Malloy focuses on final semester

President reflects on past, looks to future

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Writer

With just one semester left at the helm of the nation's premier Catholic institution, Monk Malloy is not becoming nostalgic. He is looking toward the future.

"I am the kind of person who tends to always look forward at the next thing I will be doing, rather than looking back at the last thing I did," University President Father Edward Malloy said. "Temporarily, that is just the way I am."

For 18 years he oversaw Notre Dame, watching as the rankings climbed, the "face" of Notre Dame diversified and ground was broken for new buildings. With less than a year left as president and his successor already chosen, Malloy said he did not approach his final year as president with a sense of sadness.

Community leaders to honor Malloy's history of charity with fundraiser

By KATIE PERRY
News Writer

The greater South Bend community will honor University President Father Edward Malloy with a fundraising tribute benefiting three local charities with strong ties to the outgoing president.

In a gesture of appreciation for Malloy's 18 years of service at Notre Dame, South Bend community leaders organized "Michiana Salutes Monk," an honorary benefit to be held March 3 at the Century Center in downtown South Bend.

According to Dennis Brown, associate director of news and information, prominent local organizers of the event include John Rosenthal, president of St. Joseph's Bank, and Mike Leep, owner of several businesses. Politicians Steven Kernan, mayor of South Bend, and former Indiana Gov. Joe Kernan also helped plan the benefit.

The event will begin with a reception, followed by dinner and a program.

Kernan, a '68 alum of Notre Dame, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Proceeds from the tribute will benefit the Center of the Homeless, the Robinson Community Learning Center and the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County.

Administrators defend tuition hike policies

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

As the University peels off the old $37,100 tuition sticker price and slaps on one for $39,552, those who will dole out the money are feeling the sting.

Director of Student Financial Services Joseph Russo said there have been few negative reactions in the Financial Aid Office thus far, but he anticipates some in the future.

"My guess is that there surely will be [phone calls], not just from parents but from students and alumni who might ask why our costs are going up higher than the rate of inflation," Russo said.

Director of University Budgeting Linda Stickelmaier, vice president for finance and administration, said Notre Dame has shared a close relationship with the president during his tenure at the University.

Malloy founded the Center of the Homeless during his early years at Notre Dame. The organization has since set national precedents for other communities and their handling of the issue of homelessness.

Saint Mary's intends to hold future increases to four percent

By NICOLE ZOOK
Assistant News Editor

With Notre Dame tuition for 2005-06 set to jump 7 percent, Saint Mary's students face a lesser spike.

Tuition at the College will increase 4 percent next year, a small amount compared to Notre Dame's $2,622 surge, said Laurie Stickelmaier, vice president for finance and administration.

Stickelmaier said Saint Mary's tuition — not including room, board and other extraneous fees — will range from $22,922 to $23,838 for the next academic year. This represents a lesser increase from last year, when tuition rose 6 percent. Stickelmaier said the College intends to continue with this.

Saint Mary's tuition for 2005-06:

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— Compiled by CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer
INSIDE COLUMN

On the surface...

Little did I know that yes, distraction can be found even in the secluded and dusty 13th floor of the library. I was soon distracted by the very table I was at — it provided even better light than that which was published on bathroom stalls of my former inner-city public high school. There is so much history — so many emotions etched into the wood surface. Each vandalizer leaves his or her mark, in hopes of becoming an eternal part of underground Notre Dame history, as an honest attempt at reaching out to the future generations to come to this very table or in hopes of achieving a work ethic, such as:

The ever-present political cat-fight, "Social Justice —" Kerry Edwards '04!

The love declaration: X-3's Y

The obviously deep music lyric best remembered when in a melancholy mood — oftentimes caused by such courses as calculus, mechanics and contemporary topologies.

Phone numbers, both real and fake, depending on the writer's bravery: because how are you supposed to meet your isomer soulmate if you sold your soul already to engineering?

The ever-philosophical question such as, "Why did the dog's out?"

ID logos, from the crudely scribbled to the "I did not studying whatsoever" sort.

The bashing of inferior schools, such as rough Boston Collegeough.

Remnants of our dying language:

"OMG its so 1337x0rz!

"X-D -"

The fearful ones will opt for this better, 21st century way of writing.

The time slot for vandalism is safer when all words are abbreviated or substituted by numbers and pitied keys of the keyboard that are seldom used.

Words of encouragement: "I am far degree."

Let's not forget the Bible passages — we are at a Catholic school, after all.

Teacher reviews. A wooden table does not have a proficiency filter like http://www.queryday.com.

Then the default, "What's Her Face and No and So were HERE" or four-letter word.

Nevertheless, it is an ever-changing piece of furniture. Readers will look to read the fresh additions proudly showing off their recently etched selves, from the modest ballpoint pen message in the corner to the ominous permanent marker prophecy that seeks to cover all the others. They eventually become one inky entity, seeping into each other, fading into the wooden past...

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Desiree Zamora at dzamora@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

Due to an editing error, the word "praying" was used incorrectly in a quote on page 3 of the Feb. 17 edition of The Observer. The word "praying" should have appeared in its place. The Observer regrets the error.

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LOCAL WEATHER

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The Observer • PAGE 2

Friday, February 18, 2005
Saint Mary’s welcomes girls for Hypatia Day

Thursday evening, Komonchak, a professor of theology at the Catholic University of America, welcomed renowned Vatican II Council. He explained that he was not old enough to remember the Council, as he studied at a Catholic university before it took place, having firsthand information about its proceedings. He stressed the importance of the 16 documents presented at the Council and the changes they caused in Catholic ways of doing things. He also highlighted the significance of Pope Pius XII, but the new pope quickly became involved in a more significant transition in the Church.

The Pope proposed the Council as an occasion for spiritual renewal in the church. This had very significant implications, as it suggested that certain Catholic ways of doing things were no longer as appropriate as they had once been, Komonchak said.

Komonchak described the development and politics of the Council throughout its four sessions. He stressed the importance of the 16 documents presented at the Council and the changes they caused in the Church. "The Church became more open to self-examination, adopted a far more nuanced attitude towards the modern world, and made the decision to validate the distinctiveness of local churches. These were three revolutionary decisions," he said.

The anniversary celebration of Vatican II began in November and will continue through October of next year. The next event will be held on March 30, when Kenneth Woodward, a contributing editor at Newsweek, will speak about his experiences reporting on the Council.

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Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu

Irish Sports Report

Irish Sports Report is your inside guide to all there is to know about Notre Dame sports. With exclusive photos, award-winning national writers and unmatched "on-the-ground" resources, Irish Sports Report provides insight you can't get anywhere else. For only $45.95 receive 21 comprehensive issues, published weekly during the football season, monthly after the season. In addition, our annual Notre Dame Football Preview is included. Irish Sports Report is a must-have subscription for all true Irish sports fans.

To subscribe, call 800.457.3533 or visit www.IrishSports.com

CELEBRATE JPW WITH IRISH LEGENDS!

Attention all Juniors: Looking to get off campus for awhile during Junior Parents Weekend? Why not visit the College Football Hall of Fame with your parents during JPW. It's the perfect way to spend some fun time with your parents during the hectic weekend.

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111 South St. Joseph Street, Downtown South Bend 1-800-440-FAME
www.collegefootball.org

"I think it is important we encourage these girls that learning is fun too."

Laura Ficker, junior

The program also allows girls to attend active science lab sessions alongside students.

"A large number of Saint Mary's students are involved," Connolly said. "It gives girls an opportunity to offer real service to the outside community." In what is perhaps the most important aspect of the program, participants learn about famous women in the math and science fields through active role-playing activities.

"The program gives [the participants] the view that math and science are things people actually do," Ficker said. "They get to see how women, throughout history, have impacted the world in these fields.

The educational opportunity is not limited to the girls alone.

The College also hosts a panel for parents and offers support and guidance for their daughters' high school curricula.

Many agree a woman's college is the perfect place for such an event.

"A lot of girls are intimidated by math and science," Ficker said. "It's important for girls to see that females have opportunities and success in these fields."

If past events are any indication of success, this year's Hypatia Day is sure to be a triumph.

"The program has gone very well in years past," Connolly said. "Students and parents both enjoy the day and are grateful for the opportunities it affords."

Contact Danielle Lerner at lerner631@saintmarys.edu

By KAREN LANGLEY
New Writer

Saint Mary’s continues a year-long celebration of the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council by welcoming renowned Vatican II historian Father Joseph Komonchak to campus Thursday evening. Komonchak, a professor of theology at the Catholic University of America, will present a lecture entitled "Vatican II: History and Significance."

Komonchak began his presentation by noting the difficulties associated with the Second Vatican Council by noting the difficulties associated with the Church and society in a dialogue towards the modern world, and made the decision to validate the distinctiveness of local churches. These were three revolutionary decisions," he said.

Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu

By DANIELLE LERNER
New Writer

Saint Mary’s will welcome nearly 100 seventh-grade girls from across Indiana as it hosts the 15th annual Hypatia Day on Saturday.

"Hypatia Day, named after the first female mathematician and scientist in history, aims to reinforce girls’ enthusiasm for math and science. Mathematics chair, professor Mary Connolly, stressed the importance of this event. "We know that girls who love math and science need to be encouraged to continue their studies in these areas, and we want to ensure this encouragement until high school is too late," Connolly said. "By then, many have made choices which close the doors to these learning opportunities available for girls who pursue math and science." Although the program is primarily sponsored, the event, students from the chemistry, biology and nursing department will participate as well. Attendees, nominated by their schools because of their interests in math and science, will partake in numerous activities throughout the day. For example, math sessions with Saint Mary’s students aim to emphasize the creativity of geometry through interactive Origami exercises.

Junior math major Laura Ficker said she is looking forward to a day with participants.

"I’m very excited because it’s going to be a fun day and it’s always great to see young people on campus," she said. "I think it is important we encourage these girls that learning is fun too."

The program also allows girls to attend active science lab sessions alongside students.

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Tuition

continued from page 1

Kroll said the decision to raise tuition has been long in the making. "The planning for the bud­
get for academic year 2004-2005 begins in the spring of 2004," she said. "It is a very thorough process that involves detailed analysis of all of the major factors that affect the University financially."

These factors include tuition, room and board lev­els, employee benefit costs and utility and insurance costs," Kroll said.

