Professor evaluates State of the Union proposals

President Barack Obama proposes economic improvements, increase in minimum wage

By CAROLYN HUTYRA
News Writer

President Barack Obama outlined a number of policy changes during his 5th State of the Union Address to joint sessions of Congress on Tuesday night, changes that professor Daniel Graff said targeted the most important concerns for Americans right now.

Graff, director of undergraduate studies for the Department of History, described the policy prescriptions in the address as relatively tame, due to the limits placed on the President by a Republican majority in the House of Representatives.

He said he found it disheartening that a bolder pathway to rebuild the American middle class was not offered.

“I certainly think he [Obama] wants to rebuild the American dream of equality, opportunity and upward mobility,” said Graff. “But he faces significant hurdles in the House, and this has prompted him to think strategically small.”

Graff said he was pleased by the attention Obama gave to the nation’s economic status and the job market during the speech.

Graff said he appreciated the emphasis put on raising the minimum wage and indexing it to inflation, since the minimum wage has been declining in real value since 1968. Obama proposed raising minimum wage to $9 per hour.

“It is way past time to protect our poorest workers from the erosion of the American middle class,” said Graff.

SonnetFest engages Shakespeare

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

For those who pass through the College’s Department of Shakespeare at Notre Dame, said the goal of the event is to share the poems’ beauty with the entire community, and the Valentine’s Day context just complements the experience.

“Back when the event started, we had been trying to figure out a way to engage the student readers,” said Scott Jackson, executive director of Shakespeare at Notre Dame. “For the College’s annual SonnetFest, 47 readers will recite sonnets in the Great Hall of O’Shaughnessy Hall today from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event’s intention is to engage students and the entire community.”

Saint Mary’s hosts annual dance showcase

By BRIDGET FEENEY
Associate Saint Mary’s Editor

Dancers will take to the stage tonight to present a series of choreographed ballets and movements in the opening performance of this year’s Dance Ensemble Workshop.

The College’s Program in Dance within the Departments of Communications Studies, Dance and Theatre sponsors the workshop, which will take place today through Saturday at the Moreau Center for Performing Arts Little Theatre. The theme for the 2013 Workshop is DanceSpeaks, which was chosen because it captures the way the dancers convey their own messages to the audience, Artistic Director and dance professor Laurie Lowry said.

“All art is a means of communication,” she said. “Dance represents non-verbal communication, but still offers a means of expressing ideas, feelings, joy, sadness and a full range of human emotions. As dancers, we speak through movement.”

Research shows logic of love

By MEL FLANAGAN
News Writer

As romance fills the air on Valentine’s Day, assistant professor of sociology Elizabeth McClintock said she does not buy into the idea of love as an illogical occurrence that cannot be rationalized.

Instead, she said she believes love and why people are attracted to each other can easily be rationalized.

“There is a disjoint between us feeling it is something irrational and random, and the fact that it can be explained,” McClintock said.

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The performance will feature students enrolled in various dance classes at the College and some students from Notre Dame. Alumna Jean Rogers, who graduated from the College in December
QUESTION OF THE DAY:  
Who is your celebrity crush?

Aiden Baldwin  
freshman  
Sorin College  
“Katie King.”

Lucas Lima  
freshman  
Sorin College  
“Gisele Bundchen.”

Alex Rzik  
freshman  
Sorin College  
“Gloria Maciorowski.”

Amy Stuhlrecher  
senior  
Breeh-Phillips Hall  
“Ryan Reynolds.”

Patrick Mazza  
freshman  
Sorin College  
“Emma Watson.”

Tom Aichele  
freshman  
Sorin College  
“Taylor Nutter.”

A number of different choirs and orchestra members come together to rehearse Wednesday at DeBartolo Performing Arts Center for the Junior Parents Weekend Mass, which will take place Saturday.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:  
Want your event included here?  
Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Thursday
SonnetFest  
D’Aulnayессe Hall  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Free and open to the public.

Theatre: “Hamlet”  
Washington Hall  
7:30 p.m.-10 p.m.  
British actors performing Shakespeare’s play.

Friday
Junior Parents Weekend  
Campus-wide  
Through Saturday  
Contact pw@nd.edu.

RCLG Anniversary Celebration  
Robinson Community Learning Center  
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.  
12th anniversary.

Saturday
Men’s tennis  
Eck Tennis Pavilion  
12 p.m.-2 p.m.  
Notre Dame vs. Michigan.

ND Jazz Band  
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center  
2 p.m.-3 p.m.  
Annual J-PW concert.

Sunday
Sunday Mass  
Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
10 a.m.-11 a.m.  
Mass at the Basilica.

Family First Classes  
Rockne Memorial  
1 p.m.-2 p.m.  
Family climbing to improve well-being.

Monday
Blood Drive  
Reifs Sports  
Roefs Protection Center  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Call 574-631-6100.

Technology Tools for Learning and Teaching  
LaFortune Student Center  
3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.  
Workshop for faculty.
Club hosts prom for cancer patients

By CAILIN CROWE
News Writer

Prom is a celebratory pinnacle of four years walking high school hallways, and Saint Mary’s Stands Up will bring the magic of that night to cancer patients and survivors in March.

The College chapter, which is a branch of the national Stand Up To Cancer organization, will host a prom for those in the local area dealing with cancer March 2. Senior Devon Graham, Saint Mary’s Stands Up president and founder, said she wanted to create an event that would allow students to interact with cancer patients and survivors.

“So many of us are healthy people and we underestimate things like prom, but prom is a big deal for people who aren’t healthy enough to go,” Graham said. “I think this prom gives students and patients the opportunity to interact and be a support system for each other.

The event will be held at Haggar Parlor and is open to all students and cancer patients in the area. There is no cost for cancer patients and their guests. This is Stand Up’s second prom, and Graham said she hopes the event will eventually become an annual occurrence.

“It’s amazing to hear a cancer patient’s story,” Graham said. “The prom is a great way for patients to share those stories with students.”

Graham said she established a Saint Mary’s chapter during her sophomore year because of her belief in the value of Stand Up’s mission.

“My dad passed away from cancer when I was in high school and ever since I’ve kept up with Stand Up To Cancer,” Graham said.

“Everyone is so affected by cancer. We have a passion for it because we’ve all had someone we love either survive or lose the fight.”

During the school year, Stand Up members volunteer at Memorial Hospital and fundraise, Graham said. Supporting cancer research is a key aspect of the club’s goals.

“I really like that 100 percent of any donation goes straight to research,” Graham said. “Researchers work together through out the country to come up with treatments or ways to detect different types of cancers.”

Graham said she is happy to be a part of an organization that provides both financial and emotional support for students who have been impacted by cancer.

“Like being a part of Stand Up because not only is it a great organization with a great mission, but it’s also such a great support system.”

Contact Cailin Crowe at gccrowe@stmarys.edu
Administrator educates Senate on sexual assault

Members of the Student Senate listen to Dr. Bill Stackman, not pictured, who lectured on preventing sexual assault on campus.

By MADDIE DALY
News Writer

Dr. Bill Stackman, associate vice president of student services, visited the Student Senate during this week’s meeting and spoke on his role in Notre Dame’s sexual assault policies.

New to Notre Dame this year, Stackman has spent 31 years working with sexual harassment at a variety of schools, most recently Texas A&M University. His current role is the Deputy Title IX coordinator, which means he is the point person for all reports of sexual assault at Notre Dame.

“Title IX is about equality on college campuses, especially concerning athletics,” Stackman said. “Due to the [Department of Education’s] Office of Civil Rights, every university is required to take immediate action [on allegations of sexual assault], meaning we have 60 days to complete the process [of investigation]. You can imagine if you are a victim or on the side of an accused it can be pretty daunting, so the last thing they want to do is go on forever.”

Stackman said it is not enough to just have a handbook or a website; universities have to educate the campus on how to report.

“My job is to reach out to students of concern all the time,” Stackman said. “We flag students who are struggling, whom we heard about through a rector, a faculty member or students themselves, and reach out to provide support.”

Stackman said sexual assault policies are not the same across the board and need to be defined at each university. At Notre Dame, reports can be made from a variety of sources, including Notre Dame students, coaches and parents, and after a report, Stackman said he assigns a Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator (SARC) to both the complainant and the accused.

Student body vice president Katie Rose added that students are not obliged by the honor code to report sexual assault and can generally be considered confidential sources, but those acting in certain roles, such as Resident Assistants, are required to pass reports to the Deputy Title IX coordinator.

Students can find more information about which sources can remain confidential and which cannot through the Center for Sexual Assault Prevention. Once a report has been made, Stackman said the SARC will guide students through the Notre Dame’s process of investigation.

“Often students don’t know where to go in this situation,” Stackman said. “The SARC is to provide them with this type of support. In addition, we ask each person involved to not have contact with the other person [who is accused of assault] until further notice. This includes physical contact, communication and communication between friends.”

The complainant then has the choice whether or not to continue the case through either or both University discipline and the legal system. Stackman said that since being at Notre Dame, Stackman has handled 20 cases in his capacity as Deputy Title IX coordinator. Eight of those cases involved complainants who were unwilling to meaning they came forward to an extent but did not give the name of the accuser to take the case further, Stackman said. In addition, five of the 20 complainants were male, and two involved sexual intercourse. Sixteen of the 20 cases involved alcohol.

“This is an administrative process, it is not a court of law,” Stackman said. “We have room to make this our own, and we’re always looking for ways to make it better.”

