The Alumni Association recognizes distinguished students

Senior Danny Richter receives prestigious award for service, academic achievement

By KATIE SCARLETT O'HARA
News Writer

Danny Richter got a birthday party under the dome yesterday when a reception was held to honor him as this year’s Alumni Association’s Distinguished Undergraduate Student of the Year.

“This is the biggest ‘birthday present’ he ever got,” said Richter’s mother, Marie Ross, who boarded a red-eye flight from California to attend the reception and celebrate Richter’s birthday. “I am pleased but not totalmente surprised.”

The award, given each year since 1982, is conferred on a senior student who has distinguished himself or herself in service to Notre Dame, service to the community, or academic standing, according to the flyers distributed by the Alumni Association at the banquet.

The scheduling of the reception on Richter’s birthday was coincidental.

“It’s not on the cake,” said Richter, an environmental geo-science major. “I could’ve left without this award and gotten so much out of my four years. But this is fantastic. It shows I am doing something that’s being appreciated, noticed (and shows) this is what Notre Dame hopes people are doing.”

Richter is a resident assistant in Keough Hall who has been involved in numerous service opportunities such as the Urban Plunge, Gridle K, the Appalachian Program and work in Haiti. Keough rector Father Peter Jarret said he thought it was this involvement that helped him earn the award.

“He has the sense of making the most of one’s time at Notre Dame,” Jarret said. “Lectures, research, concerts, service... he takes advantage of these every day.”

While reading the program outlining Richter’s achievements and awards, which include candidacy for the Marshall and Rhodes Scholarships, freshman Brendan Ryan, a fellow Keough resident, said he was in awe of his RA.

“I’ll have to move out of his section,” Ryan said. “I am not worthy.”

Ryan, along with several of his section mates, showed up in the rotunda to support Richter.

“I know if I got an award, Danny would come see me,” Ryan said. “I knew he was bright but I had no idea he was doing all this. He is pretty hum...
INSIDE COLUMN

True life: I'm a transfer student

While walking with a few friends today, I spotted my first wave of "Domer kids" behind a vibrant tour guide. After they passed, I joked, "Ha ha, seven out of ten young Catholic lads like myself were one of those seven last year, Mike!" Oh, how true it is.

I often wonder how a strapping young Catholic lad like myself was not able to obtain entrance into an institution such as Notre Dame. Could it be because I would have possibly the lowest ACT/SAT scores (those scores will not be disclosed) of anyone on campus? Or maybe it is because I was destined to flunk my first college exam ever (which is exactly what I did at U of M-Ann Arbor last year; a project in economics to be exact. I do not understand it. I speak "real good" and use words like "pointillist" and "propensity" which, by the way, I am almost through the "I" section of the dictionary). I mean, your answer is as good as mine, but still I contend that I was never robbed.

Although I felt I was more than qualified to go here — being both a legacy child and having a sister attend as well — I actually started attending university with suggestions on why I was denied entrance to Notre Dame in the first place. Say what you will about stupid errors, but what kind of highly selective university is going to accept a guy who checked off "female" on his application to Michigan State University (where, coincidentally, I was accepted as Michelle Donald Landsberg). One may perceive that as an indicator of disinterest in character and intellectual propensity (big words), but I merely chalked that off as a minor technicality and a petty oversight.

Of course, I somehow got in after a solid year at the University of Michigan, but that is not where my saga ends. Just for good measure — so as to remind me of my humble beginnings — I was very much chagrined when I was denied on-campus housing before school started. But, of course, everything happens for a reason; I had the most spectacular time living in the alley in TC. I was granted living in the alley in TC. I was granted because I would have perhaps the lowest academic heritage. Besides, who else can come home from getting a "D" on an exam and say, "Well, if a 'C' is average for Notre Dame students, a 'D' must be average for a kid like me! Yah!"

My apologies for the tangent; it is just that I love to soapbox about my life experiences. Because no one wants to be associated with a transfer guy. With that in mind, I wanted to conclude with something reassuring about that I, along with other transfers, should take solace in. First of all, be proud of your academic heritage. Besides, who else can come home from getting a "P" on an exam and say, "Well, if a 'C' is average for Notre Dame students, a 'D' must be average for a kid like me! Yah!"

We called him "the other room. We called him "the other room."

医学助理 2003

As Michael Landsberg and I live in Keough (#321 to be exact), we are one of those twice as many kids now! Yah!

IN BRIEF

A performance of "The Laramie Project" will take place tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The show, performed by the department of film, television and theater students, is running until Mar. 3.

Charles Oik of the General Motors Research and Development Center will conduct a seminar on adapting combinatorial methodology to the search for hydrogen storage materials at 3:30 p.m. today in 255A Fitzpatrick Hall. The event is sponsored by the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

A blood drive will be held in Rolfs Sports Recreation Center from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. To sign up for a convenient time, call Recsports at 621-6100.

The Notre Dame Jazz Band II and Jazz Combo will be performing at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the LaFortune Student Center Ballroom. The event is free and sponsored by the Student Union Board.

Karen Richmond will give the lecture "Haitian Vodou: Arts, Culture and Religion" at 3 p.m. Friday in the Snite Museum of Art.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to observewnd@nd.edu.
Tsunami relief campaign on track to reach goal

By KELLY BALE
New Writer

Saint Mary's Board of Governance met Monday night to approve a SMC Tostal co-sponsorship and to update board members on the status of the board's tsunami relief campaign.

Student Activities Board members Shay Jolly and Donna Lubbers presented a plan for co-sponsorship to BOG, which they said would aid in covering the cost of the annual SMC Tostal, which is to be held Thursday, April 21, coinciding with the dedication of the new student center, the Noble Family Dining Hall and Alumniae Green.

Jolly and Lubbers explained that with these added events, SMC Tostal will be a bigger and Alumnae Green.

SMC Tostal will be a bigger event that will be shown in the new theatre of the student center, in the Noble Family Dining Hall and a fireworks display.

"We're trying to keep it really focused on the students," Lubbers said. "This will be a cool day, it's going to be all about Saint Mary's.

Although members expressed concern that the board's co-sponsorship line account was running low and that other groups would be also be applying for funds from this account, BOG voted to approve the SMC Tostal co-sponsorship.

"I think this is by far the best thing that will be set up outside the campus and a firework display," Lubbers said. "This will be a cool day, it's going to be all about Saint Mary's.

BoG applications are available at the Haggar Front Desk and are due by noon Feb. 25.

Student Diversity Board will hold a discussion tonight that will be set up outside the campus and a firework display.

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Dr. Brian J. Mahan
Assistant Professor of Christian Education

Candler School of Theology
Emory University

Thursday, February 24, 2005
GIOVANINI COMMONS C
(Main Level, Mendoza College of Business)
3:30pm—5:00pm

Seating is limited. Attendance by reservation only.
For reservations, email jcalder2@ind.edu

Professor examines Da Vinci Code issues

By ERICA RANGEL
News Writer

Both popular and controversial, Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code," was the subject of Saint Mary's humanistic studies professor John Shinners' lecture Monday, entitled "The Da Vinci Code: Crackpot or Crackpunt?"

Shinners focused on the potential inaccuracies contained within the book while also examining the 99-page New York Times best-seller's popularity.

Junior art history major Talia Matury-Vacaro said the lecture caused her to reconsider the book.

"I think the way it is portrayed is really convincing, but there's been so much hype about it being not true, one begins to question the validity of Dan Brown's claims," Matury-Vacaro said.

Shinners said he thought Dan Brown was practicing immoral history by "turning ancient figures into who he wants them to be instead of who they really are."

"Brown has no respect for history," Shinners said. "It's a great injustice to treat these figures as puppets."

Shinners pointed out that the book's fallacies start on the acknowledgments page. This page clearly states that all depictions of the Catholic hierarchy. By showing slides of the actual paintings and locations that did not match up to what Brown wrote in the book, Shinners demonstrated that Brown did not stay true to his work.

Shinners said he thought Brown's suspenseful writing style was the primary reason for the book's popularity.

"Dan Brown is so clever creating situations that take our breath away. The chapters are short and often ended in cliffhangers, urging you to keep reading," Shinners said.

Other reasons for the book's popularity, according to Shinners, include the historical and exciting settings, the guise of facts, the conspiracies about religion and history and the "tap into the zeitgeist," especially the mistrust of the Catholic hierarchy.

