Bengal Bouts celebrates 80th year
Program plans to send millionth dollar to Holy Cross Mission in Bangladesh, will host prelims Saturday

By MADELINE BUCKLEY

This year’s Bengal Bouts tournament, which begins this weekend, marks two milestones for the boxing club, as the group will celebrate its 80th anniversary and send its millionth dollar to the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

“There’s so much surrounding the club right now,” senior captain Michael Sayles said. “The goal is to raise $80,000 on the 80th.”

The club — started in 1920 by Knute Rockne — will hold eight matches this weekend, beginning tonight.

Senior captains, from left to right, Tim Thayer, Will Burroughs, John Maier, Patrick Burns, Nicholas Ponzo, Chris Cugliari and Michael Sayles pose in a promotional photo for this year’s tournament.

see BOUTS/page 4

Visiting scholar addresses sustainability

By KATIE PERALTA

Access to food and clean water is an essential human right, and science and technology have a key role to play in sustainable development.

This loaded message was the theme of a lecture titled “The Fight Against World Hunger: Phase II of the Agricultural Green Revolution” delivered Tuesday at the Hesburgh Center Auditorium by Reilly Center visiting scholar Margaret Carroll Boardman. From a family of Notre Dame graduates and daughter of a U.S. diplomat, Boardman lived in a number of different developing countries growing up, one factor that stimulated her interest in sustainable development, she said.


The lecture focused on ways technology can develop agricultural methods that would achieve food security for “the less fortunate and underdeveloped countries,” Boardman said.

see LECTURE/page 6

Chattopadhay brings experience to teaching

By AMANDA GRAY

The only thing longer than Professor Tamam Chattopadhay’s last name is his list of life experiences.

“This is my fourth life,” Chattopadhay said. “Growing up in India, finishing high school, that was my first life. I was a little bit adventurous and I wanted to study science.”

Chattopadhay received a scholarship to study Physics in Moscow, Russia, which he considers his second life.

“It was a major culture shock. It was the former Soviet Union, around 1983,” Chattopadhay said. “It was a very different society and a fascinating cultural experience.”

His third life was spent in New York City, arriving in 1992 and working in finance with companies like J.P. Morgan.

“I quickly realized everything I had learned in physics was in great demand in finance,” Chattopadhay said.

“Here is a turning point for my life, around 1998, when I was secure in my career. I just began to realize how I would like to work, and I decided that I want to do?” Chattopadhay said. “Is this the most rewarding way to spend life? All of this is fun, but somewhere I was feeling a little bit

see PROFESSOR/page 4

LNO celebrates 24th anniversary
Event helps raise funds for St. Joseph County Special Olympics

By CAITLYN KALSCHEUR

Late Night Olympics (LNO), an interhall competition that benefits St. Joseph County Special Olympics, is back for the 24th time, beginning tonight at 6 p.m., coordinator Tim Novak said.

The Games will involve 14 events and take place in the Joyce Center field house and the Rolfs Aquatic Center. Events will include volleyball, men’s and women’s 3-on-3 basketball, innertube water polo, target golf, cornhole, broomball, men’s and women’s racquetball, kayaking, dodgeball,

see OLYMPICS/page 6

College revises housing policies

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY

With room selection for the 2010-11 academic year quickly approaching, the Department of Residence Life and Community Standards at Saint Mary’s is working to help make the process run more efficiently with changes to the former quota system, renovations and additions to the Web site and more information sessions and more activities for students.

The quota system is one of the more disputed issues that has come up over the years, according to Sandah Dieujuste, director of Residence Life at the College. The system limited the number of students from the different class years that could live in each hall.

“We have heard quite a bit over the years how students didn’t think that was the best way to do room selection so we got rid of the quota system this year,” Dieujuste said.

The one exception, she said, will be in Queens Court, a small wing on the second floor of Le Mans Hall, which will be reserved for incoming students.

“Instead of having first year students scattered around Le Mans, we want to try to create

see HOUSING/page 6

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INSIDE TODAY’S PAPER
Irish Gardens sees increase in demand page 3 • Valentine’s Day” preview page 10 • Men’s basketball wrap page 20 • Viewpoint page 8
Bad romance

It has often been noted that the relationships and interactions between members of the opposite sex are strained here on this campus. People note unfair gender relations, segregation of dorms, partisanship, the ring by spring and the infamous "Hook-up" culture we cultivate here under the Golden Dome, as just a few examples of these growing tensions.

In this midst of all this criticism, it is great to be reminded that romance isn’t dead. Boys on campus will get girls numbers and text them, which is practically the love note of this century. Members of the opposite sex will fall in love at first sight, or the occasional lunch-date occurs. There are the infrequent Starbucks or Bickerers’ meetings, and even the clumsy dorm date — just "chilling" in a dorm room. Nope, romance really isn’t dead.

Life at Notre Dame must confirm it. Valentine’s Day is heading our way, and it will bring us the reassurance that love is alive and well. Thankfully, we don’t even have to go far as the dining hall will be hosting a romantic feast, sure to win you the girl or boy of your dreams.

Here’s a few ideas for how to meet that special someone.

Go up to that cutie from class. Last semester, a boy in class came up to me and asked if I wanted to hang out or get lunch or something. I apologized saying I had a boyfriend. To which he promptly responded with a sideways glance saying he had a girlfriend. We haven’t talked since, but hey maybe it’ll work for you. I’ll cross my fingers.

An even better idea is utilizing the romantic setting of the Library to your advantage. We haven’t talked since, but hey maybe it’ll work for you. I’ll cross my fingers.

On a recent visit, it was a night when I’d really thought chivalry must be dead. But to my dismay, my knight in shining armor arrived, having his hood pulled up so he could tap his fingers seductively, shaking his masked in a handsome grey hoodie.

There I thought chivalry must be dead. But to my dismay, my knight in shining armor arrived, having his hood pulled up so he could tap his fingers seductively, shaking his masked in a handsome grey hoodie. There I was, attempting to tackle a large pile of homework, and there he was, walking stealthily by, sitting at a nearby table dreamily tapping his fingers seductively, shaking his leg effortlessly, having his hood pulled up so I couldn’t see his face. Anything he could do to pose me he would. It seemed to me to be his ultimate mission. In the old days, annoys led to attraction, and attraction led to instant marriage, just look at Romeo and Juliet. What an awesome plan. My cloaked suitor must have known.

For three hours, he sat there, without a book on his desk, just toasting me silently with his watchful presences. Finally, as I packed up to leave, he handed me a note and fled. I didn’t get to see his face as his adolescence of cloaks and hoods got the better of him, or more literally, run out of the Library. But don’t worry, he gave me his number.

So set up a date this weekend, invocation, the Library, or more literally, run out of the Library. But don’t worry, he gave me his number.

As to this, I wonder, is Notre Dame romantically dead or hard to date? We are here.

So this to all you other Dorners, Romance truly isn’t dead. It is here and alive within this campus. It can be yours, just grab a date, take her or him to D.H. Apparently you can even walk up to a random girl and sparks will fly and a deep, meaningful relationship will blossom. Good luck.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Carly Landon at clandon@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

Bad romance

Ask a question of the Day: Why are your plans for Valentine’s Day?

Kim Pietmel

sophomore

Ryan

Carly Landon

News Wire

Editor

Carly Landon

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com

IN BRIEF

The Fifth Annual Edith Stein Project. "No Man is an Island: Creature, Culture and Community" will take place today from noon to 9:30 p.m. in McKenna Hall. The event is free and open to all.

