сказал пятый аналитик.

"Мы думаем, что Oracle может выиграть процесс, и это будет хорошим новостью для акционеров Oracle." — сказал шестой аналитик.

"Мы думаем, что Oracle может выиграть процесс, и это будет хорошим новостью для акционеров Oracle." — сказал седьмой аналитик.

"Мы думаем, что Oracle может выиграть процесс, и это будет хорошим новостью для акционеров Oracle." — сказал восьмой аналитик.

"Мы думаем, что Oracle может выиграть процесс, и это будет хорошим новостью для акционеров Oracle." — сказал девятый аналитик.

"Мы думаем, что Oracle может выиграть процесс, и это будет хорошим новостью для акционеров Oracle." — сказал десятый аналитик.

"Мы думаем, что Oracle может выиграть процесс, и это будет хорошим новостью для акционеров Oracle." — сказал одиннадцатый аналитик.

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"Мы думаем, что Oracle может выиграть процесс, и это будет хорошим новост...
Panelists discuss Patriot Act at SMC

By NICOLE ZOOK  News Writer

The atmosphere was thick Thursday night at the panel discussion of the 2001 U.S. Patriot Act, held at the Stapleton Lounge in Saint Mary’s LaMennais Hall. That was just the way the four panelists wanted it to be. "It does affect normal, everyday people when the atmosphere allows for giving up civil liberties for safety," speaker Anita Morse said. Panelist Doug Archer concurred. "It chills the air in which we exercise our first amendment rights," Archer said. "It’s a chilling of the atmosphere that allows for mutual understanding." Morse, a lawyer, librarian and research analyst for Saint Mary’s, and Archer, a reference and peace studies librarian at the Hesburgh Library, were joined by South Bend lawyer William L. Wilson and Isis Nusair, a Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership fellow.

Wilson, who is the previous president of the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, gave an abbreviated history of the groundwork behind the Patriot Act. He labeled it "a misnomer, if there ever was one. The Patriot Act (or Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism) was developed after 9/11 to enhance domestic security and surveillance, protect the borders better and remove barriers to investigate terrorism, among other things. Now, however, it can be used to enter the lives of everyday Americans. Under the act, government officials may search homes and obtain lists of purchases, communications, financial and medical records and even library records without informing the person they are investigating. It made all of your electronic communications available to the government on the same level that they can get a pen register or a tracking device," Morse said.

This includes records for all foreign students, Nusair said. A Palestinian citizen of Israel, she gave an outside view of the act. "It’s the step by step process that encroaches on your private and public life," she said. The panelists agreed that the act has positive attributes, in its ability to better protect against money laundering and the implemented information sharing between branches of investigation such as the FBI and CIA. Also, Wilson said discussion of civil liberties is always positive.

"We all ought to be talking about it in the dining hall, around the dinner table," said Attorney William Wilson.

"If I can track and trace all of your Internet information, I have access to your cyber identity, and you have looked at," Morse said.

"Traditionally the numbers are equal," Poindexter said. "It made all of your electronic communications available to the government on the same level that they can get a pen register or a tracking device," Morse said. "If I can track and trace all of your Internet information, I have access to your cyber identity, and you have looked at." Poindexter said. "If I can track and trace all of your Internet information, I have access to your cyber identity, and you have looked at."

"It does affect normal, everyday people when the atmosphere allows for giving up civil liberties for safety." Anita Morse

SMC research analyst

"We all ought to be talking about it, in the dining hall, around the dinner table." William Wilson attorney

The election.

Judicial Council president Elliot Poindexter, who informed the Miller-Ben Zerante-Patricia Adams-Erika D’Addabbo (48.2 percent) and the Ramanan-Lauren Mullins-Lauren Hallemann-Emily Short (43.8 percent) tickets of the results Thursday night, agreed observing a similarly close race unfold just two weeks before was a definite advantage for the candidates. "Because (a Senate decision) already happened, I thought they handled themselves a lot more respectfully than Eberle and Istvan did," Poindexter said.

He said the winner would be decided at Wednesday’s regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting, and declined to release dorm vote totals to The Observer. Of a total of 966 votes, Miller’s ticket received 466 and Ramanan’s ticket received 423, with the remaining 77 account­ ing for abstentions. The decreased participation meant that every vote carried a greater weight, Poindexter said.

"Traditionally the numbers go down from a primary to a runoff anyway," he said. "It’s a lot closer because there are a lot fewer votes."

The class of 2005 race was nearly as close, with the Darrell Scott-Lauren Flyn­ ton Bas-Ariston Boyd ticket beating the Katie Boyle-Brian Aggadis-Sarah Bates-Steph­ anie Aberger ticket by 6 votes, 515 to 463. The Scott ticket earned 59.9 percent to Boyd’s 45.9 percent with 3.2 percent abstaining.

Scott praised his opposition, saying Boyle had been "great competition" and that he looked forward to working closely with her and her running mates during the year ahead. Boyle could not be reached for comment.

Contact Claire Heininger at chininger@nd.edu

Election continued from page 1

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The Choice For Me

Jason Kucma is a Third-Year student from Medford, N.J. He graduated from Ithaca College with a Bachelor’s Degree in Exercise Physiology concentrating in Cardiac Rehabilitation.

"The only thing that has ever captured my attention was studying the human body. The more I learned in school, the more I needed to know. The most logical step for me was to become a Doctor of Chiropractic, so I could truly help people."

Before making his decision to attend Logan, Jason visited nearly half of the patriotic colleges in the United States. "Logan is in the perfect location in a safe, residential area. The Admissions staff are very friendly and helpful and the faculty are excellent. Logan College offers students an incredible learning environment blending a rigorous chiropractic program with diverse and active student population. If you are looking for a healthcare career that offers tremendous personal satisfaction, professional success and income commensurate with your position as a Doctor of Chiropractic, contact Logan College of Chiropractic today and explore your future.

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Abuse study concludes 4 percent of priests accused

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A national church-sanctioned study documenting sexual abuse by U.S. Roman Catholic clergy found that about 4 percent of clerics have been accused of molesting minors since 1950, a diocese said Thursday.

The Diocese of Yakima, Wash., said in a news release that the survey compiled by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice found 4,392 of the 109,694 clergy who served over that five-decade period faced allegations of abuse.

The survey was overseen by the National Review Board, a lay watchdog panel the bishops formed at the height of the abuse crisis. The review board had a Friday morning news conference scheduled in Washington to discuss the report and a companion study on how the abuse crisis developed.

Dioceses nationwide received 10,667 abuse claims since 1950, according to the news release. Of those, claims by 6,700 were substantiated. About 3,000 were not investigated because the accused clergy were dead.

Another 1,000 or so claims proved to be unsubstantiated, the diocese said.

The national report also tallied about-related costs at $533.4 million.

A source who has read both the John Jay tally of abuse cases and the report on causes provided some other findings to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The causes report places much of the blame on bishops, saying "moral laxity" in disciplining offenders created an atmosphere that allowed the crisis to occur.

The report acknowledges that some bishops recognized the gravity of the problem early on and spent years lobbying the Vatican to change church law so they could move faster against abusers.

The study also said the bishops were sometimes ill-served by the therapists and lawyers they sought out for guidance.

Still, there have been widespread reports of bishops who sheltered abusers and the review board used harsh language to criticize church officials who failed to act. It said these bishops were guilty of "neglect" and "inconsistency toward victims that allowed the "smoke of Satan" to enter the church, the source said.

The raw numbers of abuse claims and accused clerics are higher than previously estimated by the media, victims groups and church officials.

