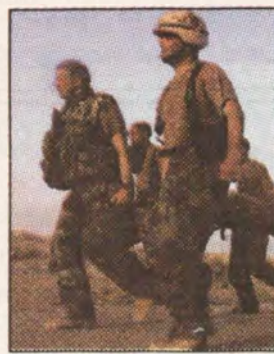


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Follow the war in Iraq page 5

Irish set milestones with weekend performances

◆ Mens basketball advances to the Sweet Sixteen

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS
Mike Brey won't forget his 44th birthday anytime soon.

As the final seconds of the Irish's 68-60 win ticked off the clock Saturday, Brey pranced around on the sideline of the RCA Dome, swinging his fist through the air before giddily walking over to shake hands with Illinois coach Bill Self. The grin on his face was almost as big as Notre Dame's win over Illinois.

"Tonight, I was probably going to have a beer anyway," the birthday boy said Saturday. "Now I might have two."

Chances are pretty good Brey won't have to buy a drink in South Bend for a while, not after he took a team that spend most of the 1990s in the NIT to the Sweet Sixteen in just three years.

Back in June, back when the memory of a narrow second-round loss in the tourney to Duke was still fresh in the players' minds, the Irish made it their collective mission to advance to the second weekend of the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1987. And when the season began, all the

players could talk about was how they weren't satisfied with merely making the NCAA Tournament — they wanted to make some noise in it, too.

"I've been in this game, I lost this game two years in a row and it wasn't something I didn't want to have happen again," senior Matt Carroll said.

To do so Saturday, the Irish turned to Dan Miller, who played on a Final Four team at Maryland before transferring. With sharpshoot-

er Matt Carroll plagued by a sore ankle, Miller scored a career-high 23 points, putting the Irish on a collision course with Arizona, the top seed in the West Regional.

When the regular season ended, however, the Irish looked like they were headed for an early exit in the Tournament. They had lost three of their last four games and left the Big East Tournament after a first-round loss against St. John's.

But as the Big East Tournament continued in New York, the Irish searched for the formula that enabled them to knock off three top-10 teams in one week in

see BASKETBALL/page 4



Above: The fencing team gathers to celebrate their national championship win over Penn State.

COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Right: Notre Dame Basketball players celebrate as they advance to the Sweet 16 after defeating the Illini Saturday.

PHOTO BY TIM KACMAR



◆ Fencing wins first national title since 1994

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.
Maybe Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski should think about taking up a job as a statistics professor.

"Before the competition we thought we needed 180 points and it turned out that way," Bednarski said.

Notre Dame won the 2003 N C A A Championships with 182 points. Penn State was second with 179.

That's scary. Bednarski did something in one year that former Irish coach Yves Auriol couldn't do in seven years at the helm — win a national title.

"It feels great and I'm a little bit tired," Bednarski said. "I lost my voice from giving so many comments. It was not easy and we had a lot of great opponents. To win in such great competition, it's a pleasure."

As the competition progressed, everybody knew it would come down to the last round of bouts. Bednarski pre-

see FENCING/page 4

Split to occur next fall

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

Notre Dame's Economics Department will split next fall into two departments with separate faculty and a single undergraduate major, following a 39-3 vote by the University's Academic Council in favor of the split Thursday.

Current faculty will be separated into the new departments of Economics and Econometrics and Economics and Policy Study, said Carol Mooney, University vice president and associate provost.

Mooney is responsible for recording the minutes of the Council's meetings; the Council is

see SPLIT/page 4

Students pray for peaceful solution

By ANDREW THAGARD
News Writer

Notre Dame students, faculty and staff gathered in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Friday evening to pray for peace.

University President Edward Malloy presided over the 45-minute service, which featured prayers, hymns and readings from scripture and came amidst increased military action in Iraq. During the day on Friday, U.S. forces continued the bombing campaign over Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, and British and American forces moved into the country from Kuwait.

"May the God of peace be with all of us," Malloy said at the start of the service. "We join in prayer with our Holy Father John Paul II who recently pleaded, 'Violence never again, war never again, terrorism never again.'"

A moderate number of people filled the center row of pews in a Basilica already stark for the Lenten season. Spotlights that typically illuminate the ceiling paintings were turned off Friday evening and lights over the altar were dimmed, adding a more

somber tone to the service.

Malloy used his homily to remind those present of Jesus' commitment to peace and love of all people. He also urged students to pray for an end to the conflict and the safety of those involved.

"We pray for peace, for an end to the violence that we see around us, for a calming of fears," Malloy said. "We pray for the well being of those who represent our country. Most of all we pray for peace that, in the end, will be a gift from our loving God."

Closer to home, Malloy encouraged students to consider their own actions and question whether they were in line with Jesus' teachings.

"We pray ... that we may recognize our call, our need to change our hearts," he said. "Jesus taught us over and over again that the call for peace begins with each one of us."

After the homily, the lights in the Basilica were turned off and those present knelt with lit candles. Two students read prayer intercessions modeled after the Beatitudes and members of the congregation exchanged signs of peace.

Friday's prayer service for



KEVIN BURKE/Notre Dame Photographic

The Notre Dame Community paused Friday afternoon to pray for peaceful solution to war.

peace marked the beginning of a series of religious services scheduled around campus for the duration of military action in Iraq. Earlier Friday, people gathered in the Basilica for a special Mass for peace and throughout the coming week-

days, a traveling rosary for peace will be held in a residence hall chapel. The series of rosary and prayer services will begin

Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu

INSIDE COLUMN

Floating to freedom

Imagine being 60 miles or more away from land, drifting in a small rubber raft with just a straw hat to guard you from the harsh Caribbean sun. Thousands find themselves in this very scenario every year as they attempt to make their way to the United States. Few make it, many die and some are rescued.



Shannon Nelligan

News Production Editor

This spring break, I witnessed such a scene as my cruise ship stopped to rescue five Cubans floating in the distance in something that appeared to be a black dot. The accounts of people risking their lives for the slight possibility of something better became a reality.

For a moment, nearly all the people on the ship ceased sunning themselves, put down their Caribbean concoctions and gathered on one side of the ship to witness the rescue. Some made brash comments while others took time to realize how lucky they were to be born in a country that they didn't have to escape.

I have always been hopelessly proud of the United States and its values. Maybe it's because of the numerous family trips to American landmarks like Plymouth Rock, endless battlefields and trips to our nation's capitol.

I have never been able to articulate these feelings until a friend asked, after I returned from a year abroad, if I would permanently move to another country or give up my citizenship. Without skipping a beat, I replied, "No." I might one day own a summer home in Europe or travel extensively, but I would never relinquish my citizenship. I consider it a true blessing given to me by relatives who made their way through Ellis Island and Canada to make a new home and establish a better life for their posterity.

Off course, we have problems in the United States and there always will be. We are human beings trying to do the best we can. Fortunately, we have the option to raise our voice to change the wrongs and we should take this responsibility seriously.

If I ever forget how privileged I am to live in this country, I hope to remember the five Cubans who risked their lives for a chance at freedom.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Shannon Nelligan at nell2040@saintmarys.edu.

WHAT'S INSIDE

CAMPUS NEWS	WORLD & NATION	BUSINESS NEWS	VIEWPOINT	SCENE	SPORTS
Student government chief of staff appointed	Allied troops hit setbacks on road to Baghdad	Iraqi oil not ready for world market	Columnist questions activists actions	Latin Expressions brings together a variety of acts	Irish knock off Wildcats
Student body president-elect Pat Hallahan announced that freshman Emily Chin will be chief of staff for his office.	Iraqi troops used surprise tactics to kill and capture U.S. troops Sunday. However, U.S. leaders say war on Iraq on target despite setbacks.	Once war is over, experts expect it will take months before Iraq's oil will be prepared to enter world markets.	Columnist Mike Marchand questions anti-war protesters and demonstrations which can be construed as civil disobedience.	This year's Latin Expressions "Lacura Latina" is a show that brings together talented latino acts, showcasing music and dance.	The women's basketball team heads to the second round of the NCAA tournament for eighth straight year after beating the Arizona Wildcats.
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WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ND

- ◆ Why Washington D.C. needs economists
4 p.m. at Hesburgh Center Auditorium
- ◆ Fathers, brothers, masters and slaves:
A reconsideration of Benjamin Franklin in Boston
7 p.m. at O'Shaughnessy Hall, room 119
- ◆ Gender Relations Forum
7:30 p.m. at Coleman Morse Lounge

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SMC

- ◆ Student nurses blood drive
8 a.m. at Hagggar College Center
- ◆ College president Dr. Marilou Eldred addresses community
3:30 p.m. at O'Laughlin Auditorium
- ◆ Gloria Steinem, the Spice Girls and Me
7:30 p.m. at Madeleva, room 349

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

- Car towed from Joyce**
A student's car was towed from the Joyce Center parking lot Friday for a parking violation.
- Employee reports theft of decal**
A University employee reported the theft of his parking decal from his vehicle while off campus.
- Employee injured**
NDSP transported an employee from Hesburgh Library to the University Health Center for treatment of a laceration last Friday.
- Car towed from Stadium**
A University employee's car was towed from the Stadium for a parking violation Friday.

-compiled from the NDSP crime blotter

WHAT'S COOKING

North Dining Hall

Today's Lunch: Four-cheese pizza, cherry turnover, southern fried chicken, au gratin potatoes, brown sauce, chicken gravy, whipped potatoes, mixed vegetables, cherry crisp, baked cajun pollock, Italian rice pilaf, sliced carrots, Italian-blend vegetables, baked potato, swiss oatmeal, bacon, scrambled eggs, buttermilk pancakes

Today's Dinner: Vegetable lasagna, Italian sausage marinara, cherry turnover, breadsticks, grilled pork chops, broccoli-rice casserole, brown sauce, pork gravy, whipped potatoes, corn, cherry crisp, grilled tilapia, baked noodle casserole, sweet potatoes

South Dining Hall

Today's Lunch: Meatless baked ziti, meatball stroganoff sauce, supreme pizza, toasted pretzel sticks, pasta primavera, steamed spinach, chicken and dumplings, baked haddock jardiniere, teriyaki london broil, whipped potatoes, mashed red-skin garlic potatoes, baked potato, cut corn, broccoli cuts, sliced carrots, peas, roasted vegetables

Today's Dinner: Meatless baked ziti, meatball stroganoff sauce, chicken cacciatore pasta sauce, supreme pizza, toasted pretzel sticks, noodles romanoff, baked beans, roast beef hash, turkey broccoli bake, pork loin with apple, hot chunky applesauce

Saint Mary's Dining Hall

Today's Lunch: Chilaquiles, risotto, roasted onions and carrots, tomato sauce, herb pasta, fettuccine carbonara, grilled hamburger, south beach panini, grilled cheese sandwich, french fries, parmesan peppercorn chicken breast, mexican cinnamon rice, cauliflower and broccoli, vegetable ranch pizza, cheese pizza

Today's Dinner: Sweet corn tamale pie, pasta fantastica, black bean salad, grilled chicken breast, cherry muffins, sweet and sour pork with sticky rice, pasta pronto bar, chickens soft taco, spanish rice, refried beans, seasoned green beans, vegetable ranch pizza

CORRECTIONS

Friday's article "Chamber music festival at SMC" incorrectly stated the time of the Leighton Festival Concerts. The correct time is 7:30 p.m.

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.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 66 LOW 45	HIGH 64 LOW 55	HIGH 53 LOW 37	HIGH 39 LOW 31	HIGH 47 LOW 39	HIGH 48 LOW 39

Study Abroad programs comment on the conflict in Iraq

By KEVIN ALLEN
News Writer

The commencement of large-scale military action in Iraq by the United States and Britain stirred a great deal of emotion on Notre Dame's campus in the past week. In addition to anxiety about the well-being of the nation and the soldiers on the battlefields, considerable concern arose about the safety of Notre Dame students spending the semester abroad.

Tom Bogenschild, director of International and Off-Campus Study Programs, said the office of International Study Programs is very concerned about possible hostility toward American students but has not yet put any restrictions on travel or other activities for students abroad.

"We think the local administrators are much better equipped to make those decisions than we are," Bogenschild said.

He added that it is highly unlikely that any programs will be closed this semester or that students will be forced to

return to the United States before the end of the semester.

"Ever since Sept. 11, we've been very concerned about security issues," said Bogenschild.

Those events have increased concern for students participating in the University's program in Washington, D.C. — the only city to which Notre Dame sends students that has been hit by international terrorism.

ISP has also been keeping a close eye on travel advisories from the United States and abroad and has been in contact with international studies programs from other universities.

"We have not heard of any major security problems at any of [Notre Dame's] sites," said Bogenschild.

ISP recently added a "Security Update" link to their website for students and parents to access information on the atmosphere abroad. The U.S. State Department and various American embassies have also been sending information to students.

"We have been receiving advisories from the State

Department all semester," Padraic McDermott, a junior who is spending the semester in London, said. "And the London Program sent us an e-mail about precautions to be taking on our spring break, as well as a strong suggestion that we might avail ourselves of the opportunity to travel inside the United Kingdom, and not further abroad."

All of the students contacted for this story said they still feel safe and welcome in their host countries and that they do not have any plans to return home early due to the recent developments in the Middle East.

With the closure of the Jerusalem Program, the ISP site that is closest to the war in Iraq is in Cairo, Egypt. Junior Terry Fitzgibbons is participating in the Cairo Program, and said that he feels very safe in the Arab nation and has felt no hostility from any Egyptians.

"Because there are a lot of visitors and foreign students [in Cairo], people here always ask you where you're from," said Fitzgibbons. "When I tell them, they usually sigh and smile at the same time,

and [say] they like me but they don't like Bush."

Fitzgibbons said he receives messages from the American embassy to avoid crowds and to vary his patterns.

"We were advised not to go downtown near the protests," Fitzgibbons said. "Staying out of the way of the protests, I haven't felt threatened."

In spite of heightened tensions abroad, Fitzgibbons added that he is still happy to be witnessing the events from another nation.

"I'm witnessing history," he said. "And this is history, for better or for worse."

Tom Marotta, a junior spending the semester in Shanghai, China, said he feels very welcome in his host country, despite military conflict with Iraq.

"I haven't felt any animosity from either the Chinese authorities or the average Chinese person on the street," said Marotta. "I have been asked my opinion about the war by Chinese students and heard some anecdotes from other Americans being asked their opinions. Most Chinese

are against the war and anti-Bush, but still pro-American.

