

THE OBSERVER

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Humor Artists put on show
page 14

ND, SMC students react to Iraq conflict

By ANDREW THAGARD
News Writer

Just a day after the United States began preliminary air strikes in Iraq, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students had mixed reactions about military action in the Middle East nation.

On Wednesday, hours after President Bush's 48-hour ultimatum to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein expired, the United States launched air strikes. By Thursday, Iraqi soldiers set oil fields ablaze and British and American forces began moving across the border

from Kuwait in preparation for a large-scale coalition invasion.

Since Wednesday, students have been making trips to the Grotto to pray, and people gathered around television sets and computers in search of the latest information on "Operation Iraqi Freedom," on both campuses.

Few students were surprised by the timing or the type of attack launched, though many questioned the basis for such actions.

"This is something that Bush had planned and it finally came

out into the open," said Melody Gonzalez, a sophomore political science major and member of the Peace Coalition and Progressive Student Alliance. "I don't understand this war. I don't understand the reasons for it."

Other students, however, expressed more support for the military's actions.

"I'd have to say it's necessary just to get Saddam out of power," said Joe Hagan, a junior accounting major. "It would have been nice to have the United Nations' backing, but we needed to take action. I don't

think we could wait."

Lynn Busse, a Saint Mary's junior and education major, agreed.

"My brother's in the Marines so I really don't like it, but they have to do what they have to do," she said.

Many students said that having family and friends in the armed forces and knowing that many people their age were stationed in the Middle East has helped to shape their perspective on the conflict.

"There are many young people over there my age and you see them on TV," said Notre Dame freshman Erin Costanzo.

"It's one of the biggest things that makes me upset. I know people in the military and they're going over there."

Many others know students who could be called to action if the conflict persists, due to Notre Dame's high participation in Air Force, Army and Navy ROTC programs.

"One of my best friends is in ROTC," said Hagan. "It definitely gives a different perspective when you have friends who could very easily get involved."

Since tensions began mounting between the United States

see WAR/page 6

Officials discuss alcohol planning

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Editor

Following a year of protests, petitions, resolutions, dialogues and reports, some student government leaders and the Student Affairs Office continue to differ about what course of action should be taken regarding the alcohol policy introduced last March.

Student government leaders and administrators both said they would welcome further discussion on the policy. This is where they stop agreeing as some student leaders want to see revisions in the policy and administrators insist the changes will be upheld.

"I will be honest: we are not going to revisit the changes," Father Mark Poorman, vice president of Student Affairs, said. "We did not decide the policy changes lightly. It was a two year process where we consulted widely and the changes were unanimously approved by both the University officers and trustees."

Poorman added that the Board of Trustees in February confirmed the new policy and hoped positive steps would be taken by Student Affairs and student government. He said he welcomed the discussions he has had with students and is willing to entertain suggestions for improvements within the framework of the existing policy.

The Board of Trustees' February resolution has already made such modifications, including an instruction that the Student Affairs Office

continue funding hall dances.

Poorman said his office is happy to provide each residence hall with additional funding of up to \$1,000 for an additional year as a part of the transitional process.

The Board also suggested that additional funding for hall dances be provided for dorms that demonstrate fiscal responsibility with their hall tax money. Poorman welcomed these audits, and said that halls must be held accountable for their finances.

Some student government leaders do not find these modifications to be significant enough and are calling for the return of hall dances for a probationary period. In February, the Office of the President and the Student Senate were divided on how Student Body President Libby Bishop should address the alcohol policy in her report to the Board of Trustees. This division also led to the resignation of Bishop's chief of staff, Pat Hallahan.

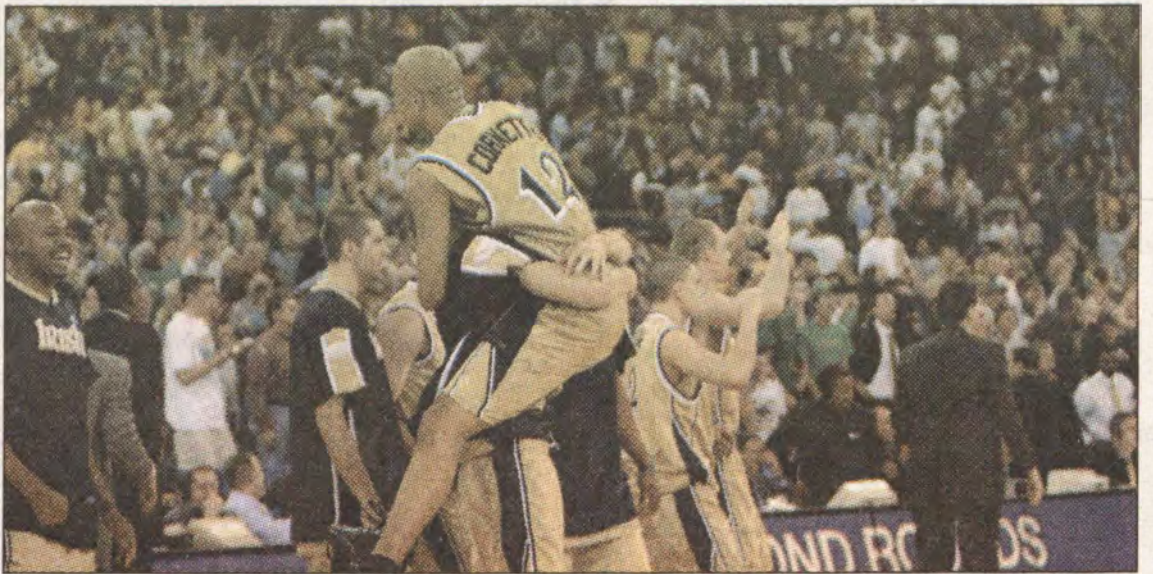
Bishop chose to inform the trustees of the current social climate and hall dance situation. Though Bishop said she was pleased with the decision, the Senate and Hallahan, student body president-elect, concurred that further change was necessary.

Hallahan, who campaigned on a platform to bring back in-hall dances, said he wants to see options and programming that would keep students on campus, and would like to see the return of dances to campus, if only for a probationary period.

"It's good that there is discussion but there needs to be more — there needs to be a joint effort with regard to the policy and to providing alternatives to abusive drinking," Hallahan said.

see ALCOHOL/page 4

IRISH MARCHING ON



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Jordan Cornette jumps onto a teammate in jubilation following Notre Dame's victory over Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Tip prompted party bust

By SCOTT BRODFUEHRER
News Writer

An excise police commander said Thursday that his officers raided a St. Patrick's Day party at the College Park apartment complex after receiving information from a private citizen the previous week that a large party would take place.

Lt. Greg Deitchley, Commander of the Michigan City office of the Indiana State Excise Police, said that his officers tried to confirm last week that there would be a large party, but were unsuccessful because no students were on campus due to spring break. He said his office did not have any contact with the University until after the party, when they provided officials with a list of students who were arrested or cited for underage drinking.

Deitchley said that excise police officers, including an unspecified number of

undercover officers, attended the party to follow up on the tip. Captain William Thompson, commander of the afternoon shift for the Saint Joseph County Police, said Tuesday that two undercover officers were at the party.

"We didn't go to bust the party. Once we got there, we had no choice. We had to restore some control."

Lt. Greg Deitchley
Indiana State Excise Police

He said the party violated an Indiana statute regarding the sale of alcohol.

"The best way to explain it is that there is a statute that covers the sale of alcohol and any time you sell, dispense or give away alcohol, you must have a permit ... the exception is if you are in

your home and are having a party with invited guests," said Deitchley.

Police arrested one female student for selling alcohol without a permit and Deitchley said it was unusual for someone to be arrested for this violation at a party. According to Rex Rakow, director of Notre Dame

Security/Police, police arrested three additional students and cited three Notre Dame students and one Saint Mary's student. Twenty-five kegs of beer and approximately seven taps were confiscated. A student fell from the balcony of an apartment during the party, but was not seriously injured.

see BUST/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Let's play Taboo

I'm not really sure how to write a supposedly funny column that doesn't use the words "war," "Iraq," "bombing," "Bush," or "seven-foot gorilla." Then again, I'm not really sure how to write anything at all without these price-less staples of American comedy.

That said, I've still got a whole lot of column left to write, and I can't fill it all whining about whatever it is I usually whine about.

So, has anyone else noticed that there is absolutely no news about anything happening anywhere else in the world than That Place Over There? If you watch CNN, FOX, CBS, NBC, ABC, MSNBC, PBS, BBC America or just about any other news channel, you might be led to believe that absolutely nothing is happening worldwide, while every human being on the planet hangs breathlessly on every word of the late-late newscasters.

Obviously, this is the height of American arrogance and stupidity — oh, wait, I've been listening to those ultra-liberal ex-hippie protesters too much again. Not to say I think all protesters are this way, just the ultra-liberal ex-hippie ones. I suspect you have to be one to make any sense out of that sentence, actually.

At any rate, never fear, The Observer is here (at least, one staffer) to remedy this grave issue. Recently in Rome, an unlucky "traveling missionary" (a.k.a. spring-breaking student) decided to ignore the big red circle and dash blaring DO NOT ENTER in 38 different languages, none of which was apparently English, and proceeded to race up an escalator going down.


Atop the escalator, the hapless student was fortunate enough to literally crawl off, hands on the platform and legs madly trying to join the hands. Of course, this attracted the attention of a nearby Big Mean Italian Guy, who proceeded to berate the student in 45 different languages, apparently failing to recognize the big red shirt she was wearing saying "I AM AMERICAN," and so also failing to include English. By this time, the poor girl broke down in tears and asked if she couldn't just wrestle one of those really large hairy animals that I'm not supposed to talk about.

Now, you may ask what the moral of this story is, but really, it doesn't have one. Pore over it all you like and try to find the anti-w — oops, almost slipped — anti-conflict logic that must surely be somewhere. Let me know if you find any, since I'm too busy counting my oil company stock shares.

But I digress. If I hadn't put all my money down on the NCAA Tournament, I'd bet you that no other newspaper in the world carried this story today. So, I'm your only source for the refreshing news that's oh-so-devoid of any and all comment about any and all conflicts that may or may not be going on in the world.

It's a good thing everyone reads the paper at lunch, because those knives may be needed to cut yourself off a steaming pile of sarcasm. Hey, it sure beats Blazin' Sea Nuggets!

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Will Puckett at wpuckett@nd.edu.



Will Puckett

Production

CAMPUS NEWS	WORLD & NATION	BUSINESS NEWS	VIEWPOINT	SCENE	SPORTS
SMC students protest U.S. military action	Allied troops invade Iraq after artillery volleys	Oil sabotage fears on the rise	Taking the French out of our fries	Humor Artists painfully funny	Irish beat Panthers
Saint Mary's Peacemakers social action group staged an anti-war demonstration on campus before participating in a community-wide protest.	American and British coalition forces crossed into southern Iraq Thursday in the first infantry attacks in the Iraqi war.	Rumors that an Iraqi scorched-earth campaign could burn nearly 1700 wells containing millions of gallons of oil run rampant through the industry.	With the advent of war in Iraq, the United States has begun to react to the strained relationship between America and the rest of the world.	Notre Dame Humor Artists, or "HA," presents an original play, "Black Beard, For Instance" this weekend.	The men's basketball team beat the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee 70-69 in the last few seconds of their first-round in the March Madness tourney.
page 3	page 5	page 7	page 13	page 14	page 28

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ND

- ◆ Last day for course discontinuance All day
- ◆ Lecture with Irish author Cathal O Searcah 3 p.m. at 424 Flanner Hall
- ◆ Women's tennis match 3:30 p.m. at Eck Pavilion / Courtney Courts

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SMC

- ◆ "W" Program 12 noon at 303 Hagggar College Center
- ◆ Leighton Festival of Music, Fleur de Lys 7:30 p.m. at Welsh Parlor, Hagggar College Center
- ◆ Midnight Madness Doors lock at 9:50 p.m. at Angela Athletic Facility

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

Student vehicle towed

A student's vehicle displaying an altered parking pass was towed from Cavanaugh Drive Wednesday. The case is being referred for administrative review.

Student loses wallet

A student reported losing her wallet in South Dining Hall on Wednesday.

Medical condition addressed

Notre Dame Fire Department cared for a sick student in Pasquerilla East residence hall Wednesday.

Pedestrian struck by car

Notre Dame Security and Police Department reported responding to a traffic accident involving a pedestrian and a vehicle Wednesday. The pedestrian was transported to Memorial Hospital for the treatment of minor injuries.

-compiled from the NDSP crime blotter


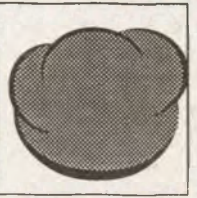


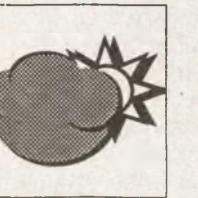

WHAT'S COOKING

North Dining Hall	South Dining Hall	Saint Mary's Dining Hall
Today's Lunch: Fried cheese ravioli, spinach fettuccine, four-cheese pizza, cheese French bread pizza, winter vegetable stew, cherry crisp, haddock with herbs, cream of wheat, cheesy hash browns, salmon and crabmeat burgers, breaded mushrooms, spicy battered fried pickle, crinkle fries, onion rings, vegetable stir-fry, Spanish rice	Today's Lunch: Stuffed shells, mushroom marinara, French bread cheese pizza, tomato pizza, chili macaroni and cheese, cauliflower, baked cod, mushroom stroganoff, fried buffalo shrimp, fishwich, grilled vegetable plate, battered wedge fries, soft pretzel, Oriental shrimp with noodles, mini egg rolls, broccoli quesadilla	Today's Lunch: Garden veggie burger, herbed orzo, jicama chayote slaw, pasta, marinara, Thai shrimp salad bowl, nacho bar, couscous, broiled fish fillet, pilaf, grilled vegetable medley, cheese pizza, veggie pizza, breadsticks, Philly portobello loafer, spicy hummus, chewy blond brownies, mushroom barley soup, egg drop soup, Italian pasta salad, Greek salad
Today's Dinner: Fried cheese ravioli, spinach fettuccine, bianco pizza, spinach and cheese turnover, savory beets, baked redfish, seasoned lemon-mint couscous, baked potato, cut corn, wilted spinach, fried shrimp poppers, scallop and vegetable stir-fry	Today's Dinner: Vegetable lasagna, black olive marinara, mushroom marinara, eggplant parmesan, shrimp spaghetti, baking powder biscuits, Caribbean shrimp and scallops, red seminole snapper, fried shrimp poppers, blazin' hot and spicy sea nuggets	Today's Dinner: Tuscan veggie wrap, vegetable fajitas, roasted vegetables, pasta, marinara, pierogie bar, maple BBQ salmon, confetti rice, broccoli cuts, eggplant stromboli, cheese pizza, breadsticks, stuffed vegan cabbage casserole, apple spice cake, Jell-O

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards 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 we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
					
HIGH 48 LOW 27	HIGH 50 LOW 33	HIGH 40 LOW 32	HIGH 40 LOW 27	HIGH 52 LOW 37	HIGH 53 LOW 36

Atlanta 72 / 53 Boston 52 / 41 Chicago 52 / 38 Denver 41 / 28 Houston 72 / 48 Los Angeles 68 / 52 Minneapolis 42 / 30 New York 58 / 45 Philadelphia 64 / 46 Phoenix 70 / 53 Seattle 54 / 44 St. Louis 58 / 40 Tampa 82 / 69 Washington 68 / 51

Campus leaders debate policy

By HELENA PAYNE
Senior Staff Writer

After the March 18, 2002 announcement that the administration had instituted a new alcohol policy, many students derided the decision, charging that it would negatively alter residential hall life in a drastic way.

Today, current and future resident assistants see the alcohol policy as "just another rule."

In Dillon Hall, second-year RA Yogeld Andre said he has noticed fewer parties and a general willingness among residents to obey the new rules.

"I thought I was going to have more trouble," Andre said, describing his original thoughts about enforcing the policy, which restricted tailgating, eliminated hard alcohol in the dorms and moved hall dances to outside venues. "It has caused us to be more alert, more vigilant and we have enforced it. But has it been hectic? Not really."

Junior Kristin Steckbeck, who will be an RA in Howard Hall next year, said students have found ways to get around the policy.

"I think it has become less of a burning issue but in two ways: some students have just complied and dealt with it, and some students have just decided to ignore it," Steckbeck said. "I know a lot of people who say, 'Let's just stick the bottle of rum further in the dresser and not worry about it.'"

Despite some predictions that there would be a mass exodus by students to local apartment complexes, the Office of Residence Life and Housing showed a 1.7 percent increase in housing contracts this year, indicating that many students plan to remain on campus.

In addition, Residence Life received more RA applications than last year, up 12 percent at 320 applications compared with last year's 286.

"I think it's encouraging to know that students see a real value to living on campus," said assistant vice president of Residence Life Bill Kirk. "I don't think there's that much cause and effect with the housing numbers because of the alcohol policy," Kirk said.

As for the roughly 20 percent of students that live off campus, Kirk said the University anticipates that percentage each year.

"We need students to [move off campus]. We don't have enough housing on campus," Kirk said.

While the reliance of students living off campus each year has been a convenient way for ResLife to accommodate the many students who want to stay on campus, the off-campus scene has allowed some students to take advantage of the less stringent rules.

Junior Drew Donovan, who will be an RA in Knott Hall next year, said he has also noticed fewer parties in his dorm, as many students have opted to socialize off-campus.

"I don't think it's had a drastic change on dorm life," he said.

The popularity of off-campus parties has been noticed by South Bend's Memorial Hospital, where patient care assistant Nancy Prange said the majority of alcohol-related emergency room trips for Notre Dame students occur after they are taken from an off-campus party.

Prange, who has worked at Memorial for 15 years, estimates at least two Notre Dame students go to the emergency room each week.

"There's always somebody that's falling or their friends got worried because they drink too much," Prange said.

Yet, more recently, Prange said students have tried to cover up their trips to ER. Instead of RAs or rectors bringing intoxicated students from hall dances to ER, she said most students come from off-campus locations.

"I think a lot of them are afraid that they are going to get in trouble," she said, adding, "It used to be acceptable to party. ... Now it is worrisome."

The director of Notre Dame Security/Police, Rex Rakow, said it is still too early to see the effects of the alcohol policy.

"A lot of students go off campus every year and students make sometimes good choices and sometimes bad choices," he said.

In general, many feel that the alcohol buzz that generated protest and scorn last year from vocal students is over.

"The public outcry is one thing, but when push comes to shove, [students] make decisions like they should," Kirk said.

RAs like senior Meg Anderson of Howard say that dorm life is about community more than policies.

"We aren't here to enforce rules. We're here to support our residents," she said.

"I think it's encouraging to know that students see a real value to living on campus."

Bill Kirk
Assistant Vice President of
Residence Life

Contact Helena Payne at hrayam@nd.edu.

IRAQ

Iraqis surrender as troops advance

Associated Press

SOUTHERN IRAQ

U.S. troops advanced through the deserts of southern Iraq in armored convoys Friday after launching the war's ground assault, meeting resistance from Iraqi forces in some areas and soldiers surrendering in others.

As the U.S. Marines and Army drove deeper into southern Iraq, British troops moved on the strategic al-Faw peninsula — Iraq's access point to the Persian Gulf and the site of major oil facilities. British military officials said they hoped to seize the key port of Umm Qasr before the day's end.

Through the night and as the sun rose, artillery barrages targeted Iraqi positions in al-Faw, and witnesses in northern Kuwait said they could hear thunderous explosions from the Umm Qasr area.

Further west along the border, some 200 Iraqi soldiers surrendered to the U.S. 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit just over an hour after it crossed the border into Iraq from northern Kuwait.

One group of 40 Iraqis marched in formation down a two-lane road toward the Americans and gave up. They were told to lie face down on the ground and were searched by the Marines. At the same time, Marines cleared bunkers, emerging from one with two Iraqis with bound wrists. One had a dark gray uniform, the other was barefoot. Abandoned weapons mortars were spread over a large area.

Elsewhere, U.S. troops met resistance from Iraqi units. The 7th Marine Infantry's 3rd Battalion apparently had to delay its foray into Iraq after — according to military radios — a large number of previously unknown tanks was sighted on the Iraqi side of the border.

The unit took small arms and artillery fire Thursday

night, and at one point a U.S. Cobra helicopter accidentally fired a missile at a U.S. M1 Abrams tank, injuring one soldier and forcing abandonment of the smoldering tank. Friday morning, the unit opened a massive artillery barrage across the border.

In Iraq, Marines in the 1st Division opened fire with machine guns on an Iraqi T-55 tank and destroyed it with a Javelin, a portable anti-tank missile. Troops from the Army's 3rd Infantry Division came into contact with several Iraqi armored personnel carriers, destroying at least three of them, front line troops reported by radio.

There were no reports of U.S. casualties in the engagements. In northern Kuwait, a helicopter crashed Thursday, killing the four American crewmembers and 12 British troops on board.

By taking southern Iraq, the allies would command access to the Gulf and set the stage for the first major conquest on the way to Baghdad — Basra, Iraq's second largest city, just 20 miles from the Kuwait border.

The move on the area between Basra and the Persian Gulf suggested that the allied strategy on the ground calls for a two-pronged attack — one to clear Iraqi resistance in the southern oil region while the other charges north toward Baghdad.

The start of the advance into Iraq was signalled Thursday night by a thunderous artillery barrage by allied forces in northern Kuwait across the border. Infantrymen on the move, their weeks of waiting at an end, cheered as shells screamed overhead.

The armored vehicles of the 1st Marine Division rolled across the border at around 9 p.m. local time (1 p.m. EST). As they moved through the desert, burning oil wells were visible, spewing black smoke into skies lit by a nearly full moon.



Thursday 10 pm

Friday 8 & 10:30 pm

Saturday 8 & 10:30 pm

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subMOVIES

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE DEPARTMENT of
COMMUNICATION STUDIES, DANCE & THEATRE
presents

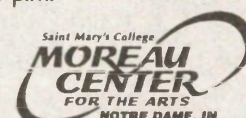


Euripides' classic tale of betrayal, revenge, and murder.

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574/284-4626

Bust

continued from page 1

Deitchley said that his office would have been liable if it had not responded to the tip about the party and a student was injured.

"If we wouldn't have responded and a student had been hurt, we would have had a responsibility ... it is not that we are trying to bust a legitimate and legal party. That party was nowhere close to being legal. More people could have gotten hurt," Deitchley said.

Bill Kirk, assistant vice president for Residence Life at the University, said that his office did not contact Excise Police before the party, but would be contacting students arrested and cited at the party and others involved in planning the party.

"When parties come to our attention as obviously and publicly as someone falling off a balcony or a party with 75 kegs [we will respond]," said Kirk.

Kirk said that when his office hears rumors of such a large party, its first step is to contact students organizing the party, rather than police.

"We try to contact students and tell them of the significant liability they have with such a large party. When we hear a rumor of a party with 75 kegs, it is appropriate to respond," Kirk said.

Deitchley said his office is still investigating the party and more arrests could be made.

"If there is anyone else involved that needs to be charged, we will pursue them," he said. Deitchley encouraged students planning to host such a party in the future to obtain the necessary permits through the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission.