Estimates of the number of guilty clerics have varied dramatically. Church officials have said anywhere between 1 percent and 3 percent of clergy accused abused minors.

The Rev. Andrew Greeley, a sociologist at the University of Chicago, put the number at 4 percent. Psychologist Richard Sipe, a former monk who researches sexuality in the priesthood, said it could be as high as 5 percent.

The bishops have apologized to abuse victims and have enacted several reforms to protect children since the long-simmering abuse problem erupted more than 20 years ago in Boston. This discipline policy they adopted in June 2002 bars sex offenders from all public ministry.

The bishops authorized the new, landmark studies to restore trust in their leadership. No other profession or religious group has exposed itself to such scrutiny on the abuse issue, even though molestation is an acknowledged problem among coaches, teachers and clergy of other faiths.

The prelates said they wanted to undertake the investigations because they felt a "moral urgency to confront abuse in the church.

Victims, however, say the bishops acted only under public pressure and said any study by the church is bound to underestimate the number of abuse cases.

In Boston, where the national review board is focusing on the case of rogue priest John Geoghan, officials said Thursday that 162 allegations of abuse were substantiated over the last half-century — had been awarded.

But plaintiffs' attorney Mitchell Garabedian scoffed at the count.

"We have an entity here that has allowed the wholesale sexual abuse of children by clergy, and to allow them to count the numbers just doesn't make any sense," he said. "There is a huge credibility problem here.

Bush administration to end U.S. use of land mines

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration to end U.S. use of land mines but will not sign a treaty to ban them, an official said Thursday.

The administration intends to end the U.S. use of land mines, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

And to remain operable. In Afghanistan and elsewhere, among other coun-
tries, the buried land mines serve no military purpose and are a menace to farmers, children and other people who happen to come over them.

The mines main or kill.

Stephen Goose, executive director of the arms control division of Human Rights Watch, praised the plan to increase spending for mine clearance projects. But he said the United States is beset by political and to allow them to count the numbers just doesn't make any sense," he said. "There is a huge credibility problem here.

Bush administration to end U.S. use of land mines

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration intends to end the U.S. military's use of land mines that are not timed to self-destruct but will not sign a treaty to ban them, an official said Thursday.

The new policy also will double, to $70 million, what the United States spends annually to locate and remove mines considered hazards to people and serving no deterrent purpose, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Lincoln Bloomfield, an assistant secretary of state who is President Bush's special adviser on land mines, was expected to announce the new policy at the State Department on Thursday.

From now on, all new U.S. land mines will be detectable by U.S. authorities and geared to remain operable. But those considered to be part of deter-
ring attacks, such as in Korea, will remain in use. Those mines will be timed to self-
destruct, but they can be reset and serve no military purpose and will not be detectable.

They now say they want to use mines in its defense programs.

"We have a great deal of momentum everywhere else around the world. The U.S. is the only country in NATO that hasn't banned this weapon. We have a situation where the U.S. is under a bilateral and interna-
tional norm against this weapon," said Goose, who said he was informed by the State Department on Thursday about the new policy.

Goose said the U.S. goal, for a decade, has been to move toward the point where it could eliminate all anti-personnel mines.

"This is a goal that has been embraced by the entire world. But it's a goal that the United States has now given up on. They now say they want to use some types of anti-personnel mines, the so-called smart mines that self-destruct, any-
where in the world in perpetuity," he said.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., a sponsor of the Senate legislation on land mines, said he tried several times to enact a ban and was rebuffed.

But he said the United States is beset by political and to allow them to count the numbers just doesn't make any sense," he said. "There is a huge credibility problem here.
Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. This old adage can be applied to modern situations, even of a technical nature, such as the Office of Information Technologies' two failed attempts to install a new Internet connection.

Early Sunday morning, OIT activated this new connection only to have it fail three hours later; the backup connection used showed Internet on campus to a crawl. Tuesday morning, OIT tried again to activate the connection and it failed two hours later. While OIT and the University can be commended for their attempts to increase the University's Internet bandwidth, the failures encountered exhibit a lack of necessary testing and preparation for the switchover. And OIT's blithely faith in the Internet vendor's promise that they had fixed the problem when they attempted to activate the connection a second time 48 hours later is unacceptable.

Seniors, faculty and anyone else who has been on campus for at least four years painfully remember the 2000-2001 academic year that was marred by multiply long-lasting holidays and pauses that crippled campus computing. Since then, Internet outages have been few and far between. But the University's decision to install a new connection that has failed twice in the five hours and 45 minutes it has been online raises questions about whether Internet reliability is returning to the days of old. OIT is now carefully reviewing its plans and meeting with the Internet vendor to ensure that the next upgrade will be a success. But one has to wonder why it took two failures to cause this review.

I do not personally know Charlie Ebersol, but from what I read in The Observer, it seems that many coordinated opposition to his bid for student body president despite his extensive experience. His opponents claim that he drives a gas guzzling, environment-choking hummer and may even torture small animals in the back seat of his car. To the extent that these allegations of inhumanity, his opponents claim that he drives a gas guzzling, environment-choking hummer and may even torture small animals in the back seat of his car. To the extent that these allegations of inhumanity, his opponents claim that he drives a gas guzzling, environment-choking hummer and may even torture small animals in the back seat of his car. To the extent that these allegations of inhumanity, his opponents claim that he drives a gas guzzling, environment-choking hummer and may even torture small animals in the back seat of his car. 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It is ironic that the 2004 Notre Dame student election mirrors the 2000 presidential race, replete with similar voting trends, an unacceptable outcome and Elliot Pollard, playing the vote seeker role of Katherine Harris. Unfortunately, Ebersol must endure four years in that role because of an archaic runoff election system put in place as a hostage of his own public persona. While Ebersol swept nearly all of the women's dormitories, he nearly lost all of the men's dormitories. His strengths were women, freshmen and sophomores. Obviously such liberal elitist characteristics as sensitivity and idealism alone could not carry Ebersol to victory. He lost the vote of off-campus students like Gore lost the Christian coalition. Upperclassmen in 2004 rejected Ebersol like the angry, gun-toting NASCAR Bubba voters who could not relate to Gore's 2000 effort. Gore's losses in Tennessee and West Virginia equated to Ebersol's loss of campus men. The male voting block yearned for an important reason to better identify with Ebersol. He could have better related by going duck hunting like Dick Cheney or at least publicly quoting Digger's basketball record when leading at halftime. Ebersol's campaign on the final ballot further paralleled in that he faced his own version of Ralph Nader or a third party opponent. All of us vote our immediate concerns. Obviously such liberal elitist characteristics as sensitivity and idealism alone could not carry Ebersol to victory. He lost the vote of off-campus voters like Gore lost the Christian coalition. Upperclassmen in 2004 rejected Ebersol like the angry, gun-toting NASCAR Bubba voters who could not relate to Gore's 2000 effort. Gore's losses in Tennessee and West Virginia equated to Ebersol's loss of campus men. The male voting block yearned for an important reason to better identify with Ebersol. He could have better related by going duck hunting like Dick Cheney or at least publicly quoting Digger's basketball record when leading at halftime. Ebersol's campaign on the final ballot further paralleled in that he faced his own version of Ralph Nader or a third party opponent. All of us vote our immediate concerns. Obviously such liberal elitist characteristics as sensitivity and idealism alone could not carry Ebersol to victory. He lost the vote of off-campus voters like Gore lost the Christian coalition. Upperclassmen in 2004 rejected Ebersol like the angry, gun-toting NASCAR Bubba voters who could not relate to Gore's 2000 effort. Gore's losses in Tennessee and West Virginia equated to Ebersol's loss of campus men. The male voting block yearned for an important reason to better identify with Ebersol. He could have better related by going duck hunting like Dick Cheney or at least publicly quoting Digger's basketball record when leading at halftime. Ebersol's campaign on the final ballot further paralleled in that he faced his own version of Ralph Nader or a third party opponent. All of us vote our immediate concerns. Obviously such liberal elitist characteristics as sensitivity and idealism alone could not carry Ebersol to victory. He lost the vote of off-campus voters like Gore lost the Christian coalition. Upperclassmen in 2004 rejected Ebersol like the angry, gun-toting NASCAR Bubba voters who could not relate to Gore's 2000 effort. Gore's losses in Tennessee and West Virginia equated to Ebersol's loss of campus men. The male voting block yearned for an important reason to better identify with Ebersol. He could have better related by going duck hunting like Dick Cheney or at least publicly quoting Digger's basketball record when leading at halftime. Ebersol's campaign on the final ballot further paralleled in that he faced his own version of Ralph Nader or a third party opponent. All of us vote our immediate concerns.