A short classical concert entitled Bach’s: Lunch: A Noontime Concert will take place today at 12:10 p.m. in the Penote Performing Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 for students, $4 for seniors and $6 for general admission. Purchase tickets online at performer@nd.edu.

The musical drama "Parade" will be presented by PECMO. tonight at 7 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are $6 for students and $8 for all non-students. Tickets can be purchased at the LaFortune Box Office or by calling 574-631-8128.

The Bradiln Carnaval will be celebrated tonight from 8 p.m. to midnight at South Dining Hall. The event features live music and dance. The event is free and open to all.

Our Dame’s 1st Annual "Polar Bear Plunge" will take place Saturday from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Lake. The cost is a $3 donation to Haiti relief.

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

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Campus flower shop anticipates Valentine’s Day

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

With Valentine’s Day just around the corner, Irish Gardens is facing a huge spike in business, but Notre Dame’s student-run flower shop strives to maintain its personal approach to customers while dealing with a large increase in orders.

Valentine’s Day is our busiest time of year, hands down,” Maloney said. “This year we’ve been trying to make it even easier for customers to order flowers.”

Irish Gardens, which has been operating since 1972 when women were first admitted to the University, is attempting to make ordering effortless for students, the shop has staffed a table in LaFortune where customers can place orders. The store’s hours have also been extended for the weekend to accommodate last-minute orders.

Despite the inevitable rush of late orders, Maloney said that Irish Gardens encouraged customers to place orders early by providing discounted delivery on orders placed prior to Feb 10.

This year, the shop is offering eight different pre-made Valentine’s Day bouquets that incorporate a variety of flowers and vary in size to accommodate any budget. In addition, customers can create their own bouquets by choosing from the shop’s selection of flowers sold by the stem. Maloney said one of the shop’s defining characteristics is the level of personal interaction customers have with the employees who make their orders.

“It helps us learn more about our customers and understand exactly what they’re looking for, which is really useful when a guy comes in completely unsure about what kind of flowers he should order,” Maloney said. Maloney also said Irish Gardens receives a great deal of business from other sources, such as girls ordering flowers for friends, parents ordering from across the country for their children and even faculty and staff members placing orders at the shop. Even though cross-country customers may not have direct contact with employees, the shop strives to maintain a personal connection with every customer.

“The personal experience is really what sets Irish Gardens apart,” General manager Michelle Maloney Irish Gardens.

“The personal experience is really what sets Irish Gardens apart.”

Got Dance? 2010

February 11–13
7:30 pm
O’Laughlin Auditorium
The Saint Mary’s College Dance Ensemble Workshop invites you to an exciting dance presentation by faculty and students. Come enjoy artistic vision and expression through movement, sound, color, and light.

Order your tickets today at MoreauCenter.com

Write for News. Call 574-631-5323.
Bouts
continued from page 1

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Friday, February 12, 2010

action research project in education in India," Chattopadhay said. "There's a very charismatic, educational leader who's a 74-year-old Irish nun who runs an amazing school in Calcutta. Notre Dame's News and Information Office detailed the group's research on Notre Dame's home page and in Notre Dame Magazine's most recent issue on student research and volunteering initiatives.

"When I first came to Notre Dame, I was unsure. I had my doubts about teaching at the undergraduate level. I've never taught at a Catholic university. But I think what fascinated me, what continues to fascinate me, about Notre Dame is how well-prepared I find the students are, and how engaged and aware they are about issues of social justice — how keen they are to engage," Chattopadhay said. "There's an ethos about service, social justice, human rights, which is for me, teaching international issues about development and education, a tremendous source of inspiration. I am enriched a lot by my students, and that really changed my perspective on teaching in many ways," he said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu


campus news
professor
continued from page 1

empty.

At this time, Chattopadhay decided to leave finance and go into teaching. After a six-month visit to India where I grew up, I decided to come back and pursue studies in international development and education. That's the current life, right now," Chattopadhay said. "It looks like this is it. This is the life I really wanted.

Chattopadhay joined Notre Dame's ranks in August 2008, after finishing his doctorate at Columbia University and consulting for international organizations like UNICEF.

"I am enriched a lot by my students, and that really changed my perspective on teaching in many ways." Tamo Chattopadhay professor Education, Schooling and Society

Chattopadhay dedicated himself to equality in education and such initiatives. Working as a professor in the Education, Schooling and Society minor as well as with the Institute for Educational Initiatives, Chattopadhay has begun comparative research working with students in Brazil, India and the United States.

"One of the research projects we undertook last year was an action research project in education in India," Chattopadhay said. "There's a very charismatic, educational leader who's a 74-year-old Irish nun who runs an amazing school in Calcutta. Notre Dame's News and Information Office detailed the group's research on Notre Dame's home page and in Notre Dame Magazine's most recent issue on student research and volunteering initiatives.

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Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu


campus news

The really unique thing about this is that we have so many people learning about a sport that not many people learn about these days, but we can also help out thousands of people.

Michael Sayles Bengal Bouts captain

sayes said boxing has a reputation as a violent sport, but the service and character-building aspect of the tournament offer a positive contribution to the Notre Dame community.

Despite the reputation boxing might have as a brutal sport, it helps people push boundaries and really discover a lot about themselves. It's a sport really helps people grow," he said.

Sayles said Irish basketball coach Mike Brey will open the preliminaries with a few words, and the captains are working to procure another special guest to speak at the finals.

The preliminaries begin Saturday at 1 p.m. The quarterfinals will take place Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. and the semifinals, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. The final fights will be Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu


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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Shooting occurs ahead of Carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO — Gunfire erupted Thursday in a Rio de Janeiro slum, killing at least seven suspected drug traffickers and a policeman a day before Carnival celebrations kick off.

A police spokesman said the gunbattle in the Jacarezinho slum, which started while police were on a routine patrol. He declined to be quoted by name, citing standard department policy.

Jacarezinho is located in northern Rio, far from the tourist areas and the Carnival parties that open Friday and draw about 500,000 visitors each year.

The shooting adds to concerns about the city’s image and how much it will be able to curb violence as it prepares to host the 2016 Olympics.

Milkshake murder case overturned

HONG KONG — Nancy Kissel has always maintained that she killed her investment banker husband in self-defense, fending off a physical and sexual attack, but a Hong Kong jury found her guilty four years ago of sedating him with a laced milkshake before bludgeoning him to death.

But in an unusual reversal Thursday, however, the territory's highest court overturned that conviction, ordering a retrial in the case that has grabbed headlines and spawned a rarefied world of wealthy American expatriates.

NATIONAL NEWS

Tension fills Oregon over extremists

EUGENE, Ore. — The students stomped their feet, heckled and then stood and turned their backs as the speaker at Oregon debated a controversial topic: the American Nazi Party.

Through the week, organizers and leaders of the group watched in a wheelchair next to the speaker, silently observing the spectacle while at times calling for order.

A campus with a reputation for young, leftist students, the University of Oregon has faced an upsurge in political protests in recent weeks as the aging collection of extremists — deemed a hate group by those who track the right — has grabbed headlines and spawned a flurry of protests.

Condoms used in environmental crusade

TUCSON, Ariz. — An Arizona-based environmental group said Wednesday it plans to distribute 100,000 free condoms across the U.S. beginning on Valentine’s Day.

The group, called Zero Population Growth, said it would hand out the condoms to people attending its meetings, including a Hitler salute at an event in December.