Rose said the reason for this presentation was the clear up the misinformation that is widespread across campus.

“I’ve heard stories from people who have been witnesses or accused and nobody seems satisfied, no one knows the actual process,” Rose said. “Now it should be clear that if something does come up in your dorm or with your friends you can know the process and know that it’s a stringent one that is the same across the board.”

Sitting in on the session were the newly elected student body president and vice president Alex Coccia and Nancy Joyce, introduced at the beginning of the meeting by current student body president Bret Rocheleau. They will assume their offices in April.

Contact Maddie Daly at mdaly6@nd.edu

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Attraction

Continued from Page 1

is actually very logically and socially structured,” she said.

McClintock has conducted research on the roles of physical attractiveness and social status in mate selection, and she has found many stereotypes about selection so greatly because of its relation to cultural capital, she said. In order for two people to connect emotionally, they need to possess some of the same cultural interests and knowledge.

McClintock said education level remains the single strongest force in mate selection. “Men might be willing to accept a woman who is beautiful and doesn’t have a lot of money,” she said. “But they’re not willing to accept a woman who doesn’t have the same education or the same cultural background.”

Despite her findings, McClintock said not all couples match entirely on social status, education level and physical attractiveness.

“You can have successful marriages with people who are different,” she said. “I don’t think that’s bad. I think it’s good because it can create a certain amount of social mobility.”

Contact Mel Flanagan at mflanag3@nd.edu

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BROADWAY’S BEST PARTY!

The University of Notre Dame Department of Music Presents

To Love...

Valentine’s Day Concert

Songs about love from many perspectives, by

Lowland, Schumann, Fauré, Poulenc and Copland

Stephen Lancaster, baritone

with Daniel Schlosberg, piano

February 14
7:30 PM Leighton Concert Hall
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
$5 general $3 student
Contact 631-2800 or performingarts.nd.edu
Dance with a dance minor, said she is eager to return to campus and perform in the show. “I am in DanceSpeaks because I love to dance and have been involved in the dance program since my freshman year,” Rogers said. “I am performing in two pieces, ‘Say Something’ and ‘3M’.” In addition to Rogers’ pieces, the performance will feature a variety of styles, music and choreography from both solo and group dances. Lowry said the audience can expect to see something new with each dancer. “This performance offers many different pieces for curious people,” she said. “There are a variety of dance styles represented, including classical ballet in a Spanish style, contemporary ballet, Japanese ballet and various modern dance styles.”

In order to prepare for the program, Rogers and the other dancers auditioned for their spots early last semester. Lowry said the overall process of rehearsals, choreography and costuming has been “fairly smooth.” “I have found this group of dancers very focused and professional throughout the working rehearsals,” she said. “They are very supportive of each other and the choreographers.”

Rogers agreed with Lowry that the preparation for DanceSpeaks has been rooted in the rehearsal process and learning how to work together as a group. “It is all about rehearsing — rehearsing the piece itself, practicing hair and makeup, running through the pieces with our costumes on and working with the crew and the light designer to set the lights for each individual piece,” Rogers said. “It takes a lot of people to make a dance show successful and we have a great group.”

However, despite the months of preparation and planning, there was some uncertainty about the future of the performance when the Moreau Center for Performing Arts caught on fire Jan. 27, the second blaze to hit the building in less than three months. Originally, DanceSpeaks was scheduled to occur on O’Laughlin Stage, but when damages from the January fire made that impossible, Lowry and the dancers had to search and plan for a new venue.

“When the fire happened, we did not know where the performance would be or if the date might have to be changed,” she said. “Performing venues off campus were explored but in the end the theater and dance faculty were able to share the Little Theatre space, and we were able to keep the original date and adjust to a smaller theater.”

As a dancer, Rogers said the fire proved to be the biggest challenge for preparing for her dances. “The stage in O’Laughlin is larger than the Little Theatre stage, and we have had to adjust some of the choreography and our spacing in order to accommodate the size of the stage in the Little Theatre,” she said. “Fortunately, it did not take too much time to adjust. Though the fire was challenging, we all were able to overcome and grow as a company.”

DanceSpeaks opens tonight and continues through Saturday. Each show begins at 7:30 p.m., with an additional matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets cost $8 for students and $10 for faculty and staff. To purchase tickets, visit the Moreau Center’s website at moreaucenter.com or call 574-284-4626.

Contact Bridget Feeney at bfeene01@saintmarys.edu

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RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE
Nominations are sought for two awards that recognize excellence in teaching and advising.

Dockweiler Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising
Student, faculty, and staff nominations are sought to identify faculty or professional staff members whose involvement with undergraduates inspires students to reach their academic and career goals. Nominees may be members of the academic advising and career counseling staffs or members of the faculty and staff who:

- Facilitate learning outside the classroom
- Serve as mentors or role models
- Encourage student participation in fellowships, internships, undergraduate research, and postgraduate opportunities
- Cultivate relationships with organizations that recruit Notre Dame graduates

Nominations due by Wednesday, February 27. Three faculty or staff will be chosen.

The Joyce Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
Student and faculty nominations are sought to identify faculty who:

- Create environments that stimulate significant student learning
- Elevate students to a new level of intellectual engagement
- Foster students’ ability to express themselves effectively within the discipline

Nominations due by Wednesday, February 27. Twenty recipients will be selected.

Submit online nominations at provostawards.nd.edu.
Cruise line cancels more trips

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Carnival Cruise Lines has canceled a dozen more planned voyages aboard the Triumph and acknowledged that the crippled ship had been plagued by other mechanical problems in the weeks before an engine-room fire left it powerless in the Gulf of Mexico.

The company’s announcement Wednesday came as the Triumph was being towed to a port in Mobile, Ala., with more than 4,000 people on board, some of whom have complained to relatives that conditions on the ship are dismal and that they have limited access to food and bathrooms.

Passengers’ stay in Alabama will be limited, Carnival said in a statement late Wednesday. The company said passengers were being given the option of boarding buses directly to Galveston, Texas, or Houston, or spending the night in a hotel in New Orleans, where the company said it booked 1,500 rooms.

Those staying in New Orleans will be flown Friday to Houston.

“Our top priority is to treat our guests as the VIPs they are and do everything possible to make their stay as comfortable as possible,” the statement said.

Passengers were asked to arrive at the port at 2 a.m., two hours later than originally scheduled.

The ship did not sail until af- ter 8 p.m., she said.

“My mother is a cruise travel agent so this is not my first rodeo. I have sailed many, many cruises, many, many cruise lines. This was, by far, I have to say, the worst,” said Smedley, of Plano, Texas.

Robert Giordano, of the Oklahoma City suburb of Edmond, said he last spoke to his wife, Shannon, on Monday. She told him she waited in line for three hours to get a hot dog, and that conditions on the ship were terrible.

“They’re having to urinate in the shower. Some of them have passed out plastic bags to go to the bathroom,” Giordano said.

“Their clothes are filthy because they have limited access to food and the engine fire, forcing passengers to stay on the deck. She also smelled like smoke from the engine fire, forcing passengers to stay on the deck. The deck was hot and stank,” she added.

Days later, Carnival said it booked 1,500 rooms.

“Tilley said her sister, Renee Sharar, of Houston, told her the cabins were hot and smelled like smoke from the engine fire, forcing passengers to stay on the deck. She also said people were getting sick. "It was disgusting," said Tracy Tilly, noting Sharar and her husband chose a four-day cruise so they wouldn’t be away from their two daughters for too long.

After losing power on its most recent journey, the ship drifted until Tuesday, when two tugboats began moving it toward shore.

Sonnet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

population with Shakespeare and bring his work off the page,” Jackson said. “The idea of a public event like SonnetFest, that especially somewhere as pub- lic and high-trafficked as the Great Hall,”

Jackson said the combination of SonnetFest and Valentine’s Day “just makes perfect sense” because of the way the two holidays converge. “It’s incredible because all these different departments, all these different students and artists can come together as universal and timeless as Shakespeare’s verse and unite through that,” Jackson said.

“Once you see these students across the University make that leap and find that engagement is amazing,”

The idea of internationalizing Shakespeare is a prior- ity of SonnetFest, and Jackson said the variety of languages augment the experience since it becomes clear that the sonnet’s themes ring true in any translation.

“We’ve had 15 or more lan- guages, everything from French, Spanish, German, and Russian to Klingon, More, Smedley, a professor at the University of Oklahoma, which is held in the O’Shaughnessy Great Hall with its continuous reading and stop and listen to a poem or two,” DellaNeva said.

“I feel that Shakespeare’s language is constricted when you just read it off the page,” Jackson said. “The words affect you differently when they’re voiced, and you get to make a personal connection to them.”

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski
at ajakuboi@nd.edu

Associated Press

CAIRO — Egyptian women are growing increasingly angry and militant as they deal with one of the unintended consequences of the Arab Spring: an epidemic of sexual assault.

The backlash, which includes self-defense courses for women and marches and protests against violence, is fueled by ultracon- servative Islamists who suggest that women invite assault by attacking, criticizing men.