Besides the drama of this year's student election, Ebersol's legacy on campus will not be finished as quickly written until next school year, when Americans vote for a new president. As many students who ganged up against Ebersol in favor of Istvan in the runoff election, Democrats will ignore Nader to defeat Bush this November. Only then will Ebersol's legacy be written. He will have been the campus version of both Al Gore in 2000 and George Bush in 2004. Legacies have a way of changing over time. As alumni, we who endured the betrayal of our student body president defeated him twice on the national alumni ballot. Funny how politics brings out the worst in everyone.

Gary Caruso, class of 1973, served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at huxleyr@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
I am writing in response to the Feb. 26 article submitted by Chris Vierig. I was a student at Saint Mary’s from 1992 to 1997 and graduated from Notre Dame in 1999. In 2002, I received my J.D. from the law school. Each year over that span of time, someone lodged a complaint in some manner about not serving meat in the dining halls during Lent. Mr. Vierig suggests that this is the University’s “fascist” way of imposing Catholic doctrine on non-Catholic students. He has, of course, also suggested some other ways in which the University is oppressing him because he is not Catholic. The last time I checked, Notre Dame is a private, Catholic institution; therefore, it is the school’s prerogative to follow the traditions of the Catholic faith in whatever manner it deems appropriate. Mr. Vierig indicates that he was equally aware of Notre Dame’s Catholic affiliation when he accepted the University’s invitation to enter the class of 2007. The dining hall staff is not forcing students to pray before their meals; students are not directed to fast during Lent. Burger King is not shut down for 40 days; and the University does not require attendance at Sunday Mass. It has bothered me for some years to hear students complain about the religious values that Notre Dame has so wrongly thrust upon them. The University does not force students to do anything in contravention of their own religious beliefs. However, the University merely asks you to respect the traditions of the faith upon which Notre Dame was founded. Limiting the students’ selection of food one day a week for 40 days hardly seems like religious persecution. I would suggest that Mr. Vierig’s outrage might be better directed at something more meaningful than missing dining hall meatloaf.

Nicole Borda
alum
Class of 1999, 2002
Feb. 26

They even took the bacon bits! Those fascist pigs. How dare they deprive me of my chicken patties or a non-fascist fry. Mr. Vierig seems to try to impose a belief system that only 85 percent of the population believe in! How dare those who claim to run the University in the best interests of the students deny their Atkins-happy charges of all that protein in favor of promoting the very values upon which the University was founded? It’s forced religion, oppression and the beginning of a neo-fascist movement spearheaded by the Pope himself — or maybe just Bill Kirk.

Or maybe it’s Lent and another freshman class got the surprise of a lifetime when they walked into the dining halls on Ash Wednesday. First of all, Notre Dame didn’t continue down any slippery slope or cross any line by removing meat from the dining halls in observance of the Lenten season — this isn’t a new tactic they’ve just come up with to ruin the best four years of your life. And second, they’re not forcing anyone to practice Catholicism — if they wanted to do that they would drag you to Mass, kicking and screaming, and shove the Eucharist down your throat. The Lenten season was not created to promote a vegetarian lifestyle. Nor was it conceived to force Catholic beliefs upon unsuspecting freshmen. Most people associate the words reflection, penance, prayer, preparation, humility and sacrifice with Lent, not fascism. Notre Dame is a highly spiritual community. Over 150 Masses a week, chapel services in every dorm and a tradition rooted in the Christian faith. You know that coming in. Accepting the invitation to attend Notre Dame is accepting an education that stems from that faith. And that doesn’t stay in the classroom. Chris Vierig was “offended and angry” when he walked into the dining hall on Ash Wednesday. I was offended and angry when I read his letter on Thursday because I don’t know if he appreciates where he is. Whether you’re a Catholic who doesn’t like sacrificing your chicken patties or a non-Catholic student, please realize that the University does what it does to promote its values and teachings, and in this case, try and remind you what sacrifice truly means. If you’re not up for all that, fine. No one is going to force you. Go over to LaFortune and partake of the many fine eateries that will gladly serve you this Lent. But don’t write letters criticizing Notre Dame administrators. Instead of complaining about what they’re taking away from you this Lenten season, look around and realize what they’re giving you.

Jeremy Sony
Class of 2001
Feb. 25

According to Chris Vierig’s letter in yesterday’s Viewpoint, “the Notre Dame administration has crossed the line into fascism by forcing their views upon us.” You’re kidding? It took you a semester and a half of college to figure that out? I definitely applaud your freshman-like determination to speak out and express your differing opinions, but you are just wasting your time — I realize the irony in saying that you are “wasting your time” when, in fact, I am also wasting my time by responding to your letter. However, you probably should take some time and talk to an upperclassman and discover that the University has not just recently “been going down a slippery slope” by forcefully exercising its iron fist more and more.” During my freshman year, five years ago, hundreds of dorm parties used to be happy here, you have to understand that and respect it.

My suggestion to you, Mr. Vierig, is to try and understand that some things at Notre Dame are always changing while others will never will, but either way there isn’t a thing you can do about it — unless you have a lot of money.

Michael Kinder
senior
off-campus
Feb. 26
Fine dining for the Oscars

Be the host of a memorable themed Oscar party with these fun recipes

What better way to celebrate the glitz and glamour of the Academy Awards than with a themed cocktail party? Toss aside the unfinished homework, dress yourself up and gather all your movie-loving friends for a night of celebrities and these fun hors d'oeuvres that celebrate this year's best movie nominees.

Lord of the Pineapple Rings Mini Pizzas

Layered English muffins with tomato sauce, mozzarella cheese, ham slices and pineapple rings. Add spices to your taste and allow some 15 minutes for the cheese to melt and slightly browned.

Master and Commander — Salmon Spread

Make this yummy appetizer to pay homage to this Russell Crowe sea adventure. Pair with toasted pita chips or crackers.

Chocolate Cinnamon "Sea" Biscuit Bites

Separate a Pillsbury® Golden Layers® Refrigerated cinnamon and sugar biscuits dough into eight biscuits and then separate each biscuit into quarters. Lightly brush biscuits with melted butter and bake for seven to nine minutes at 400°F. Drizzle melted chocolate on top and serve warm.

Lost in Translation

Serve some sushi (you can get it at the Huddle now!) to celebrate this Bill Murray drama set in Tokyo.

Mystic River — Boston Creme Cupcakes

Whip up these tasty treats named after the setting of this thriller featuring Sean Penn and Kevin Bacon.