"In the future, it would be better for everyone involved, if there are going to be parties, that organizers take steps to ensure that they are legal. My office is glad to assist anyone with getting the right information," Deitchley said.

Contact Scott Brodfuehrer at sbrodfue@nd.edu

Alcohol

continued from page 1

Hallahan hopes to represent student's concerns when meeting with Poorman and other administrators and then discuss why the policy is not working. He said the policy simply shifted the problems off campus, bringing to light several safety concerns.

"Simple policy changes are not going to provide the changes that they desire and there needs to be other options and education so that students don't drink abusively," Hallahan said. "The policy is a two-sided commitment — one that needs Student Affairs to provide resources and opportunities as alternatives to drinking and not just a commitment to changing policy."

Hallahan suggested that funding be increased for educating students about the local community as well as alcohol use, and encouraged programming to keep students on campus. He added that the Office of the President, other divisions of

student government, the Student Union Board and student clubs should work together to rejuvenate the campus social culture.

"We can't just accept the current situation but we must look at it and ask, 'how can we make it better?'" Hallahan said.

Implementing these funding and programming changes could be complicated by the Board of Trustees February budget cut, which decreased the student life budget by 5 percent. Poorman ensured that despite the cuts to his department's budget, the additional hall dance funding would be provided.

Hallahan said the return of SYRs would boost campus social life and should be offered on a probationary period. He believes that dances could be controlled within the halls due to the ban on hard alcohol and stricter dorm rules.

Poorman maintained that the policy regarding hall dances would not be revised and said the dances could not be safely held within the space constrictions, saying the focus of dances had shift-

ed to drinking. He added that the traditions of the residence halls have not been compromised.

"I think that students who were looking for an alcohol-driven party have been disappointed by the changes in the dances," Poorman said. "Those who have been looking for a general dance have been encouraged by the changes."

Hall senators said flaws still existed in the policy and have been communicating with rectors on the Campus Life Council in order to draft a resolution to bring back in-hall dances. Kevin Conley, chair of the Residence Life committee, said he expects the group to present an open letter addressed to the CLC dealing with students' concerns with the policy.

"Our job is to represent our constituent and an overwhelming majority of us feel this is the best way to do it," Conley said.

Jeremy Lao, student body vice president-elect, said he will discuss the policy with the new Senate leaders and steering committees when the new Senate takes over on

April 1. He will refrain from addressing his concerns in open Senate meetings.

Hallahan said he and Lao want to work through campus channels to bring about their changes, but ultimately will bring their concerns to the Board of Trustees should their concerns not be addressed.

"We aren't going to be overly patient because these problems are real, and in addition, people's safety is important," Hallahan said. "We will make it known to the Board if necessary."

Matt Storin, University spokesman, said following the Board of Trustees' February meetings that its resolutions were somewhat unprecedented. Although the Board oversees University operations, allocates funds and appoints officers, the Board entrusts the University officers to handle on-campus affairs.

Poorman said a time frame of three to five years would be necessary in order to fully access the changes and to review the policy.

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdownes1@nd.edu

Notre Dame Law School's 2003 Distinguished Lecture Series "Legislating Corporate Ethics"

"The Attorney as Gatekeeper: Toward Definition and Implementation of the Securities Lawyer's Role"

by Professor John Coffee
Adolf A. Berle Professor of Law
Columbia University

Friday, March 21, 2003*
2:00 pm
120 Law School

All are invited to attend.

*Please note that Prof. Coffee's visit has been moved up one week from the originally announced date of March 28.

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WORLD & NATION

Friday, March 21, 2003

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

page 5

IRAQ

U.S. chopper crashes on invasion day, 16 killed

Associated Press

SOUTHERN IRAQ

American and British combat units rumbled across the desert into Iraq from the south Thursday and bombed limited targets in Baghdad. But military commanders withheld the massive onslaught that would signal all-out war as U.S. officials tried to talk the Iraqi regime into giving up.

Coalition forces suffered their first casualties in a helicopter crash that left 12 Britons and four Americans dead.

"The days of the Saddam Hussein regime are numbered," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld predicted, although he also said there was "no need for a broader conflict" if Iraqi leaders surrender.

On the second day of Operation Iraqi Freedom, American officials held out the tantalizing possibility that Saddam had been killed in the initial Wednesday night bombing of Baghdad.

State-run Iraqi television said Saddam survived, and met with his top aides to counter the U.S.-led attack.

"We are resolved to teach the criminal invaders hard lessons and make them taste painful punishment," declared the Iraqi military.

The onset of war sparked anti-war demonstrations across the country — more than 1,000 were arrested in San Francisco — and at U.S. embassies around the world. The State Department warned U.S. citizens abroad of an increased danger of terrorism.

Rumsfeld hinted that talks with Iraqi military elements, including some in the elite Republican Guard, may have been behind a delayed start to a planned massive aerial assault.

"We still hope" the Iraqi leadership can be replaced "without the full force and fury of a war," Rumsfeld said after meeting with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Rep. Robert Andrews, D-N.J., said following a House briefing with Rumsfeld that "the behavior of those who've not surrendered would suggest that they might."

In southern Iraq, white light glowed in the desert sky, and the sound of explosions could be heard from across the Kuwait-Iraq frontier as the 3rd Infantry Division unleashed an artillery barrage. Troops eager to cross the border into Iraq cheered — and units were soon on their way.

The 101st Airborne Division rumbled across the desert in a vast convoy — trucks, tankers, humvees and more rolling along



An American CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter is shown lifting cargo with the help of U.S. marines in this March file photo. As coalition troops stormed Iraq, a CH-46 with 16 U.S. and British soldiers on board crashed in Kuwait, resulting in the first Allied casualties of the war.

under a round white moon.

Iraq sent missiles toward Kuwait in retaliation for the pre-dawn attack against Saddam, and American officials said the Iraqis had set fire to

some of their own oil wells. Protecting the oil-rich Basra region was one of the American military's goals as Marines and Army special forces headed into Iraq.

The Iraqi missiles landed harmlessly in the Kuwaiti desert. Officials said none of the Iraqi missiles caused injuries, and one was intercepted by a Patriot missile.

Hundreds arrested in rowdy anti-war demonstrations

Associated Press

Galvanized by the American attack on Iraq, anti-war activists around the country set off their own barrage of street protests, chaining themselves together, blocking workers and traffic, walking out of classes and parading in mock chemical suits. Hundreds were arrested from San Francisco to Washington, D.C.

But the anti-war groundswell brought out thousands of counterdemonstrators. One in Mississippi carried a sign saying, "Support the U.S. or keep your mouth shut."

Thursday was one of the heaviest days of anti-government protesting in years.

"This is no ordinary day," said Jason

Mark, a San Francisco activist. "America is different today: We've just launched an unprovoked, unjust war."

One protester in a rope and harness committed suicide by letting himself fall from Golden Gate Bridge as police tried to coax him to safety.

San Francisco had some of the largest anti-war activity, hobbling the morning commute. Thousands in roving bands temporarily took control of some downtown streets and closed several exits from the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Smaller splinter groups broke windows, heaved debris into streets and occasionally scuffled with police. Some protesters hurled rocks at trains, briefly halting service at a station in nearby Oakland.

Police wearing helmets and carrying nightsticks made more than 500 arrests.

"We don't want to alienate people. I hope people realize that political murder merits action that inconveniences them," said protester Quinn Miller, who took the day off from his job for a banking company.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca encouraged protesters to forgo civil disobedience, saying it might sap police resources needed to keep watch for terrorism.

In Washington, dozens of activists temporarily shut down inbound lanes of a Potomac River crossing, holding up the morning commute. Outside the White House, about 50 stood in chilly rain and shouted, "No blood for oil!"

About 300 protesters rallied in the evening.

Anti-war activists in Philadelphia blocked entrances to the downtown federal building, forcing police to detour motorists away from the area.

Police arrested 107 protesters.

In New York, about 350 rallied at Union Square and 300 later at Times Square under a steady drizzle.

About a dozen students lay down in black garbage bags. "We're expressing how the Iraqis are being killed for no reason," said Rachel Klepner, 14, who left class at Beacon High School for the protest.

In Massachusetts, students and professors walked out of college classes around the state in protest of war.

WORLD NEWS BRIEF

Crash causes first U.S.-British casualties

A U.S. Marine helicopter crashed in Kuwait Thursday, killing all 16 American and British soldiers aboard, military officials said.

The crash of the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter killed 12 British and four U.S. soldiers, officials said. The helicopter was assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

The helicopter crashed at 7:37 p.m. EST — Friday morning in Kuwait — about nine miles away from the border with Iraq, military officials said. The cause of the crash is under investigation, the officials said, adding that hostile fire had not been reported in the area.

The Marines use the Sea Knight, a bus-like helicopter with two large rotors, to fly troops from ships at sea or base camps to forward positions.

The Navy and Marines grounded all 291 CH-46 helicopters in August after an inspection of one helicopter in North Carolina found a crack in a rotor assembly.

A Marine Corps CH-46 crashed in 2001, killing three Marines and injuring two

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Twisters rip through rural Ga., 6 dead

Tornadoes killed six people and injured about 200 Thursday in rural southwestern Georgia, destroying dozens of homes, overturning farm equipment and ripping out trees like grass.

"It looked like a big lawnmower went through there," said Sheriff Freddie Tompkins of Worth County, where a twister cut a 10-mile-long, 300-foot-wide swath.

Officer recommends no courts-martial

A military hearing officer Thursday recommended against court-martialing two U.S. pilots who killed four Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan last year in a friendly-fire bombing one of the men blamed on the "fog of war."

Although Col. Patrick Rosenow said there was enough evidence to court-martial both pilots, he said "non-judicial or administrative punishment" would maintain "the interests of good order and discipline."

Lawmakers condemn "under God" ban

The House voted Thursday to condemn a federal appeals court's rulings that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional because of its reference to God.

The nonbinding resolution, passed 400-7 with 15 members voting present, states that the phrase "one nation under God" in the pledge reflects the religious faith central to the founding of the nation and that its recitation is a patriotic act, not a statement of religious faith.

Former NRA lawyer to testify for NAACP

A former gun lobbyist has agreed to testify for the NAACP in a lawsuit alleging negligent marketing practices by gun manufacturers and distributors fuels street violence that victimizes minorities.

It will be the first time Robert Ricker, who once worked as an attorney for the National Rifle Association, has testified for gun opponents since he switched allegiance.

War

continued from page 1

and Iraq over allegations of possession of weapons of mass destruction, many Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students have taken a proactive stance on the issue. Students attended lectures and panel discussions held on both campuses over the past few weeks and others organized protests against military action.

The University announced Thursday a special prayer service and rosary that will take place Friday at 9 p.m. in the Basilica with Notre Dame President Edward Malloy presiding. Each Friday at 5:15 p.m. a Mass for peace will be hosted at the Basilica, and as long as the military action continues, a prayer service and rosary will be held in a different dorm each weekday.

Many students could be seen wearing white armbands meant to symbolize their opinion against military action Thursday. The arm bands are available at the Center for Social Concerns under a project organized by freshman Pete Quaranto and the Peace Coalition. Many of the students wearing the bands had decorated them with peace signs or other messages. Gonzalez was wearing a band with the phrase "paz y justicia" — "peace and justice" in Spanish — inscribed on it.

Despite differences in opinion, many students said that it was important to be supportive of the U.S. armed forces.

"I definitely think our troops still need our support and our prayers," Gonzalez said.

Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu

Demonstration staged at Saint Mary's

By ANNELIESE WOOLFORD
Saint Mary's Editor

In an effort to voice their opposition to the war in Iraq, Saint Mary's Peacemakers held a demonstration outside of the Noble Family Dining Hall Thursday afternoon.

Peacemakers members posted signs and cut white T-shirts to make and distribute armbands advocating peace.

"We decided this would be the most visible and effective way to get student attention," said junior Emily Welsh. "It's a sign of solidarity among students. It's a non confrontational way if people want to participate and they don't know what to do."

The group learned of the idea at a student anti-war conference held at the University of Chicago over Valentine's Day weekend. Those involved also attended a meeting at Notre Dame before spring break where the idea was again discussed.

An emergency meeting was called Wednesday night following the U.S. attack on Iraq when members decided to put the demonstration into effect as soon as possible.

"The organization as a whole doesn't agree with Bush's position," said Welsh. "We just don't believe in a unilateral attack on Iraq."

Peacemakers is a social justice organization unaffiliated with any political party. It has existed on Saint Mary's campus for approximately 10 years.

"It comes and goes depending on how active students are," said Welsh.

Although the group has no future demonstrations or protests yet planned, they will continue to support peace in

a number of ways.

Nine students from the group participated in Thursday's "Not in Our Names" march through downtown South Bend. The

"We decided this would be the most visible and effective way to get student attention."

Emily Welsh
student

m a r c h attracted activists from over thirteen Michiana churches, religious communities and organizations.

"There was a huge representation of Saint Mary's students and even faculty and staff," said junior Amy Jensby.

The march, organized by community representatives including the Sisters of the Holy Cross, was one of over 100 protests planned in the United States following the initiation of war on Iraq.

Protesters sang and prayed as they made their way to

locations such as the Morris Performing Arts Center and St. Margaret's House.

Jensby, like other students, said it was the biggest march she has ever attended.

"It was the first time we've been to an after-war march," she said. "It was kind of heartbreaking since we'd been fighting against war; it had a different feel. At the same time, it's a reason to celebrate — all of us being out there together."

Following the march, members of Peacemakers attended a prayer service held at Saint Mary's Regina Hall chapel.

"Too many people are hiding what they believe in and are afraid to take a stand," Jensby said. "We need support to keep going."

Peacemakers meets weekly on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Peace Action Resource Center located in Haggard College Center.

Contact Anneliese Woolford at wool8338@saintmarys.edu

WHAT ARE YOU CALLED TO DO? CAREERS AS VOCATIONS: LAY MINISTRY

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Center for Social Concerns
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Rob Ercoline, MA '89, High School Teacher, Pastoral Associate at Little Flower Parish, Spiritual Director, currently with Retreats International

Sheila Provencher, MDiv '01, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Assistant Director of NDVI, currently a writer and activist

Kathy Schneider, '78, MDiv '84, Holy Cross Sisters service program in Brazil, Pastoral Associate in New York parishes, currently Director, St. Margaret's House

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BUSINESS

Friday, March 21, 2003

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

page 7

MARKET RECAP

Market Watch March 20

Dow Jones	8,286.60	↑	+21.15
NASDAQ	1,402.77	↑	+5.70
S&P 500	875.84	↑	+1.81
AMEX	823.74	↑	+1.70
NYSE	4,856.44	↑	+11.07

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
BOOTS & COOTS (WEL)	-33.33	-0.70	1.40
NASDAQ-100 INDEX(QQQ)	+0.37	+0.10	26.80
SIRIUS SATELLIT (SIRI)	+11.32	+0.06	0.59
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	-1.27	-0.18	14.04
MICROSOFT CORP (MSFT)	-0.27	-0.07	26.25

IN BRIEF

Japan stocks fall, greenback firms

Tokyo stocks climbed Thursday on hopes the U.S.-led campaign to disarm Iraq by force will be quick and successful. The U.S. dollar rose against the yen.

The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average rose 144.01 points, or 1.79 percent, to close at 8,195.05. The Nikkei rose 96.58 points, or 1.21 percent, on Wednesday.

The dollar was trading at 119.88 yen at 5 p.m. (3:00 a.m. EST), up 1.12 yen from 118.76 late Wednesday but below the 120.45 yen it bought later in New York trading.

European bank ready to intervene

The European Central Bank said Thursday it was prepared to intervene to support European financial markets if war in Iraq threatens stability, hinting at a possible rate cut or money infusion into the banking system.

The bank "stands ready to act if necessary," according to a three-paragraph statement issued after a meeting of its governing council in Frankfurt.

"Financial markets can rely on the provision of sufficient liquidity even under exceptional circumstances, as was demonstrated in the past," the statement said.

Insurers to cancel Mideast policies

As they seek financial shelter from war in Iraq, insurers are expected to cancel their riskiest policies in the Middle East shortly after the bombing begins.

By taking that step, insurers will be able to limit their exposure to losses caused by the war's destruction. In other instances, the cancellations open the door for insurers to offer customers a new policy at a significantly higher price to reflect the perils posed by the war.

"High-risk policies like this have to be individually negotiated," said Craig Berrington, general counsel for the American Insurance Association, a major trade group representing property and casualty carriers.

Oil sabotage fears on the rise

◆ Iraqi forces could blow some 1,700 wells

Associated Press

LONDON

Iraqi troops needed just a few days and some plastic explosives to destroy more than 700 wellheads and turn Kuwait's oil fields into a desert inferno.

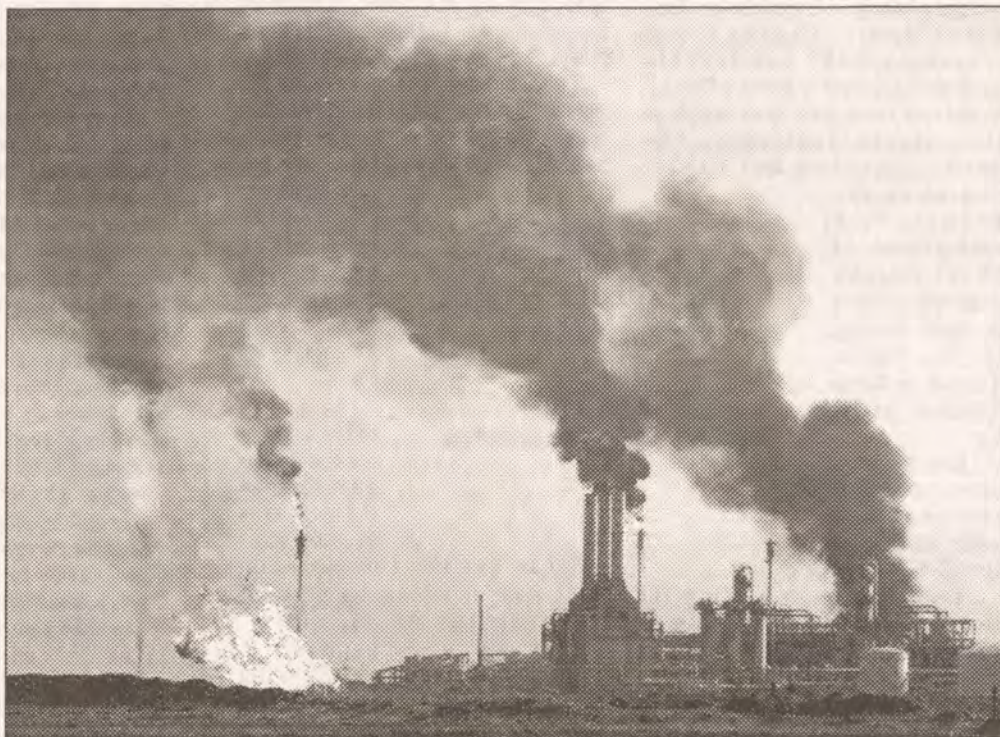
Fears are growing that Saddam Hussein might have organized a much more meticulous sabotage of Iraq's own oil fields, in a scorched-earth tactic that could cripple Iraqi production.

The oil industry has buzzed with rumors in recent weeks that Iraqis are rigging their wells with explosives in the hope of slowing a U.S.-led attack and making the country's oil wealth worthless for any new government. A loss of oil from Iraq — home to the world's second-largest oil reserves — could crimp supplies for importing countries, including the United States, which depends on Iraq for 2 percent of its imported crude.

Oil exports are also a major source of the money that would be needed to pay for Iraq's reconstruction after a war. Due to their strategic importance, the U.S. Defense Department says it would try to secure Iraq's oil fields quickly to prevent forces loyal to the Iraqi president from damaging them.

"We can confirm reports that [Saddam] has taken measures to booby trap oil wells by wiring the wells so that one person can blow them up," said Defense Department spokeswoman Megan Fox.

"If the worst happens and he does detonate something that causes the oil wells to catch fire, we'll do everything we can.



The Rmeileh South oil refinery in the Iraqi port of Basra is shown in this February file photo. Allied military planners aim to seize the facility in the early days of the war to prevent desperate Iraqi forces from sabotaging oil supplies.

Those assets belong to the Iraqi people, and as much as possible we'd like to keep them intact," she said.

Already, those fears may have become reality. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday that three or four Iraqi oil wells may already have been set afire in southern Iraq. Witnesses in Kuwait heard explosions and saw orange flames in the sky across the border.

Conventional explosives attached to wellheads and other vital facilities could halt production at any of Iraq's 1,685 wells. With more than twice as many oil wells as Kuwait, Iraq could suffer an even greater economic and environmental disaster.

When Iraqi troops retreated from Kuwait in February 1991, they attached plastic explosives to wellheads — clusters of pipes and valves protruding from underground wells — and piled sandbags against them to direct the

force of the explosions for maximum effect.

The result was Dantesque geysers of burning crude at 603 wells and serious damage at more than 100 others. Teams of firefighters from the United States, Canada and eight other countries worked from April until November of that year to douse the last flames.

Most of the teams used seawater pumped through Kuwait's empty oil pipelines to battle the fires. The heat was so intense, at more than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, that water sometimes continued bubbling on the ground for two days afterward, said Mark Badick of Safety Boss, Inc.

"We've had fire helmets melt on our heads," said Badick, whose Calgary-based firm put out 180 of the Kuwaiti well fires.

Firefighters from Hungary had a different technique, using two jet engines mounted horizontally on a tank chassis — a

homemade vehicle they called "Big Wind" — to blast flame-retardant foam.

It took Kuwait more than two years and \$50 billion to restore its oil output to pre-Gulf War levels. Iraq, if it sabotaged its oil fields, could take longer and cost much more.

Iraq's fields and pipelines are badly run-down after 12 years of U.N. economic sanctions. Its fields are also much farther from the ocean than those in Kuwait, so firefighters might be unable to pump seawater to tackle burning wells there.

Destruction could be especially bad if Iraqis set off explosives underground, deep within the well shafts themselves. If that happened, firefighters would have to drill a new "relief well" and pump a mixture of sand, gel and mud into each damaged shaft to try to plug it up and stop the blowout.

"It's a long, arduous process," Badick said.

War prompts flight cancellations

Associated Press

CAIRO

Airlines responded to the start of war in Iraq by canceling flights Thursday, while others sent special planes to ferry their citizens home.

The German carrier Lufthansa canceled all flights to Tel Aviv, Israel; Amman, Jordan; Beirut, Lebanon; Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for Thursday and Friday.

Air France suspended flights to Tel Aviv until Monday. British Airways, which suspended service to Tel Aviv and Kuwait earlier, canceled Thursday's flight to Beirut, as did several other airlines, airport officials said.

Singapore Airlines said it was suspending 65 weekly flights — including service to Las Vegas and Chicago — due to "softening demand" as a result of the

war.

The carrier is known for recording high profits since it was set up 30 years ago — even after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Still, Singapore Airlines canceled flights to the capitals of Belgium and Spain and rerouted flights to London and Istanbul, Turkey, to avoid flying over Iraq. Flights to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates were scaled back earlier.