Women have been killed in clashes with security forces. About 70 people have been killed in clashes with security forces since Jan. 25, the second anniversary of the revolt that deposed longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Harassment has long been a problem in this patriarchal society, and attacks against female demonstrators have occurred under the democrat- izing society, and attacks against female demonstrators have occurred under the democrat- izing society, and attacks against female demonstrators have occurred under the democrat- izing society, and attacks against female demonstrators have occurred under the democrat- izing society, and attacks against female demonstrators have occurred under the democrat-
North Korea claims success in nuclear testing

Associated Press

TOKYO — North Korea’s latest underground test shows it is making big strides toward building a true nuclear weapon. But the test may also reveal key clues the secretive nation might be trying to hide about how close, or how far away, it is from fielding a nuclear weapon capable of striking the United States or its allies.

Hoping to capitalize on a rare opportunity to gauge North Korea’s nuclear capabilities, intelligence and military officials around the region are scrambling to glean data to answer three big questions: how powerful was the device Pyongyang tested, what sort of device was it, and what progress does the test indicate the nation has made.

North Korea hailed Tuesday’s test as a “perfect” success, saying it used a device that was stronger and more advanced than those in its past two attempts. Add that to its successful rocket launch in December and the threat of a North Korea ready to strike at the United States, which it sees as its arch-enemy, would appear to be more real than ever.

But just how close is it? The main thing intelligence officials want to figure out is what kind of device was used.

Was it a plutonium bomb, like the ones it tested in 2006 and 2009, or one that used highly enriched uranium? James Acton, an analyst with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said North Korea’s plutonium stockpile is small and it would be difficult and expensive for the North to produce more. But a test using highly enriched uranium, which is cheaper and easier to produce, would raise the threat that North Korea can expand its nuclear arsenal quickly.

“A highly enriched uranium test would be a significant development,” he said. “Unfortunately, we don’t yet have any evidence as to the device’s design yield or whether it was made from plutonium or highly enriched uranium.”

Finding that out is a race against time.

Joseph De Trani, former head of the National Counterproliferation Center, predicted U.S. intelligence would determine the size and composition of the nuclear device in one to three days based partly on radioactive elements released into the environment. But experts caution such monitoring doesn’t always work because test sites can be sealed to prevent tell-tale leaks. They also note that North Korea has spent time working on what it has described as the ability to mask its tests quite well.

“The latest test was seismic activity at the test site, which U.S. officials estimated at roughly magnitude 5.1. That would be equivalent to a medium-sized earthquake,” said Acton, the Carnegie analyst.

“Because the depth of the test is not known and the geology of the test site is uncertain, translating the seismic magnitude into yield is difficult,” said Acton.

“Highly enriched uranium is something that degrades quickly, so you would have to collect within a 24-hour period, especially because the traces from an underground explosion will be minimal,” he said.

Neighboring Japan may provide some of those answers.

Its fighter jets were dispatched immediately after the test to collect atmospheric samples. Japan has also established land-based monitoring posts, including one on its northwest coast, to collect similar data.

But experts caution such monitoring doesn’t always work because test sites can be sealed to prevent tell-tale leaks. They also note that North Korea has spent time working on what it has described as the ability to mask its tests quite well.

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Students sue over poor grade

Associated Press

EASTON, Pa. — Talk about grade inflation.

Graduate student Megan Thode wasn’t happy about the C-plus she received for one class, saying the mediocre grade kept her from getting her desired degree and becoming a licensed therapist — and, as a result, cost her $1.3 million in lost earnings.

Thode failed to behave professionally, was emotionally unstable and failed to heed a warning letter, Assistant District Attorney Emily Giordano declined to dismiss the case.

Her instructor, Amanda Eckhardt, testified this week that Thode stood by the grade, saying she believed marriage is between a man and a woman, she would never allow her personal views to influence her treatment of students. She said Thode had outbursts in class, did not participate appropriately, was emotionally unstable and failed to heed a warning letter.

Steph Thode, the plaintiff’s father and a longtime finance professor at Lehigh, testified on his daughter’s behalf and said her participation score was highly irregular.

“I have never heard of a case, not just at Lehigh, where a student achieved a zero in class participation where they attended and participated in every class,” he said.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Club 23 nostalgia

Troy Mathew
Scene Writer

Being a second semester senior is obviously terrifying. All of us are teetering on the precipice of adulthood, and have to deal with all the difficult questions posed by such a position — Where will I live? Will I have a job? Will I have health insurance? Is health insurance even a thing people have anywhere? Why is everyone getting engaged?

Beyond merely the tribulations of senior year, it’s the strange emotional responses that people have to these stresses that are interesting and unique to Notre Dame. Personally, I have had a strange nostalgia for monumental recesses to my waning days as a pseudo-adult.

Cramming into a sweaty, stove-lighted dorm room and clamhering desperately to catch that last Nat Night does not seem inherently desirable, but for second-semester seniors, the scene represents a relatively simpler time. Rather than vying for elusive entry-level positions, the prevailing concern of those days was safely transporting a suitcase full of beer from the parking lot to the dorm, or making sure you got into the same physical education class as your friends.

Football season? Let’s not even go there.

Amid all this nostalgia, however, is one very important void — my Monday night void, left in the absence of Club 23. I’m aware Club 23 closed a pretty long time ago, and I’m also aware an inexplicably sticky carpet and air composed of approximately 70 percent cigarette smoke are not totally desirable things in and of themselves. But nostalgia is emotional. It’s impervious to logic.

Club 23 just seemed to have the magic formula for creating the perfect college dive bar. First, there were the frozen long drinks. Next, there were the frozen long beers. First, there were the frozen long drinks. Second, there were the frozen long beers.

Clubs 23 is a place that one could find themselves sitting in a sweaty, stove-lighted dorm room, cursing checkboxes and, out of nowhere, feel as if they were in a house of thousands. The secret recipe — two parts Natty Light does not necessarily those of The Observer.

Kate Barrett
Faithpoint

Have you noticed that the days are growing longer? Not, as we might wish, in total hours per day; that’s still stuck at 24. However, we are at least getting a little more bang for our buck in the daylight department. This morning, the sun rose at a relatively early 7:41 a.m. and won’t set tonight until 6:47 p.m. That’s a total of 10 hours and 36 minutes of daylight if you’re keeping track. Back at the beginning of February we only got 10 hours and four minutes.

It seems fitting, then, that we have also begun the season of Lent, a word that shares its roots in the word for “spring.” Lent was originally associated with the change of seasons from winter to spring, and particularly with the lengthening amount of sunlight in each day. Images of light and darkness are plentiful during Lent, with darkness getting one last try on Good Friday as Jesus hung dying on the cross. As you’ll hear in Luke’s Gospel on Palm Sunday, “It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun” (Lk. 23:44-45).

But we know how that story ends.

In the darkness of Good Friday, God’s beloved son, sent to save the world and to lead us all back to the Father, turns out to be a different kind of savior than anyone would have ever expected. He experiences an absolutely humiliating and painful death. But as the disciples did not yet know, Jesus rose from the dead to become the light no darkness can overcome. Each and every baptized Christian, then, as a member of Christ’s body, shares in that light.

During the season of Lent we prepare — again and again, because it’s the work of a lifetime — to renew our baptismal promises at Easter and to live out those promises in our lives.

Events in the Church this past week remind us how very uniquely each and every baptized person is called and given the grace and the capacity to continue the work of a lifetime — to renew our baptismal promises at Easter and to live out those promises in our lives.

The promises our parents made for us at our baptism — and which we ourselves renew each Easter — call us to be, not just to follow the crowd to the latest attraction or distraction, Jesus gives us the power to be light in darkness, a power no one can take away from us.

The powerful pull of planets and stars, the light that grows and diminishes as Earth moves around the Sun, reminds us that God’s presence in our lives is as big as the universe, even while the gift of his beloved son Jesus reminds us that he loves us individually and intimately. On Easter day we will enjoy a full 12 hours and 40 minutes of daylight. During this Lent as the light begins to push back the night each morning and evening, try contributing your own light to the effort. Become the light of Christ wherever you find darkness in the world around you.

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
‘Waiting for Superman’

Adam Newman
Scientia Potentia Est

“Weighing for Superman” may be one of the most important documentaries made in our lifetime. The documentary examines the failure of American education by explaining why the system fails and by sharing the stories of students who are failed by it.

The title “Waiting for Superman” comes from the gut-wrenching story of Geoffrey Canada, the founder of Harlem’s Children Zone — a charter school and social experiment that has produced jaw-dropping education outcomes in a 95-block area in Harlem — and a leader in the education reform movement. Canada recalls, “One of the saddest days of my life was when my mother told me Superman did not exist.” When his mother revealed that Superman was not real, he started crying “because there was no one ... coming with enough power to save us [from the ghetto].”

Most Americans are also “Waiting for Superman,” but in a different way than Canada. Americans know our education system is bad, but instead of becoming active to enact positive change, they place their hopes in an elected official, such as President Barack Obama or a school chancellor such as Michelle Rhee, to “save” the American education system.

The reality is in a robust democracy, one person, even someone as powerful as Obama or Rhee, cannot create the changes necessary to save American education on his or her own. The size and power of this change can only come from millions of ordinary Americans who learn about the barriers to education reform, hold their politicians accountable and become involved in their local school districts. This becomes even more true due to the decentralization of America’s education system and the vast power of the special interests that guard the status quo.

I spend a lot of time trying to understand those who succeed in the public sphere and what separates them from those who do not. My greatest realization is that the people that usually succeed in the public sphere and create positive change never get the message from critics that they were never supposed to succeed in the first place.