"I've had more hostile conversations with my fellow American students here about how the United States ought to proceed," Marotta said. Unlike Fitzgibbons and Marotta, students in the London Program find themselves among America's most loyal allies. But that also exposes them to a greater terrorist threat.

"With the talk of imminent terrorist attacks, it is hard to view London as the safest place to be," Dominic Paschel, a junior who is spending the semester in London, said. McDermott said he will be changing parts of his daily routine due to the threat of terrorism.

"I think I'm not the only one who will be trying to avoid public transportation a little more actively," McDermott said.

Meghanne Downes contributed to this article.

Contact Kevin Allen at kallen@nd.edu

Security a top priority with Notre Dame administration

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Editor

With the country's terrorist level at orange alert and allied

forces having entered Iraq, University President Father Edward Malloy released an e-mail to the University community last week outlining Notre Dame's security measures.

"Working with local, state and federal law enforcement and emergency management personnel, we remain confident that Notre Dame can appropriately and effectively respond to

situations that may threaten the community," Malloy said in his e-mail.

Rakow, director of Notre Dame Security and Police, said the University did not increase security in response to the heightened national security level. Rakow said NDSP assessed safety and security on campus and increased security at major events, espe-

"Working with local, state and federal law enforcement and emergency management personnel, we remain confident that Notre Dame can appropriately and effectively respond to situations that may threaten the community."

Father Malloy
University President

cially football games, following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Rakow said the e-mail was released to the University community because several students, faculty and staff inquired about security and emergency plans. Though no additions were made to security measures, NDSP reviewed their numerous emergency plans.

"We have been in contact with the necessary people and the [homeland security] alerts are geographically specific," Rakow said. "There is nothing of great threat in Northern Indiana."

Rakow added that his office has been in contact with the FBI and other police agencies in the area.

"We are doing as much as anyone else," Rakow said.

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdownes1@nd.edu

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Split

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made up of faculty and administrators and votes on academic issues such as the proposal to change this department.

Prior to the vote on the proposal, the members of the Council debated the possible changes to the Economics departments.

"There were a number of questions raised about the meaning of the proposal. There was no strong dissent [at the meeting] and a number of people spoke in favor of [the proposal]," said Mooney.

The Department of Economics and Econometrics

will focus on mathematical or neoclassical economics, while the Department of Economics and Policy Study will concentrate on heterodox economics, which takes a less quantitative approach.

The proposal passed Thursday differs from an earlier proposal that would have established two separate undergraduate economics majors. However, many economics faculty and students had expressed concern about this possibility.

"The new departments are going to provide the best opportunity [for economics]," said Richard Jensen, current chair of the Economics Department. "In a situation like this nobody's going to get everything they want," he said.

Changes to the Economics Department were considered after the Blue Ribbon Committee, appointed by University Provost Nathan Hatch, recommended forming two separate economics departments.

Traditionally, the study of economics at Notre Dame has focused on a heterodox approach and administrators wanted to improve the department's neoclassical study. In the last review of the College of Arts and Letters, economics was the only department that

ranked in the bottom 25 percent of national programs.

Under the new guidelines, undergraduate students will be offered a single major, while graduate students will eventually choose one area to specialize in. "There will be a core curriculum for all graduate students," said Mooney.

The two departments will each have a separate faculty and be responsible for their own organization and faculty hiring. "Each department will operate as a separate unit," said Jensen.

"Each will also have its own standards." Jensen said that the split would help the two departments to improve in areas of faculty hiring and research.

Jensen said that some changes will be made to graduate program core classes, such as dropping the requirements for political economy and history of economic thought classes.

The new changes are set to take effect July 1, said Jensen.

Over the summer, Mark Roche, dean of the College of Arts and Letters, and Jensen will consider possibilities for the new chair of the Economics and Policy Study Department and placement for current faculty into one of the two new departments. Jensen, who was hired to help strengthen the econometrics section of the department, will be the chair of the new Economics and Econometrics Department.

While some were concerned that the new econometrics department would not study social justice issues that have traditionally been the focus of the Economics Department at Notre Dame, Jensen said it would. Both departments will consider social issues, but will study them using different approaches, Jensen said.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

Carol Mooney
University vice president

"There were a number of questions raised about the meaning of the proposal. There was no strong dissent [at the meeting] and a number of people spoke in favor of [the proposal]."

Carol Mooney
University vice president

Fencing

continued from page 1

round of bouts. Bednarski prepared his team for that situation the entire year and they came through when it counted the most.

"I think it was very decisive in the end because we had done a lot of hard work throughout the whole year," Bednarski said. "Our fencers were stronger. If you want to win the gold medal, you have to be strong at the end of the game, not only at the beginning when everyone is fresh."

That decisiveness and fighting ability exemplified by the Irish can be attributed to simply being a team.

"The team dynamic has just been outstanding this year"

Destanie Milo
sabre captain

were down.

been there for each other," junior sabre captain Destanie Milo said. "We have all been in it together from the beginning, supporting each other, holding each other up, and there is no way you can win a championship like this individually."

Since Notre Dame was one of only two schools to qualify 12 fencers, it had a basic numbers

advantage over Penn State with 11 and St. John's who had 10. While some fencers had many wins and were at the top of the leader board, others came through when all the chips

were down.

"The whole roster made contributions," Bednarski said. "We didn't have a weak link and that's why we won."

In the storied history of the fencing program, the Irish had previously won five national titles from 1977-1994. From 1995-2002, the Irish finished either second or third and could never find the magic to put it all together. They did this year, and the result was different.

"It really made a big difference in the end having everyone working together to take the pressure off the individuals," senior epee captain Jan Viviani said.

It also helps to have a coach who could double as a psychic statistician.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Basketball

continued from page 1

December. And they found it.

"That wasn't us, we're not that type of team. We didn't have our edge," Miller said. "We got our edge back, and we've got to make sure we keep that edge heading out to California."

Although it might not have had anything to do with the new hairstyles the players sported — the Irish shaved their heads two nights before a narrow first-round victory over Wisconsin-Milwaukee Thursday — Notre Dame played Saturday with an intensity that had been missing since March.

And when the final horn sounded and the Irish bounced around the court in

celebration, a mission the Irish began back in June had finally been accomplished.

"I'm really happy that this group set a goal and achieved it," Brey said. "I think it's just another feather in our cap as a basketball program, and it says that we are back as a legitimate big-time basketball program."

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu

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WORLD & NATION

Monday, March 24, 2003

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

page 5

IRAQ

Allied troops hit setbacks on road to Baghdad

Associated Press

AN NASIRIYAH
Iraq used ambushes and even fake surrenders to kill and capture U.S. troops Sunday, inflicting the first significant casualties on the allied forces driving toward Baghdad. U.S. war leaders declared the invasion on target despite the bloody setbacks.

Up to nine Marines died and a dozen U.S. soldiers were taken prisoner in surprise engagements with Iraqis at An Nasiriyah, a southern city far from the forward positions of the allied force.

On the third day of the ground war, any expectation that Iraqi defenders would simply fold was gone.

"Clearly they are not a beaten force," said Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "This is going to get a lot harder."

Even so, the U.S.-British coalition fought to within 100 miles of Baghdad and tended to a growing northern front.

Baghdad came under heavy air attack early Monday, even as a mosque blared "Allahu Akbar" and "Thanks be to God," perhaps to boost morale.

Allied soldiers came under attack in a series of ruses, U.S. officials said, with one group of Iraqis waving the white flag of surrender, then opening up with artillery fire; another group appearing to welcome

coalition troops but then attacking them.

Lt. Gen. John Abizaid of U.S. Central Command said a faked surrender near An Nasiriyah, a crossing point over the Euphrates River northwest of Basra, set off the "sharpest engagement of the war thus far." Up to nine Marines died before the Americans prevailed, he said.

Twelve U.S. soldiers were missing and presumed captured by Iraqis in an ambush on an army supply convoy at An Nasiriyah, Central Command said.

"We, of course, will be much more cautious in the way that we view the battlefield as a result of some of these incidents," Abizaid said.

Some of the missing prisoners were from Fort Bliss, Texas, said Jean Offutt, an Army spokeswoman at the base, where families members gathered Sunday night.

"The mood, of course, is very tragic," she said.

U.S. and British officials said some of the stiffest resistance was coming from paramilitary guerrillas known as the Fedayeen Saddam and from Saddam Hussein's personal security forces.

"These are men who know that they will have no role in the building of a new Iraq and they have no future," said Peter Wall, chief of staff to the British military contingent in the U.S.-



U.S. Army medics and soldiers in southern Iraq carry a U.S. soldier wounded in combat against Iraqi forces to a helicopter for a medical evacuation Sunday. Senior U.S. defense officials confirmed that about 10 U.S. troops were missing in southern Iraq.

led coalition.

President Bush kept his eye on the big prize — the removal of Saddam's government and Iraq's eventual disarmament.

"I know that Saddam Hussein is losing control of his country," Bush said upon his return from the Camp David retreat in

Maryland. "We are slowly but surely achieving our objective." He demanded that U.S. prisoners of war be treated humanely.

With allies closing in, Iraqi leaders appealed for a united Arab front to condemn the invasion but knew they

wouldn't get it. "There is no hope in these rulers," Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said.

But Russia and Chinese foreign ministers reasserted their view that the invasion has no legal basis and asked for an immediate halt.

U.S. military finds suspected Iraqi chemical plant

Associated Press

WASHINGTON
U.S. troops have found a suspected chemical factory in Iraq and officials were trying to determine late Sunday whether it was involved in making chemical weapons, U.S. officials said.

The plant is near the city of Najaf, which U.S. troops reached Sunday on a push to Baghdad, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

U.S. Central Command said in a statement that troops were examining "sites of interest," but did not elaborate. The statement said reports describing the

discovery as a chemical weapons factory were "premature."

President Bush and other U.S. officials say ridding Saddam Hussein's regime of chemical and biological weapons is the main objective of the war.

Saddam's government denies it has any chemical, biological or nuclear weapons or programs to produce them.

Asked at a news conference in Qatar Sunday about reports of the chemical plant, Lt. Gen. John Abizaid of U.S. Central Command declined comment. He said top Iraqi officers have been questioned about chemical weapons.

"We have an Iraqi general officer, two

Iraqi general officers that we have taken prisoner, and they are providing us with information," Abizaid said.

If the plant is confirmed as a chemical weapons factory, it would be the first find by the U.S.-led invasion force validating U.S. allegations that Iraq still has weapons of mass destruction.

Iraqi officials have insisted that they destroyed all of the chemical and biological weapons they made after the 1991 Persian Gulf War — a claim U.N. weapons inspectors have questioned.

U.N. weapons inspectors were not aware of any large-scale chemical sites which could be used to make chemical

weapons in Najaf, said Ewen Buchanan, spokesman for the inspectors. However, there are many such dual-use sites in other parts of the country because of Iraq's petrochemical industry.

U.N. inspectors visited a cement plant in Najaf earlier this year but did not report finding anything.

The U.S. military's discovery was first reported in the Jerusalem Post, which has a reporter traveling with the unit from the Army's 3rd Infantry Division which reached the chemical plant. The newspaper reported that about 30 Iraqi troops, including a general, surrendered at the plant.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Chechens appear to okay constitution

Voters in Chechnya appeared to approve a constitution Sunday that the Kremlin hopes will bring stability to the separatist region after nearly a decade of bloodshed. The Kremlin and Chechnya's Moscow-appointed administration have portrayed the referendum as a key step toward peace and a return to normal life in the region, which since 1994 has experienced two wars and an interim period marked by lawlessness.

Mexican drug lord charged over weekend

Reputed drug lord Osziel Cardenas was charged with drug smuggling, organized crime, money laundering and illegal weapons possession over the weekend, the Justice Department announced Sunday. The charges were handed down in two separate hearings Sunday and Saturday. Cardenas is the alleged head of the powerful Gulf cartel, which has moved tons of cocaine and marijuana.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. soldier held in attack on own troops

A U.S. soldier most likely acted out of resentment Sunday when he threw grenades into tents at a 101st Airborne Division command center, killing a fellow serviceman, an Army spokesman said. Fifteen other soldiers, including the division commander, were wounded — at least three of them seriously — in the early Sunday attack at Camp Pennsylvania, the rear base for the 101st near the Iraqi border. The 101st is based at Fort Campbell, Ky.

U.S. protests Russia-Iraq weapons deal

The State Department protested Sunday that Russian companies sold sensitive military equipment to Iraq in the run-up to U.S.-led war against Saddam Hussein's regime. Three Russian firms are helping the Iraqi military deploy electronic jamming equipment against U.S. planes and bombs in violation of United Nations sanctions.

TV holds off on airing captured soldiers

U.S. television networks spent hours weighing Sunday whether to air video footage, shown elsewhere in the world, of what appeared to be American prisoners of war in Iraq. The images were picked up from Iraqi television by the Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said the Geneva Conventions make it illegal for prisoners to be pictured and humiliated. That left network executives with agonizing decisions involving both matters of taste and the question of whether they were letting the Pentagon influence their independent newsgathering decisions. All of the networks said they would not show video of what was said to be an Iraqi morgue containing American bodies, saying the material was neither newsworthy nor appropriate for airing. However, both CNN and NBC have aired a still image of bodies that could not be identified.

Former NFL player shares faith, virtues

By HIMANSHU KOTHARI
News Writer

Former New York Giants player Chris Godfrey, founder of Life Athletics, spoke about his experiences with service as part of the Blessing Undo Others lecture series Sunday.

Godfrey talked of his journey from football to faith.

"I decided to quit the NFL after nine years and did not know what to do from then on," Godfrey said.

At that point, a friend of his who knew a law professor at Notre Dame suggested law school, which brought him to Notre Dame in 1990, where he searched for his vocation.

"None of us are happy unless we are doing what we are meant for doing, our vocation," Godfrey said.

Between volunteering for various

projects, one thing led to another and Godfrey formed "Life Athletics." The program is endorsed by more than 300 Olympic-level athletes and reaches out to people from middle school to college. Godfrey said it is based on "living a life by the principals of virtue, abstinence and respect for life."

He said people nowadays feel that a sexual relationship "is not a big deal."