Shinners also discussed some common questions raised by the book, such as Jesus' marital status and the possibility of Mary Magdalene's presence at the Last Supper.

In answering the question of Jesus' marital status, Shinners said that if Jesus was indeed married, it would have been documented at one point in time, but it is not.

Regarding the Mary Magdalene debate, Shinners discussed Leonardo's androgynous styles of painting, which explained why John appears to look female in The Last Supper. According to Shinners, it follows that the Holy Grail is nothing more than a cup and is not Mary Magdalene.

Contact Erica Rangel at range7166@saintmarys.edu
The Observer  ●  CAMPUS NEWS

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

500 Palestinian prisoners released

JERUSALEM — Palestinians gave a jubilant welcome to 500 prisoners freed Monday by Israel, a step toward reconciliation among rivals. But many complained that imprisoning of Israelis was not among those released. Some prisoners were escolated to West Bank, the area that protests against Israeli. They circulated that there could be no peace "as long as there is a single prisoner in Israeli jails.

The Associated Press that Thompson had died in a statement released to the Aspen Daily Sunday night at his Aspen-area home, his son and friends were "hurrying to Brussels to "set history on a hopeful course." The decision to release the prisoners led to criticism by some Israelis that the move could re-ignite the bloodshed that has the region for more than four years.

Lebanese hold anti-Syria protests

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Teens of thousands marched Monday in the biggest anti-Syria protest in Lebanese history amid signals that Syria will soon withdraw its troops from parts of the country. President Bush renewed demands for Syrian forces to leave Lebanon immediately. The U.S. has offered assistance to a one-week since the Feb. 14 death of Idlib Hariri and began at the bombshell after the prime minister's assassination, which turned many Lebanese against Syria and increased international pressure to Damascus to extract its army from Lebanon.

Hunter S. Thompson commits suicide

DENVER — Hunter S. Thompson, the acerbic counterculture writer who popularized a new form of fictional journalism in books like "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," fatally shot himself Monday on ABC's "Good Morning America." Thompson, 67, was found dead at his home in Aspen, Colorado.

Bush's private recordings released

WASHINGTON — President Bush was concerned "his mistakes as a youth" would disqualify him from running for the presidency's highest office, said an old friend who secretly recorded private conversations in which Bush expressed disdain for chạy-boys.

"I don't want any kid doing what I tried to do 30 years ago," Bush said in recordings made when he was governor of Texas and aired Monday on ABC's "Good Morning America." "And I mean that. It doesn't matter if it's LSD, pot, any of those things, because if I want to see if he has changed.

"About 4,000 people registred their unhappiness by joining a noisy protest outside the U.S. Embassy as Bush was seated on Monday in Brussels. European officials have complained that Bush did not listen to their first term, and they wanted to see if he has changed."

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush appeals to Allies for help

President hopes five-day tour will improve relations with European countries

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — President Bush scolded Russia for backing out of democracy efforts in the region. He urged allies to take difficult steps for peace. America is offering Europe's help in both troubled areas to "set history on a hopeful course.

Bush opened his discussions with a gesture of reconciliation toward disgruntled allies, hosting an elegant dinner for French President Jacques Chirac, the hardest critic of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

"I'm looking for a good cowboy," Bush joked when a reporter asked if relations had improved to the point where Chirac might receive an invitation to the presidential ranch. Chirac said U.S.-French relations have been excellent for 20 years.

"And I mean that. It doesn't matter if it's LSD, pot, any of those things, because if I want to see if he has changed.

BUSH TELLS THOMPSON HUNTER S. THOMPSON TOLD Friends and admirers respect that privacy as their wishes. Yes, he had once smoked marijuana, he said. But his interests lie West, that we share values... and those values are important.

In the keynote address of his five-day trip, Bush signaled that the United States will become more involved in the Middle East to foster growing hopes for peace.

"America and Europe have made a moral commitment. We will not stand by as another generation in the Holy Land grows up in an atmosphere of violence and hopelessness," Bush told an audience of diplomats, business leaders and academics in an opulent ballroom of Brussels' Concert Noble hall.

In the keynote address of his five-day trip, Bush signaled that the United States will become more involved in the Middle East to foster growing hopes for peace.

U.S. President George W. Bush, right, meets with French President Jacques Chirac on Monday as part of a five-day trip to boost relations with European allies.

South Korea

North Korea hints at return to talks

Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Il told a visiting Chinese envoy that his government will return to six-party nuclear disarmament talks if the United States shows "sincerity," the communist state's official news agency said Tuesday.

The announcement came less than two weeks after Kim flew through Washington and in its allies by claiming that it had nuclear weapons and would beyond the talks.

"We will go to the negotiating table anytime if there are mature conditions for the six-party talks thanks to the concerted efforts of the parties concerned in the future," Kim said Tuesday, expressing the hope that the United States would show "trustworthy sincerity," according to the Korean Central News Agency.

Kim spoke of his government's new position in over the nuclear issue in a meeting with Wang Jiarui, head of the Chinese Communist Party's International Department, KCNA said.

Kim also said that North Korea would "as ever stand for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsul" and its position to seek a peaceful solution to the issue through dialogue remains unchanged, the news agency said.

KCNA did not elaborate on what conditions Kim cited during his talks with the envoy from China, which is his impoverished country's only remaining major ally.

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The RA role is an important one, especially for seniors in their final year at Notre Dame. An RA must attend an intensive training program in early August, including住在 sessions, role-playing and in-hall training. Once orientation is over, an RA must commit to weekly hall staff meetings and nights of being "on call" in case of emergencies in the dorm on call in case incidents arise.

In addition to these duties, an RA plays a significant role as a director of the living situation, acting as a liaison between students and the rector. Because the RA is a student, or she is often seen as more approachable than other administrative figures on campus, and becomes the figure students turn to with troubles or questions.

The RA also serves as a liaison between students and the residence hall. The RA serves a great resource and an integral part of the system that makes the residence halls at Notre Dame have to offer. The RA should be an individual that residents can turn to and comfortably trust for issues of all types, concerning all aspects of life," Lyon RA Stephanie Sellinger said.

"Additionally, an RA can serve as a great resource about the University and all it has to offer," Sellinger said. "While they are responsible for maintaining a safe and orderly environment for residents, an RA's most significant role is support.

In recognition of their commitment to Notre Dame's dorm community, the University offers RAs a few job perks. Free room and board is the most significant benefit, but RAs also receive free SIC, Michael's Laundry service and parking.

It's not these benefits, however, that attract most students to being an RA. Aspects of tradition and the impact of former RAs seem to be the primary factors motivating students to apply for the position. "I wanted to be an RA because of the example that was set before me," said sophomore Brian Conlon. "Dean Coleman and Pat McGarry — all former RAs — are great RAs and great friends," said Green. "I love being an RA — I have no regrets."

Petula Fernandes, a Lewis RA, also credits former RAs as her inspiration. "I had good experiences with my RA from freshman and sophomore year. Both were different people, but through them I realized the importance of the ministry of being an RA," she said. "Now, that I can look back on it, I see things from a different perspective, but I absolutely love the position."

In addition to the responsibilities and expectations required of RAs, the application process itself is highly competitive. Though any junior can apply, applicants

must complete a written application for the Office of Residence Life, submit letters of recommendation and go through an interview process. Every dorm has a slightly different method for selection, but ultimately it is the current RAs who choose the candidates for the following year.

Siegfried RA Robert Murphy explained the scope the application process can reach in certain dorms. "In Siegfried we do three rounds of interviews. Two are with current RAs and one is with the head staff — the AIs, assistant rectors, and the rector," Murphy said.

Fernandes described a similar procedure in Lewis, where applicants interview with RAs, assistant rectors and the rector, each of which can last up to two hours, she said.

The number of applicants who apply each year also fuels competition for the RA position. Though each dorm has a different number of RAs depending on its size, most dorms have more applicants than spots. "The competitiveness varies according to the dorm," Sellinger said. "Some dorms, like Lyons Hall, have more than two applicants for every RA spot, and it can depend on a lot of factors, including the size of the dorm," she said. Particular dorms and experiences these juniors had as undergraduates with their former RAs, she said. "I would consider it competitive," Fernandes agreed.

Fernandes agreed that the process is competitive, but she said she thought this was ultimately beneficial. "I feel the competition makes it exciting," she said. "With so many people applying, we can be selective and choose the best possible applicants for the position."