The international body overseeing aviation prepared to reroute commercial flights around Iraq. Flights will be diverted to the north or south, depending on the area of conflict, the International Air Transport Association said.

Other airlines, including Air New Zealand and Air Canada, reported passengers were canceling their own flights

or asking to postpone them because of the war.

Airlines from India, Pakistan and Egypt sent special or additional planes to Kuwait to evacuate nationals who had left Iraq ahead of the U.S.-led attack, officials said.

More than 1 million Indian and 60,000 Pakistani workers are in the region.

Evacuations are voluntary, but both India and Pakistan have announced emergency plans in case the situation worsens.

Azerbaijan State Airlines offered the nation's main airport so civilian aircraft that usually refuel in Persian Gulf states would instead be able to refuel in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku.

Meanwhile, other airlines worldwide announced they were canceling or scaling back Mideast flights.

English professor publishes first book

By SARAH NESTOR
Senior Staff Writer

Saint Mary's English professor and Center for Intercultural Leadership Fellow Richard Yanez officially introduced his first book to the campus yesterday. The book, "El Paso del Notre: Stories on the Border" is a collection of short fiction stories about people living in El Paso, Texas, where Yanez grew up.

"It's a book about place... the real and very imaginative," Yanez said.

Yanez has been writing for ten years and his work was previously published in "Our Working Lives: Short Stories of People and Work" and in the Chicano Chapbook Series edited by Gary Soto.

This newest endeavor is Yanez's first solo publishing project. He said that it took two years to complete and was a "constant act of revision."

sion."

Yanez spent Spring Break in western Texas, visiting schools and bookstores, and introducing his book, which is based on an actual place in El Paso, to the local community.

Yanez has not lived in El Paso for the last eight years, but noted how little the community had changed since he last visited.

He also said that he writes almost exclusively about El Paso.

"It's my effort as a writer to give face to monuments that exist in El Paso, [monuments] that have nothing to do with government or officials," Yanez said.

Currently, Yanez is working on a biography on Chicano poet Ricardo Sanchez and a novel, "Cross Over Water," both of which have tentative release dates set for 2004.

Yanez said.

Contact Sarah Nestor at
nest9877@saintmarys.edu

"It's a book about place... the real and very imaginative."

Richard Yanez
Saint Mary's English professor

Saint Mary's holds spirit event

By NATALIE BAILEY
News Writer

Orange freshmen, red sophomores, purple juniors and blue seniors will congregate in the Angela Athletic Facility tonight from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. for Saint Mary's fourth annual college-wide "Midnight Madness" spirit event.

Lynn Kachmarik instituted Midnight Madness four years ago, during her first year as the College's Director of Athletics.

"When I first got here, I remember this overwhelming feeling of everything being about Notre Dame," Kachmarik said. "Our women were going across the street, looking for a social life. I was glad Notre Dame was across the street, but I wanted to make life at school about Saint Mary's. I wanted the women to be excited about Saint Mary's."

"When I first got here, I remember this overwhelming feeling of everything being about Notre Dame."

Lynn Kachmarik
director of athletics

Saint Mary's students, have been fundraising and planning for the event since the fall semester.

Besides traditional class spirit competitions and winter intramural championship games, several new activities have been planned to involve as many students as possible. There will be a trivia game that requires crowd involvement, several balloon bursts, musical chairs, an obstacle course and a new game called "Steal the Bell."

"It is really exciting to bring everyone together — not only students but faculty and staff as well. It will be a great night for Saint Mary's College and class pride."

Lynn Kachmarik
director of athletics

combo and a free airline ticket to anywhere in the continental United States.

All event attendees have the chance to win the grand-prize trip to Chicago, which includes round-trip transportation, an overnight stay at the Ritz-Carlton, dinner in the John Hancock Signature Room and a \$1,000 shopping spree.

Cathi DeCleene, director of Health and Wellness, and Patrick White, interim vice president for Academic Affairs, accepted the job of emceeding the event and keeping the crowd spirited.

"It is really exciting to bring everyone together — not only students but faculty and staff as well," Kachmarik said. "It will be a great night for Saint Mary's College and class pride."

Prizes include a digital camera, a television, up to \$100 cash, Saint Mary's apparel, blankets and towels, restaurant gift certificates, a DVD/VCR

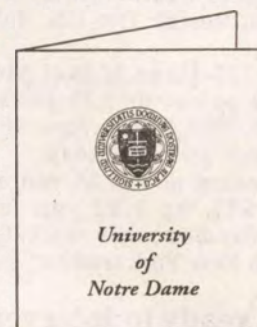
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ALCove holds open house for students

By NICOLA BUNICK
News Writer

The ALCove, the College of Arts and Letters' experimental gathering place for students and faculty in O'Shaughnessy Hall, held an open house Thursday in an attempt to familiarize more students with its services.

The lounge provides space for students to study or meet with faculty in an informal setting. Assistant Professor of Psychology and Arts and Letters Undergraduate Adviser Kathleen Kolberg, whose office is located in the ALCove, described the facility as "an experiment."

"It's a temporary use of space where students can sit down and do work. There is also space for [teaching assistants or professors] to hold discussion sections, review sessions and office hours," she said.

The ALCove also provides many resource materials to undergraduate students such as GRE, LSAT and MCAT study guides.

"Now there is space for students to actually spread out and look at these materials," Kolberg said. "We also plan to use the ALCove to highlight the Arts and Letters experience."

The center is currently displaying student artwork and posters applauding the achievements of the University's Pre-Law mock trial team.

The idea of providing a space

such as the ALCove was originally suggested by Assistant Dean Jennifer Nemecek.

"There is a lack of space on campus for people to just be," Nemecek said.

The rooms of 102 and 105 O'Shaughnessy Hall, where the ALCove is now located, originally housed the college's Office of Undergraduate Studies, which moved to a renovated space early in the semester. Although the ALCove officially opened in January, students have only recently begun to utilize the facility.

"It has been sparsely used, but in the last few weeks [use] has picked up," said Kolberg. Students who know about the ALCove are generally enthusiastic about the facility. But it appears that many are unaware that it exists.

"Now that I know about it, I would consider using it," freshman Gena Robinson said.

Robinson had seen advertisements for the ALCove, but until Thursday did not realize its purpose.

Thursday's open house was part of the Department of Arts and Letters' attempt to make students more aware that ALCove is there for their use. Both Nemecek and Kolberg said that the department advertised on campus with posters and newspaper ads in hopes that more students and faculty will make use of the new space.

Contact Nicola Bunick at
nbunick@nd.edu

Chamber music festival at SMC

By LAUREN O'BRIEN
News Writer

The Department of Music at Saint Mary's College will host its inaugural Leighton Festival of Chamber music this weekend, featuring performances by two local and one international chamber ensembles.

The local ensembles, Fleur de Lys and the South Bend Chamber Singers, will join the Cavani String Quartet from the Cleveland Institute of Music to round out the festival schedule.

The world-renowned Quartet, which was awarded the prestigious Naumburg Chamber Music Award in 1989 and has performed at venues such as Carnegie Hall, will be in residence at the College from March 21 through March 25, during which time they will rehearse and present a concert with Saint Mary's music students.

"This level of exposure to such gifted and experienced performers raises the bar," said Nancy Menk, chair of the College's Department of Music, in a press release. "It illustrates how far you can go with potential and hard work, and offers a model of professionalism at its best."

Festival organizers said that they hope that the residency of a chamber music ensemble will provide a unique opportunity for students and faculty in Saint Mary's music department,

which traditionally concentrates on the study of piano and voice.

"This is very rare," Jeffrey Jacob, professor of music at

the College and festival organizer, said.

"Only a handful of schools in the country regularly

do something like this, where professional musicians rehearse and perform with undergraduates."

Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors will all be represented in Tuesday's concert with the Cavani Quartet, which will also include student vocal performances and two string quartet pieces written by senior music majors Shannon Nelson and Meghann Robinson.

Chamber music, which can include two to six musicians in an ensemble, is distinctive in comparison to performing solo or in an orchestra. The intimacy of such a small group allows each musician to hear everything immediately, as opposed to musicians in an orchestra.

"It is a very intimate experience," Jacob said. "[Each musician] brings something very important to the musical process."

The festival will open tonight with a performance by Fleur de Lys entitled "Music of Eighteenth Century Italy." The concert will be

held in Haggard College Center's Welsh Center.

The Cavani String Quartet will perform Saturday at Little Theatre in the Moreau Center for the Arts. Prior to its work at

Saint Mary's, the quartet toured throughout the United States and Europe.

Sunday, the South Bend Chamber Singers will perform "Music for a Sacred Space" in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto Sunday at 7 p.m.

The Leighton Festival will conclude Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Little Theatre with a collaboration concert between the Cavani Quartet and Saint Mary's music students.

The music department plans to hold the Leighton Festival every other year, focusing on a different genre of music for each festival.

"Saint Mary's students should really take advantage of such an unusual opportunity," Menk said. "I hope students will come out to show their support."

Contact Lauren O'Brien at
obri1648@saintmarys.edu

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300th execution carried out in Texas

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — An apologetic killer Thursday became the 300th inmate put to death in Texas since the state resumed the death penalty 20 years ago.

Keith Clay, 35, who gunned down a convenience store clerk during a 1994 robbery, prayed softly to himself as he was executed by injection. He was pronounced dead at 6:23 p.m.

Clay asked for forgiveness from three members of his victim's family, who watched through a nearby window.

"I know you have suffered a great loss and I am truly, truly sorry," he told the family of Melathethil Tom Varughese.

Clay also asked God to "forgive me of every single solitary sin I have committed."

Turning to his mother, he said, "Let everyone know that I love them. This is not goodbye. I will see you later."

Cynthia Smith smiled and flashed two thumbs up to him.

Clay was the 11th inmate executed this year in Texas, which is on a pace to surpass the record 40 lethal injections it carried out in 2000. Another execution is scheduled for next week.

It took nearly 13 years for Texas to reach 100 execu-

tions, four years to get to No. 200 and now just over three to reach the 300th.

The state accounts for more than one-third of the 838 executions in the United States since 1976, when the death penalty resumed under a Supreme Court ruling. Virginia is second with 87.

Clay was convicted of killing Varughese during a robbery in Baytown, near Houston. Varughese had come to the United States from India a year earlier.

Clay had said he was outside the store in a car when Varughese was killed, but a witness identified Clay as the gunman and evidence showed his gun was one of the two used in the shooting.

"I'm not happy to see someone put to death, but I know that the trial was a fair trial," said Marie Munier, who prosecuted Clay. "I think it's justice."

Prosecutors also linked Clay to the fatal shootings of three people, including two children, on Christmas Eve in 1993. He denied any role in the killings and was not tried, but a companion was sent to death row for the crime.

The Supreme Court refused to review Clay's case last week. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles refused to consider a clemency request because it was filed late.

Security increases nationwide

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Federal agencies increased inspections at borders and of the food supply, put nuclear plants on heightened alert and stepped up the search for possible Iraqi terrorist " sleeper cells" in a move to war footing Thursday.

As the U.S. assault on Iraq intensified, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge told members of Congress that there had been no incidents in the United States in retaliation.

He said the "code orange" alert status imposed this week would stay in effect.

FBI agents, in an attempt to head off possible retaliation for the war, began fanning out across the country to interview thousands of people born in Iraq, the agency said. The FBI also said it also wanted to try to prevent hate crimes against people of Iraqi heritage.

The FBI's 56 bureaus were put on around-the-clock operation.

"We are running down every lead, responding to every threat," Director Robert Mueller said.

Federal meat and poultry inspectors, in their routine inspections, began testing for chemical or biological agents that terrorists might use, said Jesse Majkowski, head of the Agriculture Department's food security office.

The Food and Drug Administration increased testing for such potential agents in products it analyzes, agency officials said. The Centers for Disease

Control was keeping a lookout in case doctors notice any unusual outbreak of diseases or symptoms associated with those agents.

On Capitol Hill, some congressional hearings were canceled or their agendas abbreviated as lawmakers focused on the war. Tours of the Capitol were suspended effective Friday but visitors can still get into the House or Senate galleries with a pass from a lawmaker's office.

At one hearing, senators were told that the government had stepped up its inspections of cargo vessels coming into the United States because of continued worries terrorists might use them to bring in a radioactive "dirty bomb" or other explosive.

But Asa Hutchinson, Homeland Security's undersecretary for border and transportation security, acknowledged that the country remains vulnerable because more than 6 million cargo containers arrive in America every year and not all of them can be checked. U.S. officials want to improve cooperation with major foreign ports to more clearly pin down what is being shipped.

An additional 125 border guards were sent to the Canadian border to strengthen security and help traffic flow, although officials said they had no

specific threat involving the northern border crossings.

Inspectors are doing more searches of vehicles and cargo and asking travelers more questions at the 300 border-crossing points, airports and seaports, said Robert Bonner, commissioner of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

More than a half-dozen states have moved National Guard troops to nuclear

power plants, according to an industry survey. Additional security measures were implemented at reactor sites when the national

threat level was raised to code orange late Monday.

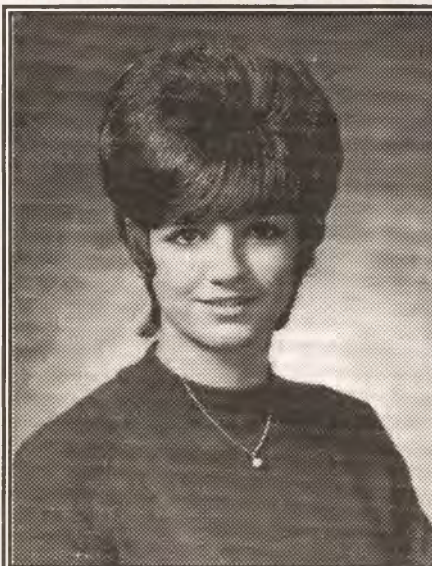
An intelligence report that terrorists might have targeted the Palo Verde nuclear power plant in Arizona led that state's governor to dispatch the National Guard to the 4,000-acre complex 50 miles west of downtown Phoenix.

Congressional and administration sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the initial concern about Palo Verde — although significant enough to warrant the warning — is now being largely discounted.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham told a Senate hearing, when asked about the Palo Verde alert, that "actions are being taken by all the appropriate agencies to address the concerns that have been raised."

"We are running down every lead, responding to every threat."

Robert Mueller
FBI director



*Cindy Fay is
50 today!*

Love, Traz

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VIEWPOINT

page 12

Friday, March 21, 2003

THE OBSERVER

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Alcohol policy demands more education

Notre Dame's year-old alcohol policy has undeniably changed campus life. While hall staff members have seen fewer alcohol related problems in their dorms this year, the issue of alcohol use and abuse has not necessarily disappeared from the campus culture. The lack of music blasting from dorm rooms and the steady stream of cabs and students leaving campus each weekend show that students haven't changed their drinking habits — just their drinking location. Now, instead of partying in a place where help from hall staff is only a minute away, students are drinking off-campus where they may not receive help if they need it.

The new alcohol policy is here to stay — and so is the culture of drinking it was designed to curb. At the one-year mark since its implementation, it is clear that the new policy continues to demand changes of and place responsibilities upon both students and administrators.

Administrators can help students by educating them about the dangers they face off-campus. The new policy has pushed more students beyond the watchful eyes of hall staff members, making it imperative that the average student now be able to recognize who has had too much to drink and who needs help. Administrators should also do their part to better educate students about common-sense principles like

how to avoid the dangerous areas of South Bend and the importance of never traveling off campus or back to campus alone.

Instead of basking in the glory of fewer alcohol problems in the dorms, administrators must realize that Notre Dame's drinking culture remains mostly unchanged and act to prevent more problems in addition to punishing students who get in trouble. Busts of underage students at bars and parties may keep a few students from drinking for a while, but better educating students leaving the protective shadow of the Dome to party will help keep serious harm from coming to them and leave a more

lasting impression. And while the final responsibility to drink safely lies with students, the administration should do everything in its power to give students the knowledge they need to act responsibly.

Students must recognize that regardless of University policy, they must make smart decisions when partying on or off campus. If the on campus culture does not meet their social needs, then they must take extra precautions and be informed to ensure the personal safety of themselves and their friends. Information the University provides cannot be overlooked and students should not jeopardize their security and well-being in the interest of a more exciting social life.

The Observer
Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Appreciate the military's sacrifice

I am writing in response to Joe Muto's Wednesday column. As we all know by now, the war in Iraq has begun, and we are now in a time of heightened tension both abroad and on our own soil. In his column Muto states that should the draft be reinstated, he would be "in Windsor faster than you can say draft dodger."

He then goes on to say that he expresses concern for his friends in ROTC and equates going to the Boat Club and female dorms to being on the front lines. Personally, I am appalled at his comparisons, even if he meant it to be taken as a joke. I am currently a senior in ROTC, and if I were to do it all over again, I would sign up without question. In taking my ROTC scholarship, my goal was not merely to get a "free education" as he said, but to attend an outstanding university and then have the privilege of serving my country upon graduation.

The tuition payments and stipends came as an added benefit for me and were not the sole motivating factors, as many think. I joined the military out of a love for my country, a sense of duty to upholding the values on which it was established and so that others who do not want to fight do not have to. Muto will be happy to know that he will probably not have to dodge the draft because there are many people will-

ing to make the supreme sacrifice.

Our volunteer military is strong enough to be able to combat many different circumstances without the need to reinstitute the draft. He might also be pleased to know that if there were a draft, he would probably not be drafted since 18-

year-olds are taken before anyone else. I am sure he is sighing in relief upon reading this. Yet while he is getting dollar bills pulled from his open fly, there will be many 18-year-old kids on the frontlines.

The conditions in which they live in are something he cannot even fathom. Their lives are void of showers and plush accommodations. They have rations that many of us would consider to be far worse than anything we have ever seen in the dining halls, and what they go through on a daily basis, most of us would not do to our household pets. These are kids, some of whom have to live on food stamps because they get paid less and work more than anyone you probably know.

Some of these kids don't even have a high school education; yet they are willing to make the supreme sacrifice in defense of their country and its values.

Don't get me wrong — I personally welcome any and all criticisms. The freedom of speech and assembly guarantee that Americans can express their beliefs, and I fully support anyone to do so whatever it

may be. However, do not presume, even in jest, to begin to understand what it is like to be one of those kids on the frontlines. I personally have never experienced it myself, but many who have served have managed to give me the smallest idea of what it is like. To question the bravery of those who are there at this present time is utterly appalling.

Those brave Iraqi troops Muto talked about are surrendering left and right at this moment, and the last sight of the vaunted Iraqi Republican Guard by our troops was when they were running away from American forces in the first Gulf War. Feel free to criticize the decisions to go to war and the way in which leaders conduct the war as it is your right to do, but do not insult those men and women who are currently staring down a situation which you will never even come close to experiencing.

The sacrifice they make on a daily basis is more than you may ever make in your life. So when you see your ROTC friends next, tell them that you are praying for them and their families, and give them support that they probably need right now. At this point, I am going to listen to my Commander-in-Chief address the nation. I am prepared to follow the decision that he and the leadership he represents make in regards to my role in the conflict. I ask that we all pray for everyone involved and pray for a swift conclusion in order to minimize the cost to everyone involved.

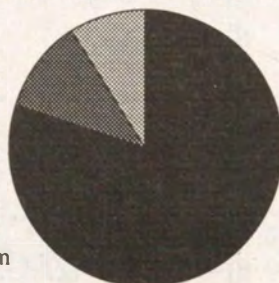
John Dues
senior
off-campus
March 20

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NDToday/OBSERVER POLL QUESTION

What effect do you think the change in the alcohol policy has had on campus life?

■ Worsened 80%
■ No change 11%
■ Improved 9%

*Poll appears courtesy of NDToday.com and is based on 162 responses.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Sir Winston Churchill
British prime minister

VIEWPOINT

Friday, March 21, 2003

page 13

Taking the "French" out of our fries

Diplomacy has had its day, at least for now. As this column is being written in the early hours of the morning, Saddam Hussein is speaking live in response to the United States' opening strike against him, one of the "targets of opportunity." What has happened to our diplomatic efforts at the United Nations which have spawned some conservative U.S. congressmen to change the name of French toast and French fries to "Freedom" toast and fries?



Gary Caruso

Capitol
Comments

The globalization of economies and communications may have shrunk the Earth, but the nations of the world are as divergent as the political divide in the United States. Our nation is composed of two ways of life, best evident as the blue and red states depicted during the 2000 presidential election. In general, the east and west coasts, along with several traditionally industrial states believe that diplomacy should continue. The heartland and south believe that the Bush doctrine of preemptive action is one that justifies war with Iraq.

Internationally, most of the larger nations of the world, especially those located closer to Iraq, fall in the diplomacy column. Following the United States attack on Iraq, several criticized the president's actions. German Chancellor Gerhard

Schroeder said that the U.N. Security Council has not failed to act, that U.N. Resolution 1441, passed unanimously last fall, did not specifically authorize military action and that a war with Iraq is illegal.

French President Jacques Chirac said that France has unfairly been singled out as the cause of a U.S. failure to muster a majority of votes to pass a second U.N. resolution authorizing military action, especially in light of Russia and China's opposition. Russia and China both strongly condemned the U.S. strikes on Iraq.

Some contend that a full scale military assault on Iraq is not necessary, especially in light of the "target of opportunity" precision during the first U.S. attack. They say that the president could have zeroed in on Hussein during the past few months and removed him without much collateral damage in a surgical manner made famous by the Israelis. They also believe that an impatient, diplomatically uninterested president became frustrated at the United Nations and simply took his ball and went home.

European-bashing in the United States has focused on France more than other nations who also wield veto power in the U.N. Security Council. Americans remind the French that the United States saved them twice in two world wars and that the French should be appreciative. American conservative commentators belittle France by saying that the French can only feel important by using their veto power because they are no longer a major power in the world.

The diplomatic stalemate at the United Nations arose because President George

Bush and the international community play by two diametrically opposed styles of politics. Bush is a self-described "instinct player." He decides on a course of action, moves forward without vacillation, dismisses those who oppose him and feels obliged to enforce his decisions. He views changes in policy as a sign of weakness and is not interested in what he calls "small talk in big rooms." As a result, he is labeled a "cowboy." The reference is not only a play on his Texas roots but symbolic of the way he will confront his political adversaries with "high noon" drama.

Rather than use traditional diplomatic protocol procedures to work out disputes with France, Germany, China and Russia behind closed doors at the United Nations, Bush challenged them publicly. Then Bush challenged the United Nations to prove its relevance by endorsing an Iraqi war, but in the final week before abandoning his efforts he attempted to use diplomatic protocol. Bush also made public the terms of many of his foreign aid offers, Turkey most notably, which caused that government much domestic embarrassment.

Ronald Reagan stood firm on his tax reduction proposal of the early '80s, but appeared larger than life when he admitted two years later that he needed to "adjust" them to achieve his goals. Richard Nixon, the fiercest American opponent of Communism, displayed diplomatic finesse when he opened Communist China to western markets and the international community.

To the international community, Bush seems to be unwilling to engage in issues of interest to others while demanding

adherence to his agenda. During Bush's first year in office, he irritated nations around the world when he withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol agreement to slow global warming, abandoned the Anti-Ballistic Missile nuclear test ban treaty, walked away from involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian talks and refused to at least acknowledge matters of great relevance to other nations.