Another winter blizzard obscures the view of the Capitol in Washington on Wednesday.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana knocks new climate proposal

INDIANAPOLIS — A former Indiana health commissioner who opposed the administration's health care proposals is citing standard department policy.

Republican U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska recently introduced a measure that would deplete the government's ability to pay for health care without a final decision on whether it is needed.

The proposal, known as the “down payment” bill, was introduced last month by 17 Republican senators and has already been rejected by the Senate.

The measure would force the government to start paying for health care from its general fund, which is used to pay for Medicare and Medicaid, the two largest federal health care programs.

The committee’s report also questions the administration’s plans to reduce the deficit by $612 billion over 10 years and to increase health care spending by $612 billion over 10 years.

The administration has said it wants to use these savings to finance a $2 trillion tax cut and to expand access to prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries.

Democrats have criticized the administration’s proposals, saying they are too ambitious and would result in higher taxes and cuts to vital programs.

In their report, the committee members point out that the administration’s plan to increase health care spending by $612 billion over 10 years is based on the assumption that the government will be able to reduce its deficit by $612 billion over 10 years.

The committee members also argue that the administration’s plan to reduce the deficit by $612 billion over 10 years is not realistic because the government will continue to face significant challenges in the future.”

Haitian judge poised to release missionaries

PHILADELPHIA — Crews in Maryland worked to rescue motorists stranded in snowdrifts to reach homes, fending off a physical and sexual attack, but a Hong Kong jury found her guilty four years ago of sedating him with a laced milkshake before bludgeoning him to death.

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Housing
continued from page 1
a small community for them,” Dieujuste said. Residence Life will also begin posting information for room selection, including lottery numbers and times for selection, on its Web site, Dieujuste said. In the past, there has been a bulletin in Le Mans Hall, but she said that “wasn’t the most efficient way to do things.”

Unlike in the past, students will also be receiving their lottery numbers via e-mail rather than a list in Regnabeaux Lounge in Le Mans Hall, Dieujuste said.

Due to the changes being made, there will also be information sessions open to students from any class year to help things run more smoothly, said Katy Shea, hall director of McCandless Hall.

Room selection itself has been moved from Regnabeaux Lounge to the Early Conference rooms and Vander Vennet Theater in the basement of the Student Union, according to Holy Cross Hall director Christine Milhapolous.

In order to avoid making students wait all day during room selection if they have higher lottery numbers, Residence Life has created time slots for students in two-hour increments. Dieujuste said, “Students will have a time to come during room selection and they [won’t] have to be there the whole night like in the past,” she said.

Dieujuste said students can also play a part in helping the night run better by paying attention to deadlines and the mail that is sent to them.

“It’s frustrating for me and I think for us to hear students ask for exceptions because they forgot a deadline and it’s something we cannot make out of fairness to everyone,” Dieujuste said. “We have to keep the system.”

A Roommate Social will be held for the students in search of a roommate for next year on March 4 in McCandless Hall from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

“We are still kind of working to see how it’s going to go, but it’s going to look at trying to find people that have similar living habits to them and just an opportunity to meet people in the Saint Mary’s community that they haven’t met yet,” Milhapolous said.

One thing that will not change in the room selection process is the requirement for students to remain on campus for six semesters. According to Dieujuste, it is in keeping with the mission of the College, which is to be a women’s residential institution.

That was something that was voted in by the cabinet even before I came here,” she said. “Every year we hear rumors from the students that it has been done away with. It’s here to stay.”

Lastly, Dieujuste advises students to be thoughtful of their choices to live with and be sure that both parties know what they are getting into.

“Choose your roommate carefully,” Dieujuste said. “[Students] need to have an honest conversation about their living habits and even the roommates, what they will back next semester or if they are going abroad or will be transferring. It is their responsibility to make sure they have that conversation with their friend and that they are on the same page.”

Contact Ashley Chanley at achanley@stmarys.edu

Lecture
continued from page 1
poor and excluded of the world,” a significant goal given the booming world population. “The world population has exploded as never before in history,” Boardman said. “Most of the expected growth is in developing countries.”

Sustainable development, she said, means something different to everyone. It can mean food protection, technological innovation, protection of the environment and respect for indigenous people, among other definitions.

“Pope Benedict noted that we can’t solve problems of development in the world without addressing technology,” Boardman said.

Boardman outlined three agricultural systems and methodologies in practice: organic, biotechnological and hybridization.

“The systems are not mutually exclusive in theory, however, in practice they currently are exclusive due to national regulatory systems,” Boardman said.

Hybridization, she said, includes scientists crossing plant genomes to isolate these traits that influence growth, and sun tolerance. The first two, organic and biotechnological, however, she said, are the most important agricultural systems in play today.

“Organic farmland has grown tremendously over the past 10 years,” Boardman said.

Although it is growing, she said, organic farmland is still relatively small and occupies only 1 percent of planted acreage in the United States. “It’s challenging, I have to wonder since I can’t feed myself or my family from my [own organic] garden, how will we feed the [hungry] people of the world?” she said.

Boardman noted the problem of labor shortage as hindering the development of the organic industry.

“If we’re going to do organic gardening, we are going to have to find more labor,” she said.

Pest management, market expansion and sanitary storage are among other hindrances to organic farming, she said.

Biotechnology advancements have, Boardman said, helped farmers around the world develop technology that fortifies crops and fosters a stronger possibility for distribution and consumption. They have been monitored in the United States for more than 20 years, she said.

Genetically engineered (GE) crops are one such innovation.

“Most of you have been eating genetically engineered food for years,” she said. “GE foods are the fastest to grow in acreage than any other crop in history.”

She said Europeans are much more wary of GE crops than Americans are.

Boardman outlined the biotechnological advancements of a number of a countries and continents, including China, Mexico, Brazil — which in 2008 was third largest producer of GE crops — and Africa, where the situation is “very complicat- ed.”

“The population going to soar because of international aid,” she said. “The problem is that aid is not going to teach Africans how to solve their own agricultural problems.”

Boardman pointed to awareness and education as two key factors that will progress sustain- able development.

“Lack of understanding can delay the progress of sustain- able development,” she said.

The talk was sponsored by two groups focused on global sustainable development, the International Development Research Council and The Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

Olympics
continued from page 1
ball, men’s and women’s table tennis, and an obstacle course.

Though the games have been in action for 24 years, there are a few changes to this year’s schedule.

“This year’s games will begin with an opening cere- mony featuring the Notre Dame Marching Band and some Special Olympians from St. Joseph County,” Novak said. “I really think this will be a great kickoff to the night.”

Any student is eligible to be a part of Late Night Olympics and all dorms have a repre- sentative to attend the con- tact if they’re interested in participating in the games.

“I’m excited for volleyball — we get competitive,” Lyons Hall resident director Katie McKieough, said.

Aside from the competitive aspects, one of the main reasons why this event has on the community, namely the St. Joseph County Special Olympics.

“Last year, St. Joseph was one of the few counties that didn’t have to cancel its win- ner or summer games because they had enough money, due in part to funds raised from Late Night Olympics,” McKieough said. The Special Olympians will take part in what both Novak and McKieough call their favorite part of the event. “The St. Joseph Lions versus Notre Dame staff basketball game.”

“You get the chance to meet Olympians and talk with them. To see the people you affect is uplifting,” Novak said.

If being an Olympian isn’t the kind of thing you’re into, there are other ways to help out, Novak said.

“There will be T-shirts for sale at the event for $10 and there is a penny war going on all around the campus,” at midnight with jars at Rockne Memorial and Rolfs Fitness Center,” he said.