Even with the tough competition for the positions and the stringent experiences and responsibilities required of an RA, juniors still apply in high numbers every year. "Even with the application process, I still wanted to apply because I really want to give underclassmen the same experiences I had at Notre Dame," said Katie Skirch, a Lewis junior applying for an RA spot. "I had some great RAs in the past that really made a difference, and I'd like to pass that on."

Anna Schmall, who is applying for a fourth year in Lyons, said she thought that the competition and written application aid in the selection process. "Having to do the application and go through the interviews really made me think and make a conscious decision to apply for RA," Schmall said. "This is ultimately a good thing, because you only get the people who are truly dedicated go through with it."

Whether it is their commitment to community or their desire to be a role model for freshmen or numerous other reasons for wanting to be an RA, both current RAs and applicants for next year cite their dedication to the University as a main reason for their service as an RA.

"I personally wanted to apply because I loved the community aspect of the dorm and feel that it is an essential part of Notre Dame. I really want to give something back to the school and to the dorm in my last year here," Schmall said.

After his experience as an RA, Murphy echoed these sentiments. "I would apply to be an RA again if I had the chance," Murphy said. "It's been a great ending to my college career at Notre Dame. I feel it's a complement to senior year to be able to help out in the dorm, while at the same time being independent."

Contact Julie Bender at jbender@nd.edu

__________________________

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**Economists predict slow growth**

Slow housing market and increased mortgage rates are contributing factors

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Economic growth will slow this year but will still be sufficiently robust to reduce the nation's unemployment rate, business economists say.

In its latest economic forecast for 2005, the National Association for Business Economics predicted the economy — as measured by gross domestic product — will expand by 3.6 percent this year and next. If the projections being released today prove accurate, that mark would slow from the 4.4 percent growth clocked in 2004, the strongest showing in five years. GDP measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States and is considered the broadest barometer of the country’s economic health.

"Economic growth in 2005 will moderate but still be strong," said Carl Tannebaum, chief economist at LaSalle Bank and head of the committee overseeing the economic forecast.

One reason economists give for the expected moderation this year is the belief that a red-hot housing market will cool and mortgage rates will rise. Consumer spending and business investment this year are expected to be solid and to help support economic growth, according to the outlook.

Forecasters anticipate that the unemployment rate — which averaged 5.2 percent last year — will dip to 5.2 percent this year and then to 5.1 percent next year.

On the inflation front, consumer prices this year are expected to rise 2.6 percent. Core consumer prices, which exclude food and energy costs, will rise 2.3 percent per year.

A devaluation in consumer prices this year is based partly on the expectation that energy prices, which surged last year, will calm down. Forecasters are predicting a barrel of crude oil will cost around $40 at the end of this year, compared with $48 a barrel at the end of 2004.

The forecast was compiled before Friday's release of a government report that showed wholesale-price sales — excluding food and energy costs — soared in January by the largest amount in more than six years. A government report on consumer prices for January will be released Wednesday.

For all of 2004, wholesale prices went up a faster pace than consumer prices. Some companies, not wanting to turn off buyers, were reluctant to pass along all of their higher costs to consumers, analysts explain.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, appearing before Congress last week to deliver the central bank's twice-a-year economic outlook, offered a relatively positive view of the economy and the nation's pricing climate.

"The evidence broadly supports the view that economic fundamentals have improved," Greenspan said.

"All told, the economy seems to have entered 2005 expanding at a reasonably good pace, with inflation and inflation expectations well-anchored."

Fed policy-makers, wanting to make sure inflation doesn't get out of hand, embarked on a rate-raising campaign in June. That has elevated in six modest quarter-point increases, leaving a key interest rate at 2.5 percent.

That key rate is expected to rise to 3.5 percent by the end of this year, according to the business economists. If that were to happen, the prime lending rate, used for many short-term consumer and business loans, would rise to 6.50 percent by year's end. The prime rate, which moves in lockstep with the Fed's key rate, is now 5.50.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan takes his seat before a Senate banking hearing Wednesday, where he offered his views on the economic outlook.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan takes his seat before a Senate banking hearing Wednesday, where he offered his views on the economic outlook.

**Taxpayers may benefit from break**

**Regulators request more information**

INDIANAPOLIS — Federal regulators have asked for more information regarding Johnson & Johnson's planned $25.4 billion acquisition of Guidant Corp.

The companies said Friday they had expected to close the deal by the end of October.

When the deal was announced in December, analysts said they expected a tough review by the Federal Trade Commission would sour the deal and keep it from being finalized by the end of October.

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Democrats: Don't let my retirement savings get flushed

I've had the random thought lately, regularly accompanied by my Attention Deficit Disorder, that there are a great many things..."ager for granted in everyday life. Modern plumbing and standards of hygiene are very simple examples of this. Simple things, from household cleaners to common household appliances, are all examples of generations of innovation to the changing variables of human need. The modern toilet is the perfect example of an everyday thing that none of us could live without, which has evolved from a hole in the ground to an elaboration of modern plumbing and multimillion-dollar treatment plants.

The same cycles can be seen in the constantly fluid medium of governmental institutions. Through revolutions in philosophy over time, human beings have evolved government to meet their own needs. Apologizing in advance for my recent habit of using crude analogies in my columns, the evolution of governmental institutions should not be looked at any differently than the various innovations that have brought this massive toilet to our common and practical toilet.

During the years of the Great Depression, a widespread problem was met with a single common solution we now know as Social Security. This plan was a noble promise that any American that invested the best years of his life in his career would be ensured a stable retirement.

Unfortunately, the program as it is now, has evolved government to meet their current innovations, the needs have begun to outweigh the original design. The fundamental problem with Medicare and Social Security has become the classic one of "bat and switch." Democrats propose the world with these programs, but they are still operating on a basic pay-as-you-go system model. The success of this system depends on a simple assumption that more money will be coming in than going out. A combination of false political promises and the mentioned demographic constraints make this an exercise in futility without benefit cuts or tax hikes.

Just how bad is the broader problem? "National Center for Policy Analysis" Brief No. 490 laid out this phenomenon quite clearly. As a result of lower birthrates and longer lifespans, the fundamental problem will only seem to get worse. If politicians decide to try and preserve the status quo of these programs, they will increasingly need to borrow funds from the federal income tax, as Medicare had to do in 2004. In 2004, that number is only 3.6 percent of total income taxes. However, in 10-year increments beginning in 2090, the number becomes 52.7, 66.4 and 76.1 percent of federal spending.

I recommend that anybody who wishes to gain an accurate understanding of private accounts should read Peter Ferrara's "A Progressive Plan for Social Security," available online at the Institute for Policy Innovation Web site. It is our generation that should be doing the research on this and becoming active in the public policy debate.

Having had almost constant part-time jobs since I was 16, I want to keep tabs on exactly how the government is handling that little chunk of my paychecks that has been taken out in the FICA columns of the taxes.

Without bullying through an uncompromising plan, Republicans should offer a progressive private account plan and guarantee current rates of return to address the concerns of Democrats. As well as the Peter Ferrara piece, I also recommend the Cato Institute's project on Social Security reform.

Getting back to the toilet example of innovation, as Republicans we do not seek to reinvent Social Security because it was probably the best idea Democrats have come up with. Consider it more like those new low water usage toilets that give you more flush for your water. In the same good spirit President Franklin D. Roosevelt had for the greatest generation of our grandparents, we just want to make sure our generation gets more bang for our hard-earned buck, and that the baby boom population spike doesn't flush our hard-earned future incomes down the drain.

Tom Ripplinger is a senior political science major. He is the co-president of the Notre Dame College Republicans. He can be contacted at ripplin@ nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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Observer Poll

Do awareness weeks really raise awareness on campus?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com

Quote of the Day

"Ideas are, in truth, forces. Infinite, too, is the power of personality. A union of the two always makes history."

Henry James
American author
Room and board increase is not justified

In The Observer editorial of Feb. 18, the "overruling of the Vagina Monologues" proposal at Notre Dame is associated with that of the V-Day movement, namely in "the empowerment of women." It also suggests that, therefore, Notre Dame might properly host the play even though "parts" of it "unnourish the hot access of human sexuality." The characterization of the play is, I suggest, surpassingly risible to any disinterested reader or viewer. By my count, out of 24 units in the play, four, consisting of six pages, deal with violence against women. The other units are encomia to lesbian sex, lesbian seduction of adolescents, sadomasochism, fornication and masturbation, stitched together by passages salted with obscenities and vulgarity of all grades and types.