"Our faith teaches [us] that we can only find ourselves in the giving of ourselves," Godfrey said. "The only context that justifies a sexual relationship is the commitment of marriage, for otherwise there is the possibility of a break-up, which leaves one emotion-

ally and spiritually heart-broken and at times unable to bond with other individuals."

Citing a study, Godfrey said people who engage in premarital sex are more likely to be divorced later in life. Godfrey added that abortion was not the answer to an unwanted pregnancy.

"Abortion is never the answer, it cannot change the fact that the child wanted to exist. It harms a child's life and the parents. If a mother is willing to kill her own child what guarantee does she have to securing her own life or those of others?" Godfrey said.

Godfrey emphasized the reason humans are unique is their ability to love.

He said he believes that people listen to his organization because spokespersons are icons and ambassadors of the sporting world. Godfrey publicizes the program by introducing it into the curriculum of certain schools and organizing sports camps where he teaches students about virtue.

"Parents need to talk to their kids about these issues and married people too need to live by the same virtues as single people. All virtues are expressions of love," Godfrey said.

The weeklong series is part of another project of the office of the student body president called "Greatness Grants" to bolster service.

Contact Himanshu Kothari
hkothari@nd.edu

"Parents need to talk to their kids about these issues and married people need to live by the same virtues as single people. All virtues are expressions of love."

Chris Godfrey
former New York Giants player

Hallahan appoints chief of staff

By MATT BRAMANTI
News Writer

Student body president-elect Pat Hallahan appointed freshman Emily Chin as his chief of staff for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Chin, a resident of Welsh, currently serves as student union secretary. As chief of staff, Chin will lead and coordinate all activities of the Office of the President.

Chin, who managed the campaign to elect Hallahan and his running mate, Jeremy Lao, said the trio "complement each other well."

"Pat and Jeremy both approached me" about the appointment, Chin said. She expressed confidence that her experience in student government will lead to a successful year.

"I saw the internal student government workings first hand," Chin said.

Hallahan heaped praise on the rising leader. "Anyone would be willing to work with her," he said. "She has a way about her that's very professional and very warm." He went on to express confidence in his staff with Chin at the helm. "With Emily and the group we've put together, we can be effective in addressing students' concerns," Hallahan

said.

Hallahan echoed the sentiment. "She's only a freshman and she's been very involved and active already," he said. "She comes in with a level of experience that not many freshmen have."

Chin said her focus would be on fulfilling the campaign promises she helped Hallahan and Lao engineer, including improved communication with University officers, academic programming and working to

bring dances back into the residence halls.

"Opening the lines of communication" is vital to "creating more of a respect for the

student body from the administration," Chin said. The new officers hope to unify student opinion on the dance issue in order to present a cohesive case to university leaders.

"Once that opinion is demonstrated through [Student Senate and Hall Presidents Council] resolutions, it shows a unified support that we can take to the officers and board of trustees," Lao said.

"We're hoping to get some type of compromise with the

administration — or at least get some type of response about why they took [in-hall dances] away," Chin said.

During the election campaign, the Hallahan-Lao ticket called on university administrators to make the results of teacher and course evaluations available to students. Chin said the measure would accomplish her goal of improving teaching quality.

She also plans to spearhead more academically oriented events, including a lecture series featuring distinguished Notre Dame faculty and alumni.

Chin characterized the transition from Libby Bishop's presidency as "smooth."

In February, Hallahan resigned as Bishop's chief of staff in protest of her report to the Board of Trustees, which he called "watered down."

Hallahan attributed the disagreement to a difference in leadership styles.

"I've been a friend of Libby's for a long time and I still will be," Hallahan

"Opening the lines of communication is vital to creating more of a respect for the student body from the administration."

Emily Chin
2003-04 chief of staff

said. Chin agreed, saying the incoming and outgoing presidents are on great terms.

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MARKET RECAP

Market Watch March 21

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S&P 500		
825.53	↑	+1.79
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4,970.94	↑	+114.50
NYSE		

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
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BOOTS & COOTS (WEL)	-52.14	-0.73	0.67
NASDAQ-100 INDEX (QQQ)	+1.38	+0.37	27.17
MICROSOFT CORP (MSFT)	+1.22	+0.32	26.57
SIRIUS SATELLIT (SIRI)	-1.69	-0.01	0.58

IN BRIEF

War in Iraq hurting French economy

"In the last year, or rather in the last six months, I think the Iraqi events have already created negative consequences that France regrets now," French economy minister Francis Mer told LCI television and RTL radio.

"I'm not saying that to deny the intensity of the Iraqi problems, but the main part of the negative consequences from the Iraqi crisis is behind us," he said. According to a survey by the IFOP agency published Sunday in the French newspaper *Le Journal du Dimanche*, 46 percent of French people worry the war will aggravate economic and other problems in France.

Airlines cancel flights in time of war

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 flights to several destinations in the Middle-East for Thursday and Friday. Singapore Airlines said it was suspending 65 weekly flights due to "softening demand." Air New Zealand and Air Canada reported passengers were canceling their own flights or asking to postpone them because of the war.

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.

U.S. wants FedEx to repay 9-11 funds

The federal government is demanding that FedEx Express repay \$31.6 million in funds to offset losses from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. But FedEx says the U.S. Department of Transportation owes the Memphis company \$18 million. The money is part of \$5 billion that was given under the Airline Safety and System Stabilization Act to help the industry recover from the grounding of all flights after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Iraqi oil not ready for market

◆ American market must be patient for oil

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Once the war in Iraq ends, it's likely to take months before the country's oil again flows into world markets, analysts say.

Getting wells, pipelines and pumping stations back into operation is a priority for U.S. planners who see oil, and the income it produces, as essential to rebuilding postwar Iraq.

By all accounts it will be several years before the country's dilapidated oil industry can boost production significantly.

U.S. and British troops moved swiftly once the war began to control key parts of Iraq's southern oil fields. Just as importantly, they secured crucial oil-gathering points and the major export terminals on the Persian Gulf and counted only nine wells on fire.

Iraq's northern fields also appeared to have avoided damage thus far.

Destruction of the fields and shipping terminals had been a potential nightmare for U.S. war planners. They worried that President Saddam Hussein might order Iraq's wells set ablaze as he did Kuwait's wells toward the end of the Gulf War a dozen years ago.

Adm. Michael Boyce, chief of the British defense staff, said "practically all" Iraqi oil and gas installations had been mined or booby-trapped, indicating Saddam was "prepared to blow up his entire economy." U.S. Brig. Gen. Vince Brooks said Saturday that only nine of Iraq's 500-plus oil fields had been sabotaged.

"On the whole, the oil infrastructure appears pretty much intact — beyond the odd bit where they managed to do some damage," said Maj. Charlie Eastwood of the



An Iraqi worker climbs up a set of stairs at the al-Doura oil refinery outside Baghdad in this Sept. 5, 2002 file photo.

British 7th Armored Brigade at an oil field near Basra.

Still, getting Iraq's oil to flow into world markets again will take time, said Robert Ebel, director of the energy programs at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Until recently, Iraq had produced about 2.5 million barrels of crude a day, exporting 2 million barrels. The exports stopped when it became clear war was imminent. Buyers were unwilling to enter into contracts for oil that they might never see.

Exports dwindled to almost nothing a week ago. The last shipment of Iraqi crude left the Ceyhan terminal in Turkey on Thursday, according to U.S. officials. Iraq's 1,685

wells in the Basra area in the south and around Kirkuk in the north have stopped pumping.

The world's oil markets have hardly noticed. Oil prices have dropped from nearly \$40 a barrel in mid-February for future delivery to \$27 on Friday for oil to be delivered in May.

The reason: There is plenty of oil.

For weeks, Saudi Arabia has pumped as much as 9.5 million barrels a day — 1.5 million barrels above its quota set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Also, Saudi Arabia is said to have 50 million barrels in storage and in tankers already on the high seas.

Other OPEC members have stepped up production as well.

U.S. planners already are mapping strategy to get Iraq's oil flowing again.

The Pentagon has contacted a number of major oil industry service companies — among them Halliburton Co., once run by Vice President Dick Cheney — to repair any of Iraq's wells that are damaged and assess other facilities.

One problem is that so little is known about the condition of Iraq's oil infrastructure.

The last time an outsider produced an assessment was three years ago. It found "dilapidated" conditions because of poor maintenance, neglect and pressure on oil managers to keep production as high as possible, oil experts said.

Uncertainty continues in wartime

Associated Press

NEW YORK

The start of war doesn't wipe away all the potentially stock-sinking uncertainty from Wall Street. Plenty of market-rattling unknowns still abound, most having to do with the potential fallout of war on American consumers and businesses — and the global economy.

"The uncertainty that's still out there is less like a veil and more like a curtain," said Tim O'Neill, chief economist at BMO Financial Group in Toronto.

With tensions mounting over Iraq

and no resolution seemingly near, stocks slumped through much of the winter amid worries over what was to come.

And then this past week, a rally set in once it seemed war was upon us. Investors cheered the clarity, triggering Wall Street's longest winning streak in nearly three years.

"From our point of view, while the markets have priced in the probability of war, they still expect the fighting to be short and successful," said Burt Hilton, head of U.S. equity derivatives at Citigroup Private Bank. "Investors haven't yet discounted the negative scenario for the conduct of

the war itself."

While most economists say the war itself won't damage the economy, it could exacerbate many of the problems already weighing on the sluggish economy.

In the buildup to war, consumer confidence plunged and retail sales began to slow. Corporate executives further reduced their spending, which has been weak through most of the economic downturn over the last three years.

Now with war here, questions loom over how war — especially a prolonged battle — will affect the psyche of businesses and consumers.

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Look beyond the numbers.

Chicago wins best picture; Brody, Kidman win acting awards

Associated Press

The razzle-dazzle musical satire "Chicago" won the Academy Award as best picture Sunday, while top acting honors struck a more somber note: Adrien Brody as a Holocaust survivor in "The Pianist" and Nicole Kidman as suicidal novelist Virginia Woolf in "The Hours."

In a ceremony overshadowed by the U.S.-led war in Iraq, "Chicago" became the first musical since 1968's "Oliver!" to win the top Oscar and also took home the most trophies, six. Its other awards were supporting actress for Catherine Zeta-Jones, and four technical honors including costume design and art direction.

Veteran character actor Chris Cooper won as best supporting actor for his role as scraggly-haired, toothless horticultural poacher in "Adaptation."

Brody's victory was something of a surprise, as was the awarding of the best-director Oscar to Roman Polanski, also for "The Pianist." Polanski has been an exile from the United States since fleeing 25 years ago to avoid sentencing for having sex with a 13-year-old girl.

"The Pianist" also won the adapted-screenplay award for Ronald Harwood, giving it a total of three, while Pedro Almodovar earned the original-screenplay prize for "Talk to Her."

World events sparked several emotional highlights, including Brody's tearful speech and an attack on President Bush by filmmaker Michael Moore, winner of the best-documentary Oscar for "Bowling for Columbine."

"Chicago" came in with a leading 13 nominations, followed by the crime epic "Gangs of New York" with 10. But "Gangs" was shut out in every category, including best director, where Martin Scorsese was a sentimental favorite.

"Chicago" was adapted from the Bob Fosse stage hit about two Jazz Age murderesses using their jailhouse celebrity to further their singing careers.

Once a Hollywood staple,

musicals hit a critical peak 40 years ago with best-picture Oscar winners that included "West Side Story," "My Fair Lady" and "The Sound of Music." Musicals gradually fell out of favor since the late 1960s as moviegoers grew more sophisticated and studios became convinced that audiences would no longer abide characters who burst into song.

"Moulin Rouge," a best-picture nominee a year ago, whetted the public's appetite for musicals, and "Chicago" has packed theaters, with its domestic haul of \$134 million and climbing.

Zeta-Jones was the first performer to win an acting Oscar for a musical since Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey for 1972's "Cabaret." In "Chicago," Zeta-Jones played a jailed vaudeville scamp scheming for celebrity after slaying her husband and sister.

Due to deliver her second child with husband and Oscar winner Michael Douglas in a few weeks, Zeta-Jones joined co-star and fellow supporting-actress nominee Queen Latifah in the Oscar performance of "I Move On," the best-song nominee from "Chicago."

"My hormones are too way out of control to be dealing with this," Zeta-Jones said after winning.

Brody played the title character in "The Pianist," based on the real-life story of musician Wladyslaw Szpilman, a Polish Jew who lived through World War II by hiding from the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto.

"This film would not be possible without the blueprint provided by Wladyslaw Szpilman," Brody said. "This film is a tribute to his survival."

"My experience making this film made me very aware of the sadness and the dehumanization of people in times of war, and the repercussions of war. And whether you believe in God or Allah, may he watch over you, and let's pray for a peaceful and swift resolution," Brody said, fighting back tears and drawing a standing ovation.

Documentary winner "Bowling for Columbine" is Moore's alternately hilarious and horrifying examination of

gun violence in America.

Moore, a harsh critic of the Bush administration, invited his fellow documentary nominees on stage, saying they were there in "solidarity with me, because we like non-fiction, and we are living in fictitious times. ... We live in a time where we have a man who's sending us to war for fictitious reasons."

"We are against this war, Mr. Bush. Shame on you, Mr. Bush. Shame on you," Moore said, amid a mix of boos and applause from the crowd.

Kidman's Oscar win was a Hollywood ending for her after a turbulent couple for her after a miscarriage in 2001 and broke up with husband Tom Cruise, in whose shadow she had lingered throughout their 11-year relationship.

Kidman emerged as a big star in her own right later that year with "Moulin Rouge," which earned her a best-actress Oscar nomination, and the horror hit "The Others." In "The Hours," Kidman played suicidal author Virginia Woolf, wearing a fake nose to capture the writer's plain features.

"Why do you come to the Academy Awards when the world is in such turmoil," Kidman said. "Because art is important. And because you believe in what you do and you want to honor that, and it is a tradition that needs to be upheld."