American isolation has been slowly self-inflicted. German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer complained that alliance partners are not satellites of the United States. He explained that allies should not be viewed as an option, "being with us or against us," but should be nurtured through dialogue. Had the president found time for such small talk in the large U.N. Security room, even the most difficult of countries like France, which was willing to compromise on a final 30-day benchmark process for inspectors, may have abstained rather than vetoed his proposals.

It is anyone's guess how U.S. military power will be received overseas. But for the record, French toast is an American invention from upstate New York by a man named French. Maybe his middle name was Freedom.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame class of 1973, served in President Clinton's administration as a Congressional and public affairs director. His column appears every other Friday. Contact him at hotline@aol.com.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hope for a fresh
start for the
Iraqi people

The day has finally arrived that the debate has ended and war in Iraq is upon us. I am not a supporter of war, but at the same time I support decisive action by President George W. Bush. I am not happy what this may do to our international relations, and I do not rejoice in violence.

However, since the debate about the war is over, I believe the issue now lies with our responsibility to rebuild this country. Although the clouds of war seem to encompass almost everything at this time, we must look to the future of what can be done. A few weeks of bombing will be nothing compared to 12 years of sanctions the Iraqis have lived through under the current regime. Yes, war is never a cake walk, but imagine the fresh start Iraq will gain from this war.

France and Germany would not be able to complain about the freedoms they enjoy today without U.S. aid and military influence. Just imagine the potential this new regime would be able to offer its people having the second largest oil reserves in the world. They will not have to worry about a regime that would rather play games with the international community than benefit its people. Once a broadly represented government of the people is established with U.S. assistance, there will be hope for future generations of Iraqis whether they be Kurd, Shiite or Sunni.

Tom Rippinger
sophomore
St. Edward's Hall
March 19

War protects U.S. oil interests

As Operation Persian Gulf War II becomes official, I am becoming more and more disturbed by the speed at which those misguided individuals in support of this war are labeling those in protest against it "unpatriotic." This country was founded on the principles of freedom of expression, opinion and thought. I find upholding my First Amendment rights as an American citizen to be decidedly patriotic.

The Bush Administration has further destroyed foreign relations by ignoring our allies in the United Nations. This reckless disregard is only going to strengthen the world's view of the United States as a tyrant country eager for power — sentiments that played heavily in the tragic attacks on Sept. 11. I have no desire to have my name used in any conjunction with this battle based upon oil, money and greed and therefore vocally protest it because I want to let it be known that I in no way support this war.

I cried along with every other American citizen on Sept. 11; however it is the nature of terrorists to be without country. Though few Iraqis shed tears the day the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were brutally attacked by a handful of vicious cowards, this does not change the fact that Iraq as a country cannot be held directly responsible. This war is not about getting justice. And it is most certainly not about liberating the Iraqi people, as the Bush Administration continues to claim.

With war, poverty, death and destruction rampant worldwide, it seems an unusual coincidence that Bush has suddenly turned his attentions to the sufferings of those living in oil-rich Iraq. Why therefore, is he intent on liberating people who have no wish to be liberated? As bombs rain down on the five million people living in Baghdad, it seems unlikely that the innocent civilians caught in the crossfire are dying praising the United States for its help. No, this war is about boosting flagging popularity and hiding a struggling economy while finishing off the hunt for oil that George H. W. Bush started a decade ago. And I am interested to see how Bush will pay the billions of dollars this war will and has already cost, especially in light of his intentions to further cut taxes for all his rich friends.

No one has attempted to deny that Saddam Hussein is an evil dictator, but Bush has yet to make any worthwhile claim as to why it is imperative to the American people that he be removed from power. The United States has more nuclear weapons than any other country in the world. Hussein has been in power long enough to realize that any direct attack he makes on the United States or our allies would be tantamount to suicide. Furthermore, not being able to prove that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction is not proof that it does.

Bush and the media hide behind terms such as "collateral damage" and "friendly fire," relying on the American people's ignorance to hide the truth of war. Though I do not support this war I most certainly support the men and women who are fighting it. These are people years younger than I am, in a strange land far away from home, clutching assault rifles and gas masks as they prepare to battle for a president sitting thousands of miles away from the battlefields.

War is about blood and sweat and pain and misery, and we as Americans wave our flags and beam with pride as we sing the Star Spangled Banner, completely oblivious to what is happening outside of our tightly constructed bubbles. Yet we continue to drive our SUVs to our climate-controlled homes, where we sit down in front of big screen TVs and watch this war unfold, scoffing at the foolishness of those who still believe in peace.

You may call me un-American, but I stand firm to my belief that peace is more patriotic than blind submission to an inept president. Bush goes on national television and mispronounces Baghdad while people who could not find Iraq on a map to save their lives mumble about killing them all and letting God do the counting. Get a smaller car — maybe then we can stop killing Middle Easterners for their oil.

Jessica Needles
senior
Le Mans Hall
March 18

SCENE
campus

page 14

Friday, March 21, 2003

Humor Artists painfully funny

*The Notre Dame Humor Artists perform an original play, "Black beard, For Instance"*By KC KENNEY
Scene Writer

The Humor Artists, or HA, are known for their stand-up comedy and improv. So when they put on a show, you know that you're going to be leaving with a stomach sore from laughing so hard. An independent play, written by Molly McShane and Mike Davin, is called "Black beard, For Instance," but Molly is afraid that title could be misleading.

"I worry people will think its about pirates when it's clearly not," she says with a huge smile on her face.

It may not be about pirates, but the show is able to take a number of everyday things and add a sense of comedy and craziness to it that just lets you find everything funny.

The show opens as three couples and two guys who are "just friends" prepare at their respective homes to get ready for a dinner party. Immediately the audience is able to pick up on the quirks and foibles that make each character larger than life and drenched in laugh potential. The characters develop almost like a stand-up comedians routine, each presenting themes and ideas, like a mortal wound inflicted by a contact lens. With an engagement to celebrate and a friend's dead dog to hide under the excuse that it was "dog-napped", it makes the dinner conversation a little strained as the guests begin to realize that their host's new fiancé has something to hide. One suggestion for solving the dog-napping case? A re-enactment of the whole thing, complete with props, villains, the dog played by one of the guests and theme music provided by another. Because the dog was killed and not dog-napped, the whole thing doesn't yield much answers, but it is ridiculous to watch as they trip over themselves trying to figure out what happened to the dog.

It does come to light that the dog was accidentally killed, and subsequently stored in the freezer, and the engagement is broken with the fiancé ostracized by the rest of the group. Prior to intermission, the fiancé seems to be the only island in an ocean of craziness and the audience is able to appreciate his standpoint as an outsider looking in on a group of pretty zany characters. He, too, dives in to the madness after intermission as he writes his own re-enactment of the dinner that night and tries to express himself to the rest of the guests. The show isn't more than an hour and a half, but that time is filled with more laughs per minute than any sitcom or stand-up act.

The comedic themes in the show are broad and diverse, with a sample of topics from many different realms. Just a few of the ideas brought to light are online dating, the peril of wearing contact lenses, a real live ambiguously gay duo, the horrors of marriage and more. At times it is almost like watching a comedian like Jerry Seinfeld commenting on a slew of different things that are really funny if you think about them. But this show takes it a step further. Rather than just tell you why these ideas are funny, they blow them up, distort them and put them in the spotlight you can see an up close and personal look at how funny life really is. Truly, this show is able to show a really complete idea of what a classic comedy is, not dwelling on any one episode or problem, but a number of different ones for each character, allowing there to never be a dull moment.

How do you cast a show that implements so many methods of approaching comedy? Simple. Get some of the best and the brightest performers on campus that are able to boast excellent comedic timing and a sense of character development that makes you wonder if this is how these people act in real life. The



KG KENNEY/The Observer

Learning about the death of a family pet, Michael Bradt, Mary Beth Assmussen and Tom Conner all react with high emotions of sadness.

comedic archetypes are standard, but developed and displayed with a fresh air that makes the jokes and lines funny and new. As one character comments during the show, "Everyone is a little crazy." Watching these performers, one has to wonder if they got more than their share. Trish Gilbert and Mike Frederico play a married couple, Jacqueline and Richard, brought together by a mix-up between mistaken pregnancy and gastrointestinal problems. Frederico's classic style makes him seem refined and developed as an actor, but putting a drink in his hand and letting him constantly bash his wife offers a contrast that is at times more one liners than character development but it's always fun to see what rude comment he'll make next. Gilbert seems to jump back and forth between socialite and resident at an asylum, but does so comfortably enough that both seem naturally a part of the same character. Michael Bradt and Mary Beth Assmussen are also married, though their relationship is not as focused as Frederico and Gilbert. Their parts, Michael and Allison respectively, are much more focused on the whereabouts of their dog and getting some "who-ha." Michael is a great meathead; with his dim attitude and love of the gym, he adds an element of awkwardness that is entertaining to watch. One of the running gags is the unclear relationship between Tim and Jim, played by Tom Conner and Jeff Eyerman, who don't seem to know their own sexual orientation better than anyone else. But with physical humor and emotional responses to accusations, they are the perfect odd couple. Cheryl Turski is very emotional as the hostess of the party, but her enthusiasm for her fiancé and putting on a good dinner party gives her lots of opportunity to make the crowd laugh — an opportunity she likes to take advantage of. Rick Herbst, as the fiancé, gives the audience a character to relate to, but when he sinks into the insanity himself later in the show, it is almost disappointing that

we didn't get to see him have the chance to be just as zany before. He holds nothing back and is hilarious to watch.

The show is well written, full of the best kind of situational humor and one-liners. When not killing someone's dog is a compliment, you know that you're in for something pretty off the wall. Add a cast with comedic timing that rivals Must See TV and you know you're in for a night of fun and, above all, laughing until it hurts.

The Humor Artists will perform "Black beard, For Instance," an independent play written by Molly McShane and Mike Davin, Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Contact KG Kenney at kkenney@nd.edu



KG KENNEY/The Observer

The guests at the party imitate ninjas as they attempt to reenact for Stephen, played by Rich Herbst, what happened to the family dog.



KG KENNEY/The Observer

Jacqueline, played by Trish Gilbert, forces the truth out of Stephen.

SCENE
campus

Friday, March 21, 2003

page 15

Musical acts brighten weekend

*Ma Xiaohui and NEXUS to perform world-renowned compositions*By BJ STREW
Scene Writer

Spring break, along with its shenanigans, is behind us and tense times for the United States lies ahead. Yes, it is high time to buoy spirits, and through what better way than music?

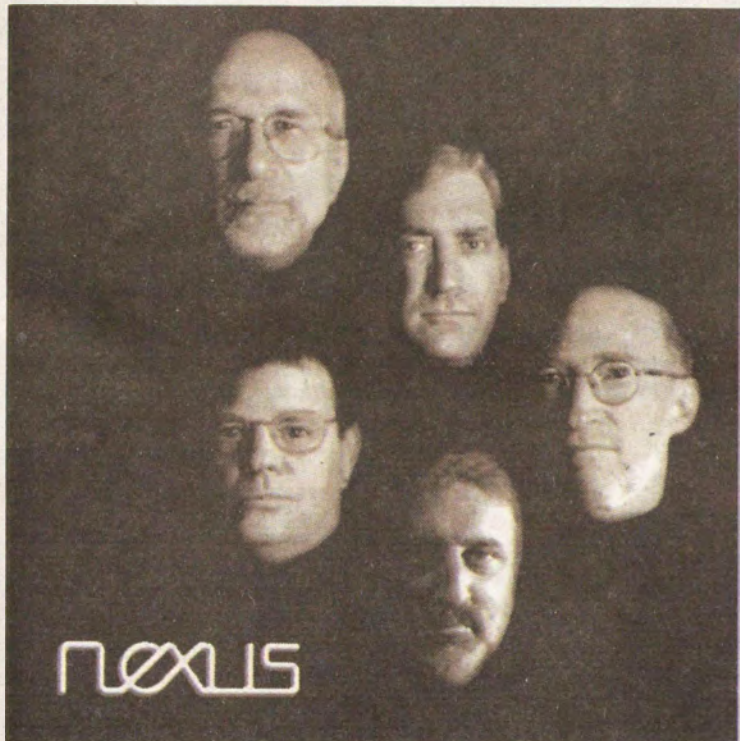


Photo Courtesy of nexuspercussion.com

Bob Becker, William Cahn, Robin Engelman, Russell Hartenberger and Garry Kvistad are NEXUS.

Luckily, this weekend boasts two unique performances: Saturday, world-renowned erhu musician Ma Xiaohui and Sunday, the internationally acclaimed percussion ensemble NEXUS. Now don't fret if these names aren't ringing bells — keep reading.

NEXUS is a five-man set of Canadians comprising "the high priests of the percussion world." Their eclectic repertoire runs the gamut, ranging from ragtime and world music to contemporary pieces, along with group improv and their own compositions. Perhaps more eclectic is their choice of instruments, which includes not only xylophones, marimbas, and, of course, drums, but also common household items. They've toured the world, played with several orchestras, appeared on TV and garnered a bevy of awards, including the Toronto Arts

Award. Those interested in attending a master class given by the group should stop by the Band Building this Saturday, at 3:30 pm.

Ma, of the Shanghai Traditional Chinese Music Orchestra, is considered one of the finest erhu performers in the world. She has showcased her pure and sweet tone, technical virtuosity and nuanced playing in the United States, Canada, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Macao and elsewhere. Her prolific output includes appearances on over 30 CD's, and somehow she has still managed to give over a hundred recitals, while even making time for the occasional lecture concert. Alongside famed cellist Yo-yo Ma, she was also featured in the score for the romantic comedy and martial arts film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

But what, in the name of all that is good and sacred, is an erhu? The erhu is a stringed instrument evolved from the huqin family of fiddle-like instruments, and dates back to 11th-century China, during the Sung dynasty. Since the early 20th century, thanks largely to Liu Tanhua, the erhu has seen much innovation: its silk strings swapped for steel, its one-and-a-half octave range nearly doubled.

So by now it should be supremely clear both shows promise a novel, colorful and rewarding musical experience. In other words, there had better be more than Crowley regulars filling seats. The first show, Ma's recital, will be held Saturday at 6 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium. Tickets will be sold at the entrance: \$3 for students, \$4 for adults, and \$6 for families. NEXUS will hold their concert

Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Annenberg Auditorium. Tickets are already available at the LaFortune Box Office, priced between \$3 and \$10.

Contact BJ Strew at wstrew@nd.edu



Photo Courtesy of George Enderle

Ma Xiaohui is one of the best modern day Chinese erhu soloists.

Taildaters under the Dome

NAACP sponsors an interracial dating forum at Notre Dame

By CHRISTIE BOLSEN
Assistant Scene Editor

As magical as Notre Dame is, there are two big thorns in the side of Our Lady. One of them is the prickly problem of diversity, or lack thereof, and how to address the homogenous appearance of campus. The second pervasive issue and source of many students' lamentations is gender relations, or lack thereof, and how to force healthy relationships on the two sexes.

These issues spark discussion on touchy subjects such as affirmative action, parietais and coed housing, but one look around campus shows that none of these solutions, right or wrong, will solve the two problems.

However, an experiment in interracial dating has fun with what can be strained interactions between races or sexes on campus. Sponsored by the NAACP, which sponsors a dating forum every year, this year's organizers set up participants on dates and then monitored them a la reality shows such as

Blind Date. The daters were paired up based on information provided in questionnaires, responses in interviews, whether they had been on an interracial date before and then on race.

"When talking about diversity in the world it seems like interracial dating is still extremely taboo in some places," Charee Holloway, one of the organizers of the event, said. "We wanted to do something to spark some discussion among students about the issue of interracial dating."

While those behind the event were unsure how much interest would be generated for the forum, the response was excellent. About 80 applicants filled out surveys to participate, and the reaction was very positive.

After people were given dates, they were informed of where they were going. Most of the lucky couples went on classic first dates like dinner or a movie, with the not as conventional addition of a camera capturing their date on film. The participants were taped before, during and after their dates, and it is this footage that will be

viewed by the daters and the audience at the Forum.

"Hopefully, we'll have a good audience and we can have a really great discussion about issues related to interracial dating on campus and elsewhere," Holloway said.

Last year's forum focused on a perspective all students identified with — the effects of music on relationships. This year's president, Teresa Wyatt, wanted to keep with the tradition of finding a familiar topic to bring students together, but had an idea for a new twist.

"I wanted to challenge the Notre Dame student body to break out of their comfort zones and scrutinize their own social and familial relationships. My desire is for students to walk away from this event and learn something valuable," Wyatt said.

While there are plenty of complaints about gender relations or lack of diversity, as well as speculation on the most appropriate and effective cures for these problems, Wyatt thinks this is a unique approach because it exposes students to

an opportunity to actually experience the topics of discussion.

"The philosophy of learning which I subscribe to is Haggard's approach. He says learning is a change in behavior as a result of experience. What better way to learn about another race, ethnicity or culture than to share the experience of dating?" Wyatt said.

While those who attend the forum will be entertained in the way that only reality television can entertain, there is a deeper message in this than in "Joe Millionaire" or "The Bachelorette." It is not only fun, but serves a more educational purpose as well.

"I hope that those involved and who attend this forum realize that discrimination does not solely harm one group, but inadvertently, it affects all of us," Wyatt said. "Starting with each one of us, a great change can occur on this campus, as well as the world."

Contact Christie Bolsen at cbolsen@nd.edu

NCAA BASKETBALL

Holy Cross doesn't go quietly as Marquette advances

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS

Travis Diener was Marquette's third scoring option throughout the regular season.

That all changed Thursday. Diener scored a career-high 29 points and Dwyane Wade added 15 points and 11 assists as the Golden Eagles beat Holy Cross 72-68 in the Midwest Regional to advance to the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in seven years.

"I got a few looks and I took them," Diener said. "It's not like I was looking to take bad shots. They just came."

Holy Cross, seeded 14th, hasn't won an NCAA game since 1953, but for the third straight year it almost pulled off an upset of a higher-ranked team. The Crusaders lost to Kentucky in 2001 by four points and to Kansas last year by 11.

"Our problem is we can't get over that first-game hump," Holy Cross coach Ralph Willard said. "I thought we could be a dangerous team after the first round."

Third-seeded Marquette (24-5) won an opening-round game for the first time since 1996.

Diener, a 6-foot-1 guard who scored 17 points in the first half, gave Marquette the lead for good when he made a 3-pointer with 4:30 remaining.

Diener spent most of the season behind leading scorers Wade and Robert Jackson, who only scored four points. Diener said he was bothered by shin splints, though it wasn't noticeable on the floor.

"I had a couple of days of rest and it felt good last night," Diener said. "I think the rest was the best thing for it."

He bested his previous high of 21 and went 6-for-7 from the 3-point line.

California 76, N.C. State 74

When an Englishman makes a big shot, it's usually on the soccer field, not the basketball courts of the NCAA Tournament.

Consider California freshman Richard Midgley a hoops pioneer.

Midgley, who grew up in Burgess Hill, England, swished

a 3-pointer with 3.9 seconds left in overtime Thursday, sending the Golden Bears to a 76-74 win over North Carolina State in the first round of the East Regional.

The Wolfpack had just taken a 74-73 lead on a Scooter Sherrill's 3-pointer with 12.8 seconds left when Midgley took a pass from Joe Shipp. With the calm of a soccer forward in a World Cup shootout, Midgley buried the shot in the net.

"Guys used to pick on me [in England] because I played basketball, not soccer," said Midgley, who played two years of high school basketball in California. "But I picked the right sport, I guess."

Ninth-seeded North Carolina State had a chance to win the game, but Sherrill missed from the top-of-the key as time expired.

California (22-8), a No. 8 seed, advanced to the second round for the second straight year and will play No. 1 seed Oklahoma on Saturday.

Midgley could have been remembered for two potential game-winning layups that were blocked in the final minute of regulation, when he dared drive the lane.

"If I'm wide open, I'm confident I'm going to hit my shot," said Midgley, who finished with 11 points. "I wasn't worried about what happened earlier in the game."

Neither was Shipp, who led California with a game-high 24 points but turned to Midgley when the game was on the line.

Shipp, who scored California's first four points in overtime, drew two Wolfpack defenders with a move inside before kicking it back out to Midgley.

"He'll get a lot of attention for all the points he scored but there's something about trusting your teammates," California coach Ben Braun said. "He certainly trusted the freshman."

"I tried to create and go to the basket," Shipp said. "I looked up and Richard was wide open and made the play."

Gonzaga 74, Cincinnati 69

Bob Huggins was sent packing, as was his team. Gonzaga, meanwhile, is back to its old tricks at tourney time.

Ronny Turiaf had 22 points, including a school record-tying 16 free throws, and 10 rebounds as ninth-seeded Gonzaga held off late-charging Cincinnati 74-69 Thursday in the West Regional.

"We have a flare for the dramatic," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "They made a run at us and we were lucky to hang on."

His Bulldogs like being underdogs at the NAAs, even if this time they were playing a team slotted just one seed higher.

Gonzaga — which made runs from low seedings to the round of eight in 1999 and round of 16 the next two years — has one first-round loss in the past five tournaments. That came last year, when Gonzaga was seeded sixth and was bounced by No. 11 Wyoming.

The Bulldogs next face top-seeded Arizona in the second round Saturday.

Huggins, meanwhile, wasn't at courtside for Thursday's close finish.

"Coach is everything to us," said Taron Barker, whose 16 points led the Bearcats. "That motivated us, but it hurt us, too, because he would have fired us up."

Connecticut 58, BYU 53

BYU was rallying when Emeka Okafor swatted Rafael Araujo's shot away.

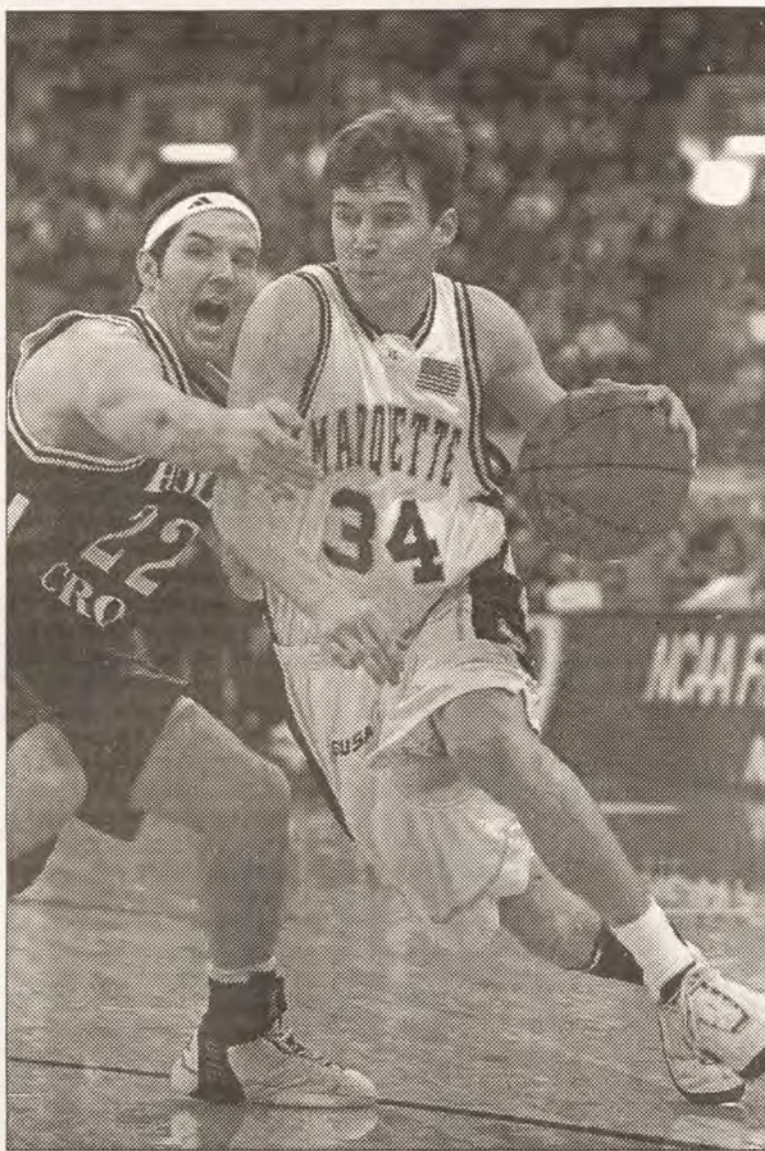
Okafor made sure the Cougars won't bust up anyone's brackets — they're going home early instead.