What else, really, should be expected of an author who boasts in her introduction that in her performances she has managed to have "thirty-two public orgasms a night?!" One hopes she is able to enjoy the same sexually culpable fund of the jazzy rhythms of American profanity and can't guarantee that if I were in front of a prime-time television camera — God willing! — I would be able to refrain from spontaneously ruffling on them. If the threat of $500,000 of debt will keep me in line, so be it.

Having successfully intimidated broadcast TV and radio, the advocates of public decency are now gearing up to take on cable TV. Run for them! If children hear naughty words, they might try to find out what they mean. And, good lord, if the children see any sex on the talking-pictures box, their parents might actually be obliged to explain what it is.

The First Amendment may be the indispensable bulwark of our democracy, but surely we can tweak it a little if that will help delay the awkward birds-and-the-bees talk. I mean ... it's so awkward!

This column originally appeared in the Feb. 18 edition of The Daily Texan, the daily publication at The University of Texas at Austin.

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Thursday, our statehouse Congress passed the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005, which ratchets up fines for single incidents of televised indecency to an impressive $500,000. The act also voids the FCC's obligation to warn performers for a first offense before a fine can be levied. The vote for the act was 389-38, by the way, reflecting the new conventional wisdom that "values" are the hot accessory. "You Don't Want To Be Caught Dead Without" is a sort of a political version of the little black dress.

In the past, I have written in opposition to the recent force push for public decency. And, I must admit, I have been guilty of caricaturing the other side, as though they didn't have a legitimate complaint. This has been very unfair of me. In fact, now that I've really considered the issue, I see the wisdom of their position.

Any fool up on his constitutional history knows that when the framers wrote the First Amendment, they didn't mean it to protect people who talk about doo-doo or doin' it. Indeed, the late-1900-year sensibilities been able to conceive of a society so depraved. Of course, d���or doin' it' were subjects of public starvation, they would have made this exception explicit. Doo-doo and d���or doin' it' are icky, and, while we must have wary patience for serious dissent, no decent civilization can countenance lechery. The Romans let Plautus stage all these ribald plays about naughty courtesans, and look what happened to them.

And, really, my own reasons for opposing the advocates of public decency have been more personal than political. I love indecency and I hate to hear its honor abused. Moreover, I am incomprehensibly fond of the jazzy rhythms of American profanity and can't guarantee that if I were in front of a prime-time television camera — God willing! — I would be able to refrain from spontaneously ruffling on them. If the threat of $500,000 of debt will keep me in line, so be it.

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J.S. media easily duped

Friedman on Tuesday, CNN has made corrections and replaced the photographs on its stories. Don Jensen, director of communications for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty said that the photos in questions were misidentified, but no correction has run on the Intermediate Web site — the photos were merely pulled on stories not dealing with the nuclear facility in Natanz, and the file was renamed.

It's an easy mistake to make, specifically after the passage of the "Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005." Section 914 of the act makes satellite photography the government takes or buys immune from Freedom of Information Act requests.

Considering this administration's willingness to misrepresent the facts to the tragic, weak media and ambitions to use propaganda, until satellite photography is fully open to the public and enable the same skepticism one would reserve for a report in Chinese news agency Xinhua or communist-run Pravda.

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**DVD Reviews**

**Scorsese’s boxing classic receives special treatment**

By BRIAN DOXTADER

Scene Critic

“Raging Bull,” director Martin Scorsese’s best film, recently got the deluxe DVD treatment from MGM in a two-disc special edition, replacing the long-out-of-print original disc. A quarter of a century later, “Raging Bull” remains a towering achievement of 20th century cinema. A brutally unflinching portrait of Jake La Motta (Robert De Niro), the one-time middleweight boxing champion of the world, Scorsese’s film originally polarized critics and audiences upon its 1980 release. With what some critics called a violent, misogynistic and unsympathetic animal of a protagonist, the film was uncomfortably received. Yet its stature has grown over the years to the point that American Film magazine declared it the greatest film of the 1980’s, and the American Film Institute named it the 24th best film of all time.

Like other great “sports” movies, “Raging Bull” is not actually about boxing, but uses boxing to examine the tortured psyche of a character consumed by jealousy, frustration, hatred, fear and inadequacy. By the time the picture ends, the audience has been given a look into the soul of a tormented man who has fallen into nothing, but is left with the smallest glimmer of self-recognition.

From a technical standpoint, everything about “Raging Bull” is perfect. Scorsese and all his longtime collaborators reach their zenith here, turning in the best work of their careers. The acting is all-top-notch, but the film is undoubtedly anchored by De Niro’s stunning Oscar-winning performance. The actor trained with La Motta for a year to get into shape, then gained 60 pounds to play the boxer as a fat middle-aged man — starting the actors’ trend of drastic physical transformation in order to better “live in a character.”

In most other films, such performance would overshadow all the other actors, but not here. Joe Pesci holds his own in a star-making performance as Jake’s brother Joey and Catherine Morialzr got acclaim and an Academy Award nomination as Jake’s wife, Vicki.

Scorsese is at the top of his game, directing with a relentless passion and purpose. Thelma Schoonmaker, Scorsese’s long-time editor, won an Oscar for her incredible work here, and writer Paul Schrader’s pen script that crackles with life and fervor. The DVD is well-presented. The print itself is in fine shape, which solid black levels and little grain and digital artifacts. The sound is solid, but unspectacular. The 2.1 digital audio mix is less immersive than could be hoped, especially during the fight scenes. One might’ve hoped that MGM would’ve opened up the soundstage a bit more, but since the film was originally mixed in surround sound, what is found here is certainly adequate.

The extras are substantial and informative. The first disc has no fewer than three commentaries — one from Schonmaker and Scorsese, one featuring the cast and crew and a final one featuring the “storytellers,” including Scorsese and La Motta himself. All three are excellent, with lots of insights and anecdotes.

The second disc houses most of the special features. The heart of the material is four featurettes, which altogether run nearly an hour and a half in length. They are extremely insightful, supplying anecdotes and behind the scenes memories from the cast and the filmmakers. “Raging Bull” is one of the finest motion pictures ever made, a towering testament to the skills of its director, star, screenwriter and editor and a crowning achievement of modern cinema. This latest, excellent DVD from MGM gets the highest possible recommendation.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdxtad@nd.edu

**Spider-Man sequel swings past predecessor**

By MOLLY GRIFFIN

Scene Critic

Sequels are rarely stellar, particularly those following up a major summer blockbuster. But somehow “Spider-Man 2” manages not only to be as good as the original, but actually manages to surpass it in many ways. Not only are the special effects superior to the first film, Molina and the other actors, but not here. Joe Pesci holds his own in a star-making performance as Jake’s brother Joey and Catherine Morialzr got acclaim and an Academy Award nomination as Jake’s wife, Vicki.

The duties of a superhero aren’t very forgiving, which causes Peter to get fired from his pizza delivery job, neglect his friendship with a wide variety of extras. The first disc includes two very different commentaries. The first features director Sam Raimi and Maguire, producer Arl Adar and co-producer Grant Curtis. But if viewers want to find out more about the special effects in the film, particularly those used to bring Dr. Octopus to life, they can listen to the second commentary featuring members of the various special effects teams. There is also a trivia subtitle track that can be viewed along with the film’s soundtrack.

The second disc is composed of featurettes. These include “Making the Amazing,” which details various aspects of the film’s production, “Hero in Crisis,” which tracks the development of Peter Parker’s character and “Enter the Web,” which details the premiere fight sequence between Spider-Man and Doc Ock.

Overall, “Spider-Man 2” is a fantastic example of just how good asummer blockbuster can be when a film’s creators care about the its quality. The DVD set reflects this devotion to excellence. Viewers can only hope the filmmakers continue this vigilance when the inevitable third film is made.

Contact Molly Griffin at mgiffin@nd.edu
By RYAN ROGERS

Continuing the trend of adapting comic books into movies, “Constantine” fails to stand out from the other films of its genre.