Layered Halves English muffins with lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, onion powder, seafood seasoning and ground black pepper. Chill in the refrigerator until serving.

Tragedy showing in Saint Mary's

Shakespeare's Othello is brought to O'Lafflin Auditorium

By JONATHAN RETARTHA
Scene Writer

The tragic story of "Othello" comes to Saint Mary's this weekend as the Guthrie Theater presents its production of one of Shakespeare's most well-known plays. "Othello" tells the story of a Venetian general who has just wed the daughter of a wealthy senator, Barbarino. Barbarino strongly objects to his daughter Desdemona's marriage to a Moor. War calls Othello away to the island of Cyprus to battle the Turks forcing Othello and Desdemona leave. One of Othello's soldiers, Cassio, is bitterly angry with Othello for naming another soldier, Cassio, to the position of lieutenant instead of him. He devises a plan to get Cassio fired and to have Desdemona plead for his job. In the process, Othello plants the seed of jealousy in Cassio's mind and the Moor being a vengeful tirade to uncover the truth.

The feature role of the play is obviously that of Othello, the general who is driven mad with jealousy. The role of Othello probably boasts the largest record of A-List actors in all of Shakespeare. Acting greats such as Laurence Fishburne, Patrick Stewart and Laurence Olivier have left their mark on the role throughout the decades, and Lester Purry does not disappoint in the Guthrie production.

Purry brings a fury and frailty that is often missed by actors in the role. Many actors simply play the Moor as stout and angry throughout the play, but Purry offers just the right touch of emotional weakness to show that Othello's seemingly over-the-top rage is simply a cover for his weak emotional state.

At the onset of the play, he is completely smitten by his love, and Desdemona's will often clouds his judgment. Shakespeare wrote the character of Othello in a similar fashion to the character of Hamlet. Both contemplate and drive themselves mad on the inside.

The difference with Othello is that he has less control over his emotions, and acts much more rashly on them. This lack of control stems primarily from the fact he has already received such hostility all his life due to being a minority. Purry truly breaks down under the weight of his wife's supposed infidelity, and his anger comes more out of desperation than from pride.

It would be easy to identify Purry's timing and delivery as being derived from the acting of Samuel L. Jackson, but most likely it is the case that Jackson has taken a few tips from Shakespeare in his approach to his movie roles.

Bill McCallum plays lago, the evil conspirator who seeks revenge on Othello for denying him his position as lieutenant. McCallum has a large task in bringing to life lago's several long soliloquies. He adds great depth to his lines and monologues that not only clearly inform the audience of what lago is thinking, but also keep their attention throughout.

McCallum uses timing to clearly identify both the humorous and the ironic lines that are so prevalent in "Othello." He is evil to the audience but saintly to the characters, and he does not fall into the trap of
“Othello” is a stirring work of jealousy, lies and murder. The Guthrie Theater offers a tremendous professional production highlighting fantastically acted characters and music. It is truly the best Shakespeare experience to come to South Bend all year.

Virginia S. Burke plays Emilia, wife to Iago and caretaker of Desdemona. While her role is very small for the majority of the play, she erupts as the source of moral truth during the death scene. Shakespeare always enjoyed putting the source of morality in the most common character, and Burke commands the stage during the climax of the play.

“Othello” is being produced by the Guthrie Theater, a company originating in Minneapolis and St. Paul that has brought stage productions to the upper Midwest for 40 years. It has a season of 11 plays, playing on their main stage, second stage and on tour. They also work very closely with area students in the locations they tour to, and help in commissioning high school productions and R.F.A. actor training programs. Their recent tour is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, a program to bring Shakespeare to small cities around the United States. The program was started by Jack Valenti, CEO of the Motion Pictures Association of America, and first lady Laura Bush to help spread Shakespeare’s works to over 100 cities across the country.

“Othello” is a stirring work of jealousy, lies and murder. The Guthrie Theater offers a tremendously professional production highlighting fantastically acted characters and Broadway caliber sets, lighting and music. It is truly the best Shakespeare experience to come to South Bend all year.

“Othello” plays at the O’Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary’s College tonight at 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are $22.50 for adults, $21.50 for seniors, $20.50 for the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s community and $12 for students and family at the 2 p.m. matinees. For tickets, call the Saint Mary’s Box Office at 574-284-4626.

Contact Jonathan Retartha at jretarth@nd.edu
Lightning continue hot streak, beat Leafs 4-3

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. -- The Tampa Bay Lightning are on a roll. And the reason is obvious: The Lightning beat the Toronto Maple Leafs Thursday night.

Pavel Kubina and Vincent Lecavalier had the other goals for the Southeast Division-leading Lightning, who have an 18-point lead over second place Florida.

Tampa Bay, 13-1-1-4 over the past 19 games, is just three points behind Philadelphia for the top spot in the Eastern Conference. Toronto also has 80 points, while Ottawa has 82.

"We're on a little roll," Lightning captain Dave Andreychuk said. "We're playing pretty well. We have some confidence. It wasn't our best game, but still came up with the victory."

Lightning goalie Nikolai Khabibulin made 19 saves for his 200th career win (200-183-57). He is 5-4-3 in his past 13 games.

"It was a tough game," Richards said. "Every time we went up two goals, they scored right away and showed you when you play a team like that how tough it is.

Rangers 6, Islanders 3

Tom Renney preached restraint in his first game behind the New York Rangers' bench, and the disappointing team listened to its new coach.

A night after Renney took over from Glen Sather, he led his club to a victory Thursday that completed a six-game, season sweep of the New York Islanders.

Sather stepped down Wednesday to concentrate on his personal business and general manager duties with the team that is in 11th place in the Eastern Conference, 12 points behind the Islanders and the playoff cutoff.

"It's a vision. It's a ways out from 2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR.... WE

Paul Jones Staff Writer

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# Around the Dial

## NBA

### Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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**Eastern Conference, Central Division**

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**Western Conference, Midwest Division**

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**Western Conference, Pacific Division**

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<td>Phoenix</td>
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## MLB

**The baseball caught by Steve Bartman in October's playoff game between the Chicago Cubs and the Florida Marlins was destroyed Thursday night in a process using heat, pressure and flame.**

Bartman ball destroyed at Harry Caray's

**In Brief**

Owens misses deadline to void rest of contract

**Associated Press**

CHICAGO — In a flash, the ball that came to sym­bolize the Chicago Cubs' cursed history was blown up Thursday night, reduced to a pile of thread by a Hollywood special effects expert.

Hundreds of fans sang "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" before the ball — the foul fly touched by Steve Bartman in last October's playoffs — was obliterated.

We' d like to continue discussing the possibility of keeping him within the organization before Thursday night's game against Washington.

Stoudamire, fifth in the Pac-10 in scoring at 16.8 points per game, was on the Arizona bench in street clothes for the game.

Stoudamire often has been criticized by Olson for his moody attitude, but the junior from Portland, Ore., had vowed to improve his outlook and become a team leader this season.

Stoudamire was named Pac-10 player of the week after Arizona's home sweep of Southern California and UCLA. He scored 117 points over four games, including consecutive career highs of 34 against UCLA and 37 against Arizona, before scoring 12 in the team's loss at Oregon State last Saturday.

Yankees release Boone

TAMPA, Fla. — Third baseman Aaron Boone was released Thursday by the New York Yankees, nearly six weeks after hurting his knee in a pickup basketball game.

The injury, which could sideline him the entire season, set the stage for the Yankees to acquire Alex Rodriguez from Texas last week in the biggest trade in baseball history.