Okafor controlled both ends of the court, scoring 20 points and blocking seven shots to lead fifth-seeded Connecticut to a 58-53 victory Thursday over No. 12 BYU in the first round of the South Regional.

"He was magnificent," Huskies coach Jim Calhoun said. "He's the best defensive player in the country. He alters games. He alters everything."

The loss by BYU (23-9) avoids a potentially embarrassing situation for the NCAA, which mistakenly put the Cougars in the South, where the Mormon-owned school would have had to play the fourth round on a Sunday.

Because BYU does not play on Sundays, the NCAA would have reshuffled the brackets if the Cougars won their first two games, sending them to the



KRT PHOTO

Marquette's Travis Diener drives to the basket against Mark Jerz of Holy Cross during the first round of NCAA action Thursday at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

Midwest.

UConn (22-9) made it moot and now will play the winner of the San Diego-Stanford game in Saturday's second round.

Ben Gordon added 14 points for the Huskies, who are 11-0 in first-round games under Calhoun.

Travis Hansen scored 21 points and Mark Bigelow added 12 for BYU. But they didn't get much help — no other Cougar made a basket for nearly 20 minutes spanning the first and second half.

Missouri 72, S. Illinois 71

Missouri's Rickey Paulding drove the lane for a chance to hit a game-winning shot. He did, but not the way he planned.

Paulding was fouled on the

drive and hit one of two free throws with 4.1 seconds left and as the sixth-seeded Tigers survived an upset scare Thursday with a 72-71 victory over Southern Illinois in the Midwest Regional.

Kent Williams' potential game-winner from the left wing glanced off the side of the rim at the buzzer.

The 11th-seeded Salukis (24-7) used almost the same script they did a year ago when they reached the round of 16. They stayed close throughout and waited for a chance to win.

The Salukis tied it at 71 on Jermaine Dearman's layup with 25.2 seconds left. But Dearman was called for a blocking foul on Paulding, a call the Salukis believed was questionable.

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NHL

Roy gets 4th shutout of season as Avs defeat Sharks

Associated Press

DENVER

Even without his usual practice, Patrick Roy was perfect.

Roy made 29 saves in his fourth shutout of the season, and 65th of his career, as the Colorado Avalanche beat the San Jose Sharks 2-0 Thursday night in a game postponed 24 hours because of a heavy snowstorm.

"We didn't skate [Wednesday] and then nothing this morning," Roy said. "I just wanted to have a good warmup and make sure I was ready for the start of the game. Making a few good saves at the beginning of the game put me in a groove."

Bates Battaglia and Adam Foote scored for the Avalanche, who snapped a two-game losing streak — their longest since mid-January.

"It was a big two points for us," Foote said. "Having this delay, we were kind of worried how we would start. We hung in there, and Patty made some big saves for us."

Avalanche coach Tony Granato said his team "lost a couple of games over the weekend, and we wanted to get back on the ice as fast as we could to get back in the win column. The bottom line is our goalie played well for us like he has night after night, and we were able to capitalize on the power play and find a way to get two points."

The game was postponed from Wednesday because of a 30-inch snowstorm that paralyzed the Denver area and much of Colorado.

The Sharks agreed to the postponement even though it meant they'll play three games in three nights. They have home games Friday and Saturday against Boston and Anaheim.

Miikka Kiprusoff, starting in goal because Evgeni Nabokov missed his third straight game with a back injury, had 18 saves and allowed both goals before being replaced by Vesa Toskala late in the game.

Sharks coach Ron Wilson

said Kiprusoff "sprained his right knee at some point in the third period, and he couldn't stand. Nabokov practiced this morning and is ready to come back. We'll play all three goalies in the three games."

Blue Jackets 4, Maple Leafs 3

Tyler Wright will never win a hockey skills competition, nor will he ever win style points for his grace on the ice. About all he does is get things done.

Wright scored his third goal of the game off a give-and-go from Ray Whitney with 43.8 seconds left in overtime as the Columbus BlueJackets beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-3 on Thursday night.

"There's really nothing pretty to my game," Wright said after his third career hat trick and second of the season. "I just go to the net and shoot the puck."

Wright, who hadn't scored in 18 games, has a career-high 18 goals this season. Rick Nash also scored for Columbus.

Mats Sundin, Owen Nolan and Aki Berg had goals for Toronto, which is 2-0-2-2 in its last six.

Much of the Maple Leafs' problems stemmed from their 13 penalties resulting in nine Columbus power plays.

"We had a two-goal lead tonight and we gave it up because of penalty situations. We can't continue to have that happen," Toronto coach Pat Quinn said.

Pressed on what he thought about the officiating, Quinn grew angry.

"All I can do is get myself in trouble if I answer the way I feel. I don't intend to pay a fine again," he said.

Wright carried the puck over the blue line until defenseman Robert Svehla confronted him. Wright dropped a pass for Whitney, who split two defenders and fed Wright who was swooping in from the left corner. Wright used his skate to steady the puck and then beat Trevor Kidd to the glove side inside the far post.

"How good was Tyler Wright?" Columbus interim coach Doug MacLean said. "If



REUTERS

Toronto Maple Leafs Robert Reichel tries to sneak the puck around the corner of the goal while Columbus Blue Jackets defender Andrej Nedorst defends during Columbus' 4-3 win.

Tyler wouldn't have scored a goal, he still would have had a great game. He battled and made tremendous plays."

The Leafs forced overtime when Nolan tipped in Sundin's shot with 1:12 left in regulation. Nolan, acquired from San Jose on March 5, has scored six goals and has two assists in six games with the Leafs.

Toronto was making its first appearance ever in Columbus.

Islanders 6, Canadiens 3

Alexei Yashin's biggest game of the season firmed up the New York Islanders' drive to the playoffs — and all but ended Montreal's.

Yashin scored twice and tied a career high with his fifth career five-point game to lead New York to a 6-3 victory over the Canadiens on Thursday night.

After getting just eight points in his previous 22 games, Yashin set up goals by Arron Asham and Oleg Kvasha before scoring his 17th and 18th goals of the season in the second. He set up Dave Scatchard's empty-net goal for his third assist of the game.

"I feel very good about it, but most importantly we got the win," Yashin said. "I'm more happy about that than scoring five points. It's not something I haven't done before."

"It's always nice to score some goals and make some plays, but the best thing is to get these two points and hopefully we can eliminate the Montreal Canadiens from fighting for a playoff spot."

Jason Blake also scored and Garth Snow made 32 saves for New York, which got its 78th point to tie Boston for seventh in the East.

Donald Audette, Andreas Dackell and Jason Ward scored for Montreal, which lost its third straight and is winless in its last seven home games.

The Canadiens recognized that their playoff hopes all but disappeared with the loss as they fell eight points behind the Islanders with seven games — one less than New York — left.

"It's not impossible, but in a way it is," Canadiens captain Saku Koivu said.

A significant portion of the sold-out Bell Centre crowd of 21,273 booed throughout the singing of the Star Spangled Banner before the game.

"I'm sure there are a lot of people against the war, but some things people can't control," the Russian-born Yashin said. "They were probably showing what they feel about it."

His American teammates had a much more emotional reaction to the anti-war display.

"Obviously, it's rather upsetting," said forward Mark Parrish, a native of Bloomington, Minn. "I came to the game pretty pumped up but once I heard that, that really got me going so I guess I can maybe thank them a little bit for getting me pumped up."

Flyers 4, Penguins 2

John LeClair scored twice, including the go-ahead goal in the third period, as the

Philadelphia Flyers beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-2 on Thursday night and moved into a first-place tie in the Atlantic Division.

Eric Desjardins and Tony Amonte also scored and Mark Recchi had three assists for Philadelphia, which is tied with New Jersey with 93 points.

Mathias Johansson had a goal and an assist and Rico Fata also scored for the Penguins, who blew a 2-0 lead and fell to 0-13-1 in their last 14. It is Pittsburgh's longest winless streak since its franchise-record 0-17-1 slump in the 1982-83 season.

LeClair broke a 2-2 tie at 7:36 of the third period when he fought off a check and one-timed the puck over Sebastien Caron. Amonte made it 4-2 when he scored on a deflection with 2:40 left.

Fata scored on the Penguins' first shot, 13 seconds in, when he beat Robert Esche with a wrist shot. Esche survived a shaky start to make 21 saves.

Johansson, who assisted on Fata's goal, made it 2-0 at 4:06, scoring on a power play in a wild scramble in front of the net.

Desjardins got the Flyers back to within one goal at 9:43 of the period with a one-timer from the right circle after Recchi threaded a pass from the back boards.

LeClair tied it at 12:01 of the second, on a shot from the side that slid through the legs of Caron, who faced 32 shots.

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MLB

Washington, Portland attempt to lure Expos

Associated Press

PHOENIX

Washington offered to pay between 50 and 80 percent of the cost of a new ballpark for the Montreal Expos, and Portland said government financing would cover \$300 million for a stadium if the team moves to Oregon.

The District of Columbia and Portland made their presentations Thursday to baseball's committee on the future of the Expos, who were bought before the 2002 season by the other 29 clubs. Northern Virginia is to address the committee Friday.

All of the top government officials originally scheduled to attend canceled their travel plans, citing the war in Iraq. But Washington Mayor Anthony Williams and D.C. Council chairman Linda Cropp addressed the committee by video teleconference.

Bob DuPuy, baseball's No. 2 official, said the committee kept to its schedule "to get it done as rapidly as we can." DuPuy declined to discuss details of the presentations, citing the arrival of the Northern Virginia delegation Friday.

"Both groups were thorough and very well prepared," DuPuy said, adding that the committee will review the presentations and consult with baseball commissioner Bud Selig.

Eric Price, Washington's deputy mayor for economic development, and City Councilman Harold Brazil led their delegation at Bank One Ballpark. Price said legislators would attempt to enact legislation to fund a ballpark by July, baseball's target for making a decision on the future on the Expos. The District also would need Congressional approval for funding, which would include a tax on the salaries of players.

"We walked through a legislative process for them," Price said. "They did ask about that and we told them what it would be."

Washington officials presented research that a team in the nation's capital would not hurt the Baltimore Orioles, who play at Camden Yards, about 40 miles away. They also discussed potential attendance and sales, and they stressed the draw of the capital's cultural and nightlife, and its extensive transportation system.

"We think we showed there is a minimum impact on the Orioles, both from a fan base and a corporate base," Price said.

Bobby Goldwater, chairman of the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission, said after the 2 1/2-hour presentation that Washington officials hoped the committee would tour five potential sites for the ballpark. Washington hopes to build a \$400 million stadium, and two of the potential sites are within blocks of the U.S.

Capitol.

Portland's David Kahn, leader of the Oregon Stadium Campaign, said his group presented details of about seven ballpark sites and discussed financing.

"I think we all understand they have to be somewhat noncommittal about it," Kahn said.

David Logsdon, Portland's spectator facilities manager, presented a draft financing plan for a \$350 million ballpark that would be built with \$150 million from the state and \$150 million from the city, which would raise its money through a hotel and ticket tax and a charter seat program.

"No public votes would be required," Logsdon said.

FENCING

Opinions on delays differ

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. It turned out the first opponent for Notre Dame wasn't defending national champion Penn State or regional rival Ohio State, but Old Man Winter.

When the Irish did get to Colorado Springs, Colo., Wednesday, they found the 2003 NCAA Championships pushed back to the weekend.

And that could be a good thing, or a bad thing, depending on whom you ask.

"I think it's a good thing because the coaches believe it will relieve some stress for the girls," senior foil captain Ozren Debic said. "It will take some pressure off them to wrap it up after the first two days."

"I'm not happy with it at all," junior sabre Maggie Jordan said. "After the guys would have

competed on Thursday and Friday, we would have known where we stood. Now we will just be in a gray area all day and it could throw off some girls."

"It will add pressure because you don't know how hard you have to fence."

The original schedule called for the mens competition to take place Thursday and Friday with the women to follow Saturday and Sunday. With the rescheduling, the competition has been squeezed into two days.

The first four rounds of both the mens and womens bouts will be Saturday with the last three rounds, individual championships and crowning of the national champion Sunday.

A blizzard, called the worst to hit the area since 1913, dumped up to five feet of snow on the area Monday and Tuesday and shut down the Air Force Academy and Denver Airport. It

forced half of the Irish squad into some interesting travel plans.

The mens team left South Bend Tuesday afternoon and flew into St. Louis. Their flight into Colorado Springs was cancelled, forcing the Irish to spend the night in the Gateway City. To get into Colorado Springs, the Irish flew to Dallas Wednesday to get a connecting flight.

Meanwhile, the womens team left Wednesday, flew into St. Louis and had no problems flying into Colorado Springs.

Notre Dame and Ohio State are the only schools to qualify 12 fencers for the NCAA Championships. Defending champion Penn State qualified 11.

If the Irish win the title, it will be their first championship since 1994.

Contact Matt Lozar at
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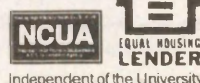
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MENS LACROSSE

No. 11 Irish hit the road

Special to The Observer

The mens lacrosse team will look to snap a two-game losing streak with two games this weekend in Hempstead, N.Y. The Irish, currently 3-2 on the season, are ranked 11th in both the USILA and Warrior/Inside Lacrosse polls this week.

Notre Dame will be facing its sixth straight ranked opponent when the Irish meet the Pride Friday. Notre Dame has played one of the nation's toughest schedules as the Irish have played five ranked opponents to date.

Hofstra enters Friday's contest with a 2-2 record and is ranked, while Hartford is 2-1. Both the Pride and Hawks are members of the America East Conference.

After starting the season 3-0, Notre Dame has dropped its last two contests. Notre Dame's most recent setback was a 9-8 loss at home to Loyola. Notre Dame has posted two road wins this season — at Penn State 10-9 and at North Carolina 10-8.

The Irish are led in scoring by junior Matt Howell's 11 goals and 11 assists. Howell has become an offensive threat for Notre Dame every time he handles the ball. He played in just three games last season because of an injury. Freshman Patrick Walsh stands second in the scoring column with seven goals

and seven assists, while last season's top scorer, junior Dan Berger has scored 11 goals.

Another rookie, Matt Karweck is also among the team's scoring leaders with six goals and one assist.

Notre Dame's defensive unit has been solid this season with a 9.00 goals against average. The Irish boast great experience with two-year starter Eric Simon and Mickey Blum.

Stewart Crosland has started all five games in goal for the Irish. He has played all but two of a possible 300 minutes and owns a 9.06 goals against average and .609 save percentage.

Hostra is 2-2 on the season and is coming off of an 18-5 loss to Princeton. The Pride is tied for 15th in this week's USILA poll and is ranked 14th in the Warrior/Inside Lacrosse ranking. Hofstra opened up the season with a 10-4 loss against Loyola in the season opener and then came back to post wins over Binghamton 15-5 and Cornell 13-5.

Hartford owns a 2-1 record following its most recent outing as it posted a 15-9 victory over Holy Cross. The Hawks earned a 6-5 win against Marist in their season opener and dropped a 9-3 decision on the road at Harvard.

The Irish will face off against the Pride Friday at 7:30 p.m. and then will meet the Hartford Hawks on Sunday at noon.

WOMENS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Irish send competitors to NCAA Championships

Special to The Observer

The Notre Dame womens swimming and diving team began competition at the 2003 NCAA Championship meet in Auburn, Ala., Thursday afternoon.

Competing in preliminary races were juniors Lisa Garcia and Marie Labosky in the 200 individual medley and junior Danielle Hulick in the 50-meter freestyle.

Garcia and Labosky were competing for the second year in a row in the NCAA Championships in the 200-meter individual medley.

Garcia bested her finish in last year's meet of a time of 2:02.21, finishing in a time of 2:01.58 and placing 22nd. Labosky finished in a time of 2:03.23 and finished in 39th place. Hulick, finished 40th in the 50-meter freestyle and finished in a time of 23.35.

Friday, Labosky will hit the pool again in the 400-meter individual medley, while Garcia will compete in the 100-meter butterfly.

In addition, Friday will also see Hulick swim in the 100-meter backstroke and junior Meghan Perry-Eaton on the three-meter board.

On the last day of competition, Saturday, Hulick and Labosky will swim in the 200-meter backstroke and Garcia will compete in the 200-meter butterfly.

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This Weekend in the Department of Music

Thursday/Friday March 20-21: Notre Dame Glee Club

Daniel Stowe, director

8:00 pm, Washington Hall

Thursday's concert free, Friday's concert \$3

Saturday, March 22, 2003

A Student Recital

Mary Catherine Levri, organ

8:00 pm, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Free and open to the public

Sunday, March 23, 2003

NEXUS Percussion Ensemble

2:00 pm, Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum of Art

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Monday, March 24, 2003

A Graduate Degree Recital

Ivana Sabanošová

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AROUND THE NATION

page 20

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

Friday, March 21, 2003

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Philadelphia	40-26	.606	8-2	-
New Jersey	41-27	.603	4-6	2
Boston	38-30	.559	5-5	5
Orlando	35-33	.515	6-4	8
Washington	32-35	.478	4-6	10 1/2
New York	30-38	.441	5-5	13
Miami	21-47	.309	2-8	22

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Detroit	42-24	.636	6-5	-
Indiana	40-28	.588	3-7	3
New Orleans	39-30	.565	7-3	4 1/2
Milwaukee	33-35	.485	5-5	10
Atlanta	27-42	.391	5-5	16 1/2
Chicago	24-45	.348	3-7	19 1/2
Toronto	21-45	.318	3-7	21
Cleveland	12-55	.179	1-9	30 1/2

Western Conference, Midwest Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Dallas	51-16	.761	7-3	-
San Antonio	47-19	.712	8-2	3 1/2
Minnesota	44-26	.629	5-5	8 1/2
Utah	39-29	.574	6-4	12 1/2
Houston	35-32	.522	5-5	16
Memphis	25-42	.375	7-3	26
Denver	14-54	.206	2-8	37 1/2

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Sacramento	47-21	.691	7-3	-
Portland	44-24	.647	6-4	3
LA Lakers	38-28	.576	7-3	8
Phoenix	35-32	.522	5-5	11 1/2
Golden State	33-35	.485	5-5	14
Seattle	31-36	.463	5-5	15 1/2
LA Clippers	22-46	.321	3-7	25

Baseball Polls

Baseball America

team
1 Rice
2 Georgia Tech
3 Arizona State
4 Florida State
5 Long Beach State
6 Cal State Fullerton
7 Stanford
8 Baylor
9 Texas
10 Richmond
11 Auburn
12 Mississippi State
13 Wake Forest
14 South Carolina
15 Nebraska
16 Louisiana State
17 Clemson
18 Miami
19 NOTRE DAME
20 Texas A&M
21 Alabama
22 Arkansas
23 Kansas
24 Florida Atlantic
25 Tulane

Coaches

team
1 Arizona State
2 Florida State
3 Georgia Tech
4 Rice
5 Cal State Fullerton
6 Stanford
7 Long Beach State
8 Texas
9 Baylor
10 South Carolina
11 Auburn
12 Mississippi State
13 Richmond
14 Alabama
15 Miami
16 Clemson
17 Wake Forest
18 Nebraska
19 Texas A&M
20 Arkansas
21 Florida
22 Louisiana State
23 Texas Tech
24 Kansas
25 NOTRE DAME

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Opening Round NCAA Tournament
Kentucky vs. IUPUI 12:30 p.m., CBS
LSU vs. Purdue 2:50 p.m., CBS
MSU vs. Colorado 7:10 p.m., CBS
Indiana vs. Alabama 9:30 p.m., CBS

NBA

Timberwolves at Spurs 8 p.m., ESPN
Wizards at Suns 10:30 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Curtis Conway is presented with a Jets jersey by quarterback Chad Pennington and coach Herman Edwards at a press conference Thursday at the Jets facility at Hofstra. The wide receiver was signed to a three-year deal.

N.Y. Jets replace Coles with Conway

Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.

The New York Jets want Curtis Conway simply to be himself. He doesn't have to replace Laveranues Coles.

"I like tough guys," Jets coach Herman Edwards said as he introduced the wide receiver Thursday. "You can't be a sissy. You've got to be a tough guy to do the things we require our receivers to do. He'll do a lot of good things for us."

The timing of the signing made it difficult not to view Conway as the Jets' replacement for Coles. It came a day after the team

announced it would not match the \$13 million signing bonus and \$35 million contract Coles got from the Washington Redskins.

Conway came considerably cheaper, a three-year deal that could pay as much as \$7.5 million with a signing bonus of \$1.2 million.

"I'm going to be me," Conway said. "I came in to do my job. I'm going to give you 100 percent of Curtis Conway. We all know this is a business. I'm blessed to be here in a great situation with a play-off team."

Conway caught 57 passes for 852 yards for San Diego last season, but was released by the Chargers last month after they signed David Boston. The Jets became a perfect fit for him after Coles was swept away by the Redskins.

Quarterback Chad Pennington was at the press conference announcing Conway's contract and hugged his new teammate.

"I wanted to come here," Conway said. "They have a great quarterback and a great coaching staff. I like Chad's attitude and poise on the field."

Pennington becomes the ninth quarterback for Conway in 11 seasons. He spent seven years with Chicago after being the Bears' No. 1 draft choice in 1993. Then he moved to the Chargers for three years.

"It's routine," Conway said. "I never had the same quarterback twice. Over the years, I'm used to it. You've still got to go out and make plays. It doesn't matter who's throwing the football."

That revolving door figures to end with the Jets, who are committed to Pennington as their long term quarterback.

IN BRIEF

Artest suspended again for flagrant foul

Another flagrant foul, another suspension for Ron Artest.

The Indiana Pacers' swingman was banned for two games Thursday, raising the total of games he's missed because of NBA punishment this season to 10.

This time, the league upheld a flagrant foul call on Artest just five seconds into Wednesday night's game against Boston, calling for an automatic two-game suspension for exceeding the limit on flagrant-foul points.