John Constantine (Keanu Reeves) was born with the curse of seeing angels and demons among the living. Unable to cope with these visions, he attempted suicide and is only dead for two minutes. Afterward, Constantine has a better perspective on the way the world works. He knows about the existence of heaven and hell and the battle of good versus evil. Now he spends his days performing exorcisms in hopes that they will redeem him in the eyes of God and help to earn his way into heaven. But because Constantine’s suicide was a mortal sin, he is destined for hell. As a chain smoker, he has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer.

If this weren’t enough to handle in one film, Constantine then discovers the devil’s son is planning to come to Earth and take control of him. This, of course, requires strange rituals involving the dead (played by Lucy Lawless and his uncle, but not much from his direct involvement, as Kay simply lacked the experience compared to his previous horror film “The Devil’s Advocate”). There are some redeeming qualities in the story, and Constantine’s leaps of faith, Shia LaBeouf plays Constantine’s apprentice and serves his purpose as cheap comic relief. Gavin Rossdale inexplicably plays a darkly humorous demon that has it out for Constantine.

The best performance comes from Djimon Hounsou as Midnite, the owner of a nightclub in which both angels and demons are welcome. Midnite is the only character that seems to have more than one character trait and more than one brain cell.

There are some redeeming qualities about “Constantine.” Stylistically, it is flashy and fun to watch, which is to be expected from Francis Lawrence, a popular music video director turned film director. There is also an effort to stay true to the film’s comic book roots, with a lot of picturesque slow motion shots and extreme angles that look like pages straight out of comics.

One of the film’s biggest distractions is its overtly religious and often sacrilegious nature. A lot of Catholic icons are juxtaposed with vulgarities like the middle finger, which may offend some viewers. When all is said and done, “Constantine” kills itself. The film has some basic appeal but fails to execute on nearly all of its fronts.

Contact Ryan Rogers at rogers2@nd.edu

By MARK BEMENDERFER

While many horror films come out yearly that touch upon the theme of the boogeyman, no movie has yet tackled the usual thrills involved in the bogeyman. Now, years later, Jensen is a grown man who grows uneasy over his childhood fears.

"Boogeyman," directed by Stephen T. Kay, opened at number one at the box office for the Feb. 4-6 weekend. It builds on what is becoming a very profitable genre in the entertainment industry — the PG-13 horror movie. It borrows elements of the movies that came before it and extends them to create a good, competent narrative that doesn’t also deviate much from its predecessors, so it fails to exceed the usual expectations for the horror genre.

Tim Jensen (Barry Watson), whose father was killed and taken by the boogeyman, is forced to face his traumatic childhood fears when he returns home.

The only flaw in his plan is that his fears are indeed very real and dangerous. "Boogeyman" is a haunted house movie as much as a stalkler flick. Jensen’s childhood home has fallen deep into cobweb-covered disuse over the years of his absence. Plastic drapes over a lot of the furniture and house, creating an eerie mood for the film. But Jensen does not limit himself to just the house, and crafts other spooky settings to exude an ominous tone.

Watson does a decent job in his role, as do the other principal actors. The story focuses on Watson’s character primarily, with other characters introduced to add a tinge of mystery. The audience gets to meet Watson’s current girlfriend, his childhood friend and his uncle, but all of these characters are facially developed.

"Boogeyman" would have benefited greatly from his direct involvement, as Kay simply lacked the experience coming into the film to make it stand out. The result is that the horror film cliches — loud noises, anti-climaxes and a computer-generated ending — are included in “Boogeyman.” The film’s main problems arise from its convoluted narrative structure. The film was financed by Sam Raimi’s Ghost House Pictures, and Raimi is no stranger to horror movies,
Jeff Gordon celebrates his victory in the Daytona 500. It was his third win at the "Super Bowl" of stock car racing.

North America's first lost sports season leaves a black eye

Wanted

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ADVERTISER: Classifieds

Saturday, February 22, 2005

NASCAR

Gordon enjoys life as a star on and off the racetrack

Associated Press

GORDON BEACH, Fla. — Jeff Gordon celebrated his third Daytona 500 victory aboard his 106-foot yacht, the 24 Karat.

The four-time NASCAR champion is rich beyond imagination, has Hollywood good looks, and is an A-list celebrity who is just as comfortable hosting "Saturday Night Live" or sitting in on "Live with Regis and Kelly" as driving his No. 24 Chevrolet.

Besides the yacht that was anchored just minutes from Daytona International Speedway last week, Gordon films around in a private plane and has several homes.

Yet, for all his riches and fame, Gordon is still interested in the basics.

"You know, I learned quite a while ago that it's not racing that I love, it's winning," Gordon said.

And he's done plenty of that. His victory Sunday, that came in spectacular fashion not only put him among the Daytona elite — joining Richard Petty (7), Dale Yarborough (5), Bobble Allison (3) and Dale Jarrett (2) as the only drivers with three or more victories at Daytona.

He has 70 career wins and is an A-list celebrity and has several homes.

Jeff Gordon celebrated his victory in the Daytona 500.

"Seventy!" he said, relishing the sound. "I wanted to get to 70. That seemed like a good number."

To do it, Gordon had to out-race defending champion Dale Earnhardt Jr., former series champion Tony Stewart, who led a race-high 107 laps, and Kurt Busch.

He also had to survive a final 20 laps that were chaotic. There were two crashes involving 17 cars and a third caution flag sent the race into a three-lap overtime.

"There are the moments that you live for, the moments we get paid the big bucks for," Gordon said. "You live to be in that position, to have chaos happening all around you, for your car to lead the pack."

"I enjoy being in that position. Being out front in front of the pack place to be. I wanted that checkered flag really badly. I looked in my mirror and did everything I could."

What he saw in the mirror the last two laps was Busch trying to close the gap by staying behind Gordon, who looked in my mirror and did everything I could.

"I saw some video of the finish and saw how much momentum was. But I'm really thankful he didn't try to go my outside because of NASCAR racing have won more than

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- John Philip Sousa

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6:45 Western Michigan University Combo
7:30 University of Illinois Concert Jazz Band
8:15 Oberlin College Jazz Ensemble
9:00 Western Michigan University Jazz Orchestra
9:45 Judges' Jam-Frank Catalano, Andre Hayward, Lynne Arriola, Jay Anderson, & Steve Davis

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PREVIEW NIGHT, LaFortune Ballroom-FREE
9:00pm University of Notre Dame Jazz Band I & University of Notre Dame Brass

Saturday, 26th
2:00-3:00 CLINIC, Notre Dame Band Building-FREE
EVENING CONCERT SESSION, WASHINGTON HALL
6:00 University of Notre Dame Jazz Band I
6:45 Middle Tennessee State University Jazz Ensemble I
7:30 Jacksonville State University Jazz Ensemble I
8:15 University of Notre Dame Brass Band
9:00 Carnegie Mellon University Jazz Ensemble
9:45 CJF Alumni Combo

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Tennessee cuts six players to get below salary cap for 2005

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Receiver Derrick Mason and punter Joe Nedney were among six players released Monday by the Tennessee Titans in an effort to cut up to $27 million to get under the NFL salary cap.

In addition to Mason and Nedney, the Titans released starting defensive lineman Kevin Carter and right tackle Fred Miller. They also cut fullback Robert Holcombe and kicker Joel NBody.

Titans owner Bud Adams said everyone on the team knew this day was coming.

"At this point, I believe this is the best option for our franchise and know it will make us stronger for the future," Adams said in a statement. "To our fans, this is not an ending. I believe in this team and I look forward to seeing them grow."

General manager Floyd Reese said the Titans want to mimic Baltimore’s approach to salary-cap planning — and more often than not, it’s the most he says to reporters all season.

When he arrives Tuesday, it’s sure to be quite an event. More than 100 media members are likely to attend, and they’ll be looking for answers from the slugger that aren’t sealed.

Bonds will be peppered with questions about the steroid controversy that constantly surrounds him.

Will it affect the legacy he leaves? Will his records be tainted? Does he care at all what fans think of him?

"He might not answer any of them, or could choose to be candid," Reese said. "This will be the first time the 40-year-old bonds has spoken publicly since his grand jury testimony was leaked to the San Francisco Chronicle and reported in December. Bonds testified in December 2003 that he used a clear substance and a cream given to him by a trainer who was indicted in a steroid-distribution ring, but said he didn’t know they were steroids.