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Contact: Suzanne Pratt, SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

RULES OF THE GAME

Visitor scholar Margaret Carroll Boardman talks about the challenges of sustainable development in a lecture Thursday.

“Sustainable development, the world going to soar because of international aid,” she said. “The problem is that aid is not going to teach Africans how to solve their own agricultural problems.”

Boardman pointed to aware- ness and education as two key factors that will progress sustain- able development.

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Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu


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Sing Unto God a New Song: The Jazz of

JEWISH PRAYER
with Rabbi Eric J. Sirako

Monday, February 15, 2010
7-7:45 pm
330 Coleman-Morse

Please recycle
The Observer.
### Health insurer raises questions

**WellPoint Insurance price hike defense fails to satisfy feds and creates confusion**

WellPoint Inc. defended its health insurance premium increases Tuesday, but federal officials have rejected the company's arguments, saying it should expect a rigorous review of its pricing strategy.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote to WellPoint CEO Angela Braly on Feb. 4 that she is concerned that the company's explanation for its premium increases was "inadequate," and that she is not satisfied by WellPoint's defense.

Sebelius's letter came two days after the company announced that it was raising premiums for about 2.9 million customers by an average of 16.2 percent, or $75 a month per policyholder.

In a letter to WellPoint's consumer business unit, which manages individual and small group policies, Sebelius wrote that WellPoint's explanation did "not provide an adequate basis for the increases." She added that WellPoint's defense did not address the "interconnectedness of the individual and group markets, which is critical to understanding the effects of this action on the overall market for health insurance."
Meet Skylar Diggins and the women's basketball team

You’ve probably never seen Skylar Diggins play. It’s a shame. Really. She’s quite a spectacle to see. But she also plays for the No. 4 team in the nation, which happens to play in a competitive conference right here on campus and it’s free for you to see.

But you don’t.

You all go to the football games. That team hasn’t posted a winning season since the majority of you have been here, yet there you were, clad in yellow, screaming away, counting down until the 1812 Overture so you could bo. But the women’s basketball team moves down opponent after opponent, goes 22-1, 9-1 in the Big East, and you don’t go.

It’s no fluke. The Big East is a tough conference. And Irish coach Muffet McGraw has shown she can win a championship. She did it in 2001. The team has a talented group of seniors in Lindsay Schrader, Ashley Barlow and Melissa Lechlitner. Add Skylar and that lineup can deal with anyone in the country.

The impact Diggins has had on this team is incredible. You really should see for yourself — but even money says you haven’t, so here’s a taste. She was named the 2009 Gatorade National High School Female Athlete of the Year. That’s the whole nation, every sport. That puts her in the company of LeBron James and Candace Parker. She’s currently 12th in the Big East in scoring and averages 15 points per game in conference play. She was the Most Valuable Player of the Paradise Jam tournament (which the Irish won) and recently had 23 points and 10 rebounds in a win over Cincinnati.

But that won’t resonate with any of you because none of you have seen her play. So come out. Don’t just come for Skylar, though. Come watch Schrader, the team’s leader, a passionate player who is third in the conference in field goal percentage. Come watch Barlow, a stout defender, or Lechlitner, a veteran with great court vision.

More than that, come support a good team.

The Irish won’t disappoint. You supported the women’s soccer team when they were highly ranked. Show that same support for women’s basketball. It is one of Notre Dame’s top athletic programs, and with the combination of Diggins and the senior leadership, this is its year to make a push for a championship.

There’s no better time to start than Sunday, when Notre Dame takes on DePaul at 3 p.m., because the Purcell Pavilion will turn into a Pink Zone, where the team will raise money for breast cancer research. There will be a silent auction and Pink Zone merchandise sales, and the team hopes to raise $55,000.

Last year they got $48,000. Help them reach their goal. And help them reach their goal of a championship. Come watch Skylar work her magic, come scream loud on defense, come watch great basketball.

The first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament are being held in the Purcell Pavilion this year as well. That’s when the Irish will really need you. If you cheer enough, maybe they’ll get much farther than that.

Please don’t forget to donate whatever you can to support Haiti relief efforts around campus.

"Open it does seem a pity that Noah and his party did not miss the boat."

Mark Twain
U.S. author
Noting the dance floor at Club Fever sipping on a mixed drink. She was neither drugging with sweat inside The Backer, nor was she chatting with her friends in a small circle at Finny’s. While I suppose it’s possible that I stepped foot into her apartment, I wouldn’t know it now. No, the love of my life wasn’t in any of these places (or at least I think), because from where I sit right now on a beachfront bar on the Indonesian island of Bali, the love of my life is still absent from my life.

A year ago I wrote a Valentine’s Day–themed piece in this paper describing my quest to find the love of my life at Club Fever. I moved between bars and also the crowded confines of Finny’s and The Backer. I moved between bars and house parties distributing Winnie the Pooh Valentine’s Day cards. I searched for the love of my life in Asia, and thus my search and left the country to teach English in China and you can contact me at b86b07287@gmail.com. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

A call to love

In case people haven’t been keeping up, there is a lot of discussion on campus and around the nation about gay rights. And yet, I feel like so much of the conversation is lost in thinking about the most important issues of our time and some of the Observer Viewpoints, it is painfully clear that many Catholics fail to understand the Church’s teaching regarding human sexuality, whether it be heterosexuality or homosexuality. As a lesbian who struggled with identity, I read everything I could get my hands on. The Catholic Church has written on the issue of human sexuality and homosexuality. I believe, however, that you have to go through the Bible, commonly thrown into the ring when discussing same sex attraction. My methodology is to read the book from head to text. Am I an expert? Far from it. Have I done my home- work? Yes.

When people make comments like, “There is no evidence that homosexuality is innate.” It is already clear to me that this individual has not read anything the Catholic Church teaches on sexuality. Based on psychological evidence, from both pre- and post- psychiatric research conducted by Vatican psychologists, the Church maintains that a person’s sexual orientation is something they cannot be controlled, chosen or changed. It simply is. To try to change a person’s sexuality is to try to make God give him or her, or an event. It cannot and should not be done. However, the Church teaches that there is only one ethical and moral expression of physical sexuality. That is, in a monogamous marriage between a man and a woman. That being said, our human bodies have a Creator. If our bodies, they are not just a thing. They are something we express everyday. Our sexuality is a divine and mysterious gift from God. Being homosexual, or sexual orientation—whether it be sexual orientation—or sexual orientation does not automatically mean that a person engages in homosexual acts just as much as being heterosexual doesn’t mean a person engages in heterosexual acts.

Theologians describe our sexuality as that which makes us like the Divine in that brings out our creativity; it makes human sexuality, whether it be heterosexuality or homosexuality. Part of being a student means stepping outside of the comfort zone. Dialogue requires of us that we listen, away from the discussion able to say that you stepped out of your beliefs, on either side, formed by someone else. Be open to the discussion regarding sexuality, heterosexuality and, especially, homosexuality. Don’t enter the discussion entrenched in beliefs. What we are asking for is the exact same thing that these Catholics have done. They have not asked the University to condone homosexual acts. They have asked the University to condone same-sex marriage. We are not asking the University to condone homosexual acts. We are asking the University to condone same-sex marriage. As a lesbian who struggled with identity, I believe that you have to go through the Bible, commonly thrown into the ring when discussing same sex attraction. My methodology is to read the book from head to text. Am I an expert? Far from it. Have I done my homework? Yes.