It's a tough situation we're all in," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "You have to move on."

We'd like to continue discussing the possibility of keeping him within the Yankees' fold in some form or fashion that would manifest itself with him maybe being a player for us next year."
The Irish huddle for a quick team meeting during a game last season. The Irish travel to Georgia Friday, February 27, 2004.
Men's Lacrosse

Season kicks off against Penn State

Irish open against Nittany Lions for eighth straight year

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Lions-versus-Irish has become a season-opening tradition.

The lacrosse team opens its 2004 season against Penn State Sunday afternoon at Loftus Sports Center at 1 p.m. The match marks the eighth consecutive season opener played between the two squads.

No. 11 Notre Dame has won six of its ten all-time meetings with No. 16 Penn State, including a 10-9 victory last year at State College, Penn., to open a 9-5 season.

Attackman Dan Berger scored four goals, and attackman Matt Howell had a goal and five assists in the game. Goalie Stewart Crosland made 18 saves.

The teams have developed a rivalry with the consecutive early season matches. The games have become solid tests on schedules that have increased in difficulty for the Irish.

"Every year this has been a great game, often the most exciting of the year." Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach

ND Women's Tennis

Irish prepare to host rival IU

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

Coach Jay Louderback predicts a tough match at every position when the Irish host No. 36 Indiana Sunday.

"We always have a good rivalry with Indiana," Louderback said. "Even if one team is ranked a lot higher than the other, it's still a close, tight match."

Traditionally, the Hoosiers have won past matches against the Irish, leading the series 12-7. However, Indiana has not won a match against Notre Dame since the 2001-02 season. Last year's bout between the two resulted in a 6-1 Irish victory.

The No. 26 Irish (6-1) are on a five-match winning streak after a 6-1 win over No. 20 Brigham Young University 6-1. The Hoosiers (5-2) are coming off of an upset of No. 12 Kentucky 5-2, nearly sweeping the singles. Kentucky claimed the doubles point, despite Indiana having what Louderback calls "an off year."

"Indiana probably could have won the doubles point last weekend," Louderback said. "Their doubles play last week isn't an accurate depiction of how good they really are."

"I'd be surprised if the doubles matches aren't close this weekend."

The Irish are set to face several ranked players on Indiana's team, including the No. 24 nationally ranked doubles team of Karie Schlikker and Linda Tran and No. 50 Grim and Sarah Batty. In addition, No. 40 Dora Vastag and No. 82 Tran will present a challenge for the Irish in singles. Assistant coach Michelle Dusso is confident the Irish will be ready this challenge.

Contact Ann Lougherhy at alougher@nd.edu

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

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

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

Nominations are due by March 16, 2004.

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the
Irish elect to skip U.S. Championships

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame indoor track and field teams will be able to go outside and enjoy the beautiful weather this weekend. After both teams finished second last week's Big East Conference Championships, they will take this weekend off to rest.

The USA Track and Field indoor championships are being held today and Saturday in Boston, but Irish assistant coach Tom Connelly said Notre Dame will not be sending any participants.

"The kids run so hard last week at the Big East," he said. "We decided it would be best to ease our way back into training and risk having too much recovery instead of too little."

The Irish ran well last week as a number of athletes took home individual awards. Selim Nurudeen won the conference championship and set a Big East record by running the men's 60-meter dash in 7.78 seconds. Lauren King won her second straight conference title in the mile run in a time of 4:53.95. Sophomore Molly Huddle also made her mark last week as she was one of three runners to break the conference record in the 3,000 meters.

Connelly, the women's distance coach, was thrilled with these performances. "Kerry Meagher, Lauren King and Molly Huddle were our workhorses," he said. "Kerry was in a lot of races and Molly ran very hard all weekend. They have a lot of experience, and they knew what they had to do."

Connelly mentioned that the teams as a whole were pleased with their performances at the Big East. "Our kids competed really hard," he said. "Miami finished ahead of our women but Miami is one of the top teams in the nation. Our kids just kept lining up and running and did about everything they could."

The Alex Wilson Invitational will be held at Notre Dame next weekend. Connelly wants to use that meet to get some more team members qualified for the NCAA Championships, to be held March 12-13 in Fayetteville, Ark.

"There are a lot of kids on our team who we want to get qualified next week," Connelly said. "We also want to fine tune the rest of the people who are already set to go to nationals."

Connelly believes the team is still confident as it heads into the home stretch of the indoor season. "The only way for runners to gain confidence in themselves is to run fast," he said. "Our kids ran very fast last weekend."

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgillon@nd.edu

Irish hope for success on California road trip

By MATT PUGLISI
Sports Writer

The No. 17 Irish look to start the season on the right foot when they head west to lock horns with a pair of California squads this weekend. Following the University of California at Berkeley today at 3:30 p.m., the Irish head south to Stanford to take on the No. 14 Cardinal at 12 p.m. Sunday.

Due to a number of factors, coach Tracy Coyne isn't exactly sure what to expect from the Golden Bears. "We've never played them before, and because it's so early and all their games have been in conference, it's difficult to get a scouting report," Coyne said. "I'm expecting them to be pretty good, but in all honestly I'm expecting to win."

The Irish, on the other hand, are more than familiar with the Cardinal. After a number of squandered opportunities led to a 14-13 double overtime heart-breaker against Stanford's last season, Notre Dame is eager for a light payday.

"I definitely think this is one of the games on our schedule that we're really looking forward to playing," Coyne said. "We know they're going to be a good team, and we're looking forward [to the game]. It's a revenge type of situation."

In addition to the level of competition, the Irish will be forced to battle the fatigue involved with both playing and traveling. Nevertheless, Coyne believes the team can successfully weather the storm. "We're going to do the best we can to balance everything out," Coyne said. "It will be a challenge, but I feel confident in our ability to face that challenge head on and perform well."

Following a 17-7 thrashing of Team Canada in exhibition play Feb. 14, the Irish finished up a short preseason at the prestigious Princeton Invitational Saturday.

The Irish competed in a unique arrangement that allowed the Irish to compete against defending champion and No. 1 Princeton, No. 7 Dartmouth and No. 9 Ohio State — the Irish sandwiched half-games with the Buckeyes and Tigers around a full-length match with the Big Green.

Notre Dame kicked off the Invitational by recording a 10-0 shutout of Ohio State. However, the Irish ran into trouble with the pair of Ivy League squads. Dartmouth held off Notre Dame for a 12-8 victory, and Princeton made short work of the Irish to the tune of a 7-0 shutout.

Despite the setbacks, Coyne is content with the squad's status heading into regular season play. "I'm really pleased with where we are right now," Coyne said. "It's early and there's obviously a lot still to be done, but I'm happy with the progress and the attitudes. It gets monotonous when you're training inside for six weeks, but we got through it, and we're looking forward to getting started.

Contact Matt Puglisi at mpuglisi@nd.edu

Houses for Rent

It's not too late to find quality houses close to campus for the 2004-2005 school year Call Sean at Anlan Properties 574-532-1805
Irish travel to Florida to face 3 top 25 teams

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

After a successful opening weekend that saw Notre Dame travel to Boca Raton, Fla., for the Florida Atlantic University Classic, the Irish have their work cut out for them as they play four games in three days and face three teams — Winthrop, Florida Southern California, and Minnesota — ranked in the top 25 in various national polls.

"We're really excited about going down to Florida," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "I think a lot of people underestimate the teams we'll be playing down there this weekend. Teams like Winthrop and Florida Atlantic — people don't recognize them because they don't have big football programs — but these are some very excellent baseball teams we'll be playing." Notre Dame will also play an extra game with Florida Memorial Saturday afternoon to make up for last weekend's rained-out contest with Louisville.