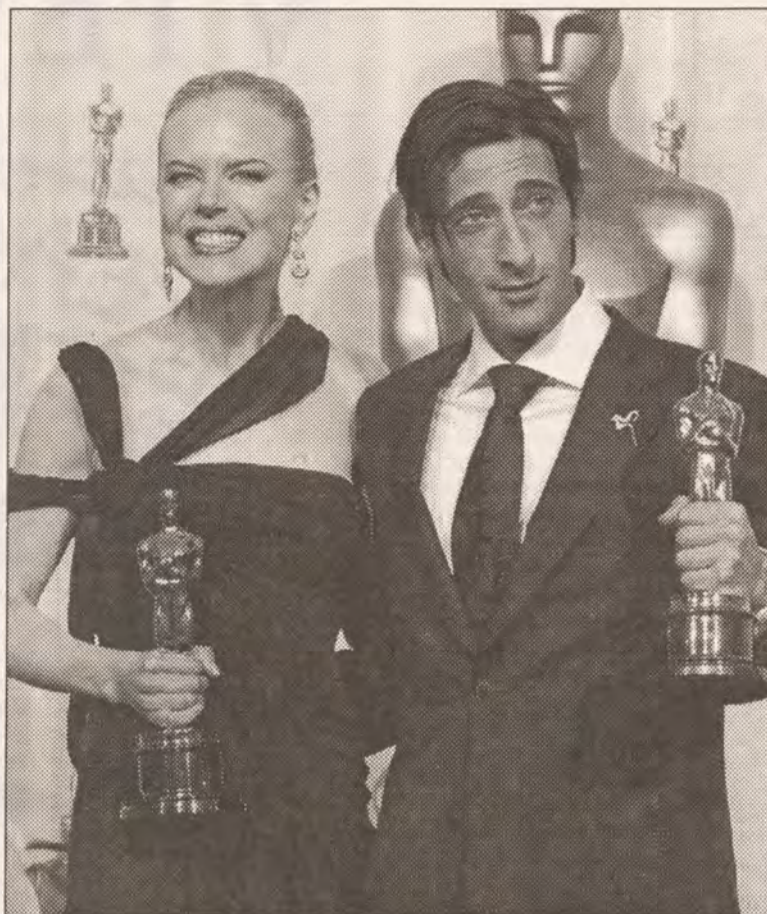
Cooper, a veteran character actor whose credits include "American Beauty" and "Lone Star," played a man on a mission to preserve rare orchids in the film loosely based on author Susan Orlean's "The Orchid Thief."

"In light of all the troubles in this world, I wish us all peace," Cooper said as he received his award.

"Lose Yourself," from the film "8 Mile" starring Eminem, won the best-song Oscar for the rap star and his co-writers, Jeff Bass and Luis Resto.

"I think he's going to feel great about the Oscar," Resto said backstage, after accepting the award for the absent Eminem. "He's very proud about the song."

The Oscar for foreign-language film went to the German drama "Nowhere in Africa,"



AFP Photo

Best actor Adrien Brody ("The Pianist") poses with best actress Nicole Kidman ("The Hours") at the 75th Academy Awards in Hollywood.

about a family of Jews who leave Germany before World War II and settle on a farm in Kenya.

The Japanese fantasy "Spirited Away" won the award for animated feature film. The movie, which had a limited U.S. release last fall and grossed a modest \$5.5 million, was a surprise winner against a field of nominees that included \$100 million Hollywood hits "Ice Age" and "Lilo & Stitch."

ABC News twice offered a brief war update, then switched back to the Oscars.

Earlier, demonstrators on both sides of the war issue gathered near Hollywood's Kodak Theatre, site of the Oscars.

Anti-war protesters held signs such as "Bush Betrays USA," "Bush: Dumb and Dangerous" and "Oscar for Peace." Half a block from the area where stars arrived, supporters of U.S. troops in Iraq chanted "USA, USA," and held

a banner reading "God Bless America."

Planners scrapped the glitzy red-carpet arrival festivities. And some celebrities opposed to the war wore peace pins. A few, Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins among them, showed up in fuel-efficient gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles instead of limousines as a statement against U.S. dependence on overseas oil.

"Well, I'm glad they cut back on the glitz," host Steve Martin quipped at the show's start. "You probably noticed there was no fancy red carpet tonight. That'll send them a message."

After a few initial references to the war and its effects on the Oscars, Martin's opening monologue stuck to mocking nominees, other celebrities and Hollywood at large. And in a rarity, the show ran just over its allotted 3 1/2-hour time. Some past Oscar shows, including last year's, have topped four hours.

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VIEWPOINT

page 10

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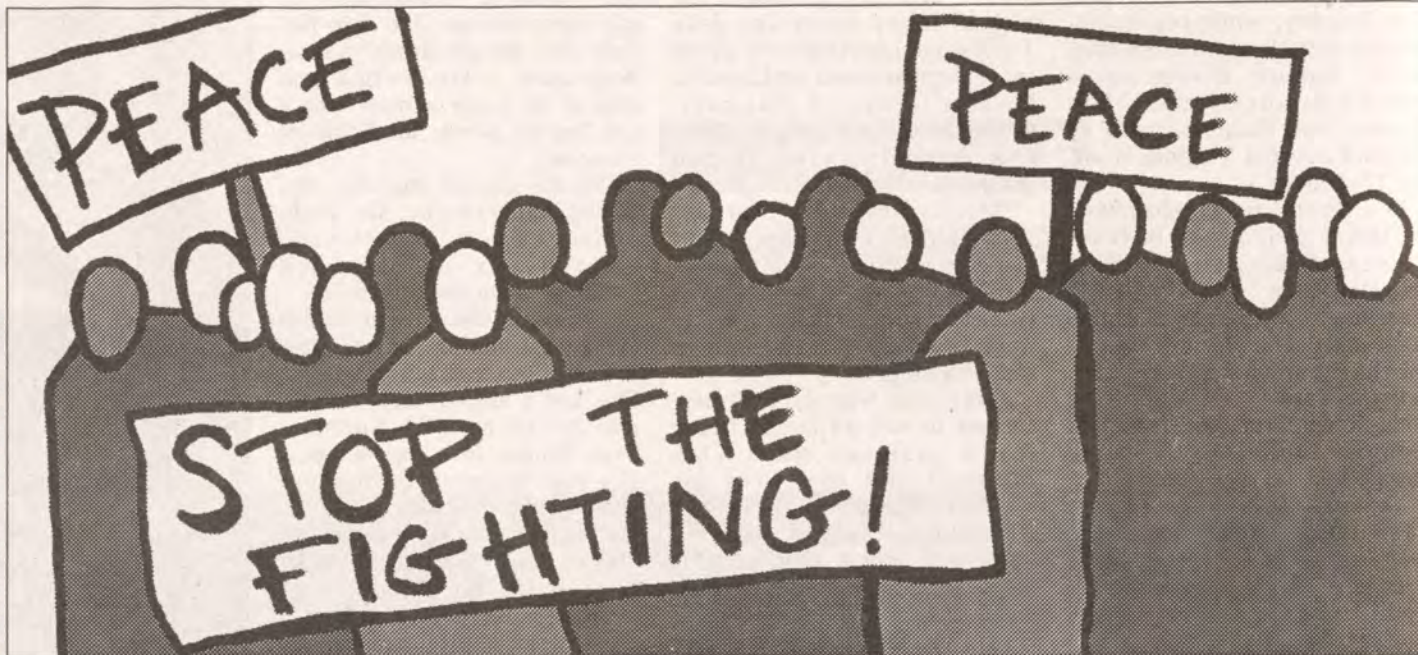
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This is peace?

According to a news story by Amy Webb in yesterday's Indianapolis Star, "about 140 war protestors" gathered in Monument Circle on Saturday afternoon, compared to "nine Bush administration supporters in Army fatigues."

That's funny. I was in Indianapolis on Saturday afternoon (though not for the protests, or the basketball game; I had to be content to listen on the radio as the Irish whipped the Illini in the Battle of the Schools with "Fighting" Mascots). I drove by Monument Circle, and I didn't see 140 protestors. I know — I counted. There were exactly seven. Those who stood on the other side, literally and metaphorically speaking, numbered about 20.

Now, I didn't get to Monument Circle until about 4:30 p.m., so perhaps I arrived too late to pass by the more populated part of the anti-war demonstration. Maybe the other 133 protestors had to go to work, or maybe they hopped over to Starbucks to grab a latte or something.

The more likely explanation is that they got bored, since there was no action. Many of the people who publicly oppose the war call themselves "activists" to deceive themselves and others by pretending that when they do something offensive or outrageous, they're helping to affect action. The problem is, as more and more people support military action to oust Saddam Hussein and disarm Iraq, the "activists" stoop to more and more extreme tactics. Although they congratulate each other on their creativity on Internet sites, and share tales of their

arrests like how they earned merit badges, they may unintentionally drive more normal people away from their cause.

I want to make an important distinction here, and an apology. In my last column, I lumped peaceful protestors in with the nutballs for the sake of effect, and I apologize for that, since they're nothing alike. I regret insinuating that similarity, and painting people who are anti-war with so broad a brush. I really do respect people who demonstrate peacefully, for this or any other reason. They're exercising the same First Amendment rights that I have, not offending anyone and just believing in their ideals. I may disagree with the members of the Notre Dame community who held candlelight vigils at the Grotto or the peaceful demonstrators in Indianapolis, but I have absolutely no qualms about their actions.

However, the anti-war movement does have some real whack-jobs. To find them, we have to escape "middle America" and go to places where you have to smack strangers upside the head to get their attention. Many of the demonstrations in major cities are sponsored by organizations with names like Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER), whose Web site advocates halting "business as usual" during the war. A group called "Freeway Peace Virus Human Billboard Campaign" is trying to block highway exits for two hours every week.

Actions like this are labeled "civil disobedience" as if they're walking in Mahatma Gandhi's sandaled footsteps, arm in arm with Martin Luther King and Henry David Thoreau. They're not. The protests are marked by a complete lack of civility. Witness these events:

In San Francisco, those darn crazy "activists" demonstrated how the war made them sick by intentionally vomiting on the plaza of the Federal Building. More than 2,000 people have been arrested for shutting down traffic

in the city.

In New York, a group called Lesbians Against Boys Invading Anything (I'll let you do the abbreviation yourself) joined the march down Broadway. While the march started peacefully, thousands of protestors refused to disperse after their permits expired and began throwing rocks and spraying mace at police. According to the NYPD, 17 cops were injured and 91 people were arrested.

Even in Chicago, 10,000 demonstrators shut down Lake Shore Drive and shouted, "Killers! Killers! Killers!" at a group of supporters they walked by. Five hundred arrests were made.

This is peaceful?

Peace advocates have historically been represented by a dove, but there's really nothing dovish about most of these events, unless there's some odd species of dove that shout in megaphones and stage puke-ins on public property. Meanwhile, the so-called "hawks," despised as war-mongers by peace "activists," hold demonstrations of their own that, though they don't have the sheer numbers of the anti-war movement, are far more orderly.

Fifteen thousand people attended the "Rally For America" in Auburn, Ind., 120 miles northeast of Indianapolis. They gathered, prayed, sang songs and chanted and although they didn't realize it, they served as a stark contrast to the outrageous behavior at many "peace" demonstrations.

Meanwhile, at least things were calm in Indianapolis. Except for the RCA Dome — I heard that place was raucous.

Mike Marchand, '01, had Notre Dame in the Sweet 16 in his NCAA Tournament bracket. If he didn't look absolutely ridiculous with no hair, he would have shaved his head to support the Irish ballers. His e-mail address is Marchand.3@alumni.nd.edu.

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



Mike Marchand

Undistinguished
Alumnus

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NDTODAY/OBSERVER POLL QUESTION

Do you think people should protest the war in Iraq?

Vote at NDToday.com by Thursday at 5 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon, which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
civil rights activist

VIEWPOINT

Monday, March 24, 2003

page 11

Effects of war felt in an Islamic republic

The last few days have been long. I am mentally exhausted. The United States and Britain started the war in Iraq. I have lived in a village in an Islamic Republic for 22 months. I finally felt comfortable, certain about my place and comfortable in the relationships that I established.

Maite Uranga

Life in Africa

Work was easy. The volunteers in Mauritania prepared for this since early September. We all knew exactly what we were supposed to do and when. From what I see and hear, everything went exactly as planned. Really, in many ways it has so far been anti-climatic and I hope it continues to be.

Despite all this my ability to form complete thoughts is weak right now, let alone an 800-word column. I was also here through Sept. 11. I thought I knew how this time would go. But, this time feels different. The threat of violence or direct harassment against me is very, very unlikely. But, there was a coldness in the weeks leading up to war and especially the last two days. Or perhaps there is the lack of complete support (that most people did

show after the Sept. 11 attacks) to offset the cold reactions.

Today is Friday and my region choose to stay close to home on the advice of our host families. This war is so real to me. They let all the schools out a week early for spring break to cut down on protests. The police made all the European and American expatriates check in at their local police station. The day before this all started we went to the police station and learned about safety and security. They gave us multiple cell phone numbers, including a direct line to the police chief and promise of police protection whenever and wherever we needed it. After that, we went to the mayor's office and then the prefect's office. Both were in meetings. When they saw four American kids walk in, they cleared out the room.

Suddenly many of the shop keepers who I saw nearly every day in the market make me nervous. Many have turbans and beards. Even after living here for two years, I realize how deeply rooted some of my biases are — perhaps largely as a result of the American media using turbans and beards as the stereotypical symbol of violence. I see pictures of American tanks rolling across the desert and it

looks like it could all be about a half a mile from my house here.

I listen to the BBC on my radio. I heard about protests and riots in Islamic countries that started after the Friday prayer. At the same time, the Call to the Mosque went off in my village. About half an hour later I heard the sounds of a crowd. My heart dropped. I asked my Mom across the compound what it was and she said it was the soccer game. Every time my cell phone rings, I expect something to have happened on the other end. Usually they are as neurotic as I am as we play the waiting game.

Tonight I went to another family's house for dinner. Al-Jazeera, the CNN of the Arabic world, was on, and I saw pictures of downtown Baghdad under attack and the Arab version of events. Western media shows Iraqi soldiers with their hands in the air. Arabic television shows close-ups of the destruction in downtown Baghdad. The truth lies somewhere in the middle. It is a big roller-coaster ride with hundreds of unknowns and a very uncertain outcome. I have heard no predictions of time frame and every day seems so long.

Even today, when I stayed close to home people talked about it and asked

me what I thought. The woman to whose house I go to fill up my water bucket seemed to think that I had an inside track and asked, "Did you get him yet?" It is unnerving to have to explain my beliefs and my country to people — especially to family and friends whom I thought I knew well a couple of days ago.