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It’s the American Valentine’s version of “Love Actually.” “Valentine’s Day” is meant to represent the all-encompassing spectrum of humanity’s views on love and the meaning of Valentine’s Day. Whether you’re going to see it for the endless list of cameos, to make fun of the chick flick clichés or even for the meaningful insight, the movie will be a must see.

The romantic comedy, directed by Garry Marshall (who directed the classics “Pretty Woman” and “Runaway Bride,” along with the “Princess Diaries” movies) and written by Katherine Fugate, will star nearly 20 A-list Hollywood celebrities, which begs the question of why so much money went into making this big-budget movie for such a minor Hallmark-dominated holiday.

According to Associated Content, New Line Cinema and Warner Brothers are hoping that with the expected success of this movie, Valentine’s Day will become a new money-maker for the movie industry.

What “Love Actually” was for the Christmas season, “Valentine’s Day” is now expected to be for the Valentine’s Day “season.” The film features multiple meshed together plotlines and stars a team of the top romantic comedy stars in the industry, including Julia Roberts, Ashton Kutcher, Jessica Biel, Anne Hathaway, Jessiaca Alba, Jennifer Garner, Patrick Dempsey, Topher Grace and Bradley Cooper.

Set in Los Angeles, the characters are all loosely related to each other. Julia Roberts plays Kate Hazeltine, a captain in the U.S. Army, who meets Holden (Cooper). In the meantime, florist Reed Bennett (Kutcher) proposes to girlfriend Morley (Alba), while his best friend Julia (Garner), a grade school teacher, falls for Dempsey’s character, Dr. Harrison Copeland.

Even just from the preview, one can see the same old trite plotlines, whether it’s Emma Roberts’ character Grace planning her first time with her boyfriend Alex (Carter Jenkins) or Biel’s character Kara planning a “We Hate Valentine’s Day” party. One can only hope that the previews will not represent the movie as a whole, or we will be paying $8 to see a bunch of cameos wrapped into one huge cliché of a rom-com.

John Debney composed the score to “Valentine’s Day,” recorded it with the Hollywood Studio Symphony at the Sony Scoring Stage and wrote the song, “Every Time You Smiled,” for the movie with lyricist Glen Ballard, performed by Carina Round. The soundtrack also features Jewel’s “Stay Here Forever” and “Today Was a Fairytale” by Taylor Swift, who makes an appearance in the film opposite Taylor Lautner. Overall, the film looks like a cliché American version of “Love Actually” for the Valentine’s Day season, but it does include cameos from several big budget Hollywood actors and actresses, so if you enjoy seeing any of these stars on the big screen, the movie is sure to be a well-produced film.

Contact Alex Kilpatrick at akilpatr@nd.edu
HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY!

Do you plan on spending this Valentine’s Day with the most constant friends in your life, Ben and Jerry? Or would you just like to bring in the dynam- ite duo to join you and your signif- icant other for a quiet double date? Either way, Ben and Jerry are there for you, ready to provide with their typical brand of frozen goodness. Whether you’re a chocolate lover, dig the cookie dough or just want some fruity fun, there is a flavor for everyone. Get those spoons ready. there is a flavor for everyone.

1. Cherry Garcia
   This classic flavor, named after Grateful Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia, is a long-time favorite. In it, cherry ice cream gets swirled together with cherry and fudge chunks to create the perfect balance of fruit and chocolate, guaranteed to please even the most discerning palate. It can even be found in a “healthy” low-fat version, making those chocolate kisses on the side seem like a great idea.

2. Half Baked
   This ice cream, an ode to Dave Chappelle film “Half Baked,” features the delicious combo of chocolate and vanilla ice cream mixed with pieces of fudge brownies and bites of cookie dough. Perfect for those couples that just can’t seem to decide between Ben & Jerry’s Fudge Brownie Ice Cream and Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Ice Cream (both also terrific choices), or for anyone who thinks they can handle a mouthwatering combination of baked goods and ice cream. Again, this flavor can somehow be deemed “healthy” by buying the low fat version, just in case.

3. Phish Food
   Ben and Jerry take their love for fellow Vermontians the band Phish to a new level with this entirely unique flavor. In it, one will find chocolate ice cream swirled together with gooey marshmallows, caramel and fudge fish.

4. Dublin Mudslide
   Just because it’s Notre Dame. This popular flavor is perfect not only for Valentine’s Day, but for the upcoming St. Patrick’s Day season as well. Treat your taste buds to some Irish Crème liqueur ice cream mixed with chocolate chip cookies and a coffee fudge swirl. Although originally released as a limited-time-only flavor, its popularity brought Ben and Jerry to their senses, and now can be found year-round.

5. Fossil Fuel
   For the kid in all of us. Enjoy your sweet cream ice cream with chocolate cookie pieces and a fudge swirl by adding some fudge dinosaurs to the mix.

6. Stephen Colbert’s AmeriCone Dream
   Stephen Colbert 2012? Even if you’re not so into Mr. Colbert, can you turn down an ice cream that sends its proceeds to The Stephen Colbert AmeriCone Dream Fund, which gives money to help disenfran- cised children, veterans and the environment? I didn’t think so. The combination of vanilla ice cream, fudge covered waffle cone pieces and a caramel swirl should be the icing on top of the cake of the best altruistic ice cream out there!

7. Karamel Sutra
   This delicious flavor features black raspberry ice cream mixed with sweet cream ice cream and fudge brownies. Regardless of your high expecta- tions, it’s sure to please all, once again mastering Ben & Jerry’s knack for mixing fruit and chocolate to delicious results.

8. Dave Matthews Band Magic Brownies Encore Edition
   This classic flavor features a very well executed combo of baked goods and ice cream mixed with cheesecake brownie chunks. Made in conjunction with Google, the proceeds from this ice cream go to Google’s ONE campaign, which aids the fight against extreme poverty and preventable diseases globally.

9. ONE Cheesecake Brownie
   It’s as simple as it sounds. Cheesecake ice cream combined with cheesecake brownie chunks. Made in conjunction with Google, the proceeds from this ice cream go to Google’s ONE campaign, which aids the fight against extreme poverty and preventable diseases globally.

10. Chubby Hubby
    And to top off this extensive list of flavors, guaranteed to have a flavor for everyone, comes the complex concoction of vanilla malt ice cream, rip- pled with fudge and peanut but- ter and loaded with fudge-cov- ered peanut-butter filled pret- zels. This flavor was invented with the help of some fans back in 1988, and has stuck around ever since. Perfect for the pretzel-lover and the peanut butter lover alike!

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu @nd.edu
Shahid Khan, shown at a ceremony of the University of Illinois, has agreed to buy the Rams pending approval from the league’s owners.

"There isn’t a hint of a criminal issue here," Khan told the newspaper, saying he planned to try to get the money back through litigation. It wasn’t clear whether he’s taken legal steps since then to recover the money and an IRS spokesperson declined comment Thursday.

Forbes last year ranked Flex-N-Gate as the 229th largest private company in the U.S., with an estimated $2.14 billion in annual revenue. The company says on its Web site that it has more than 9,500 employees at plants and other facilities in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Argentina and Spain.

St. Louis was without an NFL team from 1988-94. The NFL passed over St. Louis for the smaller Jacksonville, Fla., market when it awarded an expansion team in 1993. Two years later, civic leaders convinced Frontiere, a St. Louis businessman and owner of the NHL’s St. Louis Blues, to bring the league to town after a failed bid in nearby Kansas City.