In education, no one exemplifies this better than Wendy Kopp, whose name is known to few but whose organization, Teach for America, is known to millions. Teach for America is an organization that originated from Kopp’s 1989 senior thesis describing an organization that would recruit successful college students from top universities and place them in urban and rural school districts. Many did not believe she could succeed in her endeavors. Initially they were right, as the organization faced financial and logistical difficulties in its first few years. But today, Teach for America is one of the most popular service organizations that a young person can enter, with 10,000 current corps members and a 2011 application class of 48,000 with an acceptance rate of 11 percent.

While there are some legitimate critiques of its model, Teach for America has done an incredible job of placing highly talented young people, many of whom could have become investment bankers, consultants, doctors and many other respected professions, into education. Teach For America also inspires the next generation of education reform leaders by allowing its teachers to witness first hand the dysfunctions of American education and the politics that perpetuates it. Teach for America alumni include many prominent education leaders, most notably Rhee, who ran the Washington D.C. school system, and Dave Levin and Mike Feinberg, who co-founded the Knowledge Is Power Program, the largest and most successful charter school network in America.

It will take thousands of Wendy Kopp’s running for local school boards, starting charter schools, managing school districts, teaching in urban schools and running for public office to get American education to produce the results expected of the richest country in the world. When it comes to a decentralized issue like education, where special interests, backed by money and political power, guard the status quo, Americans have two options: one, we can continue to wait for Superman and continue to get the same mediocrity results from the same dysfunctional American education system that has become an invitation to national decline. Or two, we can realize that, as Canada says, “There is no Superman coming to save [America’s kids]. All they have is us.”

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Rethinking the carbon tax

Conor Durkin’s article “Three birds, one stone” makes a compelling case for a carbon tax. However, I must disagree with his conclusions.

First, it is difficult to measure and therefore tax externalities. Although carbon dioxide emissions can be measured in metric tons, it is difficult to measure in monetary terms how much one extra ton will be of detriment to society. This is because of uncertainty regarding the scope of climate change: Will that extra metric ton contribute to climate change to the extent it will cost an individual person in a “climate-changed” future $5 or $500,000? To deal with this uncertainty, government decides how much that extra carbon is worth and taxes accordingly. Since the government stands to benefit from increased tax revenue, it may have an incentive to overvalue the cost of carbon.

Moreover, advocates of a carbon tax would like us believe the taxes only affect the big, greedy over-polluting bad guys. This is not the case, as firms often pass the costs of extra taxes to consumers. Mr. Durkin is aware of this, explaining that a carbon tax will give consumers an “incentive” to buy more efficient products. What he really means to say is the carbon tax will make us choose between paying a ridiculous amount of money for something we don’t want and paying an even more ridiculous amount for something we do. And unlike the income tax, which is progressive, the carbon tax hits everyone equally, rich and poor, in the form of higher prices for gasoline, electricity and even food.

Finally, Mr. Durkin’s last appeal for a carbon tax stressed that the money raised from such a tax could be used to lower other tax rates. I must actually agree with this, because I am completely sure the Democrats in Congress who want such a tax are currently having a fierce debate amongst themselves over what taxes they are going to lower with all of this new money. No, more likely this new revenue will be wisely invested in wholesome, profitable organizations like Solyndra. Oh wait...

Ben Moeller
senior
Fisher Hall

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

You’ve read the

How would you like to start one?

Be a columnist next semester. Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com to apply.
It’s that time of the year again. Once more, it’s Valentine’s Day, the day of the significant other (or lack thereof). Whether you do or don’t have a special Valentine this year, there is at least always an appropriate romantic movie for you.

In case you have a Valentine:
1. “The Notebook”
What better romantic movie for the Notre Dame couple than the perfect Notre Dame romance — “The Notebook”? Directed by Notre Dame graduate Nicholas Sparks and based on his novel of the same name, this is easily one of the best romantic films and definitely not something like a stereotypical Valentine’s Day rom-com. This is because of the lack of a shallow plot, see-through build-ups or clear candidates for “home-wrecker who ruins the couple-mean-to-be.” But really, with moments like Noah struggling to sell the house or the ever-famous “He’s Just Not That Into You” scene, “The Notebook” will always be a Valentine’s day favorite.

2. “50 First Dates”
No one ever forgets the first date, right? This movie, starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore, captures a spark that seems very rare of Sandler in movies of recent memory. The film chronicles the tale of a womanizer-turned-lover who makes every attempt to make the woman of his dreams fall for him over and over again, redefining what it means to fall in love at first sight. The film is wildly hilarious, as is expected of Sandler, but what really sets this film over the top is the perseverance of Sandler’s character Henry Roth, who has faith that love could transcend a seemingly impossible obstacle.

3. “Something Borrowed”
Definitely a sleeper in terms of attention and praise in the realm of rom-coms, this movie celebrates the ideas of “true love triumphing all” and “if it’s meant to be, it’ll happen.” The film is full of stars, including Ginnifer Goodwin, Kate Hudson, Collin Eggleston and John Krasinski (best known as Jim Halpert from “The Office”). Watch out for our very own school to play a role in “Something Borrowed,” as Notre Dame becomes an important part of the plot. There are a few hit-or-miss jokes scattered throughout the movie, but the plot is otherwise very solid and the film as a whole very underappreciated.

In case you don’t have a Valentine:
1. “He’s Just Not That Into You”
Ladies, just in case you find the sad reality of this title to hold true for you (and really, it’s all his fault), then here’s a film that will definitely pick you back up. A romantic comedy following a few interconnected stories of couples meant to be and not meant to be, this film takes both a sentimental and humorous approach to love and its falling outs. With an all-star cast of names like Ben Affleck, Bradley Cooper, Sasha Alexander, Jennifer Aniston and Drew Barrymore, movie watchers can expect to truly feel for their stories and, in the instances of heartbreak, pity their characters more so than themselves.

2. (“1000 Days of Summer”
Really, what better film fits into this sub-category of rom-coms than a film that introduces itself with “You should know upfront: His is not a love story.” As you may already know or have concluded from such a statement, the guy doesn’t get the girl, but the film does a superb job of detailing the phases of a relationship in a non-conventional manner. Not to mention, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zooey Deschanel are two atypical heartthrobs who offer such great chemistry, making this film an easy and extremely pleasant viewing.

Jason Segel performs as the lovable loser who tries to pick up the pieces following heartbreak and if this movie demonstrates anything, it’s that better things are always yet to come. The chemistry Segel and Mila Kunis strike inspires forlorn ex-lovers to focus on the self and have faith that things will work themselves out, and they really get more than a few laughs along the way. Russell Brand is absolutely brilliant in the film as well, playing the role of the superstar yet undeniably eccentric “other guy,” the perfect foil to Segel.

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By MIKO MALABU TE
Scene Writer

This recipe is adapted from Serious Eats and makes a dozen cupcakes. You’ll need a mixer and a cupcake tray. Be sure to check out a video demonstration Kicki and I as we make these cupcakes on ndsmobserver.com!

Ingredients
1 3/4 cup flour
1 tablespoon cocoa powder
10 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened, divided
1/2 cup plus 1/3 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 large egg
1 tablespoon red food coloring
2 teaspoons vanilla extract, divided
3/4 cup milk
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 teaspoon vinegar
8 ounces cream cheese, softened
3 cups confectioners’ sugar
3 ounces white chocolate, melted and cooled slightly
1/4 cup red sugar

Directions
Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and line the cupcake tray with cupcake liners. Mix the cocoa powder and flour in a medium-size bowl. Using the mixer, cream six tablespoons butter, the sugar and salt on medium speed for two minutes until light and fluffy. Beat the egg, food coloring and one teaspoon of the vanilla until combined. Mix in the flour/cocoa powder mixture and milk, alternating between the two and beginning and ending with the flour/cocoa powder. In a small bowl, stir the baking soda into the vinegar, letting it fizz. Immediately add it into the batter. Using a spoon or scoop, distribute the batter between the cupcake cups. Bake for 17 minutes until firm to the touch, turning the pan halfway through. Let the cupcakes cool in the pan for five minutes, then remove and let cool completely before you frost them.

To make the frosting, use the mixer to beat the cream cheese, four tablespoons butter and confectioners sugar on medium speed for three minutes until light and fluffy. Beat in the white chocolate and remaining teaspoon of vanilla until just combined. Using an offset spatula, frost the cupcakes (there will be plenty of frosting for each.) Sprinkle the red sugar on top to garnish.

American capitalism may try to pitch the concept of Valentine’s Day to consumers as one of love and passion to sell flowers, jewelry and cards. But I’m not buying it. The only thing I love come V-Day is sugar and lots of it.

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

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WHAT TO DO ON VALENTINE’S DAY IF YOU’RE SINGLE

Sam Stryker
Assistant Managing Editor

There seems to be a strict dichotomy in the ways different people celebrate Valentine’s Day. Either you have a significant other to celebrate the day with by going out to a romantic candlelit dinner and exchanging gifts, or you are bemoaning the fact you are spending yet another Valentine’s Day alone and single.

I’m here to slap some sense into the latter half of that group. I’m tired of all the Sally Sob Stories complaining about the annoying couples on Valentine’s Day or how miserable they are for not having someone special to celebrate the day with.

Get over yourselves, people.

Spending Valentine’s Day single can be one of the best days of the year. As my charming little sister so astutely pointed out to me last week, this Valentine’s Day will mark the 22nd-straight year I will spend Feb. 14 single. Last time I checked, I’m fabulous and doing just fine.