Russo also defended the decision to raise tuition. He said the University is a "labor-intensive operation," costing nearly $2 million a day to keep things running smoothly on campus. Like Kroll, Russo offered financial factors the University considers, such as up-to-date technology, new books, maintaining the power plant and retain­ing and recruiting top-flight pro­fessors. Russo also pointed to another cost — employee bene­fits. Russo said health care for Notre Dame rose 13 percent in the calendar year 2004 and the University is financing this need to be able to cover these allowances, he said. "Those benefits have to be met," Russo said.

Although Notre Dame is flooded with outside financial support, Russo said much of that money serves a different purpose than tuition. She also said only 29 percent of the earnings on the University's $3 billion dollar endowment can be used to support gener­al University operations.

"Taxes on gifts like Mr. Jordan's generous $40 million dollar gift give much atten­tion in the press," Kroll said, "but often do not enable the University to fund daily operations."

Kroll said Notre Dame is ultimately trying to "move our charge more in line with the rates charged in the pri­vate schools." Indeed, other major universities are not cheap. In the 2004-2005 school year, Harvard had a $39,880 tuition, room and board price (Princeton charged $40,997, Georgetown, often compared to Notre Dame in its Catholic mission, charged its students $46,492.

Northwestern, another mid-western private school, asked for $42,688.

Financial Aid

The question remains — who or what will the tuition hike benefit? "Student tuition and fee income provides nearly 60 percent of the total operating revenue for the University, so all costs of running Notre Dame are supported by tuition in some amount," Kroll said. "We don't earmark a specific revenue to a specific expense."

However, the University des­­irous financial aid by the pri­mary beneficiary of the tuition hike. Since 1999, there has been a 39 percent in­crease in tuition — but the University has increased its inves­tment in financial aid by 151 percent in that same time period, Russo said.

In its admissions process, the University operates a "need-blind" basis; that is, the University does not base its decision on a student's ability to pay, Russo said. He added that Notre Dame has committed to another major policy — meeting the full need of qualified students. "That's not to say that how we measure need is a perfect science or that the families won't have to sacrifice or stu­dents won't have to work and borrow money," Russo said. "But we are committed to looking every student in the eye and saying, 'Yes, we will meet your needs.'"

This policy was— not to say that how it was going to be implemented, he said.

Results were clear. "It didn't take a lot of looking to see that we had to step up financial aid," Russo said. They did so with the help of generous benefactors, finan­cial campaigns, a robust economy and even the NBC television contract, said Russo, and finally achieved a need-blind status in 1999.

Russo said the need-blind policy has had a snowball effect. Secondary school students become interested in Notre Dame and now hear that Notre Dame will meet their needs — so they want to apply. "The robust application numbers have been higher in the last three years than they have ever been in history."

"That policy clearly has had an impact on improving the quality and diversity of the student body and the reputa­tion of the University," he said.

The value of a Notre Dame education

Russo emphasized the high value of a Notre Dame educa­tion. He pointed out that Notre Dame graduates 95 percent of its freshmen in four years, which ranks it fourth nationally; for the average college student, the chances of finishing on time are just one in three. "You don't need more semesters in college — each would cost more money — and additional work in college would be lost opportunity money, as they say in econom­ics," he said.

"Not only are you not working, but you're still there [pay­ ing for the cost of college]."

According to Russo, Notre Dame also has one of the lowest default rates on student loans, at just two-tenths of a percent. He called the low rates another indicator of success — not only do stu­dents graduate on time and become successful, but they have a sense of obligation to their alma mater.

Ultimately, Russo said, there is a difference between the rate of inflation and the rate at which tuition is rising, because there is a difference between an average market good and a four-year educa­tion experience.

"Students aren't purchasing a consumer item; they're making an investment for which there is going to be a return," he said. "For most students, it's a very positive, especially for Notre Dame students."

Students and parents respond

Sam Glass, a sophomore from Lyons in the work-study program at Notre Dame, said she feels there should be other fundraising techniques to cover financial need.

"Notre Dame has to keep up with the rising cost of tuition, but considering the cuts being made by the government to assist college students, it seems there are better ways to fund education than to continually increase tuition," Glass said. "However, college is so expensive that it barely makes a difference — I'm already in debt forever and it's a struggle.""Ev"Enn Henley, a Zahm Hall sophomore financing part of his own education, said he feels the University's decision displayed a lack of aware­ness.

"I don't think the University realizes that not everyone here has an extra $2,500 lying around," he said. "This tuition increase puts a strain on all of us, and it's hard to spend $1,000 paying it when there are no noticeable changes."

Steve Rowley, father of freshman Elisabeth Rowley, admitted the tuition hike was going to be tough.

Like Glass, he suggested another source of financial support for the University.

"For us, we're not very wealthy, so it's a struggle," Rowley said. "... I'm wonder­ing if, maybe, they shouldn't have some sort of agreement to hold the cost of tuition down? I know they have a huge one."

Like many parents, though, Rowley said they "love the school" and no matter the cost of tuition, Notre Dame is worth it. Mary Ryan, mother of freshman twins Brendan and Brogan Ryan — the third and fourth Ryan children to attend the University, of the Ryan's 11 children — said the value of the religious educa­tion here is irresistible.

"Of course we have a prob­lem with the hike," she said. "But we are firm believers in Catholic education; all of our children are in Catholic schools ... We're confident the University will meet our needs and help us out."

Contact Eileen Dully at edully@nd.edu

In conclusion...
Bush names intelligence chief

President selects veteran diplomat John Negroponte to unite U.S. spy agencies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

President Bush named John Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, as the government's first national intelligence director Thursday, turning to a veteran diplomat to revive the spy community besieged by criticism after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Ending a nine-week search, Bush chose Negroponte, who has been in Iraq for less than a year, for the difficult job of implementing the most sweeping intelligence overhaul in 50 years.

Negroponte, 65, is tasked with bringing together 15 highly competitive spy agencies and learning to work with the combative Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, the brand new CIA Director Porter Goss and other intelligence leaders. He'll oversee a $40 billion a-year budget.

Negroponte, a former ambassador to the United Nations and to a number of countries, called the job his "most challenging assignment" in more than 40 years of public service.

He was widely believed not to have been the first choice, but Bush officials deny the president had trouble filling the position.

Any strike on its nuclear facilities would have been risky given the 1947<br>

Bush also announced he had chosen an intelligence insider to serve as Negroponte's deputy, Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, the National Security Agency's director since 1999. As the longest-serving head of the secretive codebreaking and eavesdropping agency, Hayden pushed for change in 2001 after recommending by the independent Sept. 11 Commission.

Bush and other senior administration officials initially resisted, but reversed course after an exceptional lobbying effort by the families of Sept. 11 attack victims. Congress approved the new post in December as part of the most significant intelligence overhaul since 1947.

Yet intelligence veterans remain concerned about whether the job will give enough power to lead government elements that handle everything from recruiting spies to eavesdropping to steering satellites.

Some say the authorities of the intelligence chief are too ambiguous as established in the legislation. The position was also excluded from the Cabinet to shield it from politics, requiring Negroponte to work directly with more senior personalities such as Rumsfeld.

John Negroponte speaks at a ceremony in the White House Thursday after the President announced his new position as the nation's first intelligence director.

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WRONG

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not think students would be worried by the small tuition hike this year, and compared the impact of this year's increase to other slight increases in the past's budget and approving tenure promo-
tion decisions.

"I'm just focusing on what I do and hoping for a very
smooth transition."

Father Edward Malloy University president

Freeze continued from page 1

"As a matter of fact, we plan to try to limit our tuition
increase as much as we can throughout the next several
years," she said. "We're going to try to keep it to four per-
cent or less."

"The $916 tuition hike will make the total for 2005-06
$32,500. Stickelmaier said. This amount includes cost of
education, a meal plan, cost of room, utilities and various
items falling under the "fee" category, such as technology,
student government and facility.

John Jenkins," Malloy said. While Jenkins devotes time
to arranging his staff and preparing the transition, Malloy
continues to focus on completing details of the University's
new five-year plan, hiring new faculty, and trying to mirror
the excellence of past leadership.

"I haven't given a lot of thought to that part of my
life, but I'm not in denial or anything, I'm just focusing on
what I do and hoping for a very smooth transition."

Since the Board of Trustees announced in April the
upcoming presidential transition, Malloy and his succe-
sor, University President-elect Father John Jenkins,
have been consulting one another when making deci-
sions for Notre Dame. Though Malloy said he did not
approach this year different-
y from any other of the 17
he has served as president,
he admitted that the biggest
change and adjustment he
made involved decision-
making.

"Instead of being the final
voice, deciding on things
administratively, I recognized
the whole year and in partic-
ular as we get closer to the
transition that I need to defer
to [University President-elect
John Jenkins]," Malloy said.

Hesburgh wanted parents
to leave campus and show
their parents the home they
have here at Notre Dame.

Kathryn Reynolds
JPW committee chair

with these rules in place. many
non-junior students plan to
attend the weekend. Sophomore
Alison McKellen and her friends
have not allowed on-
campus social gatherings, and
partiels are at 12 o'clock," she
said.

Reynolds said the University
provides a unique atmosphere
for juniors and their parents.
"I hope students are able to
share this experience as they
have here at Notre Dame," she
said. "As a junior, I hope we
take advantage of this oppor-
tunity to share this experience
with each other."

Contact Jennifer Reynolds
at jrowling@nd.edu

Tickets are on sale through
Friday afternoon and can
be purchased individually or as a
table by calling 574-273-9700. Gold,
silver and bronze sponsorships
are also available.

Contact Katie Perry at
kperry5@nd.edu

Malloy continued from page 1

Charieties continued from page 1

In more recent years, Malloy
focused on the campaign of the
Robinson Center, a Notre
Dame-sponsored education center in the Northeast
Neighborhood of South Bend. Additionally, Malloy has served
on the board for the St. Joseph County chapter of the Boys and
Girls Clubs of America.

John Jenkins, Malloy's successor, devotes time
to arranging his staff and preparing for the transition.
Malloy continues to focus on completing details of the
University's new five-year plan, hiring new faculty, and
trying to mirror the excellence of past leadership.

"We try to do the best we can with institutional finan-
cial aid, and I'm sure that there are a few students who
would go to a state school rather than here because of the
cost," Stickelmaier said.

But cost is not the main fac-
tor for students who choose to
attend Notre Dame and Saint
Mary's, she added. "I think if you're looking at the price
compared to the quality of the two institutions, price can be important — but quality can be even more
important," she said. "That's a key issue for our students and
for Notre Dame's.