The Rams’ owners, known as the Vonntourage, have been in St. Louis for 15 years, during which time the team has won a Super Bowl a decade ago and another in 2000.

"It’s not like all her competitors are headfirst tumble earlier this month during pre-Olympic training in Austria. She tried things as basic as stretching. She tried laser therapy. She even tried wrapping her leg with an Austrian curl cheese dressing to see if that would help.

On Thursday, she raised the bar, writing on her Twitter page: "Huge day today..." 2010. We have been sick over the last month, so many resources in place to assist you. For more information, visit Notre Dame’s website:
Calhoun returns to Huskies after absence

Connecticut head basketball coach Jim Calhoun returned to the sidelines on Thursday after missing seven games away was important for against Cincinnati. for Saturday’s game against lowly DePaul (1-1) and that started the second of their three-game series. He has no restrictions on what he can do and will be on the bench for Saturday’s game against Cincinnati.

“I both felt that the time away was important for my personal and professional well-being and that I am ready to move ahead from this point at full speed,” Calhoun said.

Calhoun returns to a team that needs a sizzling, upset-heavy winning streak to sniff the NCAA tournament. The Huskies (14-10, 4-7 Big East) have sunk to the bottom half of the conference standings a year after a No. 1 seed and a Final Four berth. UConn’s top moments came Jan. 23 when associate head coach George Blaney led the Huskies to an upset of then-No. 1 Texas. But the Huskies threw away their momentum like one of their 352 turnovers this season when they lost the next game at Providence — and that started the second of their three-game losing streaks this season. UConn ended the skid by eking out a seven-point win Saturday against lowly DePaul (1 win in the Big East) and lost at No. 2 Syracuse 72-67 on Wednesday night. “We still think we’re pretty good,” Blaney said. “We still think we can be a factor in every game we play in.”

UConn has gone 3-4 in Calhoun’s absence. School officials have not said what was ailing Calhoun, but said it had nothing to do with his three bouts with cancer and was not related to his heart.

 stopwords: around the dial NCAA Division I Basketball Preseason NCWBA Poll

various teams listed

NCAA Division I Softball Preseason NFCA Poll

various teams listed

Men’s Basketball Big East Standings

various teams listed

IN BRIEF

Glavine joins Braves as assistant to Schuerholz

ATLANTA — Tom Glavine made his retirement official on Thursday when he returned to the Atlanta Braves in a loosely defined new role. Glavine was hired as special assistant to Braves president John Schuerholz, and the two stood together before reporters for the first time since Glavine’s unexpected release last summer.

The two-time NL Cy Young Award winner was bitten when the Braves let him go, but he said Thursday that any anger at Schuerholz and general manager Frank Wren has dissipated.

“I’m happy and comfortable with where we are as far as that is concerned,” Glavine said. “I talked with Frank, so that is all behind us. If I didn’t feel I could work with Frank or work with John, I wouldn’t be here.”

Linebacker Antonio Pierce released by Giants

East Rutherford, N.J. — One of the worst defensive seasons in New York Giants history claimed another victim — middle linebacker Antonio Pierce. The Giants on Thursday released the 31-year-old veteran who quarterbacked the defense for the past five years in a tenure that included four trips to the playoffs and a Super Bowl victory over the previously undefeated New England Patriots in February 2008.

Pierce’s status with the team was put into question this season when he suffered a neck injury, forcing him to miss the final seven games of the season, a year in which the Giants surrendered 427 points. Defensive coordinator Bill Sheridan and defensive line coach Mike Waufle were fired after the season and Pierce, who signed a $26 million contract as a free agent in 2005, was let go a month later.

The losing wasn’t the only thing that took some getting used to in Storrs, a bucolic college town, located amid the dairy farms of northeastern Connecticut. UConn games without Calhoun, as New England as a bowl of clam chowder, have been too quiet. Gone it’s the stumping, the hissing, the barking at officials.

Longtime followers of the program described the 67-year-old Calhoun as more down than angry after recent losses. He never knew what kind of performance he’d get out of the erratic Huskies and almost seemed resigned to that fate.

around the dial

NCAA Men’s Basketball West Virginia at Pittsburgh 9 p.m., ESPN

NBA All-Star Rookie Challenge 9 p.m., TNT

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Olympics

Uncertainty dominates Vancouver Olympics

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — With more than 30 athletes already prevented from competing in Vancouver, World Anti-Doping Agency president John Fahey predicts cheats are more likely than ever to be caught out at these Olympics.

Fahey confirmed Thursday that more than 30 athletes had been excluded for breaking anti-doping rules in recent months, with the cases including a mixture of positive samples and failures to comply with testing protocols.

Only hours after Fahey's news conference and reports emerging from Russia that all Vancouver-bound athletes had undergone drug testing, the International Olympic Committee announced the first doping violation of the games: Russian hockey player Svetlana Terenteva, who was reprimanded but escaped a ban after testing positive for a "light stimulant."

"The substance — tuaminoheptane — is contained in prescription cold medication and is banned during competition but not out of competition. Terenteva, a 26-year-old forward who has played in four world championships, said she used the drug Rhinolitumicil in Russia to treat a head cold last month and stopped using the medication when she arrived in Vancouver on Feb. 3, a day before the Olympic drug-testing program began.

Evidence of the stimulant appeared in a doping control three days later, on Saturday.

Fahey refused to give details of the more than 30 athletes who had been excluded from Vancouver, but noted that more than 70 athletes were prevented from competing at the Beijing Olympics for violating anti-doping rules in the similar period leading into the 2008 Summer Games.

He said it was becoming more and more difficult for drug cheats to avoid detection. "All that's changed is people are more likely to check at these games, it's more likely they'll be caught than in any other games in history," Fahey said. "The approach that's been taken around the world by national Olympic committees and anti-doping agencies (is) to ensure that cheats are more likely than ever to be caught out."
White prepares new trick

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Shaun White dropped his iPhone onto the table as David Bowie's "Young Americans" blasted out of the tiny speakers.

Then the world’s most famous snowboarder took off his blue Team USA jacket and, with his goggles watching, shuffled over to the refreshment table in the cramped green room.

"They didn’t help but laugh as the 23-year-old with the iconic red hair finished his impromptu dance while making a cup of tea before meeting the press Thursday. It’s not often White lets loose, particularly with the guys he spends most of the year trying to beat.

Being the best in the world is a sometimes lonely experience for White, who has built an empire since winning gold in the halfpipe at Turin four years ago and becoming known as the Flying Tomato.

He often trains by himself in the Colorado mountains, on a halfpipe built by one of his sponsors. He usually stays by himself during regular competitions, and will spend the next few days in a separate house from his teammates at a distance. On Thursday, he spent 30 minutes before the news conference sitting outside the green room fiddling with his phone while his teammates hung out inside.

He eventually made his way in and cut a few jokes.

"White is trying to embrace the isolation," he said. "He’s trying to embrace the idea of being on a team, at least for a day."

That’s why you need a pool as big as the United States to the top of international basketball.

"Of course we’ll have that pool," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said on a conference call, hours before he led his Dynamic Duo against rival North Carolina.

All of the returning players from the 2008 team that led the Americans’ eight-year gold medal drought in major competitions, including Chris Paul, Dwight Howard, Carmelo Anthony, Deron Williams and Carlos Boozer.

"The reason they’re back is they’re desiring of being on a b-c team," Colangelo said. "James, Wade and Bosh are questionnable to actually play this summer. All three can become free agents, and have said their contract situations are their first priority."