Boston's Paul Pierce went up for a layup after the opening tip and was slapped hard on the head from behind by Artest. As the referees signaled a flagrant foul, Artest stood impassively with his arm raised above his head.

It was the eighth flagrant foul called against Artest this season. He has been suspended twice already

for exceeding the five-point limit on flagrant-foul points. Artest will be suspended two games for every flagrant foul for the rest of the season.

He also was suspended by the Pacers for one game this season for smashing a framed picture of himself after a home loss.

Artest loses about \$21,000 in salary every game he's forced to sit out.

In early January, Artest was suspended for three games without pay and fined \$35,000 for hurling a television monitor and smashing a camera after a loss in New York.

Later that month, he was suspended for four games without pay for a run-in with Heat coach Pat Riley and for flashing an obscene gesture toward the crowd in Miami.

One of the league's best defenders, and averaging 15.2 points and 2.17 steals, Artest is testing the patience of his teammates with his suspensions.

Defendants sentenced in betting scandal

The mastermind behind the betting scam that nearly produced a \$3 million payoff at the Breeders' Cup ended up with the least amount of jail time possible — a year and a day.

Computer programmer Chris Harn, who worked for a company that processes horse racing bets, could have received more than seven years in prison if he had not helped authorities, Judge Charles Briant said.

Co-defendant Glen DaSilva was sentenced to two years in prison and Derrick Davis received three years.

The former fraternity brothers tried to pull off the Pick Six betting coup during the Breeders' Cup last October. The three men, all 29, have been out on bail since pleading guilty. They were members of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity at Drexel in Philadelphia in the 1990s.

WOMENS ROWING

Ann Arbor lake conditions move races to South Bend

Special to the Observer

The Notre Dame womens rowing team will continue the spring season Saturday at home against Michigan. The races will take place in South Bend on the St. Joseph's River instead of at the University of Michigan as originally scheduled due to poor lake

conditions in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Irish head coach Martin Stone is still working on his crews for Saturday as they will be race-time decisions.

Notre Dame is looking to build upon its success during the 2002 season in which the varsity eight qualified for the NCAA Championships, hoping the whole team will be invited to the 2003 regatta.

Notre Dame took advantage of the fall season by trying some new boating combinations and getting the younger rowers some experience in preparation for the spring season.

The Irish opened the fall season by taking two of the top four positions in the varsity eight race at the Milwaukee River Challenge in Milwaukee, Wis.

Notre Dame then returned

home for a two-day regatta versus Kansas where the Irish took two of the top three positions in the varsity four race and finished 1-2-3 in the varsity eight. The Irish continued their successful fall season at the Head of the Ohio as they won two races, including the open four and the club four. The Irish also were fourth in the open eight and took third through sixth places in the

pairs race.

The Irish varsity team closed out its fall season by taking third, fifth and seventh in the open eight race, while the fours were first and third at the Head of the Rock Regatta in Rockford, Ill.

The next week, Notre Dame's varsity four and varsity pair placed third, while the novice eight was fourth at the Head of the Grand in East Lansing, Mich.

ND SOFTBALL

Irish enter second half of season, prepare for Big East



FILE PHOTO/The Observer

Irish sophomore Megan Ciolli takes a swing during a game last season at Ivy Field. Notre Dame (8-9) will face Western Michigan (8-9) in a doubleheader Sunday.

♦ Western Michigan hosts Notre Dame in doubleheader

Special to the Observer

The Irish softball team returns to the Midwest this weekend to begin the second part of its season. The Irish have completed their pre-season tournament schedule with an 8-9 record and will now focus on regional matchups and the Big East Conference schedule. Notre Dame will take on Western Michigan Sunday in Kalamazoo with a doubleheader at noon and 2 p.m.

Notre Dame and Western Michigan will be meeting for the 16th and 17th time on Sunday. The Irish lead the all-time series 11-4 and have won four in a row over the Broncos. The last meeting occurred in 2001, an 8-0 victory by the Irish at Ivy Field.

Western Michigan is also 8-9 this season and boasts wins over Illinois and Virginia Tech. The Broncos are hitting a solid .302 as a team, led by Kelly Barnett's .413 average and Mario McCarthy's .320 average and 13 RBIs. The Broncos' pitching staff is led by Leah Seffernick who owns a 6-2 record and 2.58 ERA, but five different pitchers have seen action this season.

The Irish are hoping to follow the pattern of play estab-

lished last season. Notre Dame returned from Spring Break last year with an 8-12 record, but rebounded to win 36 of its final 41 games and finish one game away from the Womens College World Series.

The Irish also won 14 games in a row after coming back to the Midwest after break in 2002.

This season, Notre Dame brings an 8-9 record into the second part of its season.

The Irish begin Big East Conference competition on Saturday, March 29, against Pittsburgh.

Not only did the weather play havoc with last weekend's Kia Klassic, cancelling the last two days of competition, but the team was struck by a strep throat virus last week as well.

At one time, six Irish players were affected by the illness, forcing first-team all-Big East honorees Andrea Loman, Steffany Stenglein and Megan Ciolli out of the line up at different times.

The cancellation of the Kia Klassic tournament games allowed the team to get back early from the West Coast and get in a full week of rest before taking on Western Michigan this Sunday.

The Irish square off with the Broncos for a twin bill Sunday starting at noon at Western Michigan's Fran Ebert Field in Kalamazoo, Mich.

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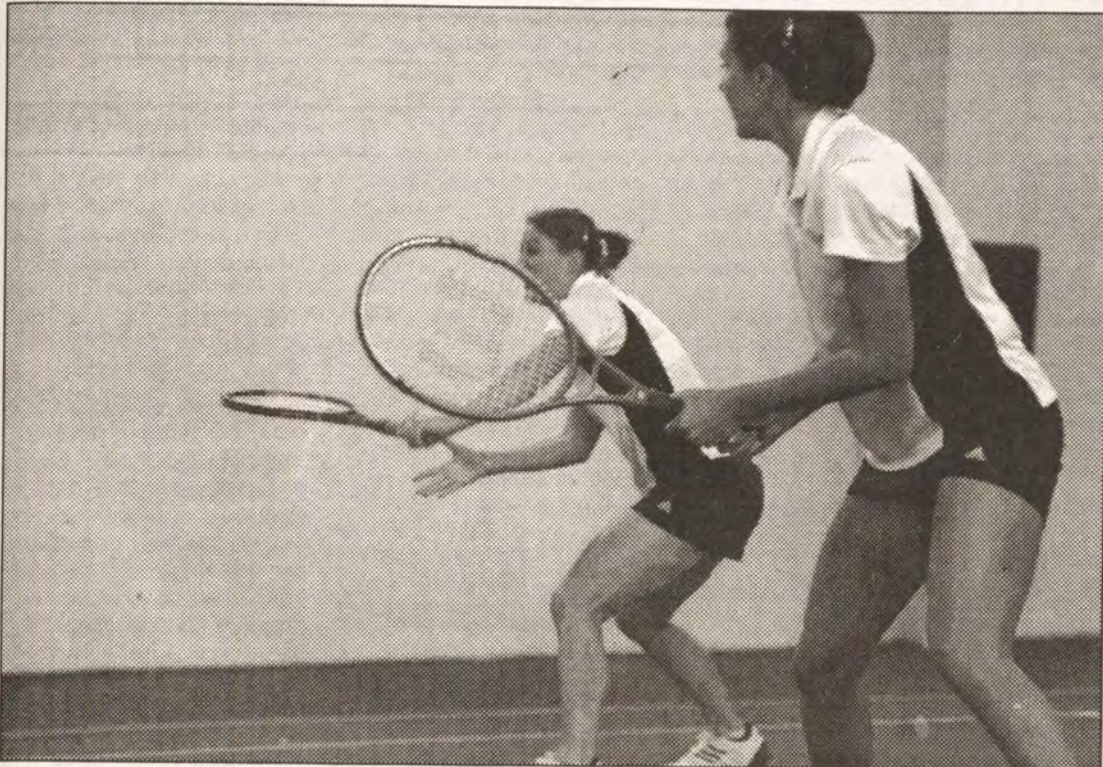
Next Week's schedule:

Tuesday: Walsh Hall
Wednesday: Badin Hall
Thursday: Howard Hall
Friday: Morrissey Hall

For more info or to help with the Rosary for Peace, contact Kelly Rich @ 1-3390.

ND WOMENS TENNIS

Irish commence 4-match homestand as season nears end



FILE PHOTO/The Observer

Irish senior Katie Cunha and junior Alicia Salas play doubles together during a match last fall at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. No. 27 Notre Dame hosts unranked Iowa today.

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sports Writer

With the end of the regular season approaching, the Irish begin a four-match homestand today that is full of tough competition.

Today's match against Iowa will likely be the easiest of the next four for the Irish, but Notre Dame, 5-2, will then host No. 13 William & Mary Sunday, No. 28 Michigan Tuesday and No. 54 Purdue Wednesday.

After their spring break loss to No. 7 Arizona State in their first outdoor match of the season, the Irish dropped from 15th to 27th in the rankings. The Irish began the week with a 4-3 win over No. 49 Brigham Young.

Notre Dame is the next stop on a tough schedule for Iowa. The Hawkeyes have already seen a good amount of tough competition — competition that it has not been able to handle.

Currently 3-7 on the season and 1-2 in the Big Ten, the

Hawkeyes have seen defeat at the hands of No. 11 Vanderbilt, No. 15 South Alabama, No. 19 Illinois and No. 26 Georgia Tech. Iowa's three wins have come against non-ranked teams Purdue, Marquette and most recently, New Orleans last Sunday.

Sunday's competition is likely to be more formidable for the Irish as they face William & Mary, 12-4 overall and undefeated in the Colonial Athletic Conference. Before meeting the Irish, the Tribe will face off against the Hawkeyes Saturday.

While Notre Dame's schedule has not been easy, William & Mary's has been even more challenging.

Each of William & Mary's losses came to teams ranked among the top eight nationally: No. 2 Stanford, No. 3 California, No. 7 Arizona State and No. 8 North Carolina.

Contact Joe Lindsley at
jlindsle@nd.edu

Paleontologist Paul Sereno has encountered some of the weirdest creatures that ever walked the earth. Yet some of the scariest things he's discovered aren't likely to become extinct anytime soon. Sad to say, mutual fund management fees will probably outlast us all. That's why Dr. Sereno **was afraid of getting eaten alive.** So he turned to a company famous for keeping the costs down. That meant more money for him and less for the monsters.

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Happy 21st Birthday, Justin!

Love,
Dad, Mom & Rachel



Irish

continued from page 28

team," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "A few times, we were back on our heels, but we stepped up and made big plays."

Irish center Torin Francis had a phenomenal game by scoring a career-high 23 points on 7-for-11 shooting and pulling down 14 rebounds. He also hit 9-of-10 free throws for the Irish.

But it was Thomas, who played high school at Pike in Indianapolis that made the biggest plays when his Irish needed it the most. The 6-foot-1 guard became the floor general for the Irish against the Panthers, especially after Carroll went down with a turned ankle.

"Fortunately, for us I had a good game and I made some good plays down there near the end and put us in a position to win," Thomas said. "I felt that the leadership needed to be picked up, and I was out there talking to guys, and that's what it took for us to win the game."

After the game, Brey was very pleased with his point guard's play, especially his aggressiveness.

"That was a great example, in the second half, of riding a player," Brey said. "If you take away his dangerousness and aggressiveness, we're not as good of a basketball team."

The Irish win was plagued by turnovers and foul trouble. Notre Dame had 20 turnovers against the Panther's press, and the teams also combined for 44 fouls in the game.

The Panthers jumped out to a 12-7 lead before the Irish tied it at 12-12 at the 9:26 mark of the first half. Notre Dame began to distance themselves from Wisconsin-Milwaukee by taking a 29-22 lead on a Thomas jumper with 1:00 remaining in the half.

But the Panthers' tied the game at half when Page hit a jumper, Ronnie Jones knocked down a 3-pointer and Justin Lettenberger made a layup at the buzzer to make the score 29-29.

The lead changed several times in the first eight minutes of the second half before the Irish took a 48-40 lead when Thomas nailed a jumper. But Wisconsin-Milwaukee wouldn't go

away, using a 10-0 run to take a 50-48 lead with 10:07 left in the game.

Notre Dame then went on their own 7-0 run, aided by a Thomas 3-pointer, and regained a 55-50 edge.

Irish forward Dan Miller hit a jumper with 4:48 remaining to give Notre Dame a 64-61 lead. Jones came back with a layup to cut the lead to one, before Notre Dame's Jordan Cornette knocked down a clutch 3-pointer from the left corner to give the Irish a 67-63 lead with 3:31 left.

With the Panthers down two, guard Jason Federick drilled a 3-pointer to give Wisconsin-Milwaukee a 69-68 lead.

The Panthers had a chance to put Notre Dame away late, but Page missed a jumper with two minutes left and a 1-foot layup a minute later.

Notre Dame made the Panthers pay when Francis put back a Cornette miss to give Notre Dame a 70-69 lead with 33 seconds to play.

Wisconsin-Milwaukee had one last chance when Clay Tucker drove to the basket, drew a triple team then dished the ball to Page who couldn't convert the lay-up.

The Irish, who had struggled with their defense late in the season, held the Panthers to only 34.4 percent shooting and 69 points, nearly 10 under their average.

The Irish will now face the Big Ten Tournament Champion Illini, perhaps, without their star Carroll. His ankle sprain

leaves him questionable for Saturday's game.

"He was just running off a screen offensively, but he just rolled his ankle pretty good," Brey said. "Thank God we don't play tomorrow so we have a chance to get him ready. We're working around the clock to get him ready for Saturday."

For now, Brey just wanted to focus on his teams play, especially down the stretch.

"We did things and believed we were going to find a way to get it done and that's what our team has been most of the year," Brey said.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

Co-stars

continued from page 28

the court in jubilation, and the Irish kept dancing in March.

Forget about dodging a bullet. The Irish escaped the whole clip.

They did so because, when their star was saddled first by foul trouble and then by an injury, every other Irish player elevated their game.

Forward Jordan Cornette drilled a key 3-pointer — just his sixth of the season — at a crucial juncture in the second half. Thomas virtually carried the Irish in latter stages of the game by burying unbelievable shots.

Dan Miller turned in another sensational defensive performance. Torrian Jones

helped shut down the Panthers despite playing most of the second half with four fouls.

"When you do that without your star," Thomas said, "it says a lot about the guys on your team."

As good as everyone else on Notre Dame's team played, the Irish wouldn't be playing Saturday were it not for the efforts of Torin Francis.

Normally, freshmen enter their first NCAA Tournament game with a deer-in-the-headlights look. Instead it was the rest of the Irish who appeared to wither early

under the glare of a tournament spotlight, while the freshman took over early.

So Francis started the game by scoring his team's first seven points. He finished it by ripping the ball out of Cornette's hands and scoring the game-winning layup with 33 seconds left.

"I didn't do it intentionally, I was just going after the ball" the soft-spoken freshman grinned, adding later. "Sometimes things just happen. I just wanted to win."

In between his first three baskets and his season-saving final one, Francis played 37 minutes, grabbed 14

rebounds, made 9-of-10 free throws and had two blocks.

His performance left Wisconsin-Milwaukee coach Bruce Pearl shaking his head in the post-game

interview room, thinking back to what he told his team before the game.

"I told the team before the game he was the key, and we did not do a good job guarding him," Pearl said. "He was a huge factor in their victory."

Normally, opposing coaches walk into interview rooms saying Carroll or Thomas made the difference, not Notre Dame's relatively raw freshman.

But with long-range shots not falling and his team needing him the most, Francis stepped up his game to make sure the Irish kept stepping

through the tournament.

The ironic thing was that the Irish entered the game saying they needed to focus playing the same way they had all season. Against the Panthers, the Irish couldn't have played any more different.

Carroll spent what could have been the final game of his career on the bench. The Irish held an opponent to under 30 points in the first half for the first time since the Ice Age. Notre Dame's victory was truly a team victory.

"It wasn't our stereotypical win," Jones said. "I'm not going to argue and break it down because we won the game. Guys had the desire and will to win the game."

Then again, maybe the signs of Notre Dame's success were obvious when the team walked on the court. The players had their heads shaved, they wore brand-new sneakers, and they wore gold uniforms for the first time all season.

"Everybody said we couldn't win because everything was so new, we should stick to what we were doing," Thomas said. "But since we got away from the Big East, we have a new mindset. It's a new season."

Thanks to Notre Dame's heroics without Carroll, that season continues.

The opinions of this column are those of the author and not necessarily The Observer.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu.

	COACHING	STYLE OF PLAY	POST PLAYERS	PERIMETER PLAYERS	BENCH	INTANGIBLES
NOTRE DAME	A Brey-coached Notre Dame team has never made it to the second weekend of the tournament, but that isn't necessarily a knock on the third-year Irish coach who has lots of tourney experience.	All season long, the perimeter has carried Notre Dame, and there's no reason that won't continue. But the Irish have had a lot of problems on defense — problems they solved in the first-round game.	Francis picked a good time of the year to start playing his best basketball. He had two solid games in the Big East Tournament and Thursday night and is quickly establishing himself as Notre Dame's most reliable post player.	Carroll and Thomas form arguably one of the best backcourts in the nation. If he's healthy, Carroll plays his best basketball in the postseason. Miller gives the Irish a reliable defensive presence.	The Irish simply lack the depth they've had in previous seasons, but that doesn't mean they don't have options. Jones and Quinn have been reliable all season long, and the Irish will badly need them come Saturday.	Nobody on the Irish save Miller has advanced to the Sweet Sixteen, and the Irish are eager to snap that streak. Also, the Irish haven't gotten much respect, and that's made them a little unhappy.
ILLINOIS	In three years with the Illini, Bill Self has led his teams to a 77-23 record, including an Elite Eight and Sweet Sixteen appearance. He also led Tulsa to the Elite Eight in 2000.	Illinois plays a suffocating defense that hampers driving guards while beating opponents on the offensive end with their big men. They rely on multiple complicated offensive sets to generate points.	Cook, the Big Ten Player of the Year, is a force to be reckoned with in the paint. He averages 20.1 points and 7.2 rebounds a game and is often the Illini's first scoring option. Powell is also reliable inside.	Brown, the freshman point guard, has unbelievable quickness that helped earn him second-team All-Big Ten honors. Harrington is the team's best 3-point shooter.	One of the deepest teams the Irish have faced all year, the Illini have 10 people who started at one time or the other during the year. They can generate points, too.	The Illini start two freshmen and two sophomores, but the team has a horde of reliable veterans off the bench. And if Thursday night is any indication, Illinois might have more fans than the Irish.
ANALYSIS	The two coaches, both close friends, are coaching equals. Both established themselves at new schools in relatively short periods of time. Self has had more success only because he started with more.	On paper, the Illini appear to have an advantage over the Irish thanks to their inside game. But Western Kentucky exposed the Illini's weakness on the perimeter, something the Irish could exploit.	Notre Dame, who has had trouble getting reliable production from the post all season, won't be able to handle the veteran Cook. Francis, while he has potential, is too raw to handle the powerful senior forward.	Both team's defenses will have trouble containing the other's offense. Notre Dame has the range to connect on 3-pointers frequently, while the Illini have the quickness to penetrate the Irish defense.	When Notre Dame's subs come into the game, it's often to give the starters a quick break. The Illini, meanwhile, can run bodies at the Irish all afternoon.	Notre Dame is good enough to hang with the Illini, just few people believe it. But the Illini are just as anxious to return to the second weekend. The neutral court will be just that — neutral.

ND WOMENS BASKETBALL

Battle-tested Irish feel prepared as tournament begins

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

They won their first four games before getting blown out by DePaul.

They reeled off three more victories until Tennessee drilled them by 16.

Then there was the month of January where they lost all four games at home.

Nothing's been easy for Notre Dame this season. From having a player quit the team to winning eight of their last 11 games, the Irish have had their fair share of highs and lows.

But that's exactly why the Irish may be a dangerous team in the NCAA Tournament.

When you've handled as much difficulty as Notre Dame this season, you become tougher. And the tournament is all about being mentally and physically tough.

"We've definitely faced a lot of adversity this year, and we've definitely come through it well," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Nothing that happens in Kansas this weekend should shake the Irish. Besides freshmen Meghan Duffy and Courtney LaVere, everyone else has experience in the tournament.

Alicia Ratay, Karen Swanson and La'Tania Severe know what it's like to win a national championship. All three were on the 2001 Irish team that won the national title.

The five sophomores played two games in the tourney last

season, including a game in Knoxville, Tenn. They've been there before and know what to expect this season.

"We all have two NCCA Tournament games under our belts," McGraw said.

"Everybody's been in that situation. We've been in some tough environments in big games. I think we're battle-tested, and I don't expect us to play any differently in this situation."

Arizona, Notre Dame's first opponent, isn't a perennial tournament team. They don't have as much experience as the Irish, and their best player, Shawntinice Polk, has never played in a tour-

nament game.

Notre Dame's toughness and experience in road games against Tennessee and Connecticut will also help them if they face Kansas State in the second round. The Wildcats, who are hosting the four-team regional, are a perfect 18-0 at home this season.

"I think [our tough season and experience] could help us in the tournament," Irish center Teresa Borton said. "We struggled and came back and won some games after that struggle. If we've learned from that, when we're down, we can be like, 'We can come back from this because we [struggled] in January and came back.'"

Another factor in Notre Dame's corner is being the underdog. Notre Dame isn't supposed to upset Arizona Sunday. The Wildcats could be looking ahead to a potential match up with 28-4 Kansas

State. If that's true, the Irish have a good shot to surprise the Wildcats.

The Irish enter this year's tournament in a different position than they're used to. They're not expected to get past the first round, let alone win a national title. They're not feared by opponents like they were a couple years ago.

With all that's happened this season, the Irish certainly have no business making any type of tourney run — especially as a No. 11 seed.

But Notre Dame is actually in good shape for this tournament. Nothing's going to jitter them. They're the underdog and they've got nothing to lose.

The experiences of an up-and-down season should help the Irish at just the right time.

Contact Joe Hettler at
jhettler@nd.edu

Ratay

continued from page 28

were winning while she wasn't scoring, so it wasn't something we focused on yet."

But when the Irish started to struggle, things changed.

"When we were losing we went back to saying we have to get Alicia more shots," McGraw said.

Ratay herself is hesitant to talk about it. All that matters is that mid-season, she felt a spark, she got more looks and all of the sudden she was back to helping lead the Irish scorers.

"I got more touches, I think, and got better looks at the bas-

ket," the subdued Ratay says.

From then on, Ratay returned to being the go-to player when the Irish needed her. Successions of clutch 3-pointers and solid shooting inside the arc returned to haunt opposition.

After those early season games, Ratay returned to her old form and took the leadership role McGraw needed her to. She didn't lead by calling out the plays to her younger teammates. She didn't lead by offering inspirational speeches in the locker room before the games.

She led by example.

"She's consistent in scoring and just staying in the game mentally and being prepared mentally," sophomore guard

Teresa Borton said. "That's how she gets our attention."

Ratay, who has twice been a pre-season All-American candidate, leads the Irish with 44 3-pointers this season and an 88.4 percent free throw average. That free-throw percentage also leads the Big East.