Contact Nicole Zook at
zook9@stmarys.edu

In addition to the weekend's
eventual official events, many juniors have planned special
gatherings on and off campus to allow par-
ents to spend time together
without having to attend the
different events scheduled during graduation
weekend, Messina said. "I can't wait to meet the par-
ents of all of my friends," Messina said. "In high school it
was so different because you knew everyone's parents, some-
times becoming as close with your own parents. It will be
good to have long conversations with them and finally realize why our friends here are such amazing people."

JPW committee chair Kathryn
Reynolds emphasized the impor-
tance of the weekend to juniors
and their parents and said some
rules on campus will be altered
to facilitate the event.

"It is because of [the event's signif)
ance] that the rest of Notre
Dame's campus tries to
make this weekend
be about the junior class and
their parents by not allowing on-
campus social gatherings, and
partiels are at 12 o'clock," she
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Microsoft faces new dilemma

Corporation's new antivirus products might compete directly with its allies

Associated Press

SEATTLE — If Microsoft Corp. doesn’t move to more than just an image decline, the company risks further alienating state and local government officials who are unhappy with the multitude of threats already facing its ubiquitous operating system.

Sell its own security products, on the other hand, and Microsoft faces a potential backlash from some of its allies - the company now provides an extra layer of security for its Windows operating system, Internet Explorer browser and other products.

With a powerhouse like Microsoft becoming a direct competitor, other Microsoft allies could get squeezed out.

What a quandary.

Last week, Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates confirmed plans to sell antivirus products to both consumers and big businesses by the end of the year. But the Redmond company is mum on costs and features.

Speaking at a security conference, Gates also said the company would give consumers a free tool for combating spyware, a pesky and growing threat that can monitor users’ activities, hinder computer performance and create other hassles. Microsoft also will sell a more sophisticated counterpart to products to businesses.

Executives in the security industry say they believe Microsoft’s promise to continue sharing security information and working with other security companies even after it becomes a direct competitor a plus.

Analyst Gregg Miskowsky of Susquehanna Financial Group said both sides have an incentive to “continue to play nice with each other.”

The security companies are dependent on Microsoft to make sure their defenses run smoothly, while Microsoft cannot risk having competing security products break down and weaken more havoc on Windows, Miskowsky said.

"A very significant number of people, if they don’t have a good security experience, they’re going to hold it against Microsoft — even if they’re using another vendor,” Miskowsky said.

Still, John Schwartz, president and chief operating officer of Symantec Corp., would rather see Microsoft concentrate on fixing security flaws.

“We believe they’d be better off focusing on making sure that their platform, the Windows operating system, is less subject to attack,” Schwartz said.

Microsoft has worked ferociously to better secure its products, including updating Windows XP with a new firewall and other security measures. But given their widespread use, the products are near-constant targets of attacks that take advantage of loopholes and flaws to hijack computers, steal personal information and cripple businesses.

McAfee Inc. President Gene Hodges calls its new competitor an example of "capitalism at its best."

But he said it will only be a fair fight if all companies have a level playing field in which everyone sells, rather than gives away, products.

Microsoft’s move to sell antivirus software appears fair so far, Hodges said, though he said Microsoft’s decision to give away an antispyware product could hurt smaller players who can’t afford such giveaways.

“We would have rather they entered the market for spyware and competed,” Hodges said.

Security companies including McAfee already sell antispyware products, generally charging between $30 and $40, though a few give away versions or trials for free.

Microsoft has downplayed the competitive angle, saying they are simply responding to requests from customers for more protection options. Amy Iosbells, a director with the company’s security and business unit, said the company is most concerned about people who have no extra protection at all.

The Observer

Business

Friday February 18, 2005

MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones

10,754.26 -80.62

In Brief

War on terror hurts U.S. tourism

Mickey Mouse has a bone to pick with Uncle Sam.

Some U.S. travel executives — including those who run Disneyland and Walt Disney World — think the government needs to do more to improve the country’s image with foreign tourists who increasingly are choosing other places for their vacations.

Tourism officials ascribe the decline partly to anti-Americanism that arose after the country’s botched military action in Afghanistan and Iraq and to the “hassle factor” associated with new visa application and airport security procedures.

Aggressive campaigns by other countries to lure away American tourists are out there competing for tourists and we have not been,” said Ray Vasco, president of Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, a Lake Buena Vista, Fla.-based unit of The Walt Disney Co. “I think other countries are out there competing for tourists and we have not been.”

FTC approves hotel conglomerate

LAS VEGAS — The Federal Trade Commission on Wednesday approved MGM Mirage Inc.’s proposal to buy rival Mandalay Resort Group, a move that could create one of the largest gambling companies in the world and give the casino operator control of 11 resorts on the famed Las Vegas Strip.

The commission voted 5-0 to close its investigation and place no conditions on the transaction, FTC Chairman Jessica Rosenworcel said. The Associated Press

FTC clears latest move to block Bush rally funding

WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission cleared a new move by the White House to try to block the media from covering the administration’s biggest fundraising event this year.

The commission late Tuesday approved the White House’s request that the Associated Press not be allowed to cover the Feb. 18 rally for President Bush in Milwaukee.

The AP is the only media organization that had agreed to let the White House control which stories it could publish.

The consent order permits the AP and other media outlets that agree to the White House’s request to cover the rally to do so without government interference.

The Associated Press

Clear Channel plans liberal format

DETROIT — The day before President Bush’s inauguration interview, listeners tuning in to the Detroit sports station WXIN-AM were suddenly greeted by the sound of braying donkeys.

The time Bush was not at the White House but in a radio studio, the station had new callers and a full schedule of liberal talk shows.

WXIN-AM — now known as WDTW-AM — is one of 22 stations owned by Clear Channel Communications Inc. that have switched to a liberal talk format in the last year. This month, KLTK-AM in Los Angeles became the latest Clear Channel station to adopt the format.

Those who track broadcast trends say there’s money to be made in liberal talk radio. Todd Webster, a consultant for Washington-based liberal talk show producer Democracy USA, said Clear Channel is expected to introduce the left-leaning format on 20 more stations by the end of the year.

“There is a tremendous appetite out there for progressive talk,” he said.

Webster said that even as recently a year ago, no one thought Texas-based Clear Channel, a media conglomerate that owns 1,200 stations, would ever become partners with upstart liberal talkers.

“There has been a tacit shift in the industry from all of the big brains, and the head honchos saying, ‘Nobody wants to listen to a bunch of whiny liberals on the radio,’ ” Webster said.

The partnership might seem surprising because of Texas-based Clear Channel’s conservative reputation. Clear Channel CEO Lowry Mays and his wife gave $65,000 to the Republican National Committee in the last election cycle, and two-thirds of the company’s federal donations went to Republicans, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

And last summer, a Berkshire, Calif.-based group sued Clear Channel, which also owns an outdoor advertising business, after it refused to run an anti-war billboard in Times Square during the Republican National Convention.
ENGLAND

Ban prohibits Brits from hunting foxes

Associated Press

SEVERNBRIDGE — For two foxers in northwestern England, the ban on hunting came too late. Caught and killed by the dog pack of the Lunesdale Hunt on a bright winter morning, they were casualties on the last day before the centuries-old sport is banned. Now it's the bounds — in kennels across England and Wales — who face an uncertain future.

The majority of hunts in England and Wales held events Thursday before the start of the ban on hunting with dogs. Scotland, with a separate legal system, had already banned hunting.

"When the ban comes in, we're not going to break the law of course," said Peter Capasso, secretary of the Lunesdale Hunt, based in Sedbergh in northwestern Cumbria County. Instead, he believes the 350 members of the hunt will vote to continue paying a total of £2,800 a month to keep the 60 dogs alive while hoping that the ban can be repealed. Other hunts, however, have said they may have to kill their dogs.

Warning by a shot of whisky or corn dispensed at the Dalesman Country Inn, home of the members of the Lunesdale Hunt and supporters — many following in cars — set off across the rugged landscape of Howgills as an early mist burned away and the day shone crisp and clear.

"If we happen to catch a fox on Saturday, it will just be a nasty accident for that fox because our intention will be to hunt the trail, not the fox," said Mike Hibbard, a member of the hunt.

The Countryside Alliance had tried to overturn the ban by questioning the validity of the 1949 Parliament Act, which lawmakers used to override the opposition of the House of Lords.

"The Duke of Beaufort's Hunt in western England, whose supporters include Prince Charles and his fiancee, Camilla Parker Bowles, planned to hold a trail hunt, but the ban means he won't be able to," said Mike Hibbard, a member of the hunt.

"We have about 130 students and 220 sibs participating — pretty much the same as last year," event co-chair Jennifer Pillar said.

According to co-chair Lisa Cozzi, the Residence Hall Association began preparing in September, producing an itinerary focused on the chosen theme, "HMC Goes Country.

The theme will be tied into the scheduled dance and craft activities on Saturday.

"Each child can decorate a cowboy hat," Pillar said.

Along with a karaoke night at Dalloway's tonight, Cozzi said a dance and craft activities on Saturday, it will just be a nasty accident for the fox because our intention will be to hunt the trail, not the fox," said Mike Hibbard, a member of the hunt.

The finished product of RHA's hard work and already looks forward to her favorite activity — the dance Saturday night.

"They are determined to go out and hunt within the law to prove how absurd it is," Walsh said.

"It's been like a bank holiday for the hounds including the pursuit of rabbits and deer. Shooting foxes traditionally the big day on the Lunesdale hunt calendar. The legislation, forced into law by the House of Commons in November, bans all hunting with hounds including the pursuit of rabbits and deer. Shooting foxes will remain legal.

The weekend brings a change of gear in the campaign to overturn the law. Mike Hibbard, a member of the hunt, was confident the law would survive the legal challenges.

"I am particularly pleased that hunts are now talking about an intention to hunt with the law," Michael said.

"That means doing all that is traditionally associated with hunting from the stirrup cup to the coats to enjoying a day in the fresh air, and that should cause problems to no one except as they don't use their dogs to hunt a wild mammal.

In "Memory and Identity: Conversations Between Millennials," the pope said he remembered being rushed to the hospital but didn't recall much of what happened after he arrived because "I was almost on the other side."

"Oh, my Lord! This was a difficult experience. I woke up the next day, around noon," the pope wrote.

The book, his fifth, is essentially a transcript of conversations he had in Polish with his close friends political philosopher Krzysztof Michalski and the late Rev. Josef Thesner in 1993 at his summer residence near Rome. It will be published Feb. 23 in Italy by Rizzoli, which also plans an English version soon for the United States.