In fact, I would say Valentine’s Day is better suited to single people. Not only do you get to eat all the chocolate you want guilt-free, but you can rub it all in the happy couple’s faces that you are single and ready to mingle.

So for all of you folks who have resigned themselves to another gloomy Valentine’s Day, I say snap out of it. Here are my tips to ensure your single Valentine’s Day is one of happiness and not misery.

Remind yourself: Single doesn’t equal bad

Let’s look at a list of successful single people out there: President James Buchanan never married, Susan Boyle is a legitimate crazy cat lady and she nearly won “Britain’s Got Talent” and Queen Elizabeth I was a lifelong bachelorette. The biggest newsmaker in the world right now? Pope Benedict XVI, and he is spending Valentine’s Day alone. Heck, even University President Fr. John Jenkins is single. The fact of the matter is you don’t need a significant other to achieve anything in this world. If Beyoncé wrote a song about being a single lady, I think it is good enough for the rest of us.

Don’t be basic

The absolute last thing you should be doing on Valentine’s Day is cranking up Taylor Swift to loud and dancing in your pajamas, pretending like you are fine with the fact you aren’t with someone. Additionally, avoid all romantic movies like the plague, “The Notebook” in particular. Let high school girls stick to that stuff, but you’re better than that. Get out of your sweatpants and own the day. The only way you are going to have a great Valentine’s Day when you are single is if you decide from the moment you wake up you are going to have an awesome time. Somehow, I don’t think lying nearly comatose in your dorm room watching Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams go at it is going to help the cause.

Dress to impress

Some of you might think because you don’t have a boyfriend or girlfriend to amaze. Well, you’re as wrong as black on navy. If you look your best, not only will you blow away the rest of the sweatpants-wearing population out of the water but you may also even land yourself someone by midnight. So ladies, wear a little black dress and heels to your 8:30 a.m. science lab. Gentleman, I’m thinking a suit and tie — you get bonus points for a bow-tie. You can thank me later.

Treat yourself

I don’t care how hot your boyfriend or girlfriend is, but Valentine’s Day is terrible if you’re dating someone because you have to spend money like it’s going out of style. Flowers, chocolates, dinner, you name it — you have to buy it for someone who probably isn’t even that awesome anyways. Instead of spending money on a significant other, all you single ladies out there should go and spend it on yourselves. I don’t care what it is — in a perfect world, I would install a mimosa fountain in my dorm room — but I just want you to pick something you enjoy and go out and treat yourself.

Hang out with your friends

This one is pretty simple, but I don’t think we pay attention to it enough. Why not spend some time with your other single friends today rather than trying to suffer through the day alone? We’re all going to graduate soon, move off to faraway places, meet someone, have kids, have to clean up messy diapers, send our kids to college and retire. Before we know it, we’re going to all be wearing dentures, playing Yahtzee everyday and eating dinner at 4 p.m. Life goes by fast, so enjoy the friendships you have now while it’s as easy as texting someone and meeting them in the dining hall. In the real world, it’s not so simple.

Create an imaginary boyfriend/girlfriend

It may sound crazy, but why spend time with a Notre Dame 6 when you could be with a real world 9 or 10? Pick your favorite celebrity crush and come up with an elaborate backstory on how you met, what your favorite things to do together are, where you retire. Before we know it, we’re going to all be wearing dentures, playing Yahtzee everyday and eating dinner at 4 p.m. Life goes by fast, so enjoy the friendships you have now while it’s as easy as texting someone and meeting them in the dining hall. In the real world, it’s not so simple.

Have a sense of perspective about the situation

You know what the headlines in The New York Times were on Wednesday? They were about President Barack Obama’s State of the Union address, Pope Benedict XVI’s resignation and the firefight between law enforcement agencies and a killer in California. You know what was not on the front page of the Times? “Notre Dame student suffers yet another Valentine’s Day alone.” Guess what — no one cares that you’re single on Feb. 14 yet again. Enjoy your day because you are going to be just as alone on Feb. 15 as you are today.

Happy Valentine’s Day everyone!

The Observer
Respect LeBron, he’s earned it

Matthew Robison
Sports Writer

Full disclosure: I’m a LeBron hater. I hate what he did to the city of Cleveland. I hate that he decided to collude with two other superstars to form a basketball machine. My hate dates all the way back to his Cleveland days when he walked up to Gilbert Arenas, who was playing for my hometown Wizards in the playoffs, and interrupted him between free throws by speaking into his ear and patting him on the chest. At that point, any likability LeBron had in my eyes was gone.

But what LeBron is currently doing deserves respect. And just because I hate the man does not preclude me from respecting his talent. In his last six games, he’s become the only player in NBA history to score at least 30 points and shoot at least 60 percent from the floor in six straight games. Now, I’m not going to get into comparing LeBron to the other all-time greats. The Jordan-LeBron debate will probably rage for decades after LeBron retires.

LeBron is doing things on the basketball floor that haven’t been done in a long time and probably won’t be done again for a while.

I think that debate is unfair to both players, but that’s not where I’m headed. I just think we should give respect where respect is due.

There have been some incredible single season performances — Oscar Robertson’s triple-double average, Wilt averaging 50 points and 25 rebounds per game, Jordan’s 37 point average. If LeBron can keep this streak alive, it will rank right up there.

The scariest part of this “new” side of LeBron James is he is just now figuring out to maximize his potential. For a while, critics knocked LeBron for not playing defense. Now he’s a lockdown defender. Then, they said he can’t shoot from the outside. No one dares to leave him open from three. People called him out for not being able to play with his back to the basket. Now, he’s nearly unstoppable when he catches the ball on the block. Miami coach Erik Spoelstra offered the best quote thus far about LeBron’s performance. He told Heat fans, “Don’t take it for granted. He’s making greatness look easy.”

Since his rookie year, everyone had a decent idea of how great LeBron could be. But his full potential was hard to fathom. Now we’re finally seeing him actually reach that potential or, as scary as it might be, come closer to something even greater.

I’ve watched several of these games. It seems as though LeBron himself is just now realizing how easy the game can actually be. He’s 6-foot-8. He’s listed at 250 pounds. I’d say he’s in shape. He has muscles in places I didn’t know a human could grow them. He’s a physical force. Yet he plays the game with effortless grace. He’s incredibly agile and can jump out of the gym.

I was like a coach, I’d be at an absolute loss as to how to stop him. Right now, sports pundits want teams to double him. But with players like Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh on the floor with him, how do you intentionally leave him open? Honestly, I think you just have to hope and pray he has an off night, he gets in foul trouble or one of your players has an equally unstoppable night.

For now, I’m just glad I’m not in that unenviable position. I can just sit and watch his career unfold. LeBron is doing things on the basketball floor that haven’t been done in a long time and probably won’t be done again for a while.

So as much as I hate him, I have to respect him. LeBron is doing something unprecedented in the long history of the NBA. That demands my respect, and that brings me to the...
Bouts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

combination of quickness and smarts to dismantle sophomore James Manco. Picking his opportunities, Duden jumped in for a flurry of body jabs before backing away, dodging Manco's counters. Manco was finally able to use his height and gain an advantage in the final round, landing multiple shots to Duden's headgear. Despite the final round effort by Manco, Duden won by unanimous decision.

Moises Martinez vs. Kevin Fox

The two fighters spent the first round getting comfortable and trading the occasional jab. The second round was a different story though, with junior Moises Martinez knocking freshman Kevin Fox to the mat ten seconds into the round. After dictating the remainder of the round, Martinez delivered one more flurry, knocking Fox to the mat yet again. This prompted the referee to stop the fight in favor of Martinez, who earned a victory by technical knockout.

Eamon “Gravy” McOscker def. Brian Kaltenbecker

Featuring two fighters with completely different styles, the fight came down to the wire. Graduate student Brian Kaltenbecker came out on the offensive, using a strong jab to put freshman Eamon McOscker on his heels. McOscker waited out his opponent and then capitalized on a Kaltenbecker misstep to land a massive right hook. McOscker kept at his defensive strategy for the remainder of the fight and won by split decision.

Robbie Hammer def. Keith Marrero

In the night's finale, Duncan junior Robbie Hammer controlled the fight from beginning to end. Though senior Keith Marrero landed his share of punches, Hammer used his longer reach to gain an advantage against the shorter Marrero. Using a strong jab punctuated by an equally strong hook, Hammer pulled away. Finishing the bout with a left hook, Hammer won by unanimous decision.

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SMC BASKETBALL | SMC 49, HOPE 103

Belles celebrate Senior Night

Belles senior guard Kayla Wolter goes for the loose ball in Saint Mary's 103-49 loss to Hope on Wednesday.

Observer Staff Report

Wednesday’s Senior Night was a difficult end to the season, as Saint Mary's finished its season with a 103-49 loss to Hope. With only one loss, Hope (22-1, 13-1 MIAA) has been a challenging opponent for every team this year, and tonight's game against the Belles (5-20, 3-13) proved to be no different. After falling behind 27-8 after the first 10 minutes of the game, Saint Mary's never managed to catch up to the Flying Dutch. In that half, Saint Mary's was out-rebounded 19-14, a problem which has haunted the Belles all season.