Again the question arises as to why I continue to be here. Nothing threatens me, but there is so much to be cautious about. I am supposed to call the police whenever I leave my house. I am in contact with the main office in Nouakchott twice a day and still worry what will be said each time. I wake up after nine hours of hours of sleep with my body still exhausted. This country is still recovering from the last Gulf War. I stay because if I leave I feel like that is a symptom of the country going backwards. I stay because this is now my home.

Maite Uranga graduated from Notre Dame in 2000 as an anthropology and government major. She is currently a Peace Corps volunteer in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Quality of teaching at an all-time high

Fathers Hesburgh, Joyce, Malloy and Poorman will quit trying to make Notre Dame a "great research university" while maintaining Notre Dame's tradition of strong undergraduate teaching and learning when they hear me say it, but the quality of undergraduate education at Notre Dame has improved tremendously since the "great leap forward" a quarter of century or so ago.

Of course Professor Charles Rice and I disagree about almost everything, so what else is new?

This is one of those debates where what's old counts for something. Unlike Professor Rice, I'm a graduate of this University (science pre-med, 1953). I know what the University was like in the "good old days." I came back and joined the philosophy faculty in 1959 and have spent the intervening years in inter-disciplinary research and teaching requiring me to maintain contact with faculty and programs in many departments in the humanities and the sciences. Some very perceptive children (six in all) of mine were in continuous attendance at the University between 1974 and 1992. Finally, unlike Professor Rice, I actually teach Notre Dame undergraduates.

Every bit of information at my disposal indicates that the quality of learning and teaching in all departments in Arts and Letters and Science, the two colleges my children and I know best, has been steadily improving since 1977 and is currently at an all-time high.

We're not perfect yet, but Professor Rice is pointing in the wrong direction. For starters, we need academic administrators who can think outside the "business model" box, and we need Residence Life administrators whose understanding of gender relations has outgrown the "same-sex play group" style of small children.

We've got a long way to go, but our problem is not that our dreams are too big.

Edward Manier
philosophy professor
South Bend
March 20

A defense of the strike against Iraq

We would like to establish the purpose of "Operation Persian Gulf War II," hereinafter correctly called Operation Iraqi Freedom. One of the most common protests to the war is "No Blood for Oil," and it seems that a letter by Jessica Needles on March 21 echoes this sentiment. While it is easy to fall into this trap, this war is actually being waged for the purpose of freeing a people from a self-serving dictator who has continually ignored U.N. resolutions and other forms of diplomacy for over twelve years. By disregarding world opinion and by keeping and pursuing weapons of mass destruction, Saddam Hussein has become a legitimate threat to the United States and to the world.

Ms. Needles claims that "the Bush administration has destroyed U.S. foreign relations by ignoring our allies in the United Nations." We find this claim to be unfounded since the U.S. is acting with a coalition more than 40 members strong. It was President Bush who initially secured a U.N. resolution giving Iraq a last chance to comply with weapons inspectors. As it became clear that Iraq was deceiving the U.N. and all means of diplomacy had failed, force was the only viable option.

The U.S. is completely within its rights as a sovereign nation to defend itself from outside threats. While Ms. Needles seems to think that there is no "meaningful" reason to go to war, we believe that the protection of our nation and the liberation of an oppressed people are certainly meaningful enough. U.S. intelligence has shown that not only does Iraq possess both chemical and biological

weapons; it also has attempted to acquire the components to produce nuclear warheads. Additionally, it is known that Saddam has used such weapons on his own people in the past and it is therefore feasible to assume that he could use them on the rest of the world or sell them to terrorist organizations.

While Ms. Needles believes that the Iraqis have no desire to be liberated, it is our understanding that this is not the case. Clearly one can not believe state-sponsored rallies to gauge Iraqi public opinion regarding Saddam. In light of recent reports that liberated Iraqis are thanking U.S. troops, it seems that a majority is in favor of being free. Under an oppressive regime such as Saddam's, it is impossible to discern the desires of the people and it is for this reason that freedom is imperative.

In regards to Ms. Needles's position that the U.S. is attacking Iraq for its oil, it is helpful to understand the foreign ties of the second-most oil rich nation in the world. While most assume that Iraq is one of the largest suppliers of oil to the U.S., only 8.5 percent of all U.S. crude oil imports actually come from Iraq, as reported by the Department of Energy.

According to globalpolicy.org, France is the No. 1 European trading partner with Iraq under the U.N. oil for food program. In fact, the French oil company TotalFinaElf owns the rights to 25 percent of all Iraqi oil fields. These rights are believed to be worth in excess of \$400 billion. In addition, Russia is the world's No. 1 trading partner with Iraq. Iraq owes Russia more than \$8 billion in debts from the Soviet

era and has made deals with the Russian oil company Lukoil to develop its West Qurna and other lucrative oil fields. Both nations realize that these contracts may not be honored by the new Iraqi government and therefore are hesitant to support a regime change.

The U.S. has repeatedly stated that it will not claim Iraqi oil as its own but will instead use it for reconstruction costs. The oil in Iraq is to be owned by the Iraqi citizens and will not be used by the U.S. to pay for our war debts. These debts, estimated at between \$80 to 100 billion are being accounted for in the current budget debate in congress. As recently as Friday, the Senate voted to trim \$100 billion in tax cuts to President Bush's "friends" to help pay for the war. In our minds, the cost of war is not an issue. We don't believe that a price tag can be placed on freedom and security.

We don't believe that normally expressing one's first amendment rights is unpatriotic. However, we believe that at times like these when debate has ceased and the Congress has passed a resolution to go to war, protests are in fact unpatriotic. We find it hard to believe that one can support the troops without supporting the cause for which they are giving their lives. These troops deserve our full support and nothing less.

In closing, please remember that we are merely "a misguided" bunch willing to blindly place our trust in our President.

Ben Haney, Beth Monteleone
and Jacque Wilson
sophomores
Washington, D.C.
March 23

SCENE *feature*

Locura Latina: More

This year's Latin Expressions brings together a wide va

By CHRISTIE BOLSEN
Assistant Scene Editor

Latin Expressions 2003 is appropriately entitled "Locura Latina."

Meaning "madness" or "insanity," Latin Expressions has become an event on campus that can be relied on each year to showcase cultural entertainment at its best. It promises to be no different this year, with an impressive array of talented artists performing dance, singing and poetry acts lined up.

The performance premiered in 1990, with the purpose of raising funds for a scholarship to be presented to a local Latino high school senior who wanted to attend Notre Dame. Now an annual event over a decade old, the participation and attendance level has

increased dramatically, making it necessary to move it out of its former small-scale venue of the Hesburgh Library Auditorium. The spirit of the production has changed as well, from

"It's about understanding the culture a little more, the different types of music and the way things go socially. People can also see that there is diversity at Notre Dame and that anyone can be in it because we're open to everybody."

Miguel Luna
sophomore

a politically charged and angst dominated performance to a celebration of being Latino at Notre Dame.

Locura Latina begins with six couples that dance in both the

opening act and the closing act. For the organizers, this is one of the most difficult portions of the event to put together, because there are so many talented dancers to choose from. These dancers audition at the same time as the rest of the acts, and are then paired up to open and end the show.

There were close to 50 people trying out for only ten openings. With such gifted competition vying for these two performance slots that linger in the minds of the audience, the beginning and ending to Locura



Members of last year's Latin Expressions danced to express their appreciation of the Latin culture. Dancers will be performing again this year at the show. Photo courtesy of Christie Bolsen

Latina should be memorable and exciting. Miguel Luna, a sophomore from Siegfried, and Cecilia Lesmes, a senior from Lewis, are the commissioners in charge choreographing the opening acts and dance in them as well.

Luna feels that there are multiple objectives and themes in the production as a whole.

"It's about understanding the culture a little more, the different types of music and the way things go socially. People can also see that there is

diversity at Notre Dame and that anyone can be in [Latin Expressions] because we're open to everybody. There's no discrimination," Luna said.

"In high school I danced and was in Latino club. We had International Night where the different clubs put on performances, and last year I danced in the opening and closing act. I was approached this year to be a commissioner and I wanted something different and to make it enjoyable for everybody," Luna said.

The next act to take the stage is the Irish Dance Group. Co-executive director April Garcia, a sophomore from Lyons, feels that the decision to include the Irish dancers was important not only because of their ability but also because it highlights the diversity of the student body and students who have more than one ethnic background. The Irish dancers were adamant about being as Latino as possible, dancing to Latin music, since the organizers feel that as long as the acts express Latino culture they complement the production as a whole. An interesting aspect of Celtic dancing is that it does have roots with flamenco dancing, making it even more suited for the production.

Mariachi ND, a student-run organization on campus, will be performing twice in Locura Latina. Also performing will be individual dance and singing acts that composed their own acts, and a poetry performance. The poetry reading is focused on the theme of being the Latino woman. Rounding out the first half is Ballet Folklorico. Although the group's instructor is from outside the University, the organization is basically run by students. One of their dances will be from the state of Jalisco in Mexico, "La Negra." Their other dance is to a type of music called norteño, and is usually done in couples.



MICHELLE OTTO/The Observer

Members rehearse for the Latin Expressions late Sunday night, practicing their dance moves so that they may perform dances like those of years past.

SCENE *feature*

Monday, March 24, 2003

page 13

madness for March

variety of talented acts celebrating the Latin community

One of the individual dance acts is an extremely creative dance by three girls, entitled "Malaghena." This is a Brazilian influenced dance, with much "Shakira-style" hip movement. Garcia feels this performance exhibits a central objective of Latin Expressions, which is to present the many faces of Latino culture. A student who knows about being Mexican-American might not know about other parts of Latino background, and can come to the performance to experience new kinds of Latino heritage, as well as students who know nothing about Latino culture.

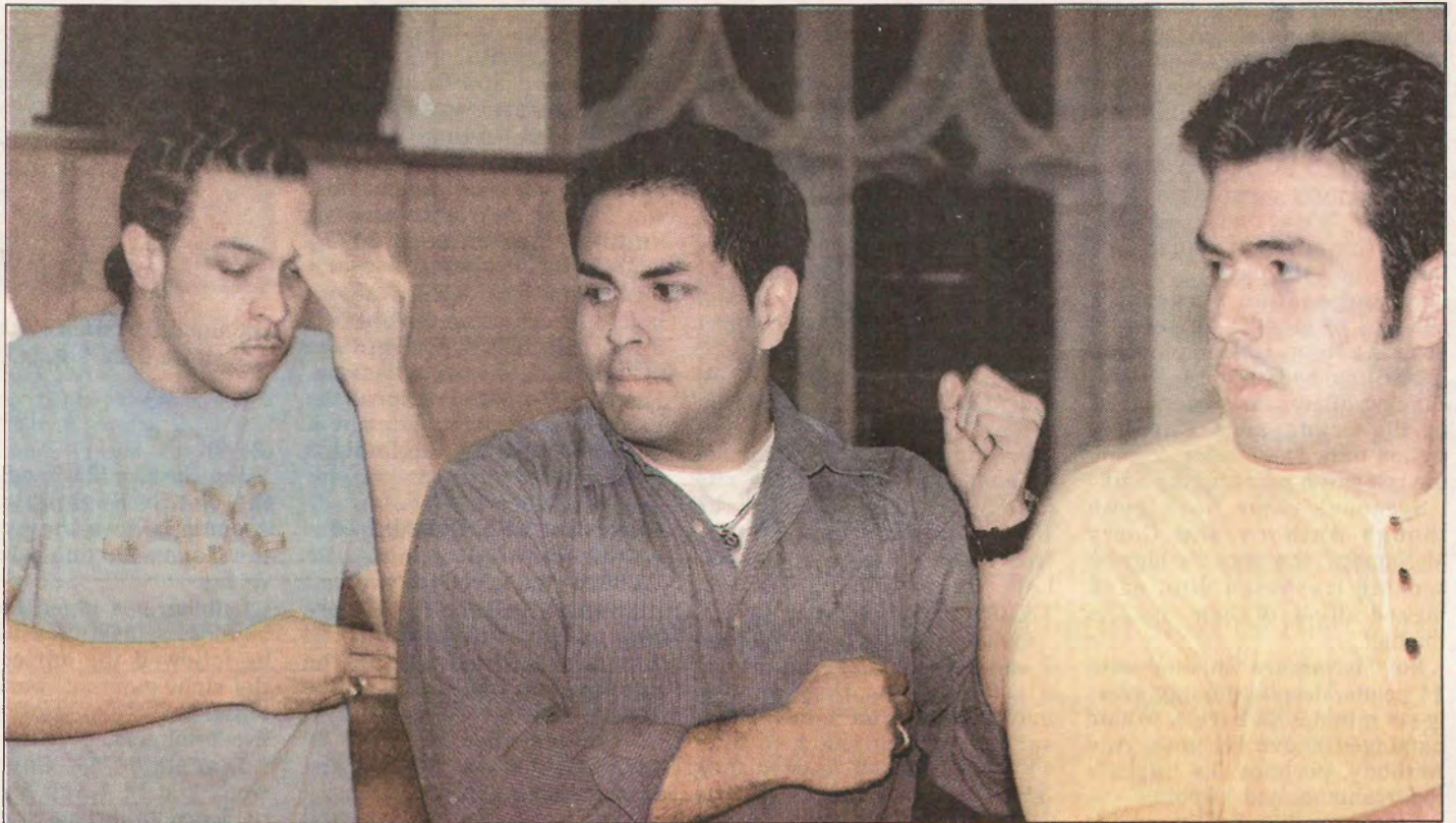
Troop ND, a hip-hop influenced dance group that makes up their own routines and learns their dances from each other, is another exciting addition.

"They're able to be in so many productions because they're able to mold themselves to whatever the production needs," Garcia said. "If we say we have a Latin show, they'll dance to Latin music and incorporate Latin dance moves."

Another act that brings variety to the show is Coro Primavera, which is the Spanish choir that generally sings at Spanish Mass. Their participation in the show will include songs that are more contemporary than the ones they would sing in church, since this is an opportunity to expand their repertoire.

There will also be the presentation of the Julian Samora award, which is given to a faculty member that has influenced and helped Latino students at Notre Dame. The recipient of the award is someone who has also contributed to the Latino community in South Bend and at Notre Dame.

A tradition for Latin Expressions is for it to coincide with Spring Visitation Weekend, which is the weekend when the University hosts minority high school



MICHELLE OTTO/The Observer

These male participants of the Latin Expressions rehearsed late Sunday night. The Latin Expressions is meant to portray a wide spectrum of forms of the Latino culture.