In it, the pope reflected on a range of topics and broadly campaigns against abortion to the Holocaust, saying both derived from governments in conflict with God's laws.

The most personal section of the book contains John Paul's recollections of how his faith sustained him after being shot in the abdomen by the Turkish gunman on May 13, 1981, while riding in an open car in St. Peter's Square.

"Yes, I remember that I jour­neyed to the hospital," he wrote. "I remained conscious for some time after. I had a feeling that I would survive. I was in pain, I had reason to be afraid, but I had this strange feeling of confidence."
Associated Press

The State and Homeland Security departments have reduced from months to weeks the time it takes foreign students and scholars trying to travel to the United States to clear a key visa review, according to a new government report.

The findings are welcome news for education leaders, though they have cautioned continuing streamlining the visa process will not, on its own, reverse the trend of declining interest among foreigners in attending American colleges and universities.

Amid complaints from higher education groups and major business leaders, including Bill Gates, that visa hassles were discouraging foreign students from attending American schools, a Government Accountability Office investigation last year found average delays of 67 days for applicants to clear a security check for science and education groups and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The report credits the overall improvement to better coordination among agencies and policy changes — such as priority interviews for student applicants. It cautions that problems remain and some scholars still face considerable delays.

The report comes just a week after the government announced it would allow international students to keep their Visa Mantis clearance for the duration of their studies, up to four years — a change that will likely further reduce delays.

The study found that 3 percent of those who had been previously cleared were a major bottleneck, and a source of anxiety for applicants, who worried they might be unable to get back to school if forced to return home in an emergency.

Peggy Blumenthal, vice president for educational services at the Institute of International Education, praised U.S. embassies for making an improved visa process a top priority. Still, public relations challenges remain, she said.

"Even more important than the actual wait times, which have improved, is combating the perception abroad by students that the situation is the same as it was shortly after Sept. 11," she said. "Students right now are going on what they heard from their cousin or friend or neighbor who applied three years ago.

About 600,000 foreigners study in the United States, but international graduate student applications fell 32 percent last year, according to an ISS survey. Another survey released in November found the number of first-time foreign enrollees in American graduate schools was down 6 percent — the third straight decline after a decade of growth.

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The Observer
Friday, February 18, 2005

THE OBSERVER
Page 10

Tuition increase discouraging

Most graduates talk about the value of a Notre Dame education, emphasizing the academically, ethically and morally sound foundation they received as students. But "value" really took on a different connotation.

It's difficult to believe that just four years ago Notre Dame introduced its lowest tuition increase in 40 years, at 4.9 percent for the 2001-02 academic year. That's a very different story than last week, when the university announced its third tuition increase in as many years that exceeds 6 percent.

After the 2003 economic downturn led to enrollment losses and budget cuts, Notre Dame increased its tuition by 6.5 percent for 2003-04, 6.9 percent for 2004-05 and, most recently, 7 percent for 2005-06.

If the current pace of tuition hikes continues, entering freshmen for the class of 2009 could be facing a total four-year tuition bill of approximately $140,000 — not including room and board. With a possible room and board bill of $35,560, the "value" of a Notre Dame undergraduate education could top $175,560.

Yes, the University is an expensive operation to place. Among other costs, it must be able to afford to pay top-notch administrators and professors, keep pace with the newest technology, continue construction on new buildings and operate the campus power plant. But Notre Dame shouldn't have to sustain its growth on the backs of its students.

It is surprising that only 9 percent of earnings on the University's $3 billion endowment are used to support daily operations.

Do the Vagina Monologues belong at Notre Dame?

Since the first performance of the Vagina Monologues at Notre Dame, the overwhelming question of whether the play belongs at a Catholic university has remained the same.

There's no denying the dilemma. Academic departments may sponsor it and students may attend, but parts of the play undeniably challenge the face of Catholic teaching on human sexuality.

If Notre Dame, Notre Dame's sister school, has refused to host the play, then why should Notre Dame students be forced to rent the play?

But whether allowing the production of the Vagina Monologues is a violation of Catholic identity is questionable. What is unquestionably a violation of Catholic identity is to ignore the problems that lie at the heart of the V-Day movement that has grown as a result of the play. V-Day is first and foremost an organization that works to stop violence against women, and is becoming increasingly effective at raising awareness of the pain experienced by women around the world.

The issue of which words should be shouted on which colleges' campuses is a question in the opinion of the majority of the Editors in Chief, Managing Editors, Art Directors and department editors. Committees, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

V-Day mission unquestionable

V-Day cannot eliminate these things, it may be the first voice through which many women become aware of them.

Aspects of the Vagina Monologues might make some uncomfortable, and Eve Ensler herself is still a controversial figure. But the movement and the author is to be respected for her human rights work. V-Day cannot eliminate these things, it may be the first voice through which many women become aware of them.

Few beliefs strike as directly to the heart as religious, sexuality and freedom of speech. Conflicts will inevitably arise when they are challenged. The University's line between Catholic identity and academic freedom has always been contentious. Whether allowing the play at Notre Dame means relinquishing an authoritative Catholic teaching, or merely accepting the imperfect outside world, is difficult to say.

But people who support or oppose the Vagina Monologues should still acknowledge a common and crucial goal. The charac­ter of the Vagina Monologues may still be questionable, but the value of the goals expressed by V-Day is not.
Silencing of viewpoint not the way to educate
does not a valid justification

I wholeheartedly agree with Courtney Tavressey on an extremely sensitive point addressed in her Feb. 17 letter. The University of Notre Dame insists we have a duty to educate its students. I am slightly confused, however, as to how the dis­semination of information and the complete prohibition of some input into that discussion will aid the University in the discharge of this duty.

Read the mission statements and the literature proffered to the community and the YWCA. There is no pro-choice advocacy to be found. In fact, there's no mention of abortion, period. Instead, both groups support and advocate safety and comfort and provide aid to women who have been victimized by violence. Go see the YWCA. There is no pro-choice advocacy to be found. In fact, there's no mention of abortion, period. Instead, both groups support and advocate safety and comfort and provide aid to women who have been victimized by violence. Go see the YWCA. There is no pro-choice advocacy to be found. In fact, there's no mention of abortion, period. Instead, both groups support and advocate safety and comfort and provide aid to women who have been victimized by violence. Go see the YWCA. There is no pro-choice advocacy to be found. In fact, there's no mention of abortion, period. Instead, both groups support and advocate safety and comfort and provide aid to women who have been victimized by violence. Go see the YWCA. There is no pro-choice advocacy to be found. In fact, there's no mention of abortion, period. Instead, both groups support and advocate safety and comfort and provide aid to women who have been victimized by violence. Go see the YWCA. There is no pro-choice advocacy to be found. In fact, there's no mention of abortion, period. Instead, both groups support and advocate safety and comfort and provide aid to women who have been victimized by violence.

The purpose of Eve Ensler's play, the mission of the Vaginal Monologues, and the academic departments sponsoring the show and the V-Day movement on campus is simply to challenge you to engage. To dialogue with you and to appeal to a higher level of Church leaders to think and understanding and than ever be the message have been criticized and ostracized, even beaten and put to death. One example, central to Catholic belief and faith and teaching, comes immediately to mind. I can understand the anger with which you condemn those who speak the language of death. It's hard enough to hear "Notre Dame" and "queer" incessantly said together every time the Frightin' Irish travel to Boston College for football, but to have it gratuitously placed in a play by Notre Dame's outgoing president, the Rev. John M. DeGioia, S.J., is absolutely unacceptable.

Notre Dame Students are very familiar with the story of "Adam and Eve." After all, this is a Catholic university. Lately, however, students have been surrounded with other sideshows. Last week it was "Adam and Steve" during Notre Dame's 2nd Day of Prayer. This week, the protests are because people feel so strongly about the strange, violent, and ostracizing act they recognize this is not a true positive for that mission. We have some of the best minds in the country here at Notre Dame, yet certain people want us to believe we need Ensler's guidance to understand women's issues. God help us.

As the Vaginal Monologues now rotate to center stage, it's interesting to listen to the debate. Freshman Amanda Deckelman was quoted by The Observer saying the protests don't understand Ensler's mission and that artistic expressions should be allowed "if we're going to be viewed as a learning environment." Another freshman, Erin Horan, agreed with Deckelman, saying, "It's hard enough to hear "Notre Dame" and "queer" incessantly said together every time the Frightin' Irish travel to Boston College for football, but to have it gratuitously placed in a play by Notre Dame's outgoing president, the Rev. John M. DeGioia, S.J., is absolutely unacceptable."

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Fighting in the ‘Shadow of Rome’

By MARK BEMENDERFER  
Scene Writer

“Shadow of Rome” is one of the few games in recent years to place the player in the shoes of a gladiator. There are many different arenas of combat, increasing in size and fame as the player progresses through the game. In addition to the broad array of settings, the game play itself is quite varied as well. The actual fighting segments vary over the course of the game. It starts off by placing the player in standard melées. As the player advances, however, different modes are earned with new missions like search-and-rescue and search-and-destroy. The enemies range from human form to animals. After all, what game about gladiators would be complete without a fight involving tigers?

The player takes on the role of Agrippa as the game progresses. To add more variety to the game play, the player also controls Caesar’s nephew, Octavianus, as he searches the Senate for the truth. When playing as him, the game turns to stealth to avoid foes. Octavianus lacks the muscle and experience that Agrippa possesses, forcing him to rely on other means to accomplish his goals. Sadly, it is with Octavianus’s parts of the game that it begins to slow down. While they are necessary to further the story, the player plods through those parts, looking forward for the next chance to control Agrippa. The fights in the Roman arenas are by far the highlights of the game. The gamer can earn points for performing different moves, such as the Juicy Tomato. One can imagine what that move represents. Once enough points are obtained, the gamer can unlock new fighting techniques and become familiar with those.

“Shadow of Rome” provides a gamer with a good experience. There’s a lot that can be done within the game, and fans of the movie “Gladiator” will feel at home. While it’s not the greatest out there, it’s far from the worst.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbemende@nd.edu

Hunting a stranger in ‘Oddworld’

By MARK BEMENDERFER  
Scene Writer

The Oddworld universe is a rich, colorful world with a range of lovable, and less than loveable, characters. “Oddworld: Stranger’s Wrath” is the latest installment in the series and it is quite possibly the best. The player takes on the role of the Stranger, a bounty hunter in the Oddworld universe. In a largely lawless land, the character is the only source of justice that the people have.