Another key to the game was the Saint Mary's negative-17 turnover differential, and the consequent difference in fast-break points. In contrast with the Flying Dutch’s 61.2 percent field-goal shooting, the Belles only mustered a 16-47 effort from the field. However, junior guard Shanlyn Bias managed to stand out in her second-to-last Senior Night with an 18-point effort. Hope's bench play set the teams apart as nine of the 10 Flying Dutch to come off the bench scored a combined 49 points, compared to only 10 points by the Belles’ bench players.

Saint Mary's finished eighth in the MIAA in the 2012-13 season. After a 13-win 2011-2012 season, Saint Mary's had hoped to take another step forward this season, but with seven freshmen, the learning curve proved to be too steep.

Looking forward to next year, the Belles will undoubtedly try to improve on their 5-20 mark, with all but two players returning.
Sandra Day O’Connor

Freshman Kieran Carroll, left, ducks under a punch from freshman Daniel Espinosa and returns a body blow.

Bouts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Magiera took control with powerful left hooks. Magiera won the bout by unanimous decision.

Brian Hartnett def. Mike “Sandra Day” O’Connor

Sophomore Brian Hartnett relied on his jab in the first round while fellow sophomore Mike O’Connor responded with disciplined parries and blocks. Occasionally, O’Connor managed a combination but Hartnett improved his defense in the second round and got inside to follow his jab with a straight right. Hartnett sealed the fight in the third round with a series of headbody combinations and won the fight by unanimous decision.

Andrew “50 Shades of Greybar” def. Eric “I Can’t Reed”

Freshman Patrick Wieland responded with a solid one-two, but the referee still stopped the fight in the first round when Filonow sent Wieland into the ropes with yet another devastating hook. Filonow won by technical knockout after a referee stoppage.

Erik “The Rhino” Rayno def. Thomas Meyer

Junior Thomas Meyer started the fight as the aggressor. Freshman Erik Rayno tried to respond with his own barries, but had more success when he kept his hands up to block and wait for an opportunity to land a punch or two. Rayno turned aggressive in the second round and managed a set of effective upercuts. Though Meyer put Rayno on the ropes in the third round, the freshman persevered with his combinations and won by unanimous decision.

Ruben “The Macho Man” Carrion def. William “Big Man” Shanahan

Junior Ruben Carrion forced law student William Shanahan onto the ropes in the first round. Carrion used his jab effectively and mixed in some combinations. Shanahan came alive in the second round with a strong right hook and nailed a powerful uppercut for the final punch of the round. Carrion and Shanahan traded big punches in the third round, but Carrion landed more and came away with the win by split decision.

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By A.J. GODEAUX
Sports Writer

Andrew “Bedlam” Bedward def. Matt “Mayday” Maye

MBA student Andrew Bedward started off this fight with a bang, connecting on a series of left jabs punctuated by strong right hooks. Fellow MBA student Matt Maye recovered with a strong uppercut to conclude the first round. However, Bedward dominated the second round and knocked down Maye with a powerful right hook. Maye responded in the third round but could not overcome his opponent’s advantage. Bedward won by unanimous decision.

Chris “the Crack” Delitto def. Sean Himmel

O’Neill senior Chris Delitto began the fight by connecting on body shot after body shot to give him an early advantage. He continued the strong showing in the second round, landing on a flurry of combo punches to put freshman Sean Himmel on his heels. Himmel turned to a strong jab in the second and third rounds but Delitto’s first round advantage carried the senior to a split decision win.

Stephen “Release the Kraken” Despins def. Sebastian “the Flying Fish” delas Casas

Senior Stephen Despins and junior Sebastian de las Casas fought in a back-and-forth match. De las Casas appeared to earn the advantage early when he knocked Despins to the ground. However, Despins looked like a different fighter during the last two rounds. He used his reach advantage to connect on jabs, occasionally closing the space to land uppercuts on the junior. After his later round surge, Despins won by a split decision.

Jack “the Ripper” Donovan def. Dan Falkenberg

The two boxers traded jabs to start the match but Jack Donovan’s flurry of jabs at the end of the opening round set the tone for the rest of the fight. Dan Falkner had no answer for Donovan’s jab hook combo and Donovan earned a unanimous decision victory.

Mikey “Francis” Lamb def. William “Grizzle” Dalton

Junior Mikey Lamb came out aggressively in the opening round, chasing sophomore William Dalton around the ring. Dalton took advantage of his opponent’s aggressiveness, dodging Lamb’s punches and getting Lamb up against the ropes. Somehow, Lamb escaped after Dalton landed two hooks to his headgear. Dalton’s inability to capitalize on second round chances gave Lamb a split decision win.

Patrick Shea def. Gion “Perro Loco” Handal

Keough freshman Patrick Shea controlled the fight from the starting bell. He was the aggressor, hitting junior Gion Handal with jab after jab and keeping him on his heels for almost the entire fight. The fight was stopped midway through the second round after a powerful series of jabs from Shea, giving Shea a win by technical knockout.

Zach “Bedrock” Flint def. Greg “Mr. Tasty” Sweetman

Freshman Zach Flint set the tone early in one of the most decisive fights of the night, knocking down sophomore Greg Sweetman with a right hook to his headgear. That pattern would continue as Flint continued delivering hooks, knocking Sweetman to the mat twice before the fight was stopped by the referee, giving Flint the victory.

Patrick McFarlane def. Tyler “the Fighting Engineer” Kreipke

The fight began as a one-sided affair, with junior Patrick McFarlane getting under graduate student Tyler Kreipke’s guard with hard shots to the body and a right hook that got the crowd cheering. Kreipke came out a different fighter in the later rounds, working much more efficiently. A last-second flurry by McFarlane was the difference, though, as he won by split decision.

Eric “P-Rex” Paulitis def. Clayton “Manifest Destiny” Pruner

After a slow first round in which both fighters exchanged only a few jabs, sophomore Eric Paulitis started the second round with a flurry of jabs to the body and head gear and punctuated the series with rounding hooks. The third round was equally exciting as law student Clayton Pruner landed an uppercut. However, Paulitis finished the fight strong with a powerful left jab-right hook combination. Paulitis won by unanimous decision.

Lucas “John” Sullivan def. Dan Mulligan

Keough sophomore Lucas Sullivan established himself as the aggressor early in the first round. Though senior Dan Mulligan was able to counter Sullivan throughout the fight, he was constantly on his heels. Sullivan used his quickness as an advantage, as he was able to get in close to Mulligan and hit him repeatedly with jabs to the body. Despite Mulligan’s efforts, Sullivan won by unanimous decision.

Mitchell Johnson def. Gordon “Stretch” MacDougal

MBA student Mitchell Johnson stretched sophomore Gordon MacDougal’s defenses thin over the course of this fight. Johnson used his quick hands to alternate between jabs to the body and hooks to MacDougal’s headgear. Controlling the fight from start to finish, Johnson put an exclamation point on the end with a right hook that solidified his victory.

Hank “the Tank” Duden def. James “The Muffin” Mancino

Coming into the fight at a significant height disadvantage, junior Hank Duden used a
By MARY GREEN
Sports Writer

Sophomore Pete McGinley def. Eric "the squirrel" McTighe
Sophomore Pete McGinley quickly established an advantage in his major height advantage. Judd landed powerful hits while Hammock responded effectively and effectively dodged the sophomore's jabs. Judd backed his senior opponent into the ropes in the first and second rounds before both tired in the final round. Despite the difference in stature, the boxers fought an even match before the judges awarded Judd a split decision victory.

By SAMANTHA ZUBA
Sports Writer

Kevin "So Krispee" Kershshnik def. Robert L'Arrivee
With slower and more calculated punches, the fight between senior Kevin Kershshnik and graduate student Robert L'Arrivee offered a break from the quick pace of the preceding bouts. Despite little action in the first round, Kershshnik came out in the second round with quick punches before the tempo slowed once again. With a late surge in the third round, the senior captured the unanimous win over the L'Arrivee.

Senior Jason Taulman, left, goes for a combination punch on fellow St. Edward's resident sophomore Kevin Katalinic in a 144-pound weight class fight Wednesday. Taulman won by unanimous decision.

Contact Mary Green at
mgreen8@nd.edu

By MARY GREEN
Sports Writer

Senior Connor Chelsky def. Grant "I am Turok" Kippenbrock
Sophomore Connor Chelsky came out with a flurry of punches to begin the first round, immediately sending classmate Grant Kippenbrock into a defensive stance. The two fought more evenly in the second round, with Kippenbrock countering Chelsky's headshots with jabs to his opponent's torso. However, several strong Chelsky punches in the third round earned the Alumni resident a unanimous decision victory.

Contact Meredith Kelly at
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By MARY GREEN
Sports Writer

Senior Eric Tommarello def. Calvin "bender" Noda
Sophomore Eric Tommarello quickly established an advantage over junior Connor Durkin with quick footwork and rapid punches to the head. Both boxers displayed solid defensive tactics, blocking and ducking from each other's hits. Tommarello chased a retreating Durkin throughout the ring late in the fight, eventually sending the junior staggering into the ropes to seal a victory by unanimous decision.

By SAMANTHA ZUBA
Sports Writer

Senior Eric Krakowiak def. Ryan MacDonald
Sophomore Eric Krakowiak used his hard jab to win the fight by technical knockout. The referee stepped in during the second round to end the fight, which Krakowiak dominated from the first round. Sophomore Ryan MacDonald landed some punches, but could not stop Krakowiak's advances.