Mainieri was excited about the opportunity to schedule the extra game with the Lions over the weekend because it gives him a chance to test the depth of his pitching staff.

"I'm happy we got a chance to schedule Florida Memorial this weekend, because we were very upset about the rainout against Louisville last Sunday," Mainieri said. "But now with this game, we'll have to use a bunch of pitchers this weekend in the four games. The younger guys really need to get some experience on the mound in a real game situation, and these games should provide that." The Irish begin play today at 1 p.m. against Winthrop (4-1), who move into the last National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association poll this week at No. 25.

The Eagles are led offensively by second baseman Matt Markovich, who has a .450 batting average and seven RBIs. As a team, the Eagles are hitting .314 this season, while holding opponents to just a .209 batting average.

Junior right hander Chris Niesel, who opened the season for the Irish last weekend with a nine-strikeout performance in a 7-1 win over San Diego State, will likely get the start for Notre Dame. His counterpart on the mound for Winthrop should be lefty Chase Edwards, who is 1-0 on the year and did not allow a run in 5.2 innings pitched.

After a 2 p.m. meeting with Florida Memorial Saturday, the Irish turn around quickly for a 7 p.m. matchup with host Florida Atlantic. The Owls are 10-4 this season, already having bested Arizona State 2-0 against San Diego State and ranking atop the Owls with a 2.57 ERA this season.

The Irish conclude play Sunday against Minnesota, who will be playing its first game of the season today in the tournament. The Gophers are ranked 25th in this country and is nominated for the Wooden Award, given to the national's best player.

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

How do you improve after beating a top 20 team by 35 points?

That's the question Notre Dame will try to answer when they face Rutgers this weekend in New Jersey.

The Irish (18-8, 11-3) are fresh off a 93-58 victory over Miami at the Joyce Center Wednesday night. Jacqueline Batizani scored 23 points to lead the Irish. All 12 Notre Dame players scored in the Irish highest-scoring game of the season.

But coach Muffet McGraw knows her team better be ready for a battle against Rutgers (16-10, 8-6).

"Rutgers is playing really well at home," McGraw said. "They're in a position now where they're in must-win game situations. They really need to beat a team with an RPI as high as ours both for the Big East tournament, for their conference and the NCAA Tournament."

"It's a must-win game for them, and I think that puts a little bit of pressure on them in that way," McGraw said. "Rutgers is coming off an 80-71 loss to West Virginia Wednesday night. The Scarlet Knights had won two straight games before falling to the Mountaineers. Guard Cappie Pondexter, who averages 17.4 points per game and was an honorable mention All-American last season, leads the Scarlet Knights. She is arguably one of the best guards in the country and is nominated for the Wooden Award, given to the nation's best player."

Besides Pondexter, Notre Dame must deal with another road environment. The Irish are 6-3 on the road this year and have struggled in many of those wins. Notre Dame nearly lost its last road game, to conference doormat Pittsburgh Feb. 21, slipping by the Panthers 72-68. The Scarlet Knights have lost to just Connecticut on their home floor at the RACC, and hold opponents to a mere 50.6 points per game there.

"It's a tough place to play. We've struggled the past couple of years there," McGraw said. "But we're playing really great basketball right now." With its win over Miami, Notre Dame locked one of the four first round byes in the Big East Tournament. They are now trying to secure a second-place finish in the conference. The Irish are a game in front of Villanova and West Virginia. The Irish finish the regular season against Syracuse March 2.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhetler@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Rutgers next test for Irish after victory over Miami

Irish travel to Florida to face 3 top 25 teams

Friday, February 27, 2004

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**Bouts continued from page 24**

Baltimore Ravens running back Jeff Robinson pleaded innocent to charges that he tried to help a childhood friend buy cocaine in the summer of 2000, according to federal prosecutors. Robinson is facing drug charges in a Chattanooga, Tenn., federal court.

Senior Desi Sullivan defeated freshman Nick Curcio in the 180-pound weight division with a series of headshots that caused Curcio to lose his balance. Sullivan will face senior Brent "Total" D'Amico in the quarterfinals. The final fight in the 180-pound weight division was between sophomore Robert Lochridge and Siegfried junior Chris Heinschen. This fight proved to be one of the most intense fights of the night. Both fighters fell during the fight and Lochridge received a bloody nose during the second round that continued to bleed throughout the fight. Heinschen defeated Lochridge in a unanimous decision.

Light heavyweight finals

Senior Mike Abel defeated junior Eric "The Red" Denkelwater in the first fight of light heavyweight competition. Abel opened up the fight with a series of headshots to Denkelwater that caused him to lose his balance. Abel will face Johnny Griffin in the quarterfinals.

**Transmission continued from page 24**

"We were a deer in the headlights today, they were that good," Bayliss said. "I don't say that very often ... but I have never coached against a team that played as well as this team played, and I've done this for a few years — 35, to be exact.

"It's a matter of getting back on the right foot and being positive," said Bayliss, who expects both programs to continue to grow and improve.

"We were a deer in the headlights today, they were that good."
Rivalry

continued from page 24

and see where things will go," Notre Dame co-captain Torrian Jones said.

Mired in a two-game losing streak where a win in just one of those games would have solidified this team’s claim for a NCAA Tournament berth, Jones knows as a captain he has to work with Irish coach Mike Brey to keep the team positive.

“We have to make sure everybody’s mood is up as we have done for the whole season up until this point," Jones said.

With the injuries suffered by almost every Irish player making significant contributions this season, Brey’s squad has had to deal with more adversity this year than any other season of his in South Bend. According to Brey, overcoming all of the injuries and getting into the national spotlight as a possible NCAA Tournament team is something more than anyone could have hoped for.

“Quite frankly it’s amazing that we even got to the bubble at one point given the bodies available to us,” Brey said.

After dropping a tough game to Pittsburgh and winning three straight to gain some momentum, the Irish stopped making their shots. Whether that’s a credit to the opponents’ defense or just going cold, Brey knows his team relies on the outside shot and it has to go in for the Irish to win.

“We’ve got to make some shots outside, whether it’s against a zone or a man-to-man, because of who we are now with the personnel available," Brey said. “A couple of those things have to go in. When a couple go in, we are a little more confident.”

“Hopefully a couple will go in [when we are] in Los Angeles because we are going to keep firing them.”

The Bruins (11-13, 7-9 in the Pac-10) lost 78-77 to cross-town rival USC Wednesday in overtime. UCLA has now lost 10 of its last 12 games after starting the Pac-10 season 5-0.

Saturday’s game is schedule for a 4 p.m. tip-off and will be shown on CBS.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Bengal

continued from page 24

A third consecutive fight was stopped early after sophomore Daniel Moriarty of Stanford Hall got knocked down twice a minute into the first round by junior Justin Alanis of O’Neill Hall.

In the next match, sophomore Patrick Flaherty of Sorin Hall won in an unanimous decision over freshman Bryan Marek of Knott Hall.

In a bloody last fight in the 160-pound division, senior Peter Doldin was defeated by senior William Phillip. The fight was stopped late into the second round.

165 pounds

The first of six fights in the 165-pound weight division opened with a match between sophomore Andrew "Party Boy" Breslin of Alumni Hall and senior Jesus Bravo. Bravo defeated Breslin in a split decision.

In the second fight, freshman Parfait "Powerhouse" Mwez of Zahm Hall won in a split decision over freshman Preston Carter of Carroll Hall.