"It's meant to get students who are unable to visit the University to come and figure out whether it is the right place for them. These productions are meant to say 'Look what we can do.' The show is very broad. You can come here and get more cultured than you were before."

**April Garcia
sophomore**

students to let them experience a slice of Notre Dame life. There have been objections to lining up cultural events while prospective Notre Dame students, who are deciding whether to attend the University or not, are visiting because it creates a false impression of campus life.

"There are a lot of complaints that Spring Vis is one big, fat lie, and that Notre Dame is exceptionally diverse, especially for students that come from a much more diverse background. But that's not the point of Spring Vis. It's not to make Notre Dame look like a very diverse place,

it's not meant to lie to the student and say that this happens all the time. It's meant to get students who are unable to visit the University to come and figure out whether it is the right place for them. These productions are meant to say, 'Look what we can do.' The show is very broad. You can come here and get more cultured than you were before. As the years go by and as the administration strives for more diversity, it also helps the show broaden its appeal," Garcia said.

The organizers emphasize the point of expressing a wide spectrum of forms of Latino culture, so that the Notre Dame community can learn more no matter what, even if they have extensive knowledge about one kind of culture.

"For instance, I didn't learn salsa and merengue until I came here, and they're staples of someone else's culture. Or different kinds of food. This weekend is our one big event, and it's meant to bring the entire Latin community together and show the kids at Spring Vis that these are the kinds of events that we can have, and this is where you can express yourself. While bringing in all the Spring Vis kids, you're doing the same thing for the students are Notre Dame, who know a little bit, or nothing, or even more than you do," Garcia said.

While this is a celebration of Latin culture, all students and members of the

community are welcomed and encouraged to attend to learn about the culture. Oftentimes, people have a very narrow view of the Latino culture, which is why the production is set up to expose audience members to a much broader view. The production is an easy outlet not only for participants to show off their skills and knowledge, but also for others to learn and experience new backgrounds.

This year's sponsors are La Alianza, Institute for Latino Studies, Multicultural Student Programs & Services and Saint Mary's Student Diversity Board. There are also other contributors, which is why the organizers feel this is such an important opportunity for more of the Notre Dame and South Bend community to see the culture and talent of students and find more ideas of ways to contribute to diversity and the University.

Audience members can expect to be educated and also highly entertained as they watch fellow students showing off their talents. A word of advice from both co-executive directors, Garcia and Michelle Hogan, is to "watch out for the emcees."

It's going to be madness. *Locura Latina, Latin Expressions 2003, is Friday, March 28th at 7:30 p.m. in the Century Center. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Box Office, \$5. For complimentary shuttles, inquire within.*

Contact Christie Bolsen at cbolsen@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of Christie Bolsen

These dancers performed last year in their festive costumes and their dance portrayed the Latin culture. Dancers will perform again this year at Latin Expressions.

MENS NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Orangemen overcome 12-point deficit, crush Cowboys

◆ Big East teams improve to 8-0 in tournament games

Associated Press

BOSTON

Never count out Carmelo Anthony and Syracuse's other freshmen.

And don't write off the Big East, either. The conference remained unbeaten in the NCAA tournament when Syracuse overcame a disastrous start and beat Oklahoma State 68-56 Sunday in the East Regional.

The second-round victory sends the Orangemen to Albany, N.Y., and the round of 16 next Friday against the winner of Sunday's game between Wake Forest and Auburn.

Syracuse (26-5) will be joined by three other teams from the Big East, 8-0 in the tournament. The conference received only four bids to the NCAA, which excluded one of its division winners, Boston College.

Pittsburgh advanced with a 74-52 victory over Indiana in Sunday's first game in Boston, while Connecticut and Notre Dame won Saturday.

Second-seeded Syracuse's chances of moving on seemed bleak as No. 6 Oklahoma State (22-10) rushed to a 14-2 lead, running after nearly every miss by the Orangemen. But they trailed only 31-25 after scoring the last seven points of the half.

Syracuse came back even though Anthony and Gerry McNamara, the nation's highest scoring freshman duo, each missed all six of their shots in the half.

But McNamara finished with 14 points, despite missing nearly six minutes to have a wound bandaged above his nose. And Anthony, perhaps the nation's top freshman, had 13 points.

Freshman Billy Edelin, who is sometimes overlooked, had two outstanding halves — scoring 12 points in the first and eight in the second for a game-high 20.

The Cowboys were led by Ivan McFarlin with 14 points and Victor Williams, whose 13 points were far below his career-high 29 points in a first-round win over Pennsylvania.

Oklahoma State, which was 18-1 when leading at halftime, got off to a strong start, taking advantage of Syracuse's misses and turnovers.

But the spurt by the Orangemen late in the first half

shifted the momentum, and that carried over into the second half. Syracuse outscored the Cowboys 66-42 after trailing 14-2.

Oklahoma State went up 43-40 before Hakim Warrick hit two free throws. Then Anthony put the Orangemen ahead for good with a 3-pointer. He followed that with a layup that made it 47-43 by the time McNamara re-entered the game with 8:36 left.

Just six seconds later, McNamara hit one of his four 3-pointers for a 50-43 lead. Then he hit two more, stretching the lead to 59-50 with 4:02 remaining and 64-52 with 1:56 to go.

Pittsburgh 74, Indiana 52

Pittsburgh has a Steel Curtain defense again, thanks to coach Ben Howland.

His Panthers completely wore down Indiana in a 74-52 victory Sunday to reach the round of 16 for the second consecutive year.

Jaron Brown scored 20 points, and Brandin Knight added 17 points and seven assists for second-seeded Pittsburgh, which will play No. 3 seed Marquette in the Midwest Regional semifinals Thursday in Minneapolis.

Knight also had five steals, and Chevon Troutman grabbed nine rebounds to go with his 10 points as the Panthers (28-4) did most of their damage on defense.

Drawing on the Steel Curtain defense that brought the city four Super Bowl titles in the 1970s, Howland used a bulky frontcourt rotation of Ontario Lett, Donatas Zavackas and Troutman.

Listed at an average of 6-foot-7 and 246 pounds — but probably heavier — they pushed around Indiana's taller but spindly George Leach (6-foot-11, 240) and Jeff Newton (6-9, 225).

Indiana (21-13) trailed by one before going scoreless for the last 6:33 of the first half, committing five turnovers during that span while missing five shots — mostly long, contested 3-point attempts. At the same time, Brown had a blocked shot and a 3-pointer, and Knight added two steals and a pair of 3s to give Pitt a 31-21 halftime lead.

Indiana, a seventh seed, had a similar stumble at a similar time of its opening-round game against Alabama before overcoming an 11-point halftime deficit to beat the Crimson Tide 67-62.

This time, the deficit was more than a temporary setback for the Hoosiers (21-13), who lost in the championship game to Maryland last year.

Bracey Wright, who scored all of his 17 points in the second half against Alabama, had nine of his 11 in the second against Pitt — not enough. Coverdale, who led Indiana with 23 in the first round, had just six points on seven shots against Julius Page's defense.

Leach scored 15, and Wright added eight rebounds for the Hoosiers, but they also turned the ball over 16 times for 18 Pitt points and got outrebounded 28-17.

It was the 11th consecutive victory for Pitt and the sixth time in seven games that the Big East champions held an opponent under 60 points. The only exception was an 87-61 first-round victory over Wagner.

Indiana trailed just 22-21 when Brown and Knight each hit a 3-pointer to make it a seven-point game. Brown blocked Wright's shot with 3:08 left in the half, then Knight stole the ball from Wright and hit another 3 to make it 31-21 heading into the break.

Indiana was within seven before Brown dunked to make it 52-43 with 6:49 left, then Page stole the ball at the other end. He hit a 3-pointer to give the Panthers a 12-point lead, and it was never within single digits again.

Connecticut 85, Stanford 74

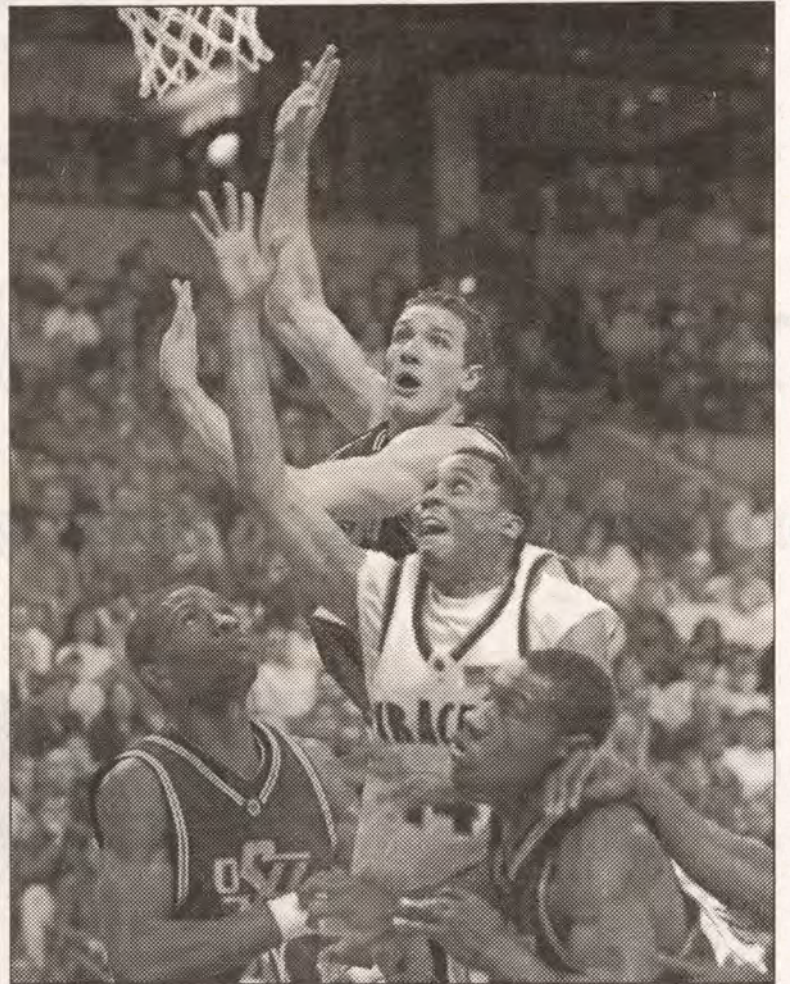
Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun challenged his two best players at halftime to be more aggressive. Ben Gordon and Emeka Okafor answered the call and sent the Huskies to the round of 16.

Gordon scored 18 of his 29 points in the second half, and Okafor dominated the offensive glass to lead fifth-seeded Connecticut to an 85-74 victory over No. 4 Stanford in the South Regional on Saturday.

Gordon, held to 14 points in a poor-shooting opening win over BYU, shot 8-for-14 and made all nine of his free-throw attempts. Okafor had 18 points and 15 rebounds, including six offensive boards in the second half.

Calhoun yelled at Gordon for his passive perimeter defense in the first half, sending him to the bench with a light shove.

Julius Barnes scored 23 points, and Justin Davis bounced back from a scoreless opener to score 21 for Stanford



Reuters

Oklahoma State's Andre Williams, Jason Miller and Tony Allen watch as Billy Edelin sinks his shot to lead Syracuse to a 68-56 win.

(24-9).

The Huskies (23-9) advance to the South Regional in San Antonio, where they will play the Texas-Purdue winner on Friday.

Calhoun has urged Gordon to be more selfish offensively, and he followed the advice at just the right moment, penetrating to the basket and hitting four of five 3-pointers.

Trailing 54-51, Connecticut went on a 14-4, run highlighted by Tony Robertson's alley-oop dunk off a nice feed from Gordon. Okafor converted four offensive rebounds into baskets in the opening eight minutes of the second half.

Okafor had to go find the ball because Stanford wouldn't take it to the nation's leading shot blocker.

"Coach made a point of telling me I had zero offensive rebounds. If we wanted to win I had to be a major part of it," Okafor said. "I got a rebound and the first score, I got the second score and I realized this is working. So I kept doing it and doing it."

The Cardinal relied on their outside shooting, and the strategy worked in the first half when they made seven 3-pointers. But they shot only 1-for-7 from long range in the second half.

"If we had continued to shoot the ball well, we could have stayed in there," Stanford coach Mike Montgomery said.

Rashad Anderson hit a 3-pointer to give the Huskies a 72-64 lead, and after Barnes missed a three, Gordon came up with his most spectacular move of the game.

He took the ball inside and was blocked by Childress. He recovered the ball outside, took it back into the lane and scored on a double-pump scoop shot to put the Huskies up 10.

"I didn't expect my shot to get blocked. I just erased the memory right away," Gordon said. "I tried to go back down the lane and make something happen."

Barnes hit four threes in the first half as the Cardinal took a 44-40 lead. Barnes was held to seven points on five shots in the second half as the Huskies denied him the ball.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 3 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

NOTICE

Taking the June LSAT? The August MCAT? Enroll in a Kaplan course by March 31st and get \$100 back! Call for details.

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

James finishes high school career

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio
Before his final high school game tipped off, LeBron James walked slowly toward the Akron Saint Vincent-Saint Mary student section holding his finger in the air to signal "No. 1."

Whether he was referring to himself or his team doesn't matter. Both are correct.

James, likely to be the top pick in this year's NBA draft, scored 25 points and had 11 rebounds as the Fighting Irish (25-1) won their third state championship in four years, beating Kettering Alter 40-36 Saturday in Ohio's Division II.

"It's just all joy," James said when asked whether he was relieved that the Irish had capped their stellar four-year run with another title. The 6-foot-8 senior was ruled ineligible by the Ohio High School Athletic Association for accepting two free sports jerseys from a Cleveland clothing store. A judge later reinstated him, reducing his punishment to a two-game suspension.

"I think of my career like a roller coaster," James said. "There's been ups, there's been downs, there's been double loops."

James seemed loose and care-free in the jammed postgame news conference. When asked about his plans, such as whether he'll declare for the NBA draft, James smiled, ducked down to the microphone and said, "What's next is ... party tonight."