Set in a western backdrop, the game alternates from being familiar to completely alien. The towns look like typical western backdrops, but the inhabitants do not blend into this atmosphere. The denizens, known as clakkerz, are essentially giant chickens who are more than willing to toss a one-liner your way. The bad guys are dressed in typical western attire at first and talk the part, but like the clakkerz, are essentially completely different. “Oddworld: Stranger’s Wrath” is also a departure from the previous games in the series, as it is the first first-person shooter in the series. However, classical Oddworld elements come into play as the player can switch to a more standard third-person camera on the fly. The ability to switch between the two makes this one of the easiest games to control ever released, as one can choose the correct camera for each situation.

Another first is the incorporation of live ammo. Instead of using lead, the Stranger fires off little critters, which help him take the bounties in alive. Some of the critters are quite funny as well. The Chippunkis in particular are humorous as they can talk and are more than willing to do so. Firing them off is reminiscent of the squirrels on the Quad—a bonus within the game. It really is difficult trying to describe Oddworld for those who have never tried it. The odd, yet sympathetic, characters find a way to draw the player into the game like no other video game protagonists. So, when looking to pick up a new game, ignore the usual fare. Try something a little odd.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbemende@nd.edu

In the latest installment of the “Oddworld” series, players take on the role of a bounty hunter, exploring foreign lands, meeting colorful characters and fighting against the forces of evil in a pseudo-western setting.
does not all of Duty'

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Scene Writer

Some video games push technology further and further, but then there are the other games—games like "Sprung"—that do the opposite.

Essentially a dating game, the player gets to choose from various conversation paths in efforts of wooing the girl of his choice. The game is broken up into multiple chapters where the player can choose different paths. They all lead to the same conclusion, which then limits the interest in a replay.

Control is limited to choosing the dialogue and the occasional use of an item. This can lead to a tedious experience, as the game alternates from babying the player to be insanely obscure and difficult. The monotony of choosing what to say is broken up by simple "Simon says" style of game play, elements that have been around since the early days of video games.

Designed for the Nintendo DS handheld gaming system, this game makes decent use of the dual screens. The top half shows the target of the conversation, while the bottom shows your personal avatar. The characters react to the player's choices in suitable cartoon fashion. This has been done before—just not with two screens.

The game does have some redeeming factors. The humor in the game can at times be quite zany and good. It has elements of typical Japanese humor meshed with simple dating antics.

At one point in the game the character woos a self-described hippie. Halfway through the conversation with her, she becomes one with her animal spirit and her head is replaced by a cow's. The character notices this, and is logically thrown off by the sudden metamorphosis.

While this dating game was somewhat popular in Japan, it may not find the same success here. It does have some moments of genuine humor, though, which allows some slight redemption.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbemende@nd.edu

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Dating-simulator is 'Sprung' in America

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Scene Writer

In this date-simulating video game, which found more popularity in Japan than in the United States, players are offered a selection of responses to give to potential romantic targets and their choice of response determines whether they get a date or not.

For the uninitiated, the first version of "Sprung" was a simple exercise in giving the correct variation of "stop," "start" or whatever other nonsense the game threw out. The objective was to create a mini-game where essentially you had to do something in a specific manner.

The game itself was quite addictive. It became a cult hit because of the simplicity and the repeatable nature of the game. It was a quick and painless game that allowed players to test their skills in a dating context.

However, the game's predecessor, "Sprung," was not without its limitations. It had a limited number of dialogues and responses, which made it less engaging over time. Players could easily learn the system and get bored with the repetitive nature of the game.

By Mark Bemenderfer at mbemende@nd.edu

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'WarioWare' reinvented

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Scene Writer

Finally, a game for those with attention spans, which can only be measured in nano-seconds. "WarioWare: Touched!" is a crazy, addictive game, constantly creating wacky scenarios for the player to use the touch screen. Whether splitting logs in half, or helping a statue to put a fire out, the variety of mini-games in this game lives up to its predecessor.

Each round of the game begins with a clue in the form of a one-word phrase to the player to use the touch screen. Whether splitting logs in half, or helping a statue to put a fire out, the variety of mini-games in this game lives up to its predecessor.

For the uninitiated, the first version of "WarioWare" came out on the original Gameboy Advance. It drew a cult following of fans through its quirky humor and fast-paced action.

In this new game for Nintendo DS, Wario returns to guide the player through a series of challenging mini-games.

"WarioWare: Touched!" also recreates the old-fashioned Nintendo feel with a quirky sense of humor and fast-paced action.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbemende@nd.edu

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Photo courtesy of www.gamespot.com

Photo courtesy of www.morgantowngamers.com

Photo courtesy of www.n-sider.com

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Zabian Dowdell led the Hokies (13-10, 6-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) into a three-point game against the most unlikely of teams, the Blue Devils (18-4, 8-4) of Duke. Dowdell knocked them out of the tournament with a 100-65 victory on Thursday night, making it 58-70 with 2.1 seconds on the clock. Duke's J.J. Redick missed a three-point try to give the Blue Devils the win.

After Dowdell's three-pointer, the Blue Devils were down 12 points, but they rallied back with a 12-6 run for Duke to begin the second half, helping the 12th-ranked Blue Devils avoid their second loss in three games.

Travis Diener's 3-pointer at the buzzer bounced off the rim. "You couldn't ask for a better shot, I just missed it, I missed it bad. It was the story of my night," said Diener, who also fouled a Hokie and turned it over to his team with 1:37 left.

Then Ellis Myles grabbed the rebound for Louisville with 13 seconds left on the shot clock. After two timeouts, Diener got the ball just past midcourt and had an off-balance shot at over-time, but it banged off the rim. Steve Novak's 14 points led Marquette (17-8, 5-7), who was in prime position to secure a confidence-building upset against a team that handed them their worst loss ever, 99-52 last month when Diener was sidelined by a foot injury.

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"That call at the end of the game on the push-off was costly, (but) it was the right call," said Marquette coach Tom Crean, who looked at the tape right when he got into the locker room.

"Let's face it, the momentum swing at the end with the free throws is what made this a game," said Darlington, who faced Crean in a regular season game for the second straight year.

"You never know when you do that," said someone from the sidelines.
Wells takes shots at Yanks

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — After switching sides and joining the Boston Red Sox, David Wells quickly had some choice words for the New York Yankees.

"I haven't done anything to sign with the Yankees," he said. "I'm not going to be friendly around and sign Randy."

"I told him if there was any interest I'd love to have come back to New York and play, and Brian told me that, 'We'd love to have you but the Rays [George Steinbrenner] is looking in another direction. We're going to go with youth this year.' Then they turn around and sign Randy."

"So they'll be mad at me if I do that better than I probably could," added Wells.

As for Torre and pitching coach Mel Stottlemyre, Wells remembered difficult times.

"I've never had a good relationship with Joe," he said. "We've had a few run-ins and Mel Stottlemyre as well, and Mel's probably the best pitching coach I probably ever had. But just when you have run-ins like that, just leaves a sour taste, and who needs it? I can understand their point and, hopefully, they can understand mine. But like I said, there's no hard feelings, one way or another. Life goes on. Now I'm in a Boston uniform. Now it's my job to go out and prove to myself that I can still pitch at this level and go out there and beat the Yankees."

Wells called New York general manager Cashman after last season:

"I told him if there was any interest I'd love to have come back to New York and play, and Brian told me that, 'We'd love to have you but the Rays [George Steinbrenner] is looking in another direction. We're going to go with youth this year.' Then they turn around and sign Randy."

"He said a 'we' in his comment about like he's won like three World Series with them and he hadn't, and that kind of disturbed me.

"He shouldn't put himself in that category," added Wells. "You've got to earn it. It's like he's been there the whole time. But you can't take away what A-Rod has done for the game. He's a great player, and he will continue to be a great player."

"The Bummer reported to camp in Fort Myers. Wells, who helped New York win two AL pennants and one World Series, wasn't pleased with some of Rodriguez's remarks."

"I remember reading the press conference or something when he went there," Wells said. "He said: 'When myself that I can still pitch at this level and go out there and beat the Yankees.'"
Chargers put the franchise tag on QB Brees

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — For a guy who wasn’t expected to do much last season, Drew Brees sure got a nice raise.

The San Diego Chargers used their franchise tag Thursday on Brees and will offer him a one-year contract at just more than $8 million.

The franchise tag was $1.56 million in base pay last season, when he led the Chargers out of the NFL’s basement to the AFC West title at 12-4.

"In order to put the tag on Brees, the NFL’s Comeback Player of the Year, to keep him from leaving as an unrestricted free agent," he’s a no-brainer because if we didn’t, we wouldn’t get any compensation and he wouldn’t be here, he’d be going to the airport," general manager A.J. Smith said. "We want him to be our quarterback. I mean, a little bit over $8 million for one year, for a quarterback I think, tells you clearly what we think of his abilities and his talent. We want him to be our quarterback.

Brees rebounded from a nightmare 2002 season to lead the Chargers to their first playoff berth in nine seasons. He also was voted to the Pro Bowl.

Brees has said he wants a long-term deal from the Chargers, but Smith said the team currently is not interested in offering one.

Brees, on vacation in Australia with his wife, said in a statement issued by the team that he was happy to remain in San Diego.

"We’ve built a solid foundation and I feel we can really make a run. I’m excited about being a part of that," Brees said.

His salary for 2005 is the average of the top five salaried quarterbacks from last season. The Chargers could trade Brees, but a team interested in him would want to negotiate a long-term contract before finalizing a deal.

Brees was tagged as a non-exclusive franchise player, meaning he can still negotiate with other teams. Should Brees receive an offer from another team, the Chargers can either match it or receive two first-round choices from that club as compensation for losing Brees.

Smith said that if Brees were to leave San Diego this year, it likely would be via a trade rather than an offer sheet and its steep price of two No. 1 picks.

"If any offer comes, sometimes it’s flexible where you can work with an agent and have a less thing," Smith said. "We’re not looking to move Drew Brees anywhere. We’re expecting him to be our quarterback.

Condon plans to check other teams’ interest in Brees. But he said that if Brees were to leave San Diego this year, it likely would be via a trade rather than an offer sheet and its steep price of two No. 1s.

"From our standpoint, $8 million and change, that’s more money than he made in his first four years," Condon said. "It’s hard to be unhappy if you’re Drew. All in all, it’s probably what we expected."