Senior Ross "Pipe Cleaner Arms" Bartels defeated Billy "Killa Bee" Hederman in a unanimous decision in an emotionally charged fight.

Two juniors from Keenan Hall faced off in the next fight. Chase Heaton emerged with the victory over Craig Thompson.

Sophomore Tony Schlachter of Morrissey Hall won the next fight with a victory over sophomore Alex Borowiecki of Keough Hall in a split decision.

In the final fight of the 165-pound division Daniel "Black Eye For The Straight Guy" Liem of Morrissey Hall gained the victory against junior Patrick McMorrow of O’Neill Hall in a unanimous decision.

Contact Steve Coyer at scoyer@nd.edu

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FEBRUARY 27, 2004

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THE OBSERVER

February 27, 2004

The Observer • TODAY

page 23
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rivalry renewed against UCLA

Struggling Irish head to California, square off against Bruins s after nine-year hiatus

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

It’s been nine years since one of college basketball’s top rivalries took place.

Saturday, the rivalry is renewed.

Notre Dame travels to the Pauley Pavilion to face UCLA Saturday. The last contest between these teams was an 83-58 UCLA win at the Joyce Center Dec. 20, 1995.

The Irish (13-11, 7-7 in the Big East) are coming off a difficult 73-59 loss to Providence Center Dec. 20, 1995. Saturday. The last contest to go into the Big East Tournament above .500.

m. The main thing we are looking to do now is play one game at a time, to finish above .500 in the league, with the things we’ve been through this year, injuries, guys in and out of the lineup looking to build momentum to close the season strong.

The fourth fight in the division.

Tom Timmermans looks to pass during a game against Providence Tuesday. The Irish travel to California on Saturday to renew their rivalry with UCLA.

Men's Tennis

No. 1 Illinois crushes Irish 7-0

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

"There were times," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said, "I thought I was in the middle of a bad dream."

The Irish were swept 7-0 yesterday by No. 1 Illinois, the defending NCAA champions and a team that Bayliss will always remember.

"This was the greatest display of offensive tennis I have ever been a witness to in a college setting," Bayliss said. "They are..."
GUARDING THE CREASE
Irish take on first-place Michigan this weekend

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

In what has sounded like a broken record this season, the Irish again will take on a ranked team this weekend. The difference is that this series is at home, where the Irish have a 12-game unbeaten streak (10-0-2).

Notre Dame (15-11-4, 11-10-2) will face the CCHA’s top teams this weekend, tonight and Saturday at the Joyce Center. The Irish have played nine games so far this season, against ranked teams, collecting a 4-4-1 record in those games— including a 1-0 win over Minnesota College Oct. 24. That record is even more impressive considering that all nine of those games have come away from the Joyce Center.

"Our difficult schedule has really prepared us for games like this," Irish coach Dave Poulin said. "It really think we’ve got a real advantage of home-ice and have not lost at the Joyce Center this season since a 5-3 loss to Bowling Green Oct. 17."

I really think we’ve got a real advantage at the Joyce Center," Poulin said. "We’ve just created a great atmosphere here — the band’s been tremendous, the students, the fans, the energy, the horn — every part of it has added to the atmosphere."

This weekend’s matchup is a contrast between the No. 1 scoring defense in the CCHA in Notre Dame and the No. 2 scoring defense in the conference in Michigan. One big reason for each team’s defensive game has been the play of its goalies — sophomore Alvaro Montoya for the Wolverines and junior Morgan Cey and freshman David Brown for the Irish.

In a recently-released NHL Central Scouting rankings, Montoya was ranked the No. 1 collegiate goaltender eligible for this year’s NHL draft, with Brown ranked No. 2.

"I think these are probably three of the top goalies in the country, and there will be a lot of focus on them, but I also think their teams play great defense in front of them," Poulin said. "There’s a lot of components that make up a good goalie, but it certainly helps to have defensively-sound players in front."

Michigan has one of the best offenses in the conference, with an average of 3.84 goals per game. A large percentage of that offense comes from the Wolverines’ power play, which scores at a 21.6 percent rate and an average of 1.28 power play goals per game.

Notre Dame’s penalty kill has been just as impressive. The Irish have killed 33 consecutive penalties and have not killed their penalty in a game since a 5-3 loss Oct. 24. Brown and the rest of the Irish defense face No. 4 Michigan this weekend.

"I really think we’ve got a real advantage at the Joyce Center," Poulin Irish coach.

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Announcing the Year 2004 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2004 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed $3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian, and will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student’s degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O’Shaughnessy Hall.

Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:
1) A description of the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame;
2) A personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;
3) A description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;
4) A budget indicating the costs involved;
5) The name of two referees.

Application Deadline: Thursday, March 4th, 2004

Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship
Program in Italian Studies
343 O’Shaughnessy Hall
University of Notre Dame
The puck stops here

Notre Dame’s senior defensemen have made a major impact this season

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associated Press Writer

An offensive-minded defense­man, a player who plays at a level far above his stature. A tough guy on the ice but a good citizen off the ice. A player who is the definition of a hard-working student-athlete.

Like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, the four senior Irish defensemen — Brett Lebda, Tom Galvin, Neil Komadoski and T.J. Mathieson — have each played a role in the team’s impressive defense this year.

Notre Dame is ranked first overall in the CCHA and ninth nationally in scoring defense, with goals against average of 2.37 goals per game. While part of that success has been due to the play of the team’s goalies, having four defensemen on the backline has also paid dividends for the Irish.

“Hockey is the most critical position, when you have a sound defense,” Irish coach Dave Poulin said. “There’s just so much experience back on our blue line, and you just can’t find a replacement for that.

“I think it also helps that they’re all good friends. They play off each other and really help each other out there.”

The offensive-minded defenseman

Watching him on the ice, it’s somewhat hard to believe that Lebda is a defenseman. The speedy senior constantly uses his skating ability to take the puck up the ice and does not shy away from being a contributor to the Irish offense.

“The offensive side is probably the biggest part of my game,” Lebda said. “In the four years I’ve been here, it’s been good for me to learn more of the offensive side of my game because that’s what I like to do.”

Growing up in Buffalo Grove, Ill., Lebda fell in love with hockey at an early age and always tried to push himself to be the best player he could be.

“Hockey has always just been something I’ve loved to do, ever since I was too young to remember,” he said.

As a 16-year-old, Lebda was extended an invitation to join the U.S. National Team Development Program (NTDP). During his two seasons with the U.S. NTDP, Lebda became friends with current Irish teammate Neil Komadoski.

“Neil has always been one of my best friends,” Lebda said. “Coming here, it really helped to have someone I knew coming with me, and we’ve been able to grow.

“We’ve really been able to help each other on and off the ice.”

Lebda leads all Irish defensemen so far this year with five goals and is second in overall scoring with 16 points. In addition to contributing on the offensive and defensive sides of the puck, he considers his physical play to be a major part of his overall game.

“I really just like to get in there and throw the body around every once and a while,” Lebda said. “I’m not really the biggest guy ever, but I’m not afraid to shy away from anything.”

The small guy with big game

Galvin’s biography doesn’t really leap out at you on first glance. At 5-foot-10, 190 pounds, the senior defenseman is one of the smallest players on the Irish roster — a far cry from giants like 6-foot-4 freshman defenseman Wes O’Neill.

“I guess I probably don’t have the typical image of a defenseman, that 6-3 or 6-4 kind of guy,” Galvin said. “I think I’m kind of different from most because I’m strong, small and can move the puck pretty well.”