"I really think it’s kind of early, but I think everybody is at least talking about wanting to play," Anthony said. "Of course we’ll have that conversation in the near future, but they’ve got to take care of what they’ve got to take care of first, which is their contracts and things like that.

Paul is currently sidelined after knee surgery and Bryant is battling a number of injuries, so Colangelo knows he’s not going to get all of his guys.

However, he isn’t worried about that now and has said those decisions can wait until the team readsies for its minicamp in July.

"Everything is a matter of waiting. Everyone’s personal situation is going to be different over the next summer. There’s nothing but speculation at this time," Colangelo said. "That’s why injuries and family issues are so important, all of these things play a role. That’s why you need a pool as big as we have and that’s why we’re happy about it."
OLYMPICS

Whistler track is fast, but concerns abound

Associated Press

WHISTLER, British Columbia — The signature curve, the unlucky 13th, is nicknamed “50-50” as it marks the final stretch of the icy cliffs without accident. Consider this track as “Shiver,” a spine-tingling bend that has made first-time visitors tremble with fear.

Sinisterly snaking its way down beautiful Blackcomb Mountain, the four- abreast Sliding Center track, which will host the world’s fastest skeleton competitions during the Vancouver Games, has already developed a nasty reputation a few weeks before making its Olympic debut.

It’s fast. It’s furious. It’s frightening.

“A great ride, for sure,” said U.S. luger Erin Hamlin, the American team’s top medal hopeful. “I like the challenge, so that makes it interesting and it feels that much better when you can make it down.

That’s if you make it down.

One of our top international sliding tracks, the one overlooking pretty-as-a-postcard Whistler Mountain, the world’s fastest, is a frozen superspeedway where sliders experience G-forces comparable to those encountered by military jet pilots.

All you need not apply. Beginning with a near-vertical drop, this is a thrill-or-spill ride where the slightest mistake can land you on the turn changes the ice conditions and the best sliders are able to do that well. It took me a while in Whistler, maybe 10 or 12 runs before I could see the laces on the baseball, so to speak. It’s a handful.

Unlike many tracks in Europe, this one has wider, sweeping turns at the top, allowing sliders to build up early momentum and breakneck speed. By the time the monkeys reach the third curve called “Wedge,” they’re already approaching nearly breakneck speeds and there’s no exit ramp. While the speed element makes for exciting racing and will keep spectators holding their breath, there have also been questions raised about the track’s safety. However, organizers insist every precaution has been taken to minimize the danger for athletes.

“Crashes are definitely part of the sport, definitely part of a new facility. The first few years a track is open especially until coaches understand how to coach this track,” said Craig Lehto, the track’s safety director.

On this track, we are prepared for any type of crash as it is very technically demanding and the conditions can change so quick- ly on this mountain which in turn changes the ice conditions very quickly.

Even pilots who might be used to sliding down this track might not be used to sliding on this kind of track," he said.

This track, we are prepared for any type of crash as it is very technically demanding and the conditions can change so quickly on this mountain which in turn changes the ice conditions very quickly.

Saint Mary’s fell in a close, hard fought battle with Western Michigan 74-72, in an instant game as the season begins to draw to a close.

Senior forward Anna Kammrath scored four points in the final minute of the game to keep the Belles close. Kammrath attempted a free throw with under five seconds to play and hit the first to pull within one 75-74 but missed the second shot. Freshman guard Annie Doyle’s rebound set up soph-omore guard Patsy Mahoney with a three-point attempt as time expired but the shot fell short.

Saint Mary’s, the 16th in the 1650 freestyle, the five relay teams all have a top-five finish under their belt as well. Now it is time for accomplish- ments beyond the regular season.

“We’ve been enjoying the down time we have together on deck. This weekend, we hope everyone has fast races during prelims to make it back for a second swim and score some points for the Belles,” Poythress said.

The weekend definitely offers great possibilities for many Belles. They are looking not only to come out on top, but even to shatter some school records on their way.

The team travels to Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. for meets all day Thursday through Saturday.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Rally falls just short in close loss

By TIMOTHY SINGLER

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SMC SWIMMING

Belles prepare for MIAAs

By MEGAN FINNERAN

Saint Mary’s season may not have included quite as many team wins as they would have liked, but it certainly contained an array of individual accomplishments. This weekend, all of their hard work will be tested one last time for the MIAA Championships.

The past week and a half has consisted of tapering in preparation for the big weekend.

“We have been training hard since September; now we are just doing easy work-outs and fast swimming to prepare our muscles for the meet,” freshman Ellie Watson said.

The team as a whole is looking to turn out fast races by as many swimmers as possible during the preliminaries, which begin each day at 10 a.m. From there, the top swimmers will compete at night in the finals, which begin at 6 p.m.

Five individual swimmers are especially looking for top finishes in order to maintain their successful status during the regular season. Freshmen Katie Griffin, Watson, Calla Poythress and Genevieve Spittler, along with senior Sara Niemann all hold a top-15 finish in at least one event in the conference.

Griffin is 15th in the 50- yard freestyle and 100 freestyle, 11th in the 200 freestyle, sixth in the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly and 11th in the 200 backstroke. Watson’s finishes include fifth in the 500 freestyle and seventh in the 1650 freestyle and 400 individual medley. Poythress has the 13th-best time in the 200 backstroke. Spittler the fifth in the 200 butterfly and Niemann the 14th in the 1650 freestyle. The five relay teams all have a top-five finish under their belt as well.

Now it is time for accomplishments beyond the regular season.

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SPORTS WRITER

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DePaul
continued from page 20
A victory would be the ideal ending to complete Sunday’s
ceremony, but to do so Notre Dame (22-1, 9-1 Big East) will
have to stay focused against a DePaul team that has tradition-
ally caused problems for the Irish.
“They’re always a dangerous team,” McGraw said. “It’s always a huge rivalry between us and DePaul. We’ve had some great games over the years, and it’s always been a battle for us.”
Currently ranked ninth in the conference standings, the Blue
Demons (16-9, 5-6) are coming off a blowout loss to Connecticut
last Wednesday. DePaul is led by junior Sam Quigley, an explosive
point guard who is averaging 16.6 points and 4.9 assists per game
and freshman Skylar Diggins, among other things.
But the Blue Devils are hardly one-dimensional. Anchored by
freshman Katherine Harry and sophomores Keisha Hampton,
DePaul has developed an effec-
tive post game to complement
its perimeter offense.
“In the past, to really, really work on the funda-
mentals of boxing out and getting good position.
To that end, McGraw will rely on the improved performance
of her guards to provide support in the post in addition to their
scoring roles on the outside. Based on recent success, the
reflects the tandem of guards junior Ashley
Barlow, junior Brittany Mallory and freshman Skylar Diggins
should be more than capable of keeping the Blue Devils in
check.
“She is having a great year,” McGraw said. “She’s playing real-
ly well, playing a lot of minutes for us. I don’t think she ever
comes out. Our goal defensively is just try to keep the pressure
on her.
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“They’re big,” McGraw said. “They’ve got some really good players inside. They’ve got a
background line that could go 6-1, 6-2
and 6-4, and of course that’s a much bigger line than we’re
gonna have to make decisions on the boards. We’ve got
really, really work on the funda-
mentals of boxing out and getting good position.
“The experience the Belles
gained over the last year will be really important in the season,
as they play two very
solid teams in Case Western and Olivet Nazarene dur-
ing the first
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Nazarene will begin the sea-
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The Belles’
early-season schedule should give them a good barometer
of their progress before heading into their conference slate.
“Case Western looks to be a
very strong team,”
Campbell said.
“We may be
looking at a n a t i o n a l-
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Dale Campbell
Belles coach
“Their guards to provide support in
the court and to handle the flow of
the match better mental-
ly.”
Junior Jillian
Hurley and sen-
or Camille
Gebert, both
outstands last
year, will once
again lead the
team. Both
were named
the team last sea-
son. Hurley finished with a 4-
4 record in conference dual matches at the No. 1 singles position while Gebert
finished with an 8-0 record at the No. 2 singles position.
Belles optimistic about year
“Because we are
a bit more
experienced this
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help us quite a bit.”
Dale Campbell
Belles coach
Despite coming off a disap-
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much reason for optimism as
it heads into the new season.
The Belles return all nine
players from the squad that
finished with an 11-10 record
from a year ago.
“We want to keep improving
strategically and making bet-
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Campbell said. Saint Mary’s
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stered by the addition of
three new play-
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depth to a somewhat thin roster. Bridig
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Wolverines
continued from page 20