At this time last year, Brees was coming off a 4-12 season in which he threw 15 interceptions and just 11 touchdowns passes, was benched for five straight games and yanked from two others.
**WILDCATS SLATED TO VISIT ECK TENNIS PAVILION**

**By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA**

Sports Writer

For the past month, the Irish have enjoyed the comforts of playing in the friendly confines of the Eck Tennis Pavilion. But with a grueling road trip looming, the team intends to make the most of tonight's home stand. The Irish feature many athletes with the best in-conference talent, and the team intends to make the most of its final home match for almost a month to tonight, facing No. 40 Northwestern. The Irish have enjoyed the comforts of playing in the friendly confines of the Eck Tennis Pavilion. But with a grueling road trip looming, the team intends to make the most of tonight's home stand.

**NDleading after first day**

By ANN LOUGHERY

Sports Writer

Just two days into Big East competition, the Irish are already on their way to a championship.

After Thursday's competition, the Irish have rocketed to first place with 302 points and a 54-point advantage over second-place Pittsburgh. This is the first time Notre Dame has ever finished a day in the Big East Championship in the lead.

"We're swimming at the top of our game and loving it," coach Tim Welsh said. "This is all celebration of the great work we've done all season."

Tim Kegelman led the Irish effort Thursday night, winning the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:49.62—just 14 seconds off from his own school record. He was the first Notre Dame swimmer to ever win the event at a Big East meet.

Kegelman truly earned his first-place finish, said senior Matt Berke. After surging to first place, the sophomore suffered an asthma attack midway through the race. Despite the setback, Kegelman managed to retain his position and finished in first place.

"Kegelman has just been unbelievable," Bertke said. "He's been an inspiration for the whole team."

After leading the meet, Kegelman anchored the 200-yard freestyle relay and spurred the team to a second-place finish—Notre Dame's highest-ever in the event—with 1:20.64. Pittsburgh claimed first place, winning by 29 seconds.

Sophomore Ted Brown and freshman Jay Vandenberg Berg added to the team's stellar performances, tying for third place in the 300-meter free with a 26.82. Brown cut 0.6 seconds off of his school record with the swim.

In the 200-yard individual medley, junior Jamie Lukan finished less than a second behind Kegelman with 1:50.87 for fourth place. Freshman Andrew McKay finished in fifth place with a 1:50.87 and senior David Marcan came in sixth with 1:52.31.

Finally, in the 50-yard free, senior Frank Krakowski lead the Irish efforts in fourth place with 20.56, the fourth-fastest time in Notre Dame history. Sophomore Louis Cauvelin was close behind in sixth place with 20.65. Thursday's races were characterized by the team's high level of intensity the entire meet, Bertke said.

"We've already had a lot of great performances and we've been strong in a lot of events," Bertke said. "It has to make you better,"

**ND have enjoyed the comforts of playing in the friendly confines of the Eck Tennis Pavilion. But with a grueling road trip looming, the team intends to make the most of tonight's home stand. The Irish feature many athletes with the best in-conference talent, and the team intends to make the most of its final home match for almost a month to tonight. The Irish have enjoyed the comforts of playing in the friendly confines of the Eck Tennis Pavilion. But with a grueling road trip looming, the team intends to make the most of tonight's home stand.**

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The Irish are looking to extend their history of excellence at the Big East Indoor Championships in Syracuse, N.Y., this weekend.

This is Notre Dame's fifth season in Big East competition, and at each of the previous nine indoor championships the Irish have placed in the top three.

Notre Dame won the meet two years ago and was narrowly defeated last year by Connecticut.

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"I'm sure that every team is just as excited as we are to compete against the best in our league," Bayliss said. "We ended the season on a high note and feel we can carry that momentum into this meet."

Selim Nurudeen's 60-meter hurdles time of 7.81 seconds has not been challenged this season.

Nurudeen may also run in this weekend's 60-meter dash and the 200-meter.

Notre Dame features perhaps the top three runners in the 60-meter dash, with Dwight Ellick leading the way with his improve-

**ND hope to extend nine-year streak of top finishes at event**

**By JOHN EVERETT**

Sports Writer

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**College Baseball**

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**MIAA Women's Basketball**

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**NBA**

**All-Star Celebrity Game**, 7 p.m., ESPN
**All-Star Rookie Challenge**, 9 p.m., TNT

**EXtreme Sports**

Winter X Games Nine, 4 p.m., ESPN2

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**NFL**

*Patriots linebacker Tedy Bruschi was hospitalized Wednesday with a broken blood vessel in his head and stroke-like symptoms. The Pro-Bowler is said to be in good condition and will remain in the hospital for tests and monitoring.*

**Bruschi might have suffered stroke**

Associated Press

**In Brief**

Moore sues Bertuzzi for unprovoked hit

DENVER — Former Colorado Avalanche player Steve Moore filed a lawsuit against the Vancouver Canucks forward Todd Bertuzzi, who pleaded guilty to criminal assault after slugging Moore in the head from behind during a game last season.

Moore's attorney, Lee Foreman, said in a statement that the lawsuit filed Tuesday in Denver District Court accuses Todd Bertuzzi of civil conspiracy, assault, battery and negligence.

Bertuzzi pleaded guilty to criminal assault and was given a conditional discharge in December, more than nine months after the attack during a game in Vancouver. He faced up to 18 months in prison. He also was suspended indefinitely from the NHL.

Moore has not completely recovered from the broken neck and concussion he suffered. The Avalanche did not reinstate Moore, who is an unrestricted free agent.

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**Auburn signs Tuberville to seven year extension**

AUBURN, Ala. — Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville has signed a new seven-year contract that will pay him $2 million this year and increase by $300,000 each successive year.

Tuberville and the school agreed in principle to the deal in December, about a week before the Tigers completed a 13-0 season with a 16-13 victory over Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl.

The contract announced Thursday by the school will pay Tuberville a base salary of $210,000, with the remainder coming from endorsements and radio and television deals. Tuberville's previous package was worth $1.5 million.

Auburn's buyout and Tuberville's penalty for leaving is $7 million for the first two years of the contract, $6 million for 2007-08, $5 million for 2009, $4 million for 2010 and $3 million for 2011.
ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish lock horns with pair of top-10 opponents

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

No. 6 Duke (5-1), who is fresh off a 7-0 victory over Old Dominion so I talked with coach Jamie Ashworth told gudoke.com after the win.

"The longer they hang around you start to get close matches." However, this is the exactly the predicament the Irish have found themselves in lately against opponents such as Harvard — unable to win the close matches. After leading the Crimson 3-1, the Irish failed to convert a win in the final three singles matches to drop the match 4-3 to Harvard.

"We've been in every match this year," sophomore Christian Thompson said. "But now it is about winning the close ones.

Leading the Irish today in doubles will be Christian and sister Catrina Thompson at No. 1 — they are currently ranked as the No. 2 ranked pairing in the nation.

They have yet to lose a match this spring. Playing at No. 2 will be freshman Brook Buck and junior Lauren Connelly. Senior Sarah Jane Connelly and junior Kiki Stastny will play at No. 3.

But Irish coach Louderback wants the team to focus on more than just trying to win the doubles point and head into the singles matches with an advantage.

"The doubles has been big all season," he said. "But we have to back it up and get at least three great singles matches." Playing at No. 1 for the team is No. 69 ranked Catrina Thompson, who defeated No. 27 ranked Courtney Bergman from Harvard last weekend.

"She has been playing really well, even the matches she's lost this spring she's played well. She's come up with some big wins and it is coming through into her singles," Louderback said. "She is playing with a lot more patience and willing to hit more balls until she has a chance to finish off the points."

At No. 2 will be No. 85 Buck, followed by Christian Thompson at No. 3. Playing at No. 4 and 5 are Lauren Connelly and Stastny. At No. 6 will be junior Liz O'Donohue.

Louderback said he is proud of the team's performance this season.

"[Stastny] and Lauren are both 5-1 in singles and they've been great," Louderback said. "We have gotten a lot of wins out of them.

The Irish will take on No. 9 North Carolina this Sunday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion at 10 a.m. Neither team looks to be a pushover.

"Both are deserving of their top-10 rankings," Louderback said. "But we are looking at [these matches] as a way of getting a great win."

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles set to battle Olivet in final regular season contest

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

Fresh off a 58-50 conference victory over the Kalamazoo Hornets, Saint Mary's hopes to make it two in a row and gain some momentum before the MIAA tournament against last place Olivet Comets Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Angela Athletic Center.

As the sixth seed in the MIAA, the Belles have to make it two in a row and gain some momentum before the MIAA tournament against last place Olivet Comets Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Angela Athletic Center.

Saint Mary's (10-4, 5-10 in the MIAA) is tied with Kalamazoo for sixth place in the conference. A win over the Comets (7-16, 2-13) could give the Belles the sixth seed in the MIAA tournament.

A Kalamazoo win, however, would create a three-way tie between Saint Mary's, Alma and the Hornets.

Whoever ends up in the sixth seed will probably face Albion the first round.

Before the conference tournament settles itself out, though, the Belles have to concentrate on beating the MIAA cellar-dweller Comets.

After Saturday's loss to Alma, Belle's forward Alison Kessler reflected in a confident Saint Mary's locker room before heading into the final week of the season.

"Our expectations are to win the [Kalamazoo and Olivet] games, without a doubt," Kessler said.

The Comets have struggled this season and are currently riding a 10-game losing streak.

They have especially been bad away from the uptown Center, recording a 2-8 record in road games.

Junior guard Kari Searles has led Olivet all season, by averaging 11.3 points per game.

Sophomore forward Stephanie Smith has also come on strong in recent games.

Smith scored 13 points in the Comets' 100-87 loss to Tri-State Wednesday.

The task of guarding Smith will probably fall to Belles star forward Emily Creachbaum.

"We want to have a strong finish against Olivet this Saturday," Creachbaum said. 

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

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E-mail: Dan.Osberger@Comcast.Net

Youth Ministry Coordinator

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University of Notre Dame Department of Music Presents

Friday, February 18, 2005
7:30 p.m.

Fleur de Lys
Disembodied Voices: Music of Women in Seventeenth-Century Italian Convents and Academies
Dannielle Svonave, soprano
Mary Anne Ballard, viola da gamba
Darlene Catello, harpsichord
Reyes Organ and Choral Hall
Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts
Admission $10; faculty/staff $8; seniors $6; students $3
Call 574-631-2800 for tickets

Saturday, February 19, 2005
2:30 p.m.

The Notre Dame Bands & Jazz Band
Ken Dye and Larry Dwyer, Directors
Judd & Mary Lou Leighton Concert Hall
Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts
Free and open to the public; tickets required
Call 574-631-2800 for tickets

Sunday, February 20, 2005
2:00 p.m.