Trevor "Stonewall" Stevens def. Nick "Troriet" Troetti
Sophomore Nick Troetti began the fight with strong defense, blocking and parrying efficiently to hold off law student Trevor Stevens. In the second round though, Troetti tried to defend himself by turning his head, leaving himself open to Stevens' rights hooks. The law student pushed Troetti around the ring until the referee stopped the fight in the second round, giving Stevens the technical knockout win.

Charles "Hammer" Magiera def. Brian Whelan
Sophomore Charles Magiera and fifth-year senior Brian Whelan swung freely in their fight. Both dropped their hands to throw punches wildly, allowing each boxer to land combinations of blows. In the third round, Magiera and Whelan traded one-two combinations equally until

see BOUTS PAGE 14
Bouts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

bell rang, Collins came out fir-
ing. He did not allow senior Gi-
Bilton Stoy any opportunities to
land punches. The law stu-
dent landed nearly every punch
while running circles around the
overmatched Stoy. The ref-
eree stopped the fight in the first
round.

Senior Jack Cronin dominated
from the beginning, almost
knocking Santrach to
the floor in the first and second
rounds. At the end of the first
round, nearly knocking
Santrach off his feet. The ref-
eree penalized
Santrach for consistently back-
warding the referee to momentarily
stop the fight. The second round
began with both boxers connect-
ing jabs to the face. However,
McOsker landed too many hard
punches and the referee stopped
the fight for a second time, earn-
ing the sophomore a technical
knockout victory in the second round.

Kevin “Giz Er” Dunne def. Jason “Glaucoma” Kippenbrock

With both seniors fighting in their final Bengal Bouts, Kevin Dunne defeated Jason Kippenbrock in a unanimous decision. Dunne advanced aggressively from the opening bell and landed several head-
shots on Kippenbrock. In the second round, Dunne compli-
mented his headshots with body
shots and nearly knocked down
Kippenbrock. Throughout the
match, Dunne displayed su-
perior form and footwork and took
home the victory.

Contact Alex Wilcox at
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By MEREDITH KELLY
Sports Writer

Scott Coppa def. Brian “English Tea Garden” Kurtz

Sophomore Scott Coppa made
first contact with a few hard jabs
to the head of fellow sophomore
Brien Kurtz. Coppa continued
to chase Kurtz around the mat,
landing a strong hook to Kurtz’s
face and hard upperscuts to his
body. After the final bell, Coppa
earned the unanimous-division

Awaiting the technical knock-
out victory to Healy.

Andrew “Mr. Balloonhands” Brendan def. Peter “Snake ‘n’ Bake” Blochee

The match between MBA stu-
dents began with excitement as
both boxers came out swing-
ing. Peter Blochee threw hard
punches but could not connect
as Andrew Brendan landed
forceful body shots and hard
jabs to his opponent’s head.
Blochee responded with punch-
es to Brendan’s face. However,
Brendan continued to advance
on Blochee, unfazed by the
blows. Brendan delivered one
more hard punch to the face of
his opponent and Blochee fell
to the ground. The referee ended
the contest and Brendan earned
the knockout victory.

Danny Leicht def. Mansfield “Nello” Burlingame

Both seniors threw solid
punches as Danny Leicht made
the first serious contact by land-
ing a series of blows to the body
and jabs to the face. Burlingame
then backed Leicht into a corner,
landing a few punches. Leicht
responded by landing two jabs
to the face and a handful of right
hooks to the body of Burlingame.
After Leicht delivered a strong
uppercut, the referee intervened.
The fighting continued, but not
for long. The referee stopped the
fight in the second round, and
awarded Leicht the technical
knockout victory.

Mike “El Flan” Flanagan def. Bob “First Degree” Burns

To start the first round, soph-
omore Mike Flanagan landed
some hard punches with long
reach to the face of Bob Burns.
Flanagan’s height and reach ad-
vantage continued to work in his
favor as he delivered hard punch-
es to the face and body of Burns.
Burns answered momentarily

see BOUTS PAGE 15
up with explosive blows. Falvey’s great agility enabled him to escape Lee’s furious hits, and gave him the upper hand in the end. Falvey took the victory by unanimous decision.

Ben “Danger Zone” Eichler def. Gong “No Pain No Weng”

The two fighters started off with back-and-forth jabs, but junior Ben Eichler quickly took charge of the fight with a series of strong body shots. He maneuvered senior Gong Weng around the ring and into the corner. Eichler continued to attack with an array of body shots and jabs to the head, and Weng stumbled multiple times in the ring. The referee called the fight during the first round, and the victory nod was given to Eichler.

Contact Kit Loughran at kloughr1@nd.edu

By CASEY KARNES
Sports Writer

Jason “Maximus” Taulman def. Kevin Katalinic

In a battle between St. Ed’s fighters, senior Jason Taulman defeated sophomore Kevin Katalinic by unanimous decision. Taulman set the tone from the beginning, nearly knocking Katalinic to the ground with a powerful right cross to start the first round. In the second round, Katalinic bounced back and aggressively pursued Taulman across the ring. However, the third round proved decisive as Taulman landed faster, stronger blows.

Taulman set the tone from the beginning, nearly knocking Katalinic to the ground with a powerful right cross to start the first round. In the second round, Katalinic bounced back and aggressively pursued Taulman across the ring. However, the third round proved decisive as Taulman landed faster, stronger blows.


Experience bested exuberance when law student Chris Hinman defeated freshman Nick Acampora. Hinman’s maturity showed from the opening bell as he darted around the ring, stinging Acampora with quick jabs. The freshman landed some strong blows to Hinman’s head in the second round. But the law student assisted and punished Acampora with counterattacks in the third round to earn an unanimous decision victory.

John “Juan Malo” Iwanski def. Frank “The Tank” Dizenz

Law student John Iwanski and sophomore Frank Dizenz showcased their toughness in a matchup of powerful punchers. Dizenz began the fight by backing Iwanski into a corner with a ruthless flurry. Iwanski responded with a combination of hooks and jabs to the body. The law student pressed his advantage in the second round by slowing his pace and landing several calculated punches to Dizenz’s head, knocking the sophomore off balance. Both fighters threw several punches in the third round, but Iwanski landed more to earn the unanimous decision.

Brian Benedict def. Matt O’Sullivan

Senior Brian Benedict overwhelmed freshman Matt O’Sullivan in the former’s unanimous decision victory. Benedict employed a suffocating strategy, never giving O’Sullivan the opportunity to counterpunch. The senior constantly jabbed through his challenger’s defenses, setting up powerful uppercuts. O’Sullivan ineffectively attempted to counter as Benedict dipped and dodged around the ring. By the third round, O’Sullivan had tired and Benedict took advantage to claim victory.

Devin Duffy def. Jack Taiclet

In a close fight, sophomore Devin Duffy claimed a unanimous victory over freshman Jack Taiclet. Duffy gained the upper hand early by cornering Taiclet and landing a furious combination of punches to the freshman’s body and head. Taiclet responded by knocking down Duffy with a strong hook. However, Duffy got the better of Taiclet in the third round with a constant barrage of jabs to the face to seal victory.

Kyle Buckley def. Dan “Get At” Meehan

Senior Kyle Buckley won a hard-earned split decision over freshman Dan Meehan to advance to the quarterfinals. Both fighters began the fight in a flurry of fists at the center of the ring. Meehan attempted to use his jab to keep Buckley at bay, but the senior withstood the punches as both fighters struggled to gain an advantage through the first two rounds. Neither was able to muster much strength for the final round, but Buckley tapped into his reserves to land a few punches and earn the victory.

Contact Casey Karnes at wkarnes@nd.edu

By ALEX WILCOX
Sports Writer

Jackie “The Forgetful Housecat” Garvin def. Sean “Cadet” Kelly

Junior Jackie Garvin avenged last year’s opening-round defeat by pummeling fellow junior Sean Kelly. Garvin opened the fight with a flurry of blows to Kelly’s head, sending him reeling. Kelly fought back but was never able to overcome Garvin, who won by technical knockout in the second round.

Nick “Patro” Roweke def. Ted “No, Not That One” Hesburgh

In a match that started slowly but ended with a flourish, senior Nick Roweke defeated junior Ted Hesburgh. The fight began with both boxers patiently waiting for the other to make the first move. Eventually Roweke took to the offensive and showed off his impressive footwork and quick feet, winning by unanimous decision.

Matthew “Goose” Badyna def. Cullen “Pride of Philly” McNamme

Both sophomore boxers came out aggressively and ultimately Matthew Badyna’s endurance made the difference. Badyna and McNamme exchanged several punches in a very exciting second round. Badyna opened and closed the round with a flurry of punches but McNamme answered. By the end of the third round both boxers had clearly tired, but Badyna took home the unanimous victory.

Colt “Pony Boy” Collins def. Gilbrian “Don’t Toy with the” Stay

This fight belonged to law student Colt Collins from the beginning. Once the opening
Condra
register two multi-goal games. He credited his ability to excel at a high level to both his experience in an elite Notre Dame program and his time with former NHL and current Irish coach Jeff Jackson.

“Notre Dame was great for me,” Condra said. “It taught me a lot of things, and helped me grow as a person. There’s a big-time spotlight at Notre Dame, and that teaches you a lot of things. Coach Jackson and the rest of the staff did a great job in helping me and getting me ready for the next level.”

But while the rookie was able to adjust to the pace of the game in Ottawa, he faced more of a shock off the ice. Condra said getting used to Canada’s hockey-crazed culture took a bit longer.