"Ever since I’ve been here, no matter what happens off the field or what he’s dealing with, once he gets on the field, he’s always focused and able to be the best player in the game," Giants pitcher Kirk Rueter said. "That just shows you how he focuses and how much he concentrates once he’s on the field."

Bonds isn’t expected to do a lot on the field until at least the middle of March.

He had arthroscopic surgery on both knees since last season ended, including an operation on his right knee Feb. 1 that will limit him for much of the spring. Bonds will be rehabilitating the knee under the direction of team trainer Stan Conte.

"What I have heard so far is that he’s coming back early in the camp he’s not going to be doing much," manager Felipe Alou said Monday. "I don’t see any anticipation here except that one of the best players to ever play the game is coming in. ... We’re used to that (fanfare) here a lot. It would be kind of strange if we didn’t have it now."

The seven-time NL MVP enters his 20th major league season with 703 homers, trailing only Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714) on the career list. Bonds drew 232 walks last season, 34 more than the record he set in 2002 and more than 100 more than anyone in baseball. His 120 intentional walks shattered the mark of 68 that he set in 2002.

With Alex’s son, Moises, batting behind Bonds this season, the skipper believes Bonds might not walk quite as often.

MLB

Bonds to report for spring ball

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Few spring training arrivals compare to the day Barry Bonds shows up at Scottsdale Stadium. It’s when the San Francisco Giants superstar holds his annual news conference — and more often than not, it’s the most he says to reporters all season.

Barry Bonds smiles after hitting a home run against the Seattle Mariners during a spring training game in Scottsdale, Ariz. on March 18, 2003.

When he arrives Tuesday, it’s sure to be quite an event. More than 100 media members are likely to attend, and they’ll be looking for answers from the slugger that aren’t sealed.

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With Alex’s son, Moises, batting behind Bonds this season, the skipper believes Bonds might not walk quite as often.
Cavaliers and gets an assist on Feb. 17. Minnesota may trade Timberwolves forward Wally Szczerbiak cuts between two teams' situations. The Minnesota Timberwolves power forward Kevin Garnett wondered how the Timberwolves forward Wally Szczerbiak, Sam Cassell or Latrell Sprewell would perform Thursday's 3 p.m. EST deadline, "As far as the loop, I don't know where it's at." The All-Star break ended Monday, and the league's 24 best players headed this way and that from a city that pulled off the league's showcase weekend without a hitch and now will focus its attention on the troubles of the struggling Nuggets. Denver made the playoffs last season after an eight-year absence, but the Nuggets' current record (24-29) has left them with the 10th-best record. Only eight teams qualify for the postseason. By comparison, though, the Timberwolves' situation is worse. After reaching the Western Conference finals last season with the NBA's second-best record (28-24), Minnesota enters the unofficial second half of the season as a .500 team with serious chemistry issues that many believe can only be resolved with a roster shake-up. "Chemistry is something that's hard. I love all the guys on our team, they're all good guys, guys that really care about one another, guys that have real, real, real work ethics," Garnett said. "And as a unit, we know we can come together and turn this thing around, so whether they're going to make moves or not, it's not going to be dependent on what Kevin Garnett thinks." Along with the Timberwolves, the Sacramento Kings, Toronto Raptors, Indiana Pacers, Memphis Grizzlies, Portland Trail Blazers, Boston Celtics, New York Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers are the favorites to make something happen before the league's trading deadline passes Thursday afternoon. Sacramento's Chris Webber, New York's Kurt Thomas, Toronto's Allen Brouwer and Donnell Marshall, Indiana's sus­ penseful Mariano, Detroit's Benzi Wells, Portland's Damon Stoudamire, Nick Van Exel and Robert Parish, Miami's Eddie Jones and the Lakers' Lamar Odom were among the names being bandied about in trade rumors over the weekend. "I think every year there's so much speculation, but I always say nobody wants to pull that trigger," Seattle's Ray Allen said. "It might be that some teams to 12th players are moved around, some draft picks. But nothing really significant ever happens." Allen seemed to be forgetting a big piece of his own recent past, the deadline-day deal between the SuperSonics and SuperHeads. Allen was caught completely off guard when the Bucks shipped him to Seattle for Gary Payton and Desmond Mason, and the chances are some will be in a similar situation before the opportunity to make deals expires.

Many believe this is a different season than the NBA has experienced for the past decade, the race for the championship more wide open than 99 percent of the league's player population has ever seen. "Everybody says San Antonio is the team to beat, and definitely they've earned that and have the right to say that," Phoenix's Shawn Marion said. "We have to prove we can beat that team and play with them." Phoenix (41-13) comes out of the break just a half-game behind San Antonio (41-12) for the league's best record. Miami (40-14), Seattle (35-15), Dallas (35-16), the defending champion Pistons (32-19) and Sacramento (31-20) are right on their heels, and Cleveland (30-21), Washington (34-22) and Houston (32-21) are the league's upstarts.

One sportswriter who had a five-hour layover in Las Vegas on his way to Denver noticed that the Rockets were listed as 30-1 to win the title. That fact was relayed Sunday to Tracy McGrady, who has immediately taken aback given his team's eight-game winning streak. "Wha? Really?" "I think we've won the past month that we've a team not to be taken lightly," McGrady said. "Maybe they think our time is not now since it's our first year together, maybe they feel we beat Dallas and I don't feel that way. We did get off to a bad start this year, but we've righted ourselves a big hole, but if they watched over the past month they'd realize we're one of the elite teams in this league now." The problem, as Garnett can attest, is that elite team status is fleeting in today's NBA. Teams have five or six days to do something about it before the trading deadline passes.
PGA

Austrian Adam Scott shows off his Nissan Open trophy Monday after clinching the win with a par on the first playoff hole, where he faced Chad Campbell in sudden-death. The Open was cut short to 36 holes due to torrential rain.

Scott wins Nissan Open in 36 holes

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Adam Scott has his name on the Nissan Open trophy. He earned $864,000, which counts just the same if he had played 72 holes, instead of only two rounds followed by a sudden-death playoff Monday morning in the rain against Chad Campbell.

He even was nervous standing over his tee shot in the playoff on the famous 18th hole at Riviera Country Club.

But there was no denying the strange sensation Scott felt after winning the first 36-hole event on the PGA Tour in nine years, a victory that comes with a trophy, a check and an asterisk.

Scott, who made a 20-foot birdie putt a day earlier to finish his second round tied with Campbell at 9-under 135, made short work of the long week by getting up-and-down for par on the first extra hole to win the Nissan Open.

After rolling in the 4-footer, Scott had to remind himself what winners do. First came an awkward smile, then a gentle raised his hand to acknowledge the 200 people watching the bizarre conclusion under gray skies.

"It doesn't feel like we played much golf this week," Scott said. "I don't feel tired and drained like you normally do when it's finally over, and you've been battling with some guy for the last 36 holes. It's been an odd week."

The tournament was cut short to 36 holes because of heavy rain.

IN BRIEF

Bloomberg, New York City welcome International Olympic Commission

NEW YORK — The city, digging out from a snowstorm, rolled out a warm welcome Monday for the 13 delegates charging with helping select a host city for the 2012 Olympics.

"Nice to see you. Welcome," Mayor Michael Bloomberg told the International Olympic Committee evaluation commission delegates during a meet-and-greet ceremony at the Plaza Hotel. He later joked that the blanket of snow positioned the city to also bid for the Winter Games.

The evaluation commission is in town for a final round of scrutiny, evaluating the five cities still in the running for the Olympics. The group already toured Madrid and London, with Moscow and Paris left to visit. The IOC will weigh the evaluators' findings and announce its decision July 6.

Colts sign veteran tackle Diem

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts signed right tackle Ryan Diem to a seven-year contract Monday, another step in keeping their high-scoring offense together for one more season.

The next move could come Tuesday when the Colts were expected to place the franchise designation on Pro Bowl running back Edgerrin James. Diem's new deal will prevent him from becoming an unrestricted free agent in March. Salary figures were not immediately available, but the deal was believed to include a signing bonus of about $12 million and expected to be salary-cap friendly.

Fans embrace Giambi at spring training complex

TAMPA, Fla. — Jason Giambi quickly had his first signature moment of 2005. A little more than two hours after arriving at spring training Monday, he walked to the outfield end of the New York Yankees' dugout and stepped onto the field.

How was he welcomed after an off-season filled with steroid allegations?