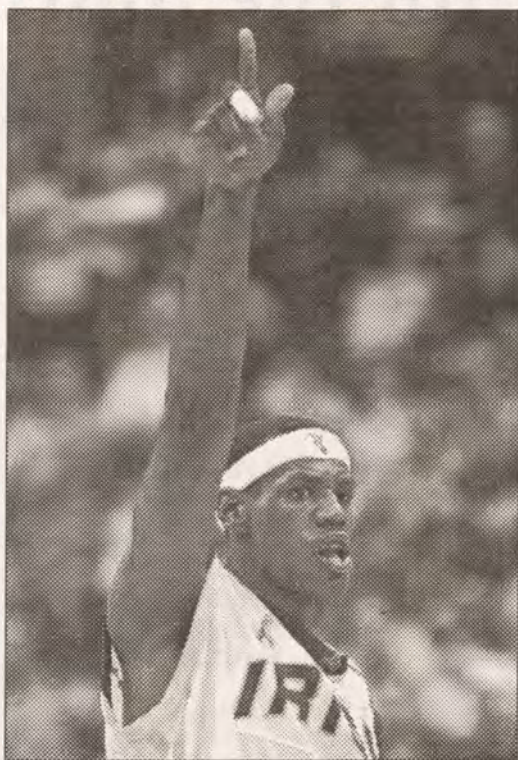
Alter had been beaten 73-40 by the Irish earlier this season. The Knights weren't about to get blown out again, slowing the game and refusing to let the Irish push the tempo.

It didn't matter. James was too spectacular and just too dominant when he needed to be. The only three-time Mr. Basketball in Ohio history was far better than everyone on the court.

James made a pair of free throws to put the Irish up 31-25 with about 57 minutes left. The inbounds pass was tipped and James gathered it in and nailed a long 3-pointer, holding his follow-through and again holding one finger in the air.

The outcome looked like it was decided, but Alter wasn't done. Alter came within 40-36 with less than a minute to play on a three-point play by Adam Gill.

James then threw away a pass. Alter missed a 3-pointer and Romeo Travis was fouled after pulling down the rebound. He missed the free throw, but James got the rebound and



Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary High School's LeBron James reacts to a last minute basket in the Ohio high school championship.

passed to Dru Joyce III, who dribbled out the clock and threw the ball straight up toward the ceiling.

The game opened with SVSM's usual theatrics. James slipped past his man, took a pass down low and threw down a two-handed dunk 19 seconds in, drawing cheers and gasps from the state-tournament record crowd of 18,454.

NHL

Wild clinch their first play-off berth

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn.

The Minnesota Wild accomplished two significant things Sunday night. One took 21 seconds, and the other was three years in the making.

Minnesota clinched the first playoff appearance in their 3-year history as Matt Johnson scored 21 seconds into the game to spark a 4-0 victory over the Detroit Red Wings.

Minnesota becomes the third expansion team in the past 30 years to advance to the NHL playoffs in its third season of existence. The San Jose Sharks lost in the 1994 conference semifinals, and the Florida Panthers advanced to the 1996 Stanley Cup finals.

Dwayne Roloson had 33 saves for his fourth shutout of the season as Minnesota extended its winning streak to three games. Detroit had its six-game winning streak snapped.

"We played so well as a team tonight," said Roloson. "There weren't many second or third shots, and I saw most of them."

On the opening shift of the game, Johnson, the Wild's penalty minutes leader, was alone in front of the Red Wings' net when a puck hit the skate of Detroit's Darren McCarty and bounced to Johnson's stick. He fired a rising shot that eluded the blocker of Detroit goalie

Manny Legace for the fastest goal at the start of a game in team history.

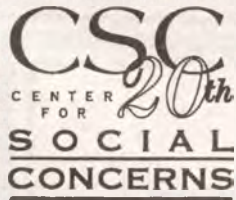
"It was certainly a bad way to start," said Red Wings coach Dave Lewis, whose team won 4-2 in St. Louis on Saturday. "I thought in the second we played better, but we weren't as crisp as yesterday. I don't have an answer why."

Sergei Zholtok gave Minnesota a two-goal lead in the second period after taking a pass from Marian Gaborik and finding himself alone in front of the Detroit net. Zholtok faked a backhand shot, which caused Legace to dive, then lifted a forehand shot over the goalie.

The Red Wings' attempts to come back were hampered when they were whistled for a pair of penalties in the final five minutes. Minnesota's Antti Laaksonen scored an empty-net goal with 1:41 to play, and Jeremy Stevenson scored with 18.5 seconds left to clinch the victory. Afterward, the Red Wings were complimentary of the Wild, whom they face again on Tuesday in Detroit.

"They play a good system like the top teams in the league," said Luc Robitaille. "They stick to their system no matter what and it's paid off. They seem to find a way to win a lot of games."

Legace had 17 saves for Detroit.



"Thank you!" and "Congratulations!" to the over 200 students and staff of the *Appalachia, Children and Poverty, Holy Cross Missions: Hispanic Ministry, Washington, Migrant, L'Arche, and Living the Gospel of Life*

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- Jack Savino
- Andrea Swinehart



"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men and women."
-Herman Melville

PGA

Woods wins Bay Hill for the fourth time in a row

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla.

Not even a nasty bout of food poisoning could stop Tiger Woods from winning the Bay Hill Invitational for the fourth straight year.

So sick that he frequently ducked into the bushes and dropped to his knees, Woods still looked as dominant as ever Sunday with a 4-under 68 to win by 11 strokes, the fourth time in his career he has won by double digits.

Woods became the first player in 73 years to win the same tournament four straight times, and the final margin indicates this one was the easiest of all.

That was hardly the case.

Woods, whose girlfriend collapsed Friday outside the clubhouse with food poisoning, came down with it himself after eating spaghetti on the eve of the final round.

He threw up three times during the first five holes and often stopped in his tracks and doubled over, wincing in pain. When he tapped in for par on the final hole, he had just enough strength left on a rainy afternoon to raise his right arm and salute the crowd.

Woods finished at 19-under 269 and became the first player since Gene Sarazen in the Miami Open (1926-30) to win the same event four straight times.

Brad Faxon missed a 6-foot par putt on the 18th hole that cost

him \$189,000. He had a 74 and dropped into a four-way tie for second with Kirk Triplett (70), Kenny Perry (71) and Stewart Cink (72).

An anticipated showdown between Woods and Ernie Els never materialized, with the South African finishing 19 strokes back after a 77 Sunday.

Arnold Palmer owns the Bay Hill Club & Lodge. Woods owns the tournament.

The 11-stroke victory was the largest margin in the 25-year history of Bay Hill, breaking by two the previous mark, set by Fred Couples in 1992.

It matched the third-largest margin in Woods' career, behind his 15-stroke victory in the 2000 U.S. Open and his 12-stroke win in the 1997 Masters. Woods also won at Firestone by 11 shots in 2000, when he could barely see the 18th green because of darkness.

Steady rain that fell throughout the day almost kept Woods from finishing this one. Large pools of water covered every fairway, but there was no point in stopping — everyone knew how this was going to turn out.

Woods improved to 28-2 when he has at least a share of the 54-hole lead, and he has won the last 16 times when leading through 36 holes.

Woods had the advantage of a five-stroke lead to start the final round, and the steady rain and sloppy conditions made it difficult for anyone to make a run at him.

His job was to make pars, and that's what Woods did.

A poor swing on the par-3 second hole left him 90 feet from the hole, and his first putt came up 15 feet below the cup. Woods made that one for par, then holed a 12-footer for par on the next hole after a weak chip.

Woods ended everyone else's hopes on the par-5 fourth hole with a 3-wood from 265 yards in the rain to within 12 feet for eagle.

That increased his lead to eight strokes, and the only thing left to determine was the margin of victory and whether Woods could finish the round. He frequently stopped in his tracks, doubled over in pain and gritted his teeth.

Everyone else was spinning their wheels.

It was the 12th time Woods has won a PGA Tour event by at least four shots.

Woods won for the 37th time in his career, 11th most in history. He earned \$810,000 and again leads the PGA Tour money list with over \$2.8 million in just four tournaments, after missing the first five weeks while recovering from knee surgery.

This is only the second time in his career that Woods has won three times before the Masters, and he still has The Players Championship next week.

The other time was 2000, when Woods turned in one of the greatest seasons in golf with nine victories and three straight majors. This is shaping up to be another bonanza.



Al Wire

Tiger Woods shoots out of the rough on the 16th hole in his fourth straight victory at the Bay Hill Invitational. He won the tournament by 11 strokes.

He won by four at Torrey Pines in his first competition in two months. He won by four at Bay Hill despite spending half of his

time on his knees or resting on his golf bag.

At times, it looks like he can't be stopped.

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To make a nomination, please type a brief statement describing your nominee and include your name and contact information. Nominations are due by 3:00 pm on Friday, March 28th. You can turn in or mail the nomination to the Student Activities Office, 315 LaFortune. Nominations can also be emailed to studegov@nd.edu. For more information, call 1-7668 or check out www.nd.edu/~studegov



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AROUND THE NATION

Monday, March 24, 2003

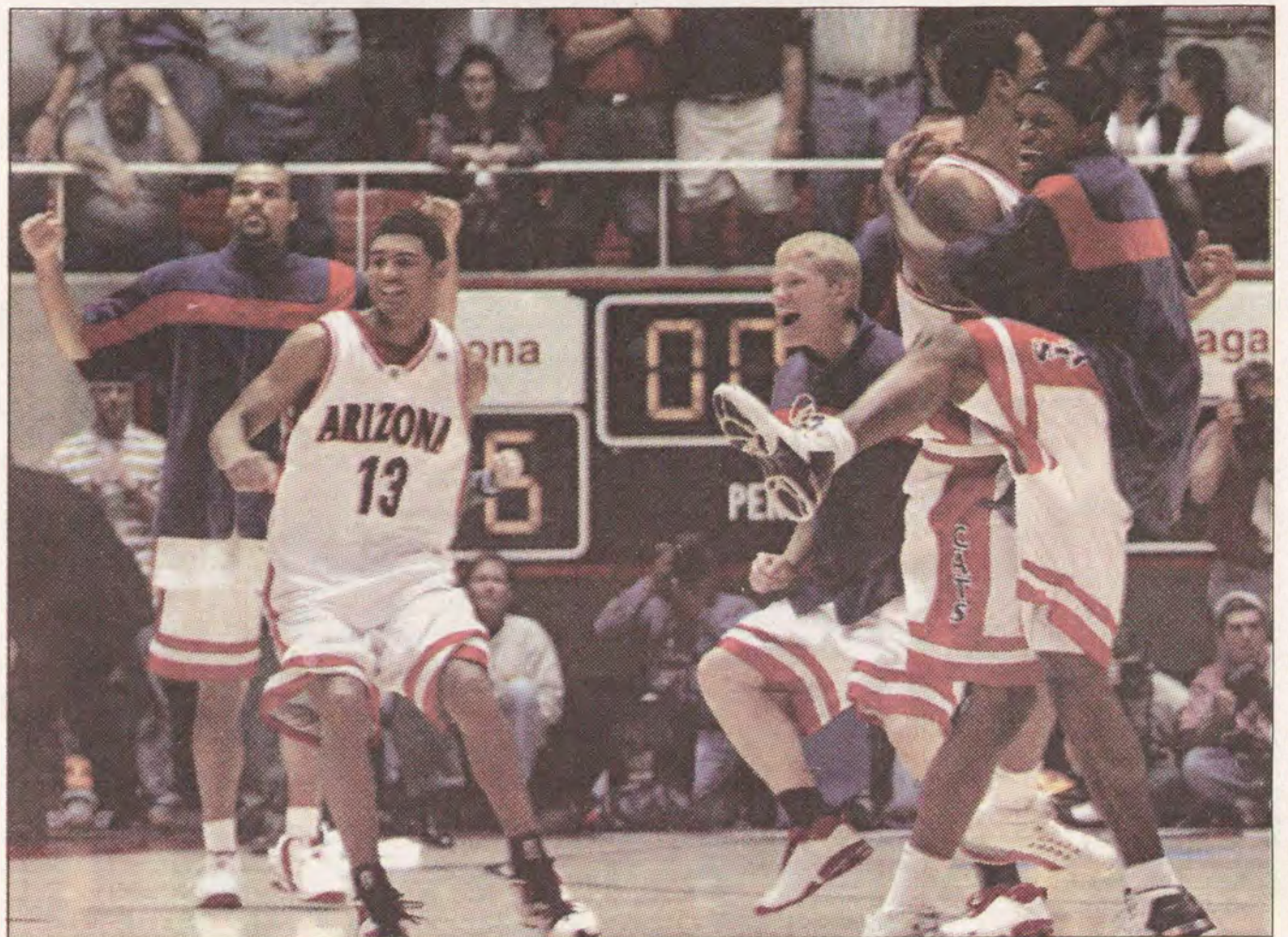
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Womens Softball Polls

ESPN		USA Today	
team		team	
1	Arizona (13)	1	UCLA (18)
2	UCLA (5)	2	Arizona (2)
3	Washington	3	Washington
4	Oklahoma	4	Oklahoma
5	Nebraska	5	Nebraska
6	California	6	California
7	Texas	7	Texas
8	Cal State Fullerton	8	LSU
9	Stanford	9	Cal State Fullerton
10	LSU	10	DePaul
11	DePaul	11	Georgia
12	Georgia	12	Stanford
13	South Carolina	13	Arizona State
14	Arizona State	14	South Carolina
15	Michigan	15	Michigan
16	Florida State	16	Ohio State
17	Oklahoma State	17	Florida State
18	Alabama	18	Alabama
19	Oregon State	19	Oregon
20	Oregon State	20	Oregon State
21	Ohio State	21	South Florida
22	Texas A&M	22	Oklahoma State
23	North Florida	23	Texas A&M
24	Northwestern	24	Kansas
25	Massachusetts	25	Minnesota

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Arizona's bench rushes the court in celebration of their 96-95 double overtime win over Gonzaga after their second round NCAA win. Arizona will meet Notre Dame in the West Regional semifinals.