“When I got called up to Ottawa, I went to pregame skate and was nervous there, and then came back to the locker room and there were 30 to 40 camera guys waiting at my stall,” he said. “I definitely wasn’t used to that.”

Condra has begun to establish himself as a reliable player in the world’s premier hockey league, missing just one game last season and contributing 25 points from a mostly defensive role.

However, this year’s NHL lockout, which sent many players packing to play overseas, stole a bit of his momentum. Condra went to Germany, where he played lower-division hockey and travelled Europe during his off time.

Now that the labor strike has been settled, Condra is back on the ice at Scotiabank Place and picking up right where he left off. He’s already tallied four points in the young season and said he hopes to help Ottawa return to the playoffs this year in addition to continuing to establish himself as a two-way forward.

The Senators have never won a Stanley Cup, but Condra said he hopes he can eventually help deliver Ottawa some history, just as he did in his sophomore season at Notre Dame.

“My freshman year we weren’t that great,” he said. “But my sophomore year we had a great senior class, and we were the first hockey team to light up the No. 1 [on Grace Hall] and win Notre Dame’s first CCHA championship. That was my fondest experience, and something I’ll take with me forever.”

Contact Jack Hefferon at wheffero@nd.edu

Irish senior forward Jack Cooley powers through DePaul junior forward Donnavan Kirk in Notre Dame’s 82-78 overtime victory.

DePaul
Dame struggled offensively in the second half outside of senior forward Jack Cooley, who scored 26 points and grabbed 16 rebounds in the 79-71 overtime victory.

In that game, the Irish led by 12 with 16:29 left before surrendering the advantage and earning the victory in the extra period.

In the first half of Wednesday’s contest, the Irish failed to grab a cushion early in the first half but relied on their bench to maintain the advantage. When Notre Dame pulled away with a 43-32 halftime lead, much of their advantage was due to the play of the reserves, who outscored DePaul’s bench 15-2.

The Irish finished with 20 bench points, as freshman forward Cam Biedscheid and senior center Garrick Sherman scored seven each and freshman forward Zach Auguste contributed with six.

The performance came just four days after the Irish bench willed the squad to victory in five overtimes against Louisville on Saturday. Atkins needed a break late in Wednesday’s game after playing 60 minutes Saturday, and Connaughton is still nursing a leg injury from Saturday.

“luckily with a veteran group, it’s not like we need a lot of reps [in practice] right now, especially in February,” Brey said. “We have a good feel on how to pace our guys. “We’re back to needing some rest here, almost for two days.”

With the win, the Irish moved into a two-way tie for fourth place and a coveted double-bye in March’s Big East tournament. It also marked the seventh consecutive season that Notre Dame has won 20 games.

The Irish will travel to Providence for their only regular-season matchup with the Friars on Saturday.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

Irish senior forward Jack Cooley, now with Ottawa, splits two defenders in Notre Dame’s matchup against Bowling Green on Jan. 26, 2008.
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**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:**
Mena Suvari, 34; Kelly Hu, 45; Peter Gabriel, 63; Stockard Channing, 69

**Happy Birthday:**
Learn from your experience with others. Both in business and your personal life, the way you treat and respond to others will determine how far you will get and what will be proposed. Don't be afraid to be different or original. It's your uniqueness that will result in opportunities. Honesty must be maintained. Your numbers are 5, 12, 14, 20, 32, 41.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):**
Don't share personal information. Someone is likely to meddle in your affairs, leading to a sticky situation. Emotions will be difficult to control, so focus on practical matters that revolve around making your money work better for you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):**
You'll be torn between beliefs and what your peers think or do. Follow your heart and stick to what works best for you. Graciously refuse to take part in something that doesn't feel right.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):**
You'll be taken advantage of if you share your ideas or show others how to do things. Protect your assets and your plans. You are in a high cycle of2

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):**
Acting on impulse will lead to trouble. Gauge your time and focus on getting things done that will satisfy your creative needs. Working with someone who shares your thoughts and interests will help you excel.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):**
You'll make personal gains if you indulge in a physical challenge that inspires, motivates and stimulates you. Something new could lead to reconnecting with someone from your past. Take care of personal business and move on.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):**
Take a closer look at what's going on in your life and with the people you must deal with daily. A problem with a peer or boss can lead to emotional mistakes. You should be working toward securing your position practically.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):**
Networking will pay off. You'll arouse interest in your creative ideas and form alliances with those who are in a position to take advantage of what you have to offer. It's your turn to shine. Step into the spotlight and dazzle everyone.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):**
You'll have to dodge questions from those trying to catch you off guard. Focus more on family, friends and making your digs as comfortable as possible. Avoid anyone who is excessive or a bad influence on you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):**
Readdress an idea or service you considered providing in the past, and you will find a practical way to move forward with your plans. Don't let someone's enthusiasm lead you to take action prematurely.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):**
You've got added discipline, so make it work for you. Whether you want to lose weight, learn something new or focus on self-improvement, this is a great time to plan your strategy and start the process.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):**
You can make things happen if you push others to complete contracts or settlements that have been pending. It's a good day to take necessary steps that will improve your financial situation. Serious talks will bring superb results. Take action.

**Birthday Baby:**
You fight for your rights. You are determined to get your way.
Junior guard Jerian Grant steps up his game once again to lead the Irish to an 82-78 overtime win.

By ANDREW OWENS
Assistant Managing Editor

The venue changed, but the storyline didn’t. Just 11 days after Notre Dame surrendered a double-digit lead in the second half against DePaul, it happened again at Purcell Pavilion on Wednesday evening. The No. 21 Irish eventually prevailed in overtime 82-78, but the evening felt too similar to the teams’ last meeting.

“I’m thrilled we escaped that one,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “It's a win in our league and that's kind of huge right now. We're going to try to play as well as we can and then go from there.”

The Blue Demons (10-14, 1-10 Big East) eliminated an 11-point halftime deficit and took a 63-60 lead in the third round, but Tricarico proved too dominant with his intense body blows and unyielding right hook. He took the victory by unanimous decision.

Mark Frego def. Derek Neidecker
Sophomore Mark Frego immediately took control of the fight. His right jabs and strong right hook allowed him to push senior Derek Neidecker around the ring. In the second round, Frego knocked Neidecker down with a hard punch to the face. Neidecker attempted to turn the fight in his favor in the third round, but could not pull through as Frego combined a mix of right and left jabs, which kept Neidecker on the defense. Frego claimed the victory by unanimous decision.

Mike “The Shoog” Falvey def. Daniel “Jet” Lee
Freshman Daniel Lee opened the fight with a strong left hook, but he was junior Mike Falvey who ultimately won the fight by unanimous decision. The fight was quick-paced, as Falvey and Lee both fought by throwing rapid series of left and right jabs. In the third round, both Falvey

Fights get underway

By KIT LOUGHRAN
Sports Writer

138 lbs. Preliminaries
Jack “Rico Suave” Lally def. Matt Fallon
Senior Jack Lally set the tone early and ultimately won the fight by default. The referee called the fight during the second round due to Fallon’s bloody nose. In the first round, sophomore Matt Fallon went on the offensive, while Lally attacked with a series of jabs to the head and body. At the end of the opening round, Lally landed a big punch to Fallon’s head, causing the injury. From then on, Lally had sealed the fight.

Chris Tricarico def. Alex Bogucki Baran
Sophomore Chris Tricarico opened the fight with a series of jabs to the head and body of sophomore Alex Baran, who was able to regain his footing with a flurry of quick punches. At the onset of the second round, Tricarico took off. His powerful right hook secured him the victory. Tricarico landed a huge right hook to Baran’s head, knocking him down. Baran made an attempt to come back in the third round, but Tricarico proved too dominant with his intense body blows and unyielding right hook. He took the victory by unanimous decision.

Condra excels in Ottawa

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

Even with the fairly recent development of the NHL Winter Classic, very few hockey players get the opportunity to play the high-level outdoor games, matches the participants say are reminiscent of their childhood days on the pond.

No. 12 Notre Dame will have just that opportunity this weekend when they take on No. 3 Miami (Ohio) at Soldier Field, but one of the team’s alumni has already lived out that dream.

Erik Condra, a 2009 Notre Dame graduate, had the chance to compete outside when he played with the Binghamton Senators of the American Hockey League and had some advice for his alma mater.

“Outdoor games are a lot of fun,” Condra said. “It’s like going back to pond hockey like you’re a little kid, but these guys still have to keep their heads up. I made the mistake of thinking I was back playing shinny on the pond again and got buried. There’s still guys coming for you, and it’s still a regular season game.”

While Condra’s professional career is just beginning, the game with Binghamton is far from the only dream he’s realized.

Condra starred at right wing at Notre Dame, leading the team in scoring during all four of his seasons in South Bend. After leading the Irish to a CCHA championship as captain his senior year, he moved on to Binghamton, the Ottawa Senators’ minor-league affiliate. A former seventh-round pick, Condra quickly made a name for himself in the Senators’ organization.

And when he helped lead Binghamton to an AHL title in 2011, Condra finally got the call up to the big club.

“There’s some days when you’re in the minors and you think you have no chance, but I realized that you just need to work hard and get your break, and then make the most of it,” he said. “I was lucky enough to play well when I got called up, and do just that.”

Condra quickly took advantage of his opportunity in Ottawa, where he tallied 11 points in 26 games and became the first Senators rookie in over a decade to register two multi-goal games. In a decade to