Ethan Haimo
"How to Listen to Scriabin's Sixth Sonata"
A Notre Dame Faculty Lecture/Recital
Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum of Art
Free and open to the public; no tickets required
ND WOMEN'S TRACK

Irish expect to benefit from division change

By RYAN KIEFER
Sports Writer

Recent conference realignment in college athletics draws the most attention in football and basketball, but don't tell that to the Notre Dame's track team.

With last year's decisive conference champion Miami gone to the ACC, last year's runner-up, the Irish, feel everything is in place for them to capture a Big East title, something they have not done in three seasons.

Notre Dame's quest will not go unchallenged, however, as a strong field is expected this weekend in Syracuse, N.Y. for the conference meet. Villanova enters the meet ranked 14th in the nation by Trackwire.com and Pittsburgh, last year's third-place team, carries a No. 15 ranking.

"Pittsburgh is a solid team," assistant coach Scott Winsor said. "They are strong in all events, but especially in the 400 on down."

The Irish enter the meet unranked despite being as high as 11th earlier this season. Their fall dual-meet rankings can be attributed to the inactivity of key distance runners Molly Huddle, Lauren King and Kerry Meagher, all recovering from cross country injuries. Huddle, a seven-time all recovering from cross country injuries. Huddle, a seven-time distance runner, is the defending conference champion and meet record-holder in this event.

Notre Dame will look for the distance runners to anchor the team, but will need a strong performance from all areas of the team to be victorious this weekend. Maryann Erigha, who has notched several victories this year and finished eighth in the 60-meter dash last season, will lead the Irish in the sprint events.

"Molly will always pace Notre Dame's middle-distance group, following a fourth-place performance last season in the 500. In the field events, the Irish expect Stacey Cowan to be a standout performer in the high jump. Cowan had her best jump of the season last year - 5-11 1/2 - at this meet and finished second. Meghan Horn is the best hope for the Irish in the throwing events, as she has already set a personal best this season and finished eighth at the conference meet last season.

These individuals are expected to lead the team, but Winsor made it clear that this weekend will have to be a team effort.

"We didn't bring anyone this weekend who we didn't think could help us. We expect every team member to score points this weekend. We need this because the meet may be decided by one or two points," Winsor said.

With all the pieces in place, all that's left to do is race.

This has been a goal of ours since the beginning of the season," Winsor said. "The opportunity is there and that's all you can ask for.

Contact Ryan Kiefer at rkiefer@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Team ready to go out west

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

There won't be rest for the Irish this weekend as they travel to San Diego State to participate in the Campbell-Cartier Tournament. Notre Dame (3-2) will face three ranked teams at the event, in addition to the home-town Aztecs, as the Irish attempt to win their second straight early-season tournament.

Notre Dame won the Gainesville Regional Utilities Classic in Florida last weekend.

The Irish open against Utah tomorrow at noon, then face No. 25 Fresno State at 4 p.m. Notre Dame returns to action Saturday, taking on No. 3/4 UCLA at 4 p.m. before facing San Diego State two hours later. The Irish then close out tournament play with a matchup against No. 22/24 Long Beach State.

Notre Dame has already played four games against UCLA this season, splitting with both No. 19 Florida and No. 21 South Florida at the NCAA Classic.

"We do our schedule that way on purpose," Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf said. "I really don't think our girls would have it any other way. We want to play the best, because 'we know we can beat the best.'

The Irish started that weekend tournament with consecutive losses to Florida and South Florida, but then rattled off three consecutive victories - including rematch wins over Florida and South Florida - to put themselves in a position to break even in San Diego State. During those three wins, Irish pitchers held their opponents to just 10 hits in 21 innings.

"In two losses we weren't playing better competition," Gumpf said. "They've already fought hardest when the team needed them to step up and make big pitches. I think if they continue to fight like that all season, they're going to be real successful.

Notre Dame handed Florida its first loss of the season. The Gators came into the championship game of the GUI tournament with an 11-0 record. Notre Dame's game against UCLA is on a chance for the Irish to square off against one of the top softball powers in the country. The Bruins have won the NCAA championship in softball nine times, and hold a 2-0 lifetime record against the Irish.

"We're really excited to play a team like UCLA," Gumpf said. "We're playing well right now and really think they're a team we can compete with and beat."

The game against Utah is an interesting matchup, as Irish assistant coach Charmelle Green returns to her alma mater, Notre Dame has a 2-0 record against the Utes, including a 4-3 victory last season at the Palm Springs Classic.

This weekend's trip to San Diego is the first visit Notre Dame has made to the California city. It will be a return home for the seven California natives on the Irish roster this season - Bouch, Liz Hartmann, Carissa Jaquish, Mallorie Leon, Meagan Ruthrauff, Steffany Stenglein and Carrie Wiesn.

Notre Dame will return to California two more times this year, traveling to Palm Springs for a tournament Feb. 25-27 and to Los Angeles Mar. 6-7 for a doubleheader with Loyola Marymount and a single game against California-Santa Barbara.

The Irish will remain on the road until March 23, the team's first game at home against Western Michigan. Starring cancellations, the Irish are scheduled to have already played 27 games at that point.

"I'd like for this team to get to the point where it doesn't matter where we play," Gumpf said. "It's nice to be at home, but I think we'd rather get to where we can win just as easy on the road. In the long run if we play all these games on the road will help us tremendously."

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu
Rutgers
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"I'm so much more relaxed," McGraw said with a smile. "I don't think we've taken the time to appreciate what we've done." But despite the game not being a must-win, it is still important for the Irish, who take a 10-game win streak into the matchup. With a win, Notre Dame could help its case for a top seed in the upcoming NCAA tournament, as well as be on its way for a regular season Big East title.

No. 10 Rutgers (19-5, 10-3 Big East), meanwhile, comes off a scare against Syracuse (11-13, 3-10 Big East). The Scarlet Knights had to score the final 10 points to come away with a 64-54 win in New York Feb. 16.

"We had a tough game there," McGraw said. "Syracuse is a pretty good team."

Its hostile environment. It's tough.

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

And the Irish will have their hands full come Saturday. The last time they faced the Scarlet Knights on Jan. 23, Notre Dame needed a 23-0 second half run to come back from a 13-point halftime deficit.

"Taking care of the ball is the No. 1 key to the game," McGraw said. "We've got to take care of the ball, because they're so good in transition. So if we can limit our turnovers, which is what we did in the second half of that game, then we have a chance to win — that, and rebound. Those are the two big things we've got to do.

Leading the Irish will be All-American forward Jacqueline Batteast (17.9 points, 6.6 rebounds per game) and point guard Megan Duffy (11.6 points, 5.5 assists per game). Batteast scored 27 points the last time the Irish faced the Scarlet Knights at the Joyce Center. Saturday's game will be played in Piscataway, N.J., at the Louis Brown Athletic Center, also known as the RAC.

"It's a hostile environment," McGraw said. "It's tough."

The Irish will have to play better than they did Tuesday night against No. 25 Boston College, when they scored just 15 points in the first half. McGraw said Thursday she didn't know what the cause of the slow start was, or why the team shot just 34.5 percent against Boston College.

"I don't feel like we've been shooting the ball well lately," McGraw said.

Rutgers, meanwhile, is led by star point guard Cappie Pondexter and freshman Mahee Ajawen, who comes off the bench. Chelsea Newton adds senior leadership for the Scarlet Knights, who defeated Connecticut 76-62, Feb. 13, putting the Irish atop the Big East.

Tipoff is set for noon Saturday.

Notes
• Megan Duffy was named to ESPN The Magazine's Academic All-District V Second Team. Duffy has a 3.45 grade point average.

Contact Heather Van Hoogarden at hvangoeg@nd.edu

Irish defender Noah Babin moves the puck up the ice during Notre Dame's 3-1 loss to Ohio State Jan. 15. The Irish face Michigan tonight at 8 p.m. in Fort Wayne, Ind.

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in the U.S. College Hockey Online/CSVT poll, and the Wolverines are one point ahead of Ohio State for first place in the CCHA standings. Notre Dame currently is 12th with just 11 total points compared to Michigan's 40.

Notre Dame last played the Wolverines in a home-and-home series Dec. 3-4, dropping the first game by a score of 6-1 and the second 8-0. Those 14 goals are still the most the Irish have given up in a two-game series this season.

The Irish are coming off a disappointing weekend, in which they dropped a pair of games to Ferris State at home. The Bulldogs had come into the series only one point ahead of Notre Dame for 11th in the conference, but now have a comfortable lead on the Irish.

Ferris State defeated Notre Dame 4-3 on Friday in a heart-breaking loss for the Irish as Ferris State's Matt Verdone scored a shorthanded goal with less than a minute left in the game to give the Bulldogs the victory. Saturday, Notre Dame again allowed four goals to the Bulldogs — all in the second period — as Ferris State won 4-2.

The Irish have now failed to win in 13 straight games, with their last victory coming at home against Rensselaer Jan. 2. Notre Dame's last conference victory was a Dec. 10 3-2 overtime victory against Michigan State.

Michigan comes into this weekend's games on a high note, having taken two games on the road against Nebraska-Omaha. The Wolverines defeated the Mavericks 6-4 Friday and survived a 4-3 nailbiter Saturday.

Michigan's strength all season has been its offense, which is currently ranked first in the CCHA with a 4.09 goals per game average — Notre Dame is 12th with just 1.99 goals per game. But the Wolverines defense hasn't been too shabby, either, with goalie Al Montoya headlines a defense that has only allowed 2.62 goals per game, fourth in the conference.

Montoya, the CCHA leading draft pick last season, has actually been in a bit of a slump during the regular season, carrying a 2.60 GAA and a dismal .893 save percentage. But his defense has made life easy for him, only allowing the Wolverines to need to shoot 29.5 shots per game against the junior netminder.

You look at this team and they have the ability to outscore opponents," Poulin said. "They are in a good position to go all the way." But as a coach, if I'm looking at a goalie there's only one statistic I'm concerned with, and that's wins.

"Montoya might not have the numbers this year, but he's putting up the Ws," Poulin said.

Sophomore forward T.J. Hensick, last year's CCHA rookie of the year, paces the team's offense with 41 points (19 goals, 22 assists). Hensick is the second-leading scorer in the CCHA, as the other Michigan forwards are in the conference's top ten — Jeff Tambellini (16 points) and Milan Gajic (30 points).