With cheers and outstretched pens. There were several hundred people in the stands, and the line of fans waiting for his autograph snaked up through 16 rows of blue seats, then turned back toward home plate on the walkway dividing the lower and upper sections of Legends Field.
Women's water polo sweeps weekend challenges

Four opponents fall to Irish; equestrian team competes in shows at Taylor University

Special to The Observer

The women's water polo club swept all four opponents this weekend, defeating Western Michigan, 15-2, and Eastern Michigan, 15-1 on Saturday. They then topped Grand Valley State, 15-4 and Eastern Michigan 14-3, in a rematch on Sunday. The club is preparing for its trip to Cal San Bernardino, to challenge both the top clubs and some varsity teams in California.

Women's Ice Hockey

In its last games of the season, the women's ice hockey club traveled to Ann Arbor to face the University of Michigan this weekend. Despite Friday's 9-0 loss to the Wolverines, the Irish women came out full of energy in their game Saturday night, scoring 3 goals in the 9-5 loss to Michigan. In their last games for the team, seniors Annamaree Kennedy and Tori Blaine each scored in the first period, with Blaine rilling in a second goal during the second period. Sophomore Julia LaPointe added two goals to the effort. Senior Nell Ryan led the team with her defensive play, but in the end, Michigan was too deep and experienced for the Irish. Senior co-captain Angela Zebrach commended the team for their performance and intensity in both games.

Equestrian

The Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Equestrians competed in a pair of HNA shows this weekend at Taylor University. They claimed third on Saturday with 31 points and finished at Reserve High Point on Sunday with 33 points. These results all but guaranteed the Irish will be crowned regional champions and will qualify for the Zones championships. In Saturday's competition, Caitlin Landuyt earned High Point honors as the day's top scorer among all teams.

Landuyt claimed first in intermediate flat, with Andrea Oliverio coming in second and Molly Schmiege sixth. Landuyt and Oliverio tied for second in intermediate flat, with teammates Chelsea Brown third, Catherine Linn fifth and Schmiege sixth. Claire Freeman posted a first in open flat to lead a strong Irish score as Katie Baron placed second, and Kelly Ostdberg, Oliverio and Molly Kopacz all tied for third. Baron also took second in open fences.

Kristin LaBota, Marta Ascudi and Megan Murphy all finished first in their class of novice flat, with Hayden Pascil third, Brittany Gragg fourth and Lauren Cravall sixth. Murphy also placed second in novice fences. Katy Booth earned a second in walk-trot-canter, followed by Laura Hale and Heather Landuyt both in fifth. Nicole Gonsalves claimed second in walk-trot.

In action Sunday, Katie Baron garnered first in open fences. Claire Freeman placed second in open flat, with Molly Kopacz third, Baron, Kelsey Ostdberg and Andrea Oliverio all in fourth and Julia Burke at fifth. Molly Schmiege took sixth in intermediate fences, the only Irish rider to score there.

Senior co-captain first for the weekend in intermediate flat, with Chelsea Brown placing second. Schmiege was fourth, followed by Ana Richter and Catherine Linn in fifth. Mary Dorgant and Hayden Pascil tied for second in novice fences, with Megan Murphy coming in fifth. Murphy and Kristin Landuyt shared first in novice flat, and Dorgant and Pascil tied for third. Brittany Gragg ended in fourth and Kathryn Ryan finished fifth. Heather LaDue won first in walk-trot-canter, followed by Katy Booth in fourth and Laura Hale fifth. Nicole Gonsalves finished third in walk-trot.

Gymnastics

The Irish gymnastics team traveled to Bloomington to compete in Indiana's Big Red Invitational this weekend. The Irish women were led by Caitlin O'Brien, who finished first on floor, sixth on vault and fifth in all-around competition. Wendy Jo Swenoff also placed for the Irish, matching a fifth place finish on beam, and successfully contributing for the Irish on the floor women were Mary Blazewicz, Cecilia Torres and Cigi Low. Purdue, Indiana and Virginia Tech took the top three in their competition.

Brian Dunn and Paul Kanal were the lone Irish representatives in men's competition, which was won by Triton, with Purdue and Virginia Tech placing second and third. The Irish will return to competition on April 2, when they host the Closter Classic at Gymnastics Michigan.

Men's Volleyball

The men's volleyball team traveled to Northern Illinois University this weekend to wrap up the second half of their conference regular season and to compete in the conference championships. The Irish fell to 0-8 in conference play last weekend, but were determined to return to the echelons of conference play. They accomplished that and more with a 6-3 conference record and a strong tournament showing.

The Irish opened with a sweep of Northern Illinois, 25-20, 25-22, behind the strong play of opposite hitter Mike Giampa. Their next match was against University of Illinois at Chicago, who extended the Irish to three games. But the Irish prevailed in the third game to post a 22-23, 23-25, 15-7 victory. The Irish then finished their conference season with a big win against University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, with a final score of 25-18, 25-20. A very strong rookie class, including defensive specialist John Tinkle, setter Nolan Kan and outside hitters Dan Zibton and Drew Williams complimented veterans like Giampa and middle hitters Dan Parrazy, Joe O'Connell and Ryan Gees to lead the team's turnaround.

The Irish swept the fourth place seed and first round bye in the conference tournament by upsetting three ranked teams within their conference. The tournament, however, ended early in a tough three game match with fifth seed Ball State. Despite beating No. 22 Ball State in two games during the regular season the Irish could not pull off the monumental victory, dropping a tough three game match 17- 25, 25-20, 11-15. The Irish continue tournament play next weekend at Indiana University, in the 32-team Husserl-Illini classic, the biggest tournament of the year before the national championships in March.

Skiing

Marquette, Mich. hosted the regional skiing championships this weekend, as both varsity and club teams from 23 schools competed to advance to the nationals. Notre Dame's women finished ninth while the men took 12th in the field.

Finishing in the top five in women's competition were St. Olaf, Minnesota Duluth, Northern Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. In men's results, Michigan Tech, St. Olaf's, Minnesota Duluth, Marquette, and St. Thomas claimed the top five spots.

During Saturday, women's teams finished 32nd in individual slalom standings, followed by teammates Lauren Dacey at 42nd, Sarah Rauvenhorst at 67th, Diane Dorr's, Minnesota Duluth, and Wisconsin. In men's results, Michecn Tech, St. Olaf's, Minnesota Duluth, Marquette, and St. Thomas claimed the top five spots.

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- July 5 - August 12: Summer Session B
- June 6 - July 29: Summer Session C

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LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Your Summer Classroom!
Belles
continued from page 20
"The seniors have remem­bered," she said.
Last year, the Belles entered the MIAA tournament with a 2-12 league record. This year, the team tripled its conference wins, going 6-10, and kept almost every game close.
Belles head coach Suzanne Bellina is confident in the team's ability to play with the Knights. "We're a much better team all around [than we were last year]," she said.
Bellina also noted that the Saint Mary's will be stronger defensively with Boyce, the 2003-2004 MIAA defensive player-of-the-year, starting for the Belles against Calvin.
Boyce missed the team's most recent contest against Calvin with an injury, and was also unable to play against the Knights in last year's tournament game.
The entire Belles defense will have to play well against Calvin's efficient offense for Saint Mary's to have a chance on the road against the MIAA's No. 3 seed.
Belles forward Emily Creachbaum looks for an open teammate during the team's two-point loss to Alma on Feb. 12.

Tennis
continued from page 22
both nationally-ranked play­ers. Freshman Sheeva Parbhu has held onto the fourth spot in singles, and Bayliss has seen strong performances from sophomores Ryan Keeckley and Trakkil Akhvlediani and juniors Eric Langogamp and Patrick Buchanan while filling out the last two spots.
At the beginning of the year we were concerned with win­ning in the top part of the line­up," Bayliss said. "Now we're not really afraid of people at the top."
The team counted on the bot­tom of the singles lineup for crucial points, but also found salvation in doubles play.
"The doubles have been improved," said Bayliss. "We didn't get the doubles point against Northwestern — it may be important against Michigan State."
Play in East Lansing will present a few specific problems for the Irish. The team arrived early and had an 8 p.m. prac­tice time on Spartan courts Monday night.
There are a couple of issues we're concerned about with this match," Bayliss said. "Michigan State's improved; they have some freshmen that are good and they have a win over Arkansas which was ranked No. 19 at the time."
The Spartans have proven they can win tough matches, and winning in East Lansing isn't easy for visitors.
"Their courts are fast and at times it's hard to pick up the ball there," Bayliss said. "Adjusting to the speed and the lights in the background are all things we need to take care of."