Lebda was amazed with Galvin’s blossoming this season on all sides of the puck, adding an offensive flair to his sound defensive game.

In Notre Dame’s last home series against Ferris State, Galvin pitched in a goal and three assists while also going +3 on the weekend. For his efforts, Galvin was named the defensive player of the game by the Fox Sports Network.

“I like playing an offensive role a lot,” he said. “I actually started playing forward when I started playing hockey, and then I moved back to defense because that’s where I needed to be — so every time I score a point or get an assist, it’s always a plus.”

The Miller Place, N.Y., native has found a niche on the point with senior teammate Komadoski in the Irish power play. Special teams have been a large part of Notre Dame’s success this year, and the power play unit is no exception with an 18.1 percent conversion rate so far this season.

The good citizen

Komadoski may be a hard-hitting defenseman on the ice, but once the final horn has sounded, he is a great citizen. Komadoski was named a nominee for the College Hockey Humanitarian Award, one of only 14 nominees in the nation.

“It’s a great honor,” Komadoski said. “A lot of people think that hockey players are these big, mean, tough guys, but off the ice I don’t think you’ll find a better person than a hockey player.

“I have to give a lot of credit to my teammates, too. We’ve all done a lot of community service through the year.”

Komadoski has had hockey in his blood since as far back as he can remember, and a big reason for that is his father Neil, who played eight seasons as a defenseman for the Los Angeles Kings and the St. Louis Blues.

“He had a tremendous influence on me wanting to play hockey,” Komadoski said. “He coached me all the way up until my freshman year in high school and really taught me a lot of the things that I know now.

“He still helps me to this day; he comes to all the games and really helps me out when I need it.”

Following a two-year stint with the U.S. NTDP and current teammate Lebda, Komadoski made an immediate impact on the Irish as a freshman, recording seven points (two goals, five assists) while also leading the team with 45 penalty infractions.

Komadoski’s play attracted the eyes on NHL scouts, and the Ottawa Senators selected him in the third round of the 2003 NHL Entry League Draft. He is one of two Irish seniors who have been drafted by NHL teams, along with forward Rob Globke who was a second-round draft pick of the Florida Panthers.

The hard-working student-athlete

Mathieson has never had anything come easy. His hometown of Clarksville, Md., was certainly not one of the premier hockey hotbeds in the United States and it was difficult to get noticed by the major college hockey schools.

Following a visit to Notre Dame, Mathieson was told that the coaches couldn’t guarantee him a position on the team, but would instead leave it up to Mathieson to impress.

Since then, Mathieson has never had any trouble finding his niche in the Irish defense. Mathieson has impressed the Irish coaches enough that they allowed him to walk on to the team, and he has played a role for the Irish ever since, collecting three points (one goal, two assists) in 43 career games so far in his career.

“The role that T.J. plays every single day for four years on this team has just been enormous,” Poulin said.

In addition to being a full-time varsity athlete, Mathieson has also found a way to juggle an impressive academic schedule. He went into his senior season with a 3.812 grade point average in Aerospace Engineering and a candidate for the Rhodes, Mitchell and Marshall scholarships for undergraduate studies.

“It’s tough at times (to stay on top of my studies),” he said. “I have to say that it’s probably easier, though, because it keeps me on schedule.

“As it gets later in the semester it’s tough, cause you have a lot of late nights and practices with little sleep, but you get used to it. I think it’s been a rewarding experience.”

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

Irish defensemen Tom Galvin tries to collect the puck in Notre Dame’s 5-3 exhibition win against Western Ontario Oct. 3. Galvin is one of four senior Irish defensemen.

Irish defensemen Neil Komadoski moves the puck up ice in Notre Dame’s 5-3 win over Lake Superior State Nov. 21.
Irish have chance of a lifetime this weekend

Irish have chance of a lifetime this weekend

Notre Dame and Michigan. At the Joyce Center. With home-ice advantage for the first weekend of the CCHA playoffs on the line. It just doesn't get any bigger than this. Michigan is, and has always been, "the" team in the CCHA. They've won numerous national championships and conference championships, and go into each season expecting to win another.

This is a team that helped sell 74,534 seats at the Michigan State football stadium when they played the Spartans in college hockey's first ever outdoor game in 2001. This is a team that has not had a losing season since 1986-87. And this is the team that Notre Irish will face at home for the last regular-season weekend of the season.

The Irish enter this weekend with a 12-game winning streak, a No. 3 ranking in the country, and this weekend's opportunity to advance to the NCAA tournament.

Neil Komadoski, Irish defense

"I'm going to go ahead and say that this is the biggest weekend of my college career."

The Wolverines have five shutouts this season and currently have a 12-game unbeaten streak. Despite playing in a makeshift hockey rink, Notre Dame's students and fans have helped create a true home-ice advantage.

COACHING

Poulin has taken the Irish to the Super Six Championship three of his last four years. He has made the most of his recruiting, with standouts such as Wes O'Neill and David Brown already making major contributions this year.

Rod Berenson is entering his 20th sea- son behind the Michigan bench. There is little he hasn't done, having already won two CCHA regular-season and conference championships. The Wolverines have advanced to the CCHA Tournament 13 straight years.

Poulin has helped Notre Dame to compete in a competitive conference and has done so to keep the Irish on the rise. It's hard to discount the intangibles of success and national championships.

OFFENSE

The Irish offense has been one of the best in the country, ranked ninth overall in scoring. The team has scored 16 goals against Michigan, second most in the country, and this weekend's opportunity to advance to the NCAA tournament.

Defensively, the Wolverines are strong, only giving up 2.37 goals per game. The penalty kill can hold leads, with the team holding a 16-2-0 record leading after one period.

Notre Dame's defense is one of the best in the country, ranked 12th overall in scoring defense. The Irish give up a 2.67 goals against average, which is fourth best in the country, as a result of a defense that keeps the team in nearly every game.

DEFENSE

Poulin has helped Notre Dame to compete in a competitive conference, but has not yet to keep the team out of the top 20 in the country. It's hard to discount the intangibles of success and national championships.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Wolverines score lots of goals, with an average of 3.84 goals per game. Michigan has one of the best power plays in the country, ranked ninth overall in scoring. The team has scored 16 goals against Michigan, second most in the country, and this weekend's opportunity to advance to the NCAA tournament.

Defensively, the Wolverines are strong, only giving up 2.37 goals per game. The penalty kill can hold leads, with the team holding a 16-2-0 record leading after one period.

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GOAL TENDING

The Wolverines have the top power play in the CCHA, collecting at a 21.8 percent clip so far this season. Their penalty kill is not quite as impressive, at 84.7 percent. That can be a problem, as the team takes a lot of penalties.

Al Montoya has quietly had an impressive season in net for the Wolverines. With so much offense around him, he has been over-taxed at times but has solid stats with a .920 save percentage and a 2.41 GAA.

INTANGIBLES

The Irish have only lost one game at home this season and currently have a 12 game unbeaten streak. Despite playing in a makeshift hockey rink, Notre Dame's students and fans have helped create a true home-ice advantage.

Michigan is used to being one of the powerhouse hockey programs in the country, and this year is no exception. The Wolverines know they only need three points to clinch the CCHA regular season championship.

The Wolverines have five shutouts this season and currently have a 12-game unbeaten streak. Despite playing in a makeshift hockey rink, Notre Dame's students and fans have helped create a true home-ice advantage.

The Irish have a chance to show they can compete against the top teams in their conference and a chance to make a case for an NCAA tournament bid. It's their last home weekend for the Irish this season and the Joyce Center will be rocking.