The team's real strength offensively is in its balance — 13 different players have scored 17 points or more this season. "Their depth and quality of depth is just remarkable," Poulin said. "They've got 10 seniors, 10 guys who were drafted, and that combination of skill and depth is what you see in championship-caliber teams."

Notre Dame faces Michigan at 8:05 p.m. at Fort Wayne's Allen County Memorial Stadium Friday. The rematch is Saturday at Yost Field House in Ann Arbor at 7:35 p.m.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu
Irish
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Irish baseball and owns 781 career victories. "We went out to the parking lot and hit some pop ups to the infielders and outfielders. I'm not sure there are many Top 25 teams in the country that have had to do that. Maineri sees advantages in practicing indoors and in matching up against opponents who already have game experience this season.

"Everybody thinks it's a big disadvantage by not going outside, but I don't look at it that way because if you look at the A&M, they've had a lot of bad things happen to them already. So maybe their confidence is a little bit down. "We haven't had anything bad happen to us, so our confidence should be sky-high."

After a school record-setting 21 wins last season, the Irish return six of nine starters from the 2004 squad. Filling the void of four-year starter second baseman Steve Sollmann, All-American third baseman Matt Manship and heavy-hitting catcher Jeff Lyle in Sanchez's previous challenges, but Maineri believes his newcomers are ready.

"Those two everyday guys—Brett Lilley and Ross Brezovsky, they've got big shoes to fill in replacing Sollmann and Macri, but both those kids are going to be up to the task simply because they're just such hard-nosed kids. They're really fearless, and I'm really expecting a lot out of both of them," Maineri said. Behind the plate will be sophomore Sean Gason. Veteran juniors Greg Lopez (shortstop), Cody Rizzo (right field), Craig Cooper (center field), Steve Andres (left field) and Matt Bransford (DH) and senior first baseman Matt Edwards provide experience, depth and leadership for the Irish.

"I think when you look at the leadership of our team, you have to look clearly at the junior class. Those are going to be the guys that have to carry the big portion of the load for us," Maineri said. Despite losing standout pitchers Grant Johansen and Chris Niesel to the draft, the Irish rotation remains as potent and as deep as ever.

Jeff Samardzija will throw the first pitch for the Irish on Friday. The 6-foot-5, hard-throwing Samardzija compiled the second-best ERA in the Big East last year at 2.95. Last year's Big East wins leader junior Tom Thornton, a lefty, gets the nod in the early game Saturday, while another lefty, freshman Wade Korpis, makes his first career start for the Irish in the late game. To round out the weekend lineup, sophomore Jess Stewart takes the hill coming off a seven-win season last fall.

Seven-foot-one right-hander Doherty leads a group of dominant bullpen pitchers. A 2004 All-American, Doherty completed 12 of 13 save chances. He is on track to break the Notre Dame career ERA record with his current 2.30 ERA.

In addition to the returnees from the 2004 lineup, seniors John Axelrod and sophomore Jeff Manッシュ will be back from injuries in a couple of weeks, creating an even stronger rotation. Each had season-ending, reconstructive elbow surgeries last season.

"They are going to continue their rehabilitation down in Florida with us. Hopefully they're a week or two or three weeks away from being able to pitch— we don't know for sure yet," Maineri said. With the rest of the pitching rotation and lineup set, Maineri knows his team is eager to set foot on the baseball field.

"I'm hoping that we're going to come out sharply our first days outside," Maineri said. "And our team will be very enthusiastic and excited to play.”

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Irish Hockey App都没在读

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their season, despite having no chance to get to the NCAA tournament except winning four consecutive games in the Big East Tournament. At West Virginia on Feb. 5, Providence lost by two. On Sunday, the Friars won their first conference game on the season, beating Rutgers 81-65. And on Tuesday, they took Connecticut to double overtime behind a career-high 37 points from Ryan Gomes.

"That 1-10 record might be the most deceiving 1-10 record in the history of college basketball," Irish senior Jordan Cornette said.

Gomes, the preseason Big East player of the year and a 2004 first-team All-American, is leading the Big East in scoring with 21.8 points per game, second in the conference, pulling down 8.5 rebounds, and seventh in field goal percentage.

Overall, of their 14 losses, the Friars have lost only three of them by more than 10 points. They are a talented team with BG. He's the best player in the league," Thomas said. "He plays with a lot of confidence. Their record doesn't describe the type of team they are."

Thomas hasn't let Gomes forget about last season when the Friars came into the Joyce Center and defeated the Irish 73-59.

Sitting squarely on the bubble, the Irish played one of their worst games of the season while Gomes led the Friars with 25 points and 12 rebounds. "They got us last year. We feel we owe them one," Thomas said. "Despite their record, there's a lot at stake. "We have to be resilient, just like we were against Connecticut."

Saturday's game is Notre Dame's first against a team entering the game with a losing record in the conference this season.

"That game is set for noon and the game will be televised locally by WNDU.

Irish guard Chris Quinn dribbles as Georgetown guard Ray Reed defends during the 70-64 Notre Dame win Wednesday. Visit www.notredamepromotions.com for the latest promotional information

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

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Baseball great Roger Clemens, left, and former Notre Dame pitcher Brad Lidge look at the baseball banquet Feb. 10.

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DILBERT

I'M GOING TO WORK FOR THE CABLE COMPANY.

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CHARLES SCHULZ.

PEANUTS

WELL, I SEE THE SUN IS SHINING AND THERE'S A NICE BREEZE SO I GUESS IT'S JUST ABOUT THAT TIME AGAIN.

SCOTT ADAMS

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, 24; Paris Hilton, 24; Bryan White, 31; Rene Russo, 51

Happy Birthday: Don't just think about all the things you would like to do; get busy and start doing them. You have some good ideas to explore, and this is a great year to do so. The more you interact with people who have similar interests, the more you will accomplish along the way. Your numbers are 8, 14, 22, 26, 39, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Love, creativity and making any personal changes to your appearance or actions will get you a long way today. Just say the word and you will get the response that you need to move forward. Proactive action will result in positive outcomes. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Slowly but surely you are beginning to park up momentum. Don't waste yourself down by overworking, and if you should be able to make headway today. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): You may have to do a little rearranging today especially if you have said or done something that has upset someone. A unique opportunity will arise if you are determined to get ahead. ***

CANCER (June 22-July 22): As long as you stick to what you know and refuse to go overboard, this could turn into a very fruitful day. Take a little time to think about your ideas and projects and make them that much more enticing when you finally reveal your intentions. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your mind will be on love, romance and, of course, pampering and pleasure. Take whatever measures are necessary to take care of your needs as well as the needs of the person you are closest to. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have what it takes to get things done, but don't be too quick to bounce right back. Today is likely to make a mistake based on false information. Wait to gather more information and you will soon have a unique opportunity to form four ordinary words. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Thinking big can be good, but only if you have what it takes to follow through. Don't rely on someone else to do it for you. Love is in the picture. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your get-your-money-matter straight-up. You have some good opportunities coming your way, and you want to be able to take advantage of them. How many people will want to compete against you? For sure, you will find it necessary to put all in whatever comes your way. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may find it difficult to make your mind up - too many choices and not enough hours in the day. Change is apparent. Putting up a resistance will only force you to lose control. * * *

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Change is good and probably necessary. The ideas you have regarding how to make more money and what to do with your life are looking good. Talk to someone with experience and you will get the information you need to develop your ideas. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your vibrant animal is being exciting. Someone very special will get what you are all about and opt to walk by your side. This can be a turning point for you as you are not in a negative mood. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Proceed with caution. You may have some interesting thoughts, but now is not the time to share them. Work on your own and develop your ideas. * * *

Birthday Baby: You are curious and curious. You are a communicator. You can connect with what you want to do and follow through with your plans. You are an opportunist, quick to react.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astrologia. com and eugenialast.com.

THE OBSERVER

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The Observer
MEN'S BASKETBALL

No sure thing

One-win Providence wants to derail Irish hopes for road win

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

Mike Brey has an offer for Providence coach Tim Welsh. He'll cut Saturday's game down to a minute with the score tied.

If Providence was contending for a NCAA tournament berth — as the coaches predicted in the preseason with the Friars' sixth-place projection — Brey's statement after Wednesday night's win over Georgetown might make more sense.

If the Friars weren't in last place in the Big East with a 1-10 record, the Irish would be lucky to get such a deal going into conference road game after losing their last four away from the Joyce Center.

But the Irish are throwing all of those truths out the window. They feel the real truth is Providence is much, much better than its record this season.

"The fact that we're 7-5 and we're plying them in their house," said Muffet McGraw.

The Friars haven't mailed in out of me."

They scare the heck out of me." said McGraw.

"They got a couple of games that are going to be as challenging as any we play all year." coach Paul Mainieri said. "Central Florida is an extremely tough team. They won 47 games last year, and they're expecting a sellout crowd Saturday, however, is much different for the No. 4 Irish (23-3, 11-2 Big East), as they are in first place in the Big East with just three games to play, including Saturday's contest.

"We're in the drivers' seat," Irish coach Mike Brey said of the Irish teammates Crystal Erwin, left, and Susie Powers prepare for a rebound during a 92-78 win over Illinois State Nov. 12. Scarlet Knights not a worry

By HEATHER VAN HOGGARDEN
Sports Editor

The last time these two teams met, the circumstances were completely different.

Notre Dame was fighting for its Big East life in the toughest stretch of its season, and Rutgers was coming off of a week of upsets. Notre Dame needed a win, and the Irish got one, 65-47 with a huge second half comeback.

"But at the same time, we're not pressure. It's not like it's a must-win game."

They feel the real truth is they're expecting a sellout crowd Saturday, however, is much different for the No. 4 Irish (23-3, 11-2 Big East), as they are in first place in the Big East with just three games to play, including Saturday's contest.

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"At the same time, there's no pressure. It's not like it's a must-win game."

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"But at the same time, we're not pressure. It's not like it's a must-win game."

The Irish are hoping a change of scenery will help them finish the regular season on the right track.

Notre Dame (15-11, 3-16-5) in the CIAA faces first-place No. 9/6 Michigan (22-7-3, 19-3-2) twice this weekend, first in Fort Wayne's Allen County Memorial Stadium Friday and then in Ann Arbor, Mich. Saturday.

"This is a great hockey town," Poulin said of Fort Wayne. "This isn't one of those multipurpose arenas; this is a full-fledged hockey building. The town is really excited that we're here and they're expecting a sellout on Friday." Michigan is ranked sixth in the nation in the USA Today poll and fifth overall.