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Crossword

WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS
1. Nasty habit
2. Home for hermaphrodite felines
3. "Obscure" creature
4. Blaze of glory
5. African water
6. Emissions watchdog, Abby
7. Sex, 24-Acros
8. Dollar
9. Redhead, as a tomato
10. Empire State Building style
11. Butcher's cut
12. Bigheads
17. Repeat performance?
18. Semiseries
28. Daffodil, part 5
29. For example
30. Daily
31. My in Nurmberg
32. Cambodan currency
33. Eight. Prefix
34. Ballroom dance
35. Chutupagh
36. U.S. Eur. divider
37. "That's enough!"
38. Blaze of glory conference site
39. "Results of dives"
40. "Puzzles by Sarah Kellar"
41. "Four ordinary words"
42. "MAPE A SUIT FOR THE MOBSTER, HE SAID IT WAS -----

DOWN
1. American Legion member
2. Rocks at the shore
3. Like much office work
4. Caught in a fast-food command
5. "That's enough!"
6. Play with plastic
7. Feel bad
8. Results of dives
9. Mimes
10. Separate into white and darks, e.g.
11. Beautiful
12. Military helicopter
13. No-nos
14. High-schooler
15. 22nd of Hollywood
16. "Happy Birthday"
17. Young woman
18. Killer whale
19. Barn bird
20. Many a time
21. Cereal grain
22. Area of land
23. "Bludger"
24. "Daffy-nition"
25. "Sixties you"
26. "Empire State"
27. "Seven: Prefix"
28. "Eight: Prefix"
29. "Nine: Prefix"
30. "Blaze of glory"
31. "Four ordinary words"
32. "Four ordinary words"
33. "Four ordinary words"
34. "Four ordinary words"
35. "Four ordinary words"
36. "Four ordinary words"
37. "Four ordinary words"
38. "Four ordinary words"
39. "Four ordinary words"
40. "Four ordinary words"
41. "Four ordinary words"
42. "Four ordinary words"

Across:
22. "Bludger"
23. "Daffy-nition"
24. "Sixties you"
25. "Empire State"
26. "Seven: Prefix"
27. "Eight: Prefix"
28. "Nine: Prefix"
29. "Four ordinary words"
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40. "Four ordinary words"
41. "Four ordinary words"
42. "Four ordinary words"

Answer:

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Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Charlie Chaplin, 17; Jennifer Love Hewitt, 19; Kelly Clarkson, 30; Tye Daly, 70.

Happy Birthday: You have to accept change in order to move ahead this year. Once you discover how to become as adaptable as possible, nothing will deter you from following the path you have wanted to take your whole life. This is a year of new confessions, a time to open up your heart and strengthen your ties to those you love. Be open to new friends and new opportunities to learn more about yourself.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Things should be looking up for you, and if you are quick to take cues on business and act on your instincts, you will discover that life really isn't that bad after all, you and you are truly important to you. Romance is in the picture now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You have the inclination to do something great today, but expect obstacles to slow you down. Don't get frustrated, instead, focus on what's really important to you. There is a time and place for everything.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Love will be by your side. Don't just go along with things, today is the day to assert yourself and speak your mind.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may feel like jumping into something new but stick to your cruiser out flair and you will reach higher points than you imagined. It's time to get creative and take whatever matters to you to the next level.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stall a terrific turnout, but no one expects you to agree with what you think, especially about making changes of home. One complication can be knowing how to handle conflicting opinions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You think that everyone is out to get you when really it's you who is holding you back. This isn't the day to sit around and wallow in your troubles. Take action and see how much you can accomplish, but don't neglect someone you love, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There are too many people who need help, and although you can't help them all, you can help to do your part. You will meet someone who can change your life if you participate in something that you feel passionate about. Be proactive, not reactive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can't help but want everything. Today is a time to be honest with yourself, to see yourself as you are, not as you want to be, and to be true to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are not a very patient person, and that's okay. You don't have to wait around for things to happen, but some things are worth waiting for. You may be tempted to reach your goals. You will probably discover that you can do much more if you are willing to take a risk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You feel that everyone is out to get you. You have to deal with it, but no one expects you to agree with what you think, especially about making changes of home. One complication can be knowing how to handle conflicting opinions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Reassurance is what you need on your mind. Your mood may have to make a decision as to whether you want to continue to see someone. Do not forget about the good. Things will change, and you will probably be disappointed if you hold on too long.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You have to be active today, but what you do depends on what you want. You may have to make a decision as to whether you want to continue to see someone. Do not forget about the good. Things will change, and you will probably be disappointed if you hold on too long.

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Charles Schulz

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

The Observer • TODAY

page 19
**Hartford Center heartbreak**

By MATT LOZAR

Huskies forward Charlie Villanueva tied a career high with 25 points, Josh Boone added nine points and eight rebounds and point guard Marcus Williams played solidly at both ends of the court with 17 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds. In two games against the Irish this season, Williams has a combined 28 assists.

In Notre Dame's 78-74 win on Jan. 30, Torin Francis and Denzel Latimore combined for 31 points and 16 rebounds on route to leading the Irish to a 38-20 scoring advantage in the paint against the Huskies. Francis and Latimore did combine for 23 points and nine rebounds Monday night, but the disparity was much greater as the Huskies muscled their way to dominance underneath the hoop.

The Huskies came out hot, but the Irish were able to keep pace behind the outside shooting of Colin Falls. The 49ers made his third pointer at the 10:57 mark of the first half to get the Irish within one of 22-21. Then the Huskies opened up a double-digit lead with a 13-4 run and went into the locker room up 45-32.

The Irish started the second half with a quick 5-0 run to get within eight. A frustrating pattern then developed as the Irish would trim the lead to that margin, before the Huskies would use quick runs of their own to push the lead back to 15 as the game wore on.

By MIKE GILLOON

**SMC Basketball**

Belles look for first win against Calvin

By KEN FOWLER

The Belles don't need to look at the record books to know their history with Calvin College. For six of Saint Mary's nine wins, tonight's first-round matchup with the Knights is an opportunity to get revenge for a game that is still fresh in their minds.

A year ago, the Belles struggled to a last-place finish in the MIAA and faced Calvin in Grand Rapids, Mich. to start the league tournament. The Knights ran up and down the court on Saint Mary's, crushing the Belles, 82-48. For seniors Katie Beyea, Maureen Bush, Emily Creachbaum and Deirdre Mangan, tonight's game marks the last time they will have the chance to redeem themselves against Calvin, which has beaten Saint Mary's graduating class all nine times the two have played.

Bush said that the Belles are "always pretty motivated when we play Calvin," but that this game means more because of last year's loss.

**Football Recruiting**

Creighton Prep quarterback accepts team's offer to walk on

By MIKE GILLOON

Even after he led his Omaha Creighton Prep football squad to the state championship last fall, Dan Gorski's teammates are making fun of him. "Nebraska tight end recruit Zach Potter is calling me Leprechaun," Gorski said. "A lot of them wanted me to go to Nebraska." Instead of choosing the in-state Huskers, Gorski accepted an offer to walk on as a quarterback for Notre Dame next fall. He joins scholarship recruit Evan Sharpley as one of two quarterbacks added to the Irish roster this off-season.

Gorski's mother is a Saint Mary's graduate while his father is a Notre Dame Law School alum. One of his sisters is a current junior at Notre Dame, and another graduated from the University last year. "It's a dream come true," Gorski said. "I've been a lifelong fan and my family was really excited. My sister was screaming." Irish quarterbacks coach David Cutcliffe was also happy with the decision that the first-team all-state quarterback made last Saturday.

"When I told him I was coming, he jumped up with a big smile on his face and shook me hand," Gorski said. "Irish head coach Charlie Weis was not around for Gorski's announcement, but before he left to catch a flight he gave the 4.0 student some advice.

"He said that if I didn't know within half an hour if this was the place, then it wasn't the place for me," Gorski said. "He's a big ND guy and I'm the type of guy he's looking for." Gorski will be on campus starting June 16 and will train with his new teammates this summer. He hopes to win one