She also leads with a very calm, focused attitude. McGraw claims that the poise Ratay brings with her on the court is an invaluable asset to the rest of her players. Her ability to put her emotions

aside and keep her mind on the game at hand will come in especially handy with the nerves that come with an NCAA tournament.

"She's so poised," McGraw said. "Under pressure I think the team just wants to get the ball to her, and that really helps them relax because she's come through in the clutch for us so many times."

Her teammates can count on that calm attitude when they

need it as well. If there's anyone on the team they will turn to in a moment when they most need a miracle, they will turn to Ratay.

"It's so strange because she doesn't look intense," sophomore forward Katy Flecky said. "But she is in her mind and she will make the clutch shot. If I had anyone [to take the clutch shot] I'd give it to her, of anyone on the whole team."

On Sunday, as the Irish take on Arizona, Ratay will have one last shot on making round two of the NCAA Tournament. She will look to do it the same way she always has — through silence and accuracy.

Contact Katie McVoy at
mcvo5695@saintmarys.edu

	COACHING	STYLE OF PLAY	POST PLAYERS	PERIMETER PLAYERS	BENCH	INTANGIBLES
NOTRE DAME	McGraw is one of the top womens coaches in the country, and she also has experience with taking her teams to the tournament. Her challenge will be to get her team to finally reach its potential in the NCAA tournament.	The Irish will rely on their inside game of Borton, LaVere and Flecky to keep them in the game, while hoping Ratay can knock down some 3-pointers from the outside. If they get down early, the Irish may have trouble coming back.	The Irish need great defensive efforts out of Borton, LaVere and Flecky. Batteast will also need to provide some help inside when Polk gets the ball. The Irish need their best games from their bigger players to win.	The Irish need Ratay to find ways to get open and take more shots. If she can knock down some 3-pointers, Notre Dame will have a decent chance of winning. Notre Dame's guard play has been suspect at times this season.	Notre Dame is eight-deep and relies on all eight for scoring and contributions. The Irish should be able to keep fresh legs the whole game, while Arizona may not. This could be an advantage in a close game.	Notre Dame has nothing to lose against Arizona, and the Wildcats could be looking ahead to a matchup with Kansas State in the second round. The Irish are battle-tested from a difficult regular season.
ARIZONA	Joan Bonvicini is the winningest coach in Arizona womens basketball history. Bonvicini knows what it's like to be in the tourney and should have her team prepared.	Arizona can score from the inside and from the perimeter, which will pose problems for Notre Dame. The Wildcats can find ways to score when they struggle offensively, while the Irish have not been able to.	Polk ripped apart the PAC-10 this season, and she will give the Irish all they can handle. If Polk can control the paint and boards, the Irish will be in trouble. Look for Arizona to feed her the ball all day.	Dee-Dee Walker can score, pass and play defense for the Wildcats and presents some serious problems for the Irish. Notre Dame's biggest weakness on offense has been its guard play.	The Wildcats like to play their main six players, so their bench doesn't factor as much into their gameplan. That could hurt Arizona as the game goes on, although they've had success without much bench support all season.	Arizona is supposed to win and could be looking ahead. It's hard to stay focused on a team like Notre Dame, because it has struggled for much of the season.
ANALYSIS	Both coaches will have their teams ready, and both have tournament experience. Bonvicini will do her best to keep Arizona focused on Notre Dame and not look ahead to a potential matchup with Kansas State Tuesday.	Arizona can find other ways to score if its inside or outside isn't working. The Irish, however, struggle when they can't score in the paint. Notre Dame needs to keep it close throughout if they are to have a chance to win.	Arizona is just too good inside for Notre Dame to handle. Polk hasn't been stopped often this season, and it's likely she won't be stopped by Notre Dame either.	If Ratay can't get open, Notre Dame will be in serious trouble. Severe also needs to look for more shots if they're available and pose a bigger threat offensively than she has in the past this season.	Notre Dame should be fresher near the end of the game and this will help them. Their depth will allow the Irish to try to wear down Polk and the rest of the Wildcats as the game goes on.	With everything to play for and nothing to lose, the Irish hold the advantage here. They want to show the country they're better than people think.

BASEBALL

19th-ranked Irish travel to Villanova for Big East opener

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

After a spring break trip to Florida that saw the Irish win six out of seven games over an eight-day period, the Irish hope to carry over that momentum to their Big East Conference opener this weekend at Villanova.

"We're primed and ready to get the Big East season off and running," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "These first 14 games of the season I think we've learned an awful lot about our team, and I feel really good about our ball club right now."

The 19th-ranked Irish (9-5) got in a bit of a groove in Florida with the opportunity to play nearly every day over break, and they hope to use that confidence in their three-game series with the Wildcats (4-8), starting with a doubleheader Saturday and ending with the third game on Sunday.

"Baseball is the kind of sport that you need to be playing a lot in order to get your timing down and your instincts and reactions," Mainieri said. "When you play seven games in eight days like we did, it really gives you a chance to learn how to play the game, and it gives you a lot of confidence because you realize that every at bat and every play is not the season. There will be another opportunity coming up just around the corner."

After a sluggish start in which the Irish went 3-4 against teams

like No. 3 Arizona State, No. 13 Wake Forest and No. 15 Nebraska, the Irish played to a 6-1 record over break. Mainieri noticed his team's improvement throughout the week.

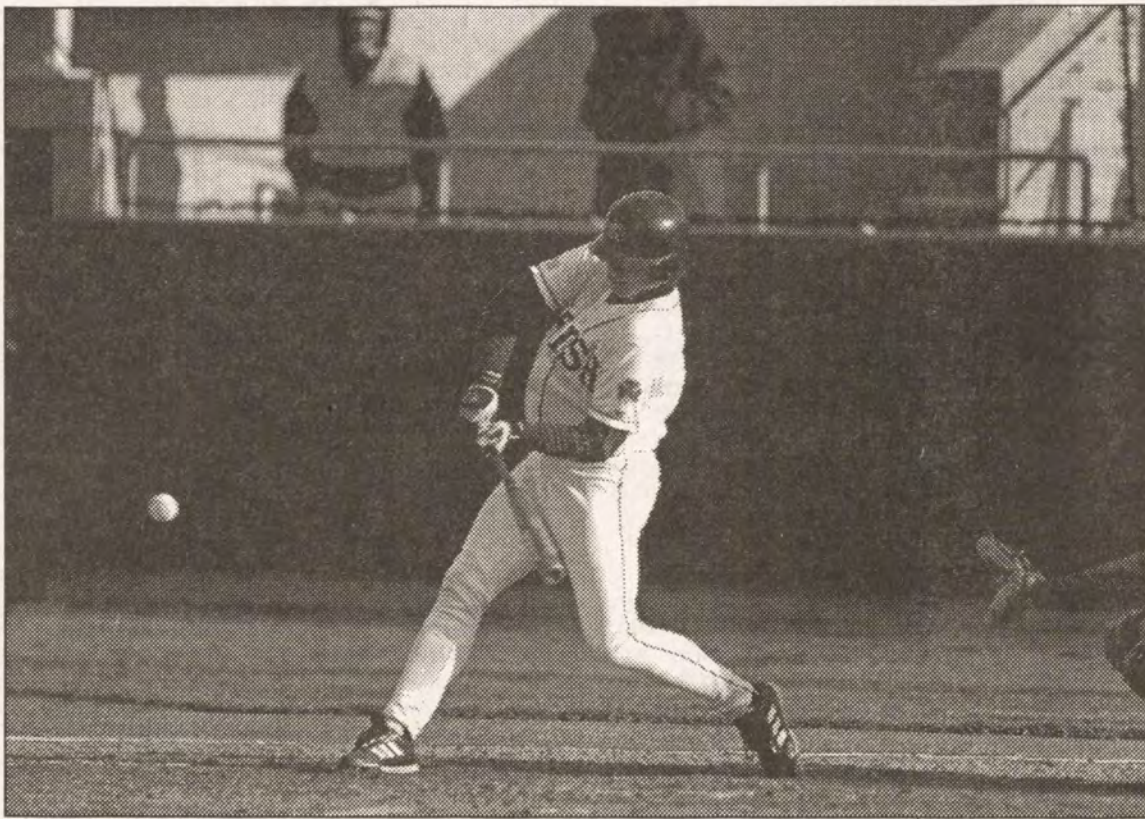
"I just felt that our team got a lot better as the week went on," Mainieri said. "By the time we played Navy the second time [last Friday], I thought that was our best game of the year. We pitched well, we played good defense, we swung the bat well, we hit with two strikes and we executed some things. Then we followed that up on Saturday against Creighton with another solid game."

Several Irish hitters were able to use the long span of games — at one point during the break the Irish played on six consecutive days — to find a groove at the plate.

Notre Dame's top hitter, second baseman Steve Sollmann, improved his season average to .429 by going 11-for-23 over the seven game span with six RBIs and seven runs scored.

Other Irish hitters that had a solid week at the plate were senior outfielder Kris Billmaier who also went 11-for-23 to improve his average on the season to .361, sophomore infielder Matt Edwards who improved to .392 on the year with his 11-for-28 performance over break with nine RBIs and junior catcher Javy Sanchez who boosted his average to .333 by hitting 11-for-27 during the break.

As a team, the Irish batted an



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Notre Dame first baseman Joe Thaman swings at the ball during a game against Valparaiso last season. The Irish will face Villanova in their Big East opener this weekend.

impressive .307, while the Notre Dame pitching staff held opponents to a .185 average and posted a 2.37 staff ERA.

"I feel like we're jelling now," Mainieri said. "Guys are getting an opportunity to play and to make some moves up, and now I feel like we're ready to go and hit the Big East Conference sched-

ule."

The main threat at the plate for the Wildcats will be centerfielder Chris Graziano. The senior is batting .382 on the season and was named Big East Player of the Week this week along with Notre Dame's Sollmann.

The leading hitter for Villanova so far this season is junior infield-

er Danny Poydenis, who has started all 12 games for the Wildcats and is batting .405 for the season.

The three-game series between Notre Dame and Villanova begins at noon Saturday.

Contact Chris Federico at
cfederic@nd.edu



ROB PARAVONIAN
pop music satire

Friday March 21

LaFortune Ballroom

9

pm

FREE



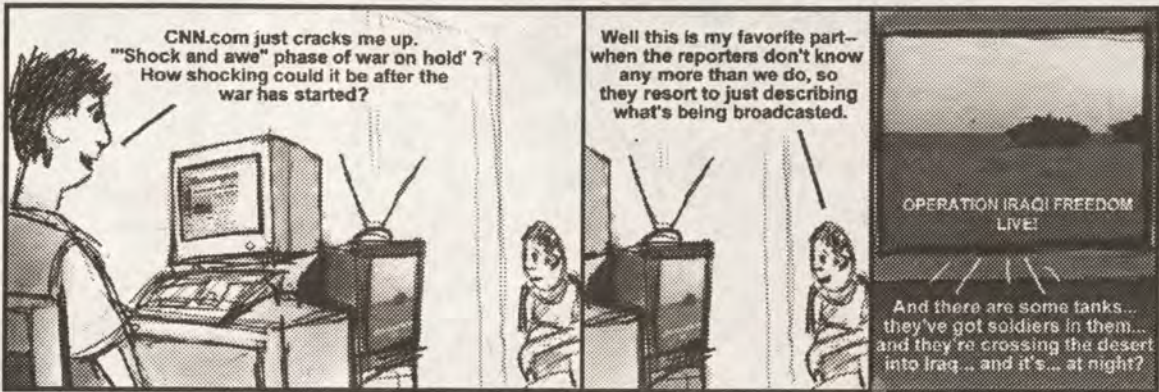
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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BYNAD
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Yesterday's Jumbles: FELON THINK ZODIAC LOUNGE

Answer: What the phone solicitor considered his job - A "CALLING"

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rosie O'Donnell, Matthew Broderick, Gary Oldman, Cynthia Geary

Happy Birthday: You will be highly creative, and should put this ability to good use. Your plans will be masterful, so take a strong position when dealing with others. Focus on what will benefit you the most and be sensitive toward others. Your numbers are 7, 14, 25, 33, 38, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is a great day to do something special for yourself, especially if you have been working too hard. Investments can be made, but don't be too hasty. Time is on your side. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may be a little emotional today. Be cautious in how you approach sensitive issues. Professional and personal duties may interfere with one another. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It may be nearing the end of the week, but that doesn't mean that you can shy away from your responsibilities. Remember your reputation is at stake. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make plans to do something really special for yourself or with friends. This could turn out to be a great day. Trust in yourself and you will make important new connections. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't push your luck or force your will on those around you. Lay low and let someone else take the spotlight today. There is evidence that you will face problems at home. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Have some fun with your friends. You will learn something new if you take part in new activities or develop a new friendship or partnership. Be prepared to talk about your future plans. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on your work even if you are preoccupied with the upcoming weekend. You will feel less stressed if you get projects finished. You can get ahead if you just put in a little extra effort. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be sensitive, intuitive and in an awkward position when it comes to your personal life today. Don't lose your cool in the process; stay calm and compromise. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If things haven't been working according to your plans, you must do whatever is needed to turn things around. Financial gains can be made if you look into an investment you hear about today. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you put others first, you will discover that you will receive far more in return. The more aware you are of what everyone around you is up to, the further you will go. Be smart and accommodating. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you are too forthcoming with information, someone will take advantage of your generosity and take credit for your ideas. Focus on finishing what you start. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You should be in the mood for love, romance and good times. You will meet new people if you take part in a community or social event. Others will find you extremely interesting. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You will be astute, critical and hard on yourself as well as others. You will strive to be the best, do the best and accomplish the most. You will need to learn to be more forgiving with yourself and others.

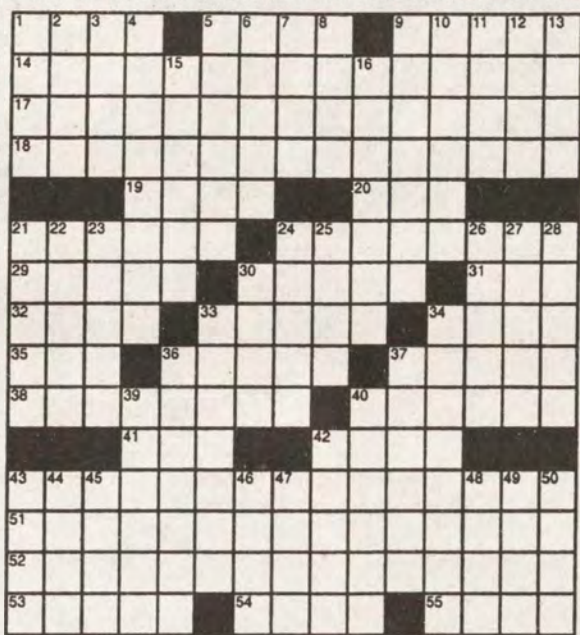
Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com, eugenialast.com, wnetwork.com.

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Old-fashioned outburst
 - 5 "... to your beauteous blessings ___ curse": Shak.
 - 9 Soul/pop singer Bryson
 - 14 Admonition to a noisy child
 - 17 Big bang creator
 - 18 Places for seals
 - 19 Mar. in a way
 - 20 It may be spoiled
 - 21 1988 Wimbledon champ
 - 24 Record holders
 - 29 Arena arrangement
 - 30 Country name from 1971-97
 - 31 Elimination
- DOWN**
- 32 Frights to look at
 - 33 Like some notebook paper
 - 34 ___ James, who sang "Your Cheatin' Heart"
 - 35 ___ diet
 - 36 Debtor's woe
 - 37 Grabber
 - 38 Like belly-dancing
 - 40 Disconcerting
 - 41 Book before Neh.
 - 42 1970's-80's sitcom guy, with "the"
 - 43 Time piece?
 - 51 Its characters are drawn
 - 52 W.W. II hero who later had a successful career in politics
 - 53 Final defensive effort
 - 54 Suffix with electro-
 - 55 Buds

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

W A N N A B A E Z I C E S
A S I A N L I N A D A M P
R I G H T H A N D P R O P E R
N T H S E N T S A T I R E
W T S A C H E N O T I E
S E C O N D H A N D G O A L
A R A B Y E Y E D
P E P S U P S C A M P I
B R A C O N E O N
O F F H A N D R U N N I N G
S N A R E A D O S A N Y
O L D I E S O W E S H T S
F I E L D H A N D S T R E A M
A N I L A N T E A E R I E
S E N S M O O D B E R L E



Puzzle by Michael Shteyman

- 28 Kind of operation
- 30 Language related to Xhosa
- 33 1942 Abbott and Costello film
- 34 "Give this some flair!"
- 36 Codger
- 37 Hindu belief
- 39 Gobs
- 40 Go hunting
- 42 Side
- 43 Flashy car accessories
- 44 Without ___ (daringly)
- 45 "Face/Off" actress Gershon
- 46 Dickens orphan
- 47 Draining effect?
- 48 It may be decaffeinated
- 49 Hang out
- 50 Hydrocarbon suffixes

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SPORTS

Friday, March 21, 2003

MENS BASKETBALL

Staying alive, hanging tough

◆ Thomas takes team on shoulders as Irish eek out first-round win

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS

With senior guard Matt Carroll on the bench for most of the game with a sore ankle and foul trouble, Irish point guard Chris Thomas carried Notre Dame on his shoulders and made key plays all game against Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

A little luck didn't hurt him or the Irish, either.

Playing in his hometown for the first time in his college career, Thomas scored 27 points, grabbed eight rebounds and added three assists.

With the game on the line, Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Dylan Page missed a layup with two seconds remaining to help the Irish hang on to a 70-69 victory in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Thursday night. The fifth-seeded Irish face four seed Illinois in the second round of the tournament Saturday. The Illini defeated Western Kentucky earlier in the day.

"We're thrilled to come away with a heartfelt win over a very good team. I'm proud of our

see IRISH/page 25



Freshman Torin Francis finishes a slam dunk during Notre Dame's 70-69 victory over Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Thursday.

TIM KACMAR/The Observer

◆ Irish co-stars shine with Carroll on the bench

INDIANAPOLIS

All Matt Carroll could do was watch from the bench as his teammates decided his college career on the court.

He sat quietly with a bag of ice on his sprained ankle, having played just 14 minutes and accumulating more fouls (four) than points (two).

From his spot on the bench, Carroll saw his teammates make the single biggest defensive

stop of the season as they forced Panther star Clay Tucker to dish to Dylan Page. Notre Dame's Chris Thomas then soared into the air and, in his words, "either hit the ball or fouled him," somehow helping a one-foot layup roll off the rim.

Carroll stood to celebrate, his teammates danced down

see CO-STARs/page 25



Andrew Soukup

Sports Writer

ND WOMENS BASKETBALL

Quiet Ratay lets her shooting do the talking

By KATIE McVOY
Senior Staff Writer

A basketball makes very little sound as it is released into the air. It makes almost no noise as it swishes through the net. But any athlete can tell you the importance that nearly noiseless ball can make if it hits its mark. It can spell victory or it can spell defeat.

That kind of silence is not only found on a basketball court.

Sometimes it's found in the players.

One of Notre Dame's most potent weapons makes very little noise when she steps on the court. She has little use for words before or after the

game.

But on the basketball court, Notre Dame guard Alicia Ratay's shot does all the talking for her.

"She's just the best shooter in the country," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "She's the best pure shooter out there, and she's somebody teams have to focus on."

Ratay, who leads the Irish in 3-point shots and is in the top five all-time scorers at Notre Dame, has one final chance to make those silent statements on the court.

"[I'm] really excited," Ratay said. "We think of the NCAA Tournament as a new season — a time to make a fresh start — and we want to come out strong and with a lot of confi-

dence."

The end of Ratay's final regular season should give her the confidence she needs to make a mark in the final games of her college career.

With Notre Dame's newly instituted triangle offense, Ratay didn't get as many looks as she had in years past this season. The focus on getting the ball inside the paint to the post players did not highlight Ratay's strength — the trey — and she struggled early on in the season.

"We had some young guards and we just weren't as good getting her the ball," McGraw said. "I think it was a combination of a lot of things, but we

see RATAY/page 25



ANDY KENNA/The Observer

Irish senior Alicia Ratay shoots during the Pittsburgh game on Feb. 26 at the Joyce Center.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

BASEBALL

Notre Dame at Villanova

Saturday, noon

The 19th-ranked Irish begin Big East play against the Wildcats.

page 26

ND WOMENS BBALL

Notre Dame at NCAA Tournament

Sunday, 7 p.m.

The Irish take on Arizona in the first round of the NCAAs.

page 25

ND SOFTBALL

Notre Dame at Western Michigan

Sunday, noon

The Irish return to the midwest for a double-header with the Broncos.

page 21

WOMENS ROWING

Michigan at Notre Dame

Saturday, all day

Michigan opens its spring season against the Irish.

page 21

FENCING

Notre Dame at NCAA Championships

Saturday, all day

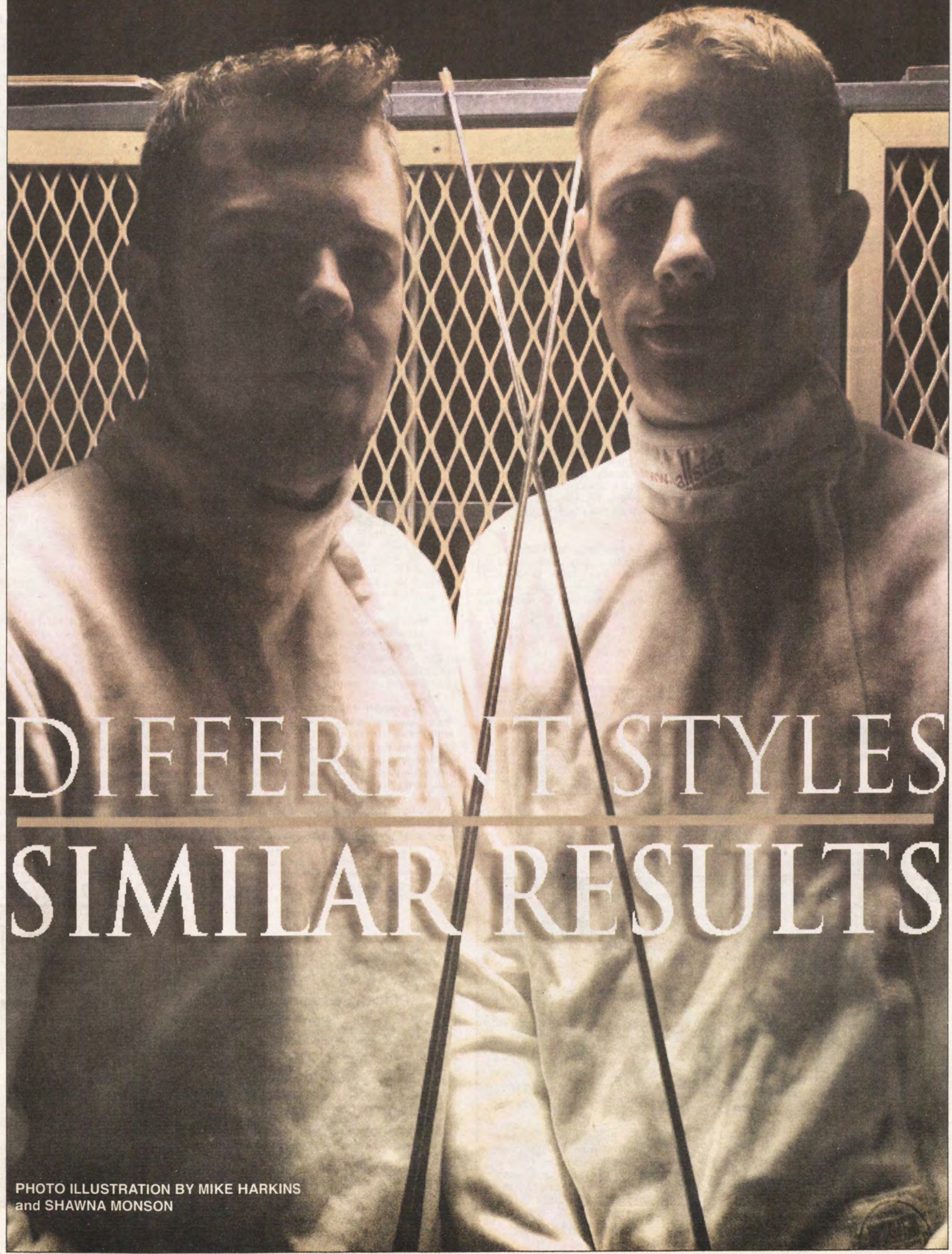
Competition was pushed back until the weekend due to snow storms in Colorado.

page 18

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, March 21, 2003

THE
OBSERVER



DIFFERENT STYLES SIMILAR RESULTS

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE HARKINS
and SHAWNA MONSON

Mens Preview

A squad-by-squad breakdown of the top three contenders.
The mens competition is today and Friday.