Collegiate Baseball Poll

team	record
1	Arizona State (21) 30-2
2	Florida State (16) 24-2
3	Georgia Tech (1) 17-1
4	Rice (3) 19-1
5	Cal Tech Fullerton 18-4
6	Stanford 14-7
7	Long Beach State 16-6
8	Texas 18-7
9	Baylor 17-6
10	South Carolina 15-5
11	Auburn 18-5
12	Mississippi St. 13-2-1
13	Richmond 13-2
14	Alabama 16-3
15	Miami 15-4
16	Clemson 11-3
17	Wake Forest 13-5
18	Nebraska 11-4
19	Texas A&M 19-5
20	Arkansas 16-2
21	Florida 15-5-1
22	LSU 13-7-1
23	Texas Tech 17-8
24	Kansas 18-6
25	NOTRE DAME 9-5

Mens College Baseball

Big East
(no conference games played yet)

team	W	L	Pct.
Boston College	8	7	.533
Georgetown	6	9	.400
Pittsburgh	15	4	.789
NOTRE DAME	9	5	.643
Virginia Tech	10	6	.625
West Virginia	10	6	.625
Selon Hall	5	7	.417
Villanova	4	8	.333
St. John's	5	11	.313
Connecticut	3	8	.273
Rutgers	2	10	.167

Wildcats narrowly escape Bulldogs

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY
Those ever-lovin' Zags almost did it again, this time in a double-overtime thriller against top-seeded Arizona.

If the Wildcats win the national championship, they will always know that this was the one that came a few missed shots by Gonzaga from ruining it all.

Salim Stoudamire, quiet most of the intense evening, scored five points in the second overtime as the Wildcats held off the ninth-seeded Bulldogs 96-95 Saturday in a game that ranks with the best in

NCAA tournament history.

Gonzaga nearly pulled off an upset that would have dwarfed anything the Bulldogs did during their exhilarating tournament runs in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

"Of all the teams I've had at Gonzaga, I've never been more proud," coach Mark Few said.

Tony Skinner, whose career-high 25 points included 5-of-11 shooting on 3-pointers, missed an open 3 with 4 seconds to play for the Zags.

Blake Stepp, who scored 19 of his 25 points after half time, missed a 5-foot follow-up bank shot just

before the buzzer sounded.

The Bulldogs collapsed to the floor in disappointment, and Arizona (27-3) advanced to the West Regional semifinals against Notre Dame, a winner over Illinois on Saturday.

"That's the greatest game I ever played in," Arizona's Rick Anderson said. "I could see it in their eyes. Everybody on the court wanted to win."

All five Wildcats starters reached double figures. Gonzaga scored 22. Channing Frye had 22 points and 12 rebounds, and played the final five minutes and both overtimes with four fouls.

Anderson had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Luke Walton 16 points, nine assists, two blocked shots and three steals. His basket with 4.1 seconds to go forced the second overtime.

But the team that topped the national rankings for 13 weeks couldn't shake the cool, aggressive Bulldogs.

The Zags went to the round of 16 three of the last four years, and to the regional finals in 1999. They were anything but flustered by the Wildcats, who shot 52 percent in the first half and still found themselves trailing by three at the break.

IN BRIEF

Arenas leads Warriors past Wizards

Gilbert Arenas scored a career-high 41 points and Antawn Jamison added 37 points and 11 rebounds as Golden State spoiled Michael Jordan's last game in Oakland, defeating the Washington Wizards 113-107 Sunday night.

Jordan missed two shots down the stretch, committed a turnover with 22 seconds left and was held scoreless on 0-for-4 shooting in the fourth quarter, finishing with 24 points and five rebounds before a sellout crowd of 20,149.

The Wizards dropped 1 1/2 games behind idle Milwaukee for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East. Golden State, looking to make the postseason for the first time in nine years, pulled within 21/2 games of Houston and Phoenix for the last spot in the West.

Arenas shot 15-for-23 and had four of his team's 10 3-pointers to top his previous career high of 37 set Feb. 11

at Atlanta. He heaved the ball high into the stands after the final buzzer sounded.

Washington lost its 12th road game in the last 14. The Wizards play 10 of their final 14 games away from home.

The Wizards missed their first five shots in the fourth, and Arenas made a 3 with 8:22 left to tie the game at 93. Arenas' 3-pointer followed by Bobby Sura's three-point play a minute later made it 104-101, and Jamison hit a 3 with 3:08 left for a 107-101 lead.

The Wizards' 68 points were their most for a half this season, topping their 67 against Memphis on Dec. 18.

Busch defends Food City 500 title

His tires were worn out, his gas tank was nearly empty and his crew chief wanted him to pit. Kurt Busch overruled him and the gamble paid off for his long-awaited first victory of the year.

Busch, a runner-up three times this season, earned his first win of the year

Sunday and defended his Food City 500 title by gambling on pit strategy and avoiding all but one of the 17 cautions at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Coming off last week's thrilling door-to-door battle with Ricky Craven that he lost, Busch had little competition as his Ford Taurus led the final 96 laps and easily held off Roush Racing teammate Matt Kenseth by .390 seconds.

When Dale Jarrett finally hit the wall 109 laps from the finish, there were only five cars on the lead lap and were needed to pit. On the break they needed, and Busch capitalized by bringing his car in for service then passing Bobby Labonte for the lead on the restart.

The ending lacked the drama of last year, when Busch scored his first career victory by knocking Jimmy Spencer out of his way.

This year, he stayed patient as he coasted around the .533-mile bullring — he spun out once midway through — and let the bumping and banging go on behind him.

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NCAA Womens Tournament 7 p.m., ESPN

NCAA Womens Tournament 9 p.m.,

ESPN2

NASCAR

Totally NASCAR 7 p.m., FOX

MENS TENNIS

Irish split tough weekend series

By **JOE LINDSLEY**
Sports Writer

After suffering several close 4-3 defeats to strong teams this spring, the Irish finally registered their first big win of the season — without the services of one of their top players.

Sunday, Notre Dame defeated No. 48 Virginia Tech 5-2, and with the victory the Irish (6-9, 1-0), moved into first place in the Big East. This came one day after the Irish suffered a 6-1 loss to No. 12 Minnesota Saturday.

The Hokies were the first Big East opponents for the Irish, and Notre Dame will meet its second, and last, regular season conference opponent when the team travels to No. 22 Miami Mar. 30.

The Hurricanes lost to the Hokies 5-2 in Miami earlier in the season, so the Irish are especially pleased with the weekend's accomplishment. For the second match in a row, Notre Dame was also without junior tri-captain Matt Scott, its No. 2 singles player, because he became ill during Saturday's match with Minnesota.

The Irish began the afternoon when the bottom two teams claimed the doubles point. The No. 2 pair of senior Brian Farrell and junior Luis Haddock won 8-6 over Angel Diankov and Grant Reynolds to clinch the point. Sophomore Paul McNaughton replaced Scott in the No. 1 doubles match. McNaughton and D'Amico lost 8-2 to the Hokies' Andreas Laulund and Stephane Rod.

After three singles matches were completed the score was tied 2-2 with the remaining matches all straight sets. Senior Brian Farrell registered his first ever upset of a ranked



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Brent D'Amico returns the ball in a singles match against Virginia Tech Sunday.

player when he defeated No. 64 Saber Kadiri to put the Irish within a point of victory.

Farrell survived three sets to come out on top, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. Then freshman Patrick Buchanan came through with the clinch for the Irish. Playing the No. 5 flight, he topped Michael Kurz, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

With the contest settled, Haddock triumphed over the Hokies' Francis Huot, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Then sophomore Brent D'Amico, playing at No. 2 for

just the second time in his career, commanded Laulund in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4.

Saturday the Irish fell to 1-6 in the Eck Tennis Pavilion after going 10-0 there last season. Haddock posted the sole singles victory for Notre Dame when he defeated No. 63 Thomas Haug. Haddock was also part of the only winning Irish doubles team. Along with Farrell, he beat Eric Robertson and Avery Ticer, 8-3,

Contact Joe Lindsley at jlindsle@nd.edu

WOMENS TENNIS

Win streak ends in loss to Tribe

By **JOE LINDSLEY**
Sports Writer

The Irish extended their home winning streak Saturday to three matches as they defeated Iowa 4-3, but No. 13 William and Mary put that streak to an end Sunday with their 4-3 win over the 27th-ranked Irish.

The Irish have only two more home contests on their schedule, and both of those arrive this week.

Against the Tribe Sunday, Notre Dame started off promising as the Irish pulled out to a 2-0 lead.

The Tribe then took the next two singles matches to even out the score and ultimately prevented the upset, as the Irish dropped to 8-7 on the season.

Junior Alicia Salas and freshman Lauren Connelly helped the Irish begin the morning match ahead as they trounced Megan Muth and Lena Sherbakov, 8-2. Then junior Caylan Leslie and freshman Jennifer Smith registered a point-clinching doubles win over Kari Olsen and Lingda Yang.

With Leslie's upset of No. 26 Candice Fuchs, it looked like the day was going to end in favor of the Irish.

Leslie, ranked 51st, won at the No. 1 flight 6-3, 6-1.

The Tribe's Amy Wei, ranked 114th nationally, initiated the William and Mary rally as she successfully fought Lauren Connelly to win 7-6 (7-4), 6-0. Wei's teammate, Kate Boomershine, beat Irish senior Katie Cunha 7-5, 6-3.

Muth, ranked 82nd nationally, then put her team ahead and within a point of victory after she rallied in three sets to defeat No. 65 Salas 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

But sophomore Sarah Jane Connelly tried to save the match for Notre Dame, as she won her fourth match in a row. Connelly defeated William and Mary's Sherbakov, 6-1, 6-7 (4-7), 6-1.

Freshman Kristina Stastny fought in three sets to attempt to give the Irish win, but Nina Kamp defeated her, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2. Stastny had clinched the win for the Irish Friday against Iowa.

The Irish next two matches will be their last home meetings for the season.

Michigan travels to Notre Dame Tuesday, and Purdue will follow on Wednesday.

Contact Joe Lindsley at jlindsle@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL

Offense lacking as Belles win 1, lose 2 over weekend

By **PAT LEONARD**
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's softball team did not bring as much firepower to the plate this weekend and went 1-2 in an Indianapolis tournament, but they still sit comfortably on a 10-5-1 overall record.

The Belles defeated Olivet Nazarene University 2-1 in their third game, but lost to the University of St. Francis and Judson College.

In a 1-0 loss to St Francis, the two teams combined for only five

hits. Freshman Jackie Zurcher and juniors Katrina Tebbe and Erin Sullivan had the only hits for Saint Mary's.

It was the same story against Judson College for coach Anna Welsh's squad, as the Belles dropped the contest 2-1. Sullivan and Tebbe each had one hit, and freshman Kate Sajewich reached base for the only three hits of the game.

In its third game, the team rose to the occasion against Welsh's alma mater, No. 10 Olivet Nazarene University, where Welsh was an assistant coach in 2001.

Saint Mary's recorded seven hits in a 2-1 victory that saw Sajewich shine on offense and defense for the Belles, giving up only five hits and striking out six.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, following two one-out singles by Susan Kutz and Tebbe, Sajewich drove in both runs with a game-winning, two-run RBI to right center field. Sajewich and Tebbe both had two hits in the game.

"We did not play to our potential in the first two games, however we did in game three," Welsh said. "Olivet Nazarene University has a good team and

we were able to play a solid seven innings, both defensively and offensively, and behind great pitching by Sajewich. That game will prepare us for conference

starting Saturday."

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu



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Sweet

continued from page 24

Illinois cut the Notre Dame lead to six on a Brown free throw, but the Irish responded with a Timmerman layup and a Chris Quinn 3-pointer to give them a 32-21 lead with 7:42 remaining in the half.

Notre Dame went up by 12 on another Carroll 3-pointer, before Illinois ripped off a 6-0 run to trim the Irish lead to 42-34 with 1:29 left before halftime.

But Miller answered the Illini run with a long 3-pointer to put the Irish ahead 45-34. Brown missed a layup on Illinois' next

possession. Thomas then took the ball, raced through the lane and finger rolled a layup in with three seconds remaining to put the Irish up 47-34 at the break.

"The way they came out and played in the first half, no one would have been able to beat them," Illinois coach Bill Self said. "We got a lot of looks. They just didn't fall today."

Carroll couldn't believe the way the Irish shot the ball during the first 20 min-

"... I feel like we didn't miss any shots. ... If they're hitting twos and you're hitting threes, you're going to win."

Matt Carroll
Notre Dame guard

"I haven't seen a stat sheet yet, but I feel like we didn't miss any shots," Carroll said. "Especially when you're hitting threes; if they're hitting twos and you're hitting threes, you're going to win."

Illinois came out strong in the second half and went on a 7-2 run to get within 49-

41. But Illinois' Roger Powell missed a 3-pointer at the 14:56 mark that would

have gotten the Illini within five.

With 13:40 remaining in the game, Brown made a free throw to get the Illini to 52-44. But Notre Dame came right back when Thomas and Miller made layups and Miller added a jumper to put Notre Dame ahead 58-44.

Illinois made one last run when Sean Harrington nailed a 3-pointer from the right corner to slash the Notre Dame lead to 64-58.

But Carroll made a layup on the next Irish possession and Quinn sank two free throws to clinch the victory.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

Tournament-tested Miller brings Irish to sweet success

INDIANAPOLIS

In a room in an Indianapolis hotel, one senior starter turned to another to ask for help.

Matt Carroll was nursing a

sore right ankle — an injury that might have kept lesser men from playing — and trying to do something he'd never done in his college career. Carroll wanted to advance to the Sweet Sixteen.



Andrew Soukup

Sports Columnist

So he talked to the one player on Notre Dame's team who had.

On the eve of Notre Dame's second-round game against Illinois, Carroll looked at Dan Miller, his roommate on the road, and said, "I've never been there, man. I want to get there so bad."

Miller simply responded, "I'm going to get you there, man."

Games like Saturday's are why Mike Brey originally accepted a senior transfer two years ago, a player who could help fill the leadership void the Irish would suddenly have. This is why Brey said Miller, who has played in 12 NCAA Tournament games and a Final Four, could help the Irish make a run in March.

But could even Brey have imagined how much Miller would have provided the late-season leadership the Irish would need to enter the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 1987?

Known more for his scowl than his smile on the basketball court, a player who operates in the shadow of the more prolific Carroll and Chris Thomas, Miller all but carried Notre Dame to its biggest win in a decade by scoring a career-high 23 points.

And he did it in his customary act first, talk later manner.

"It was fitting that the oldest guy led us," Brey said.

When Torin Francis tumbled to the ground in the first half after battling for a rebound, Miller reached down to pull the freshman to his feet. When the Irish needed an offensive lift, Miller loosed