wins the three-setters.”

The Irish are coming off a tough loss to Duke in Durham last weekend and are looking to rebound and avenge their loss from last season in the NCAA Tournament.

“Our match with Duke was a disappointment from a competitive point of view,” Bayliss said. “We simply did not win enough big points. We held match points at No. 2, doubles to clinch the point, but didn’t reach out and take it. We had match points at No. 5, won the first set at No. 6, and served twice for the first set at No. 4, but came away with nothing to show for the effort.

“In short, Duke simply outplayed us in all aspects of the game, and we need to do a better job at crunch time.”

Heading into the season the Irish were searching for answers in their doubles lineup and seemed to have found some early in the season having already won the doubles point four out of six times.

“We served for the doubles point against No. 2 UVA and held match points for it against Duke,” Bayliss said. “We have some options here also with [junior] Matt Johnson, [freshman] Spencer Talmadge and [junior] Sean Tan, all of whom were not on the travel squad for Duke. Hopefully this will continue and become a key in more success as the season continues. David Anderson and Dan Stahl have become pretty competitive at No. 3. Havens-Fitzgerald have only one loss at No. 2, and Watt-Davis have shown some promise at No. 1.”

The Irish are now looking for some of their singles players to follow the lead of the doubles pairings to help the team win close matches.

The Irish will next travel to Seattle to take on Washington Feb. 20.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrabarek@nd.edu

Seton Hall
continued from page 20
time expired.
Senior point guard Tory Jackson posted a season-high 25 points to lead the Irish and added six assists. After a back-and-forth opening five minutes, the Pirates took an early 15-10 lead. Notre Dame quickly responded, going on a 10-0 run to take a five-point lead.
In the closing minutes of the first half, Hazell and Seton Hall caught the Irish and began to build a lead. Five points from Hazell in the final minute gave the Pirates a 49-39 lead heading into halftime.
After the break Notre Dame slowly began to chip away at the Pirates lead. A Harangody 3 with 11 minutes remaining tied the contest again at 63-63.
Seton Hall kept firing away from distance, taking back the lead with consecutive 3-pointers from Hazell and senior guard Eugene Harvey.

Harangody’s fifth 3 of the game then gave Seton Hall a nine-point lead with just over six minutes remaining.
The Irish would not quit despite the deficit, even after Harangody went out with the injury. Attacking the Pirate defense, free throws by Abromaitis, Joey Brooks and Tyrone Nash brought Notre Dame back within a point at 83-82 with less than two minutes to go.
Missed free throws down the stretch gave Notre Dame several opportunities to tie or take the lead, but the Irish couldn’t convert from the field. Notre Dame missed three field-goal attempts in the final 30 seconds.
Harangody and Nash each had 13 points and six rebounds in the loss. Abromaitis shot just 2 of 7 from the field but made all 12 of his free throw attempts to finish with 18 points.

Despite shooting 54 percent from the field and 52 percent from 3-point range, the Irish were still outgunned by the Pirates. Seton Hall shot 55 percent overall and 63 percent on 3-point shots.
Notre Dame will next face St. John’s Sunday at Purcell Pavilion, needing a win to continue to stay in the NCAA Tournament conversation.
Tip-off will be at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

The Fighting Irish: Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger
A Student Program on Competition and Perfectionism
February 15, 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Carey Auditorium, Hesburgh Library

Speakers include Dr. Daniel Lapsley, Dr. Rita Donley, and Sondra Byrnes
Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensible link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.
**Men's Basketball**

**Hazell eyes are smiling**

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Associate Sports Editor

The Irish continued their struggles away from home Thursday, falling at Seton Hall 90-87 for their fifth loss in six away games this season.

Pirates (13-9, 4-7 Big East) guard Jeremy Hazell tore apart the Notre Dame defense, sinking 12 of his 16 field goal attempts for 35 points. The Irish (17-8, 6-6 Big East) played the final four minutes without senior forward Luke Harangody, who suffered an apparent ankle injury coming down a rebound.

Notre Dame had two looks at forcing overtime in the final seconds, with junior forwards Tim Abromaitis and Carleton Scott both missing 3-point attempts just before the buzzer.

Hazell leads Pirates with 35-point night

**Men's Tennis**

**Wolverines set to come on campus**

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

The Irish will travel to Ann Arbor, Mich., to square off with the Wolverines on Saturday with the opening set to begin at 6 p.m.

The Irish split their decisions with the Wolverines a year ago, defeating them at home, and then falling to them in the NCAA Tournament.

“Our matches with Michigan are always emotional,” Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. “We expect a big crowd and it will be exciting.

“They have two outstanding players,” he said in [junior] Jason Jung and [freshman] Evan King, a lefty,” Bayliss said. “We are pretty much evenly matched at the Nos. 3-6 positions and this one will come down to which team is ready to break out their weekend’s events.

“I spoke to them on the phone recently,” Welsh said. “They are all settled and ready to go. I’ll be hanging out with them on Saturday.”

The preliminary rounds for the men begin on Saturday morning with the championship and consolation rounds slated for Sunday at Trees Pool on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

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**Women's Basketball**

**Irish to take on DePaul in Pink**

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Donning their elegant pink jerseys, the No. 3/4 Irish will defend their unbeaten home record this Sunday when they host DePaul in the annual Pink Zone game. While conference records and playoff implications are on the line, they will be the undertones to breast cancer research and awareness.

“I just think it’s so important for us to get involved in something as important as fighting breast cancer,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “The great thing about this game for us and our involvement is that 75 percent of the money actually stays right here in St. Joe’s County.”

**Softball**

**Team to open season at sunny Arizona St.**

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

This weekend the Irish will travel to the Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz., for their first tournament of the year. Notre Dame will take on Creighton, Oregon, Auburn, Oregon State and No. 1 Washington in a very busy three days.

Despite the lack of softball weather in South Bend, the team is ready to break out their cleats and mitts in sunny Arizona.

“Our hopes for this weekend are to come out strong and ready and to play and look like we have been playing outside for a couple months,” freshman infielder Kathryn Lux said. “We are hoping to win all five games this weekend.”

The Irish will look to Lux’s older sister, senior first baseman Christine Lux, who was an All-American last year. She was the cornerstone to breast cancer research and awareness.

The freshmen are especially excited to play their first set of games officially representing the Irish, especially after demonstrating improvements during the off-season. In particu-