Epee

NOTRE DAME



Viviani



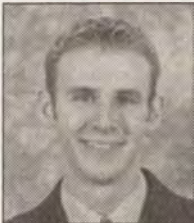
Sobieraj

Viviani has never finished lower than fifth and the three-time All-American is more driven than ever. Sobieraj started horribly in 2002 but recovered to earn All-American honors. Bednarski has said Sobieraj can win the national title but he needs to be totally focused.

OHIO STATE



Gross



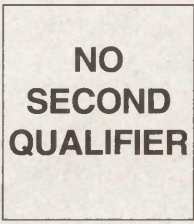
Jones

Gross finished 15th last year and Jones was 16th. The Buckeyes epee squad defeated the Irish squad at the conference championships in what turned out to be the deciding match for the conference title. Ohio State has the confidence, but the Irish, especially Viviani, take it to another level at NAAs.

PENN STATE



Wiercioch



NO
SECOND
QUALIFIER

Wiercioch finished fourth at the NCAA Championships last year as a sophomore and second as a freshman. A Poland teammate of Sobieraj, Wiercioch will challenge Viviani and possibly Sobieraj for a first-team All-American spot. Ethan Muri didn't qualify for the national championships and is the field alternate.

Foil

NOTRE DAME



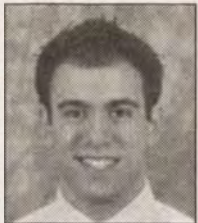
Debic



Snyder

The Irish had the top three finishers at the regionals, but Forest Walton is the team alternate. Debic is a three-time All-American and will finish very high. Snyder recovered from illness to finish seventh last year and he is in better health than in 2002. This weapon is where Notre Dame separates itself from Ohio State.

OHIO STATE



Carbone



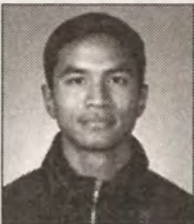
Weir

If the Buckeyes want a chance of winning the title, they need a good performance from their weakest weapon. Weir finished 15th as a sophomore last year and Carbone is a freshman who came in with very few accolades. The Irish are highly superior and should have no problem with these two.

PENN STATE



Miller



Panchan

Panchan surprisingly claimed the individual title as a sophomore. He didn't fence with Penn State until the spring semester as he trained to earn a spot with the Thailand Olympic team. Panchan won the Mid-Atlantic regional title. Miller is 10th on the U.S. Junior rankings and finished fifth at regionals.

Sabre

NOTRE DAME



Fabricant



Szelle

Szelle returns to the NAAs after not competing as a junior and sitting out last season. He finished second as a freshman and first as a sophomore. Fabricant had a rough NCAA Championships debut as a junior last year. St. John's Ivan Lee is ranked No. 1 in the world and will be tough even for Szelle to beat.

OHIO STATE



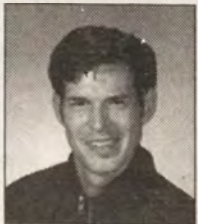
Crompton



Rogers

Crompton, who won the regional title, is the younger brother of former Notre Dame All-American Andre Crompton. Rogers was a first-team All-American as a freshman in 2002. Crompton is first in the U.S. junior rankings and Rogers is third. This weapon is easily Ohio State's strongest.

PENN STATE



Weber



Zagunis

Weber is a junior from Germany and was a first-time All-American as a sophomore. He has been a part of the German national team that won bronze medals at the 2000 Olympics and 2003 World Championships. Zagunis is 10th in the U.S. Junior rankings.

The numbers are

*The Irish are one of two teams to qualify the
biggest challenge will come from defending ch*

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

The numbers say the race for the national title should be between Notre Dame and Ohio State, but the Irish know who their real competition is.

"I don't think Ohio State is going to be a problem. They are not as strong all around," senior foilist Ozren Debic said. "Penn State has 11 top guys. It will be an advantage for us, but we need to do well."

At this weekend's NCAA Fencing Championships, Notre Dame and Ohio State are the only schools in the country to qualify the maximum 12 fencers. Defending national champion Penn State qualified one less with 11. From past experience, however, it's the quality and not necessarily the quantity that matters.

"It is definitely an advantage, but Penn State has a solid group of 11. All of their 11 fencers are going to win a good number of bouts," senior epee captain Jan Viviani said. "They always manage to over-achieve, that is something we are going to achieve. They are stronger all-around. Having the 12 doesn't mean anything if the 12 aren't strong."

"It's helpful mentally, but they do have 11 fencers. Usually the weakest link can break down meaning with 12 fencers on the field, only 11 are giving points," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski added. "There are four teams who will compete for the gold medal from the beginning."

The four teams Bednarski feels will contend for the national title with Notre Dame are Penn State, Ohio State and St. John's.

"St. John's has a lot of stars. They qualified only 10, so it will be really hard for them to make it, but they have excellent fencers," Bednarski said. "Penn State is the [defending] national champion with many names including the bronze medallist Alex Weber in sabre. Ohio State is very strong since they qualified 12."

At last year's NCAA Championships, Penn State reclaimed the title from St. John's after winning the title from 1995 to 2000. The Red Storm has had previous success fencing with fewer people. They took second place last year with only 11 fencers while the Irish finished third with 12.

With last year's Notre Dame team having six first-time participants, inexperience was an issue. However, this year's

team, despite having three different members, has zero first-time fencers. That experience factor can do nothing but help.

"In my opinion, it helps when you have competed already. This is a very unusual competition — two days, 24 bouts, huge round-robin," Bednarski said. "It is fencing 10 hours, so your mental side is under a huge stress. Sometimes, excellent fencers can't fence well for a long time."

"It is so emotional, it is hard to control." Along with the leadership of the five seniors, the talent level of the underclassmen gives the Irish a good combination.

"I think we have a really good makeup of quality and experience," Debic said. "If everything goes right, and we stay healthy, then we should be ready. Everybody is ready to win it."

A key to having a shot at the title is taking control early. Last year, the Irish held the lead after the womens competition, but the mens team wasn't able to take advantage, and the Irish finished third. Coming in with 12 fencers, grabbing the first day lead and taking control of the competition is a key to battling Penn State for the title.

"If we are going to have a chance to win, we need to be controlling things the entire time from the beginning to the end," Viviani said. "The first day, they have more bouts than the second day, so it is harder to make things up the second."

*"We are strong. We
will make a charge.
We will fight as strong
as they will."*

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

Something Bednarski has attempted to build this year is a greater sense of team chemistry. From the team huddle prior to the dual match against then-No. 1 Penn State to the team meeting Monday afternoon, Bednarski is trying to bring his team

together in such an individual sport.

"The team is working more as a group this year than last year," Debic said. "I think Janusz has been trying hard to get some camaraderie going from the first day of practice. It is much better than last year."

"I think he has done a good job of trying to keep us working hard the whole year and keeping us focused on our final goal," Viviani said.

Some personal honors at stake this year include Viviani and Debic's attempts to become four-time All-Americans, sophomore foilists Alicja Kryczalo and Andrea Ament goals of repeating their top two finish from last year and junior epeeist Kerry

2002 NCAA Top 13

Place	Team	Mens Sabre	Mens Foil
1	Penn State	37	35
2	St. John's	38	17
3	NOTRE DAME	27	33
4	Ohio State	33	10
5	Columbia-Barnard	26	20
6	Stanford	10	33
(tie)	Yale	17	5
8	Princeton	8	6
9	Pennsylvania	4	24
10	Rutgers	8	12
11	New York University	0	25
12	Northwestern	0	0
(tie)	Wayne State	19	0

e in their favor

maximum 12 fencers but know their champion Penn State who qualified 11.

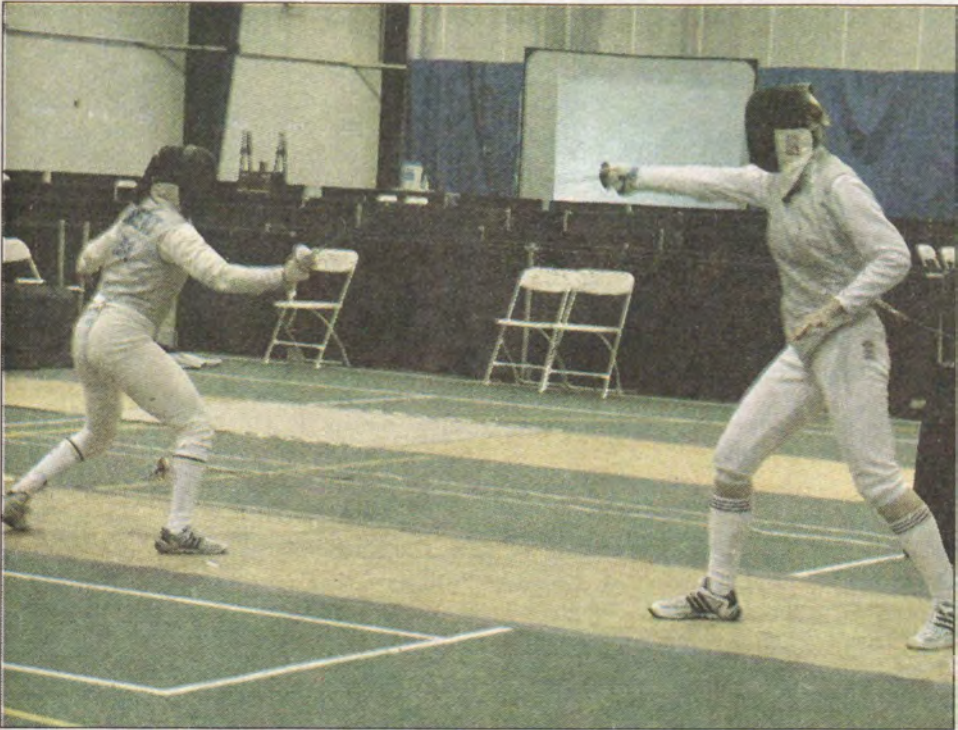


Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Sports Information

Foillists Andrea Ament, left, and Alicja Kryczalo fence in the championship match of the 2002 NCAA Championships. Kryczalo defeated Ament 15-6 as the duo won all their matches in their first national championships.

Walton effort to defend her national title.

Notre Dame's seniors, who finished second one and third twice in their college careers, are determined to go out on top.

"I think every year is a little different. For a lot of seniors, we have learned something about this competition every year," Viviani said. "It's a little easier to go into this with a better attitude, with a 'we need to win' attitude. This is your last chance to win."

Bednarski has his troops motivated to win its first national title since 1994 and sixth overall.

"We are strong. We will make a charge. We will fight as strong as they will," Bednarski said. "If we have good bouting, good luck, good intelligence, then we will have good results. We are going to fight."

The mens and womsn fencing competition will begin Saturday and continue to Sunday when the national champion will be crowned.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Notre Dame's Returning All-Americans Epee

- Jan Viviani (2000-2002)
- Michal Sobieraj (2002)
- Meagan Call (2000-2001)
- Kerry Walton (2002)

Foil

- Alicja Kryczalo (2002)
- Andrea Ament (2002)
- Ozren Debic (2000-2002)
- Derek Snyder (2002)

Sabre

- Gabor Szelle (1999-2000)

National Champions

- Kerry Walton (Epee, 2002)
- Alicja Kryczalo (Foil, 2002)
- Gabor Szelle (Sabre, 2000)

Championships Teams

Mens Epee	Womens Sabre	Womens Foil	Womens Epee	Total Points
29	29	26	39	195
35	35	31	34	190
29	20	45	32	186
18	28	36	15	140
11	0	24	15	96
16	16	17	0	92
5	34	21	10	92
28	9	0	30	81
17	6	10	7	68
15	12	0	13	60
24	9	0	0	58
0	15	24	17	56
8	0	18	11	56

Womens Preview

A squad-by-squad breakdown of the top three contenders. The womens competition is Saturday and Sunday.

Epee

NOTRE DAME



Call



Walton

Walton won the national title last year in her first NCAA Championships. She knows how to improve her fencing when the competition is tough. Call surprisingly earned the second berth by winning the regional title. She didn't compete at nationals last year but finished fifth as a sophomore.

OHIO STATE



Gearhart



Shklar

Gearhart and Shklar finished fourth and fifth at the regionals. Shklar was eighth last year at the national championships and seems to be able to defeat the lesser-skilled fencers but has a problem with world-class fencers like Walton. Gearhart is a freshman from San Antonio.

PENN STATE



Burke



Trzopek

Burke finished a disappointing fifth after winning the national title as a freshman. She will be on a mission to reclaim her title after 2002's performance. Trzopek is a freshman but won the 2001 World Cup at the junior level. Her international experience may have her ready for the national championships.

Foil

NOTRE DAME



Ament



Kryczalo

The "A-Team" dominated the competition at last year's NCAA Championships in winning every bout possible. Kryczalo didn't lose to anybody and defeated Ament in the championship match 15-6. Last year's results will be extremely difficult to repeat with the top eight fencers returning.

OHIO STATE



H. Thompson



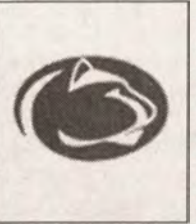
M. Thompson

The talented Thompson twins took home All-American honors as freshmen. Hannah lost to Kryczalo in the semifinals 15-5, while Metta finished fifth. Both are ranked in the top 10 in the U.S. junior rankings and give Ohio State's its best weapon on the womens side.

PENN STATE



Chin



Donath

As a freshman, Chin finished 12th after winning the 2002 regional title. This year, Chin was fourth at regionals while Donath was second. Donath is a freshman from Germany. With the depth of the foil field, the Nittany Lions seem to be at a disadvantage and need these two to step up.

Sabre

NOTRE DAME



Jordan



Milo

Bednarski admits this weapon is his "biggest area of concern." Milo has not fenced well in her previous two appearances, finishing 17th and 18th. Jordan used to fence foil and competed at the national championships at that weapon as a freshman. She made the transition to sabre in a time of need.

OHIO STATE



Bond-Williams



Plekhanov

Bond-Williams won the national title as a freshman and will probably dominate the competition. The England native won the conference and regional titles as well this year. Plekhanov is a freshman and is another one of those fencers the Irish feel has qualified, but really won't be a major contributor.

PENN STATE



Brosnan



O'Neill

Last year, Brosnan finished as a second-team All-American for the second straight year. She really doesn't have a lot of international experience and has fenced mainly out of her club in Oregon. O'Neill was redshirted last year with her only All-American coming as a sophomore.

Hoping fourth time's a charm

Senior captains Ozren Debic and Jan Viviani strive to become four-time All-Americans even as they search for their first national title

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

On the strip, seniors Ozren Debic and Jan Viviani fence in different styles.

Debic is likely to charge his opponent and try to score a point, while jumping in the air to surprise his opponent or reaching behind his head for the strike with a counterattack.

Viviani patiently waits for an opening, bouncing on his calves and conventionally attacking with a straight-on strike.

But what drives these third-year captains and three-time All-Americans is something very basic — winning.

Getting it done

Since Debic and Viviani fence different weapons — foil and epee — naturally, their styles will vary. Despite the differences in style and weapon, the results are similar.

"They are different and they are very similar," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said. "The similarity is their ambition to win. They aren't happy when they are losing."

The way Debic and Viviani win is different as well.

"The difference is in the style. Jan needs to think. He likes danger. He performs better in the situation when he is losing," Bednarski said. "Then he is getting a shot of adrenaline, which helps him to fence with better reaction. He likes to be at the end of the strip where one more step costs you a point. He is able to fence in a very stressful situation."

"Ozren is like poetry. He wants to win from the begin-

ning and not create the danger and win immediately."

At the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships, Viviani found himself in such a dangerous position. Facing Wojciech Dudek of Wayne State in the individual epee championships, Viviani was down 11-9 with one minute remaining.

Viviani got within one with 42 seconds left. As time was about to expire, Viviani patiently waited for his opening. He kept pressuring Dudek and forced him off the strip, which resulted in a point for Viviani.

Seven seconds remained when Viviani tied the match.

"I think one of the reasons for that, is that when you run into those situations, you don't have a choice, but you have to be aggressive," Viviani said. "It forces me to be more aggressive and that helps me be successful."

Meanwhile, Debic doesn't have a flair for the dramatic, but a flair for liveliness. He'll talk to himself in his native Croatian tongue, use unconventional tactics and let the judges know when he isn't satisfied with their decision.

But it's all in good fun.

"I try to keep a happy mood all the time. On the strip, it can get really crazy and stressful with hard opponents and bad directors," Debic said. "I have had some problems with injuries which adds stress. I

try to keep a happy tone all the way, sometimes it's music or goofing around."

Whether it's the seriousness of Viviani or animation or Debic, one thing is for sure. They win — a lot.

Accolades galore

After four extremely successful seasons, Debic and Viviani have left their impressions all over the fencing record books of the storied Notre Dame program.

Debic is first in career winning percentage at foil and

third overall, 10th in career wins among all weapons and second in foil and owns four of the top eight foil seasons in winning percentage. Aside from the stat book,

Debic is the only fencer in Notre Dame history to win four Midwest Conference Championships.

Viviani is first in career winning percentage at epee, third on the epee career wins list and eighth on the all-time wins list. He owns three of the top 10 epee campaigns in winning percentage. Viviani won an individual conference title as a junior.

All of the success can be attributed to a mastery of technique, and a little talent.

"Both are excellent technically. It is a pleasure from someone who can observe them," Bednarski said. "Their actions are technical, correct and quick. Both are very talented."

Viviani and Debic have placed in the top five at the NCAA Championships in each of their first three seasons. However, the one thing neither of them has been able to do is win a national title — either individually or as a team.

Unfinished business

At the NCAA Championships, the team with the most points claims the overall title. A school earns a point from a win by individual fencers. In essence, a fencer is alone on the strip but is really competing for the team.

"It's something you need to experience and go through to learn how to approach it. It's kind of hard when you aren't fencing well, and then everyone's like, 'You gotta do it for the team.' Then you lose again, you think, 'I [let down] the team, I [let down] everybody,'" Debic said. "It's a very stressful tournament because your results affect the team's results."

"That's the reason why, and I bet everyone agrees, this is one of the most stressful competitions they have competed in," Viviani said. "We have all competed in world events, but this is different."

Around the world in other competitions, fencers generally go for individual awards first and team results second.



Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Sports Information

Senior foil captain Ozren Debic jumps in his attack against a Penn State fencer at the Notre Dame Duals Feb. 1. Debic looks to become a four-time All-American this weekend.

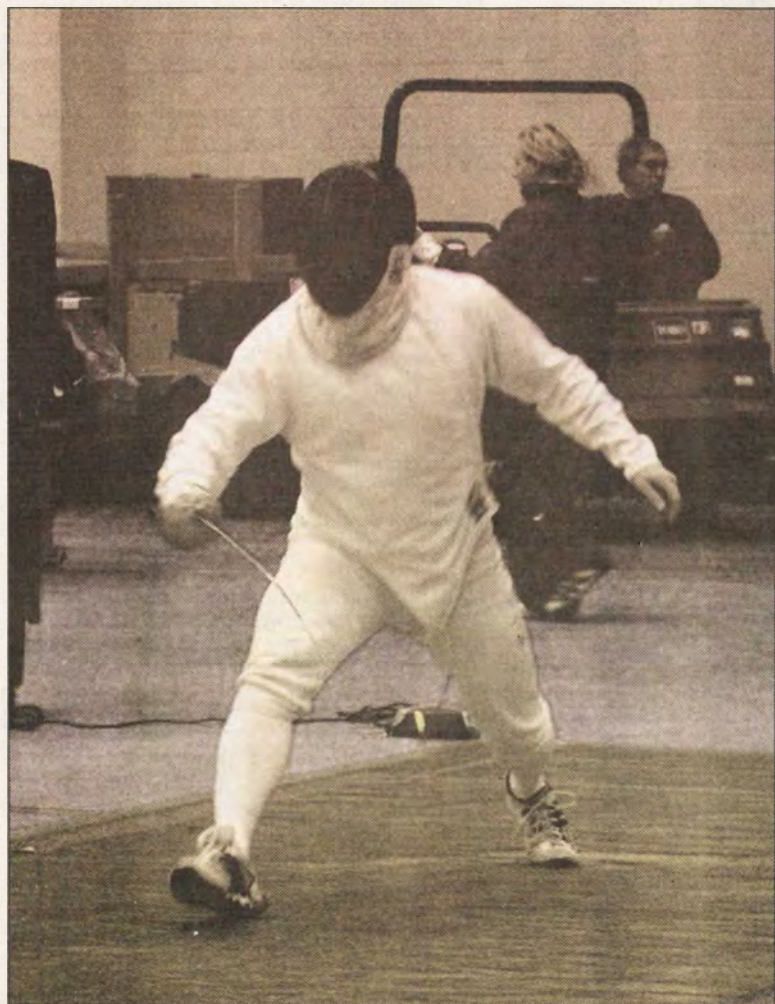


Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Sports Information

Senior epee captain Jan Viviani competes at the Notre Dame Duals Feb. 1. Viviani can become a four-time All-American this weekend at the Air Force Academy.

NOTRE DAME'S FOUR-TIME ALL-AMERICANS

Charles Higgs-Coulthard

Foil, 1984-1987

Molly Sullivan

Foil, 1985-1988

Yehuda Kovacs

Foil, 1986-1989

Leszek Nowosielski

Sabre, 1988-1991

Jeremy Siek

Foil, 1994-1997

Myriah Brown

Foil, 1996-1999

Luke LaVelle

Sabre, 1996-1999

Sara Walsh

Foil, 1996-1999

Magda Krol

Epee/Foil, 1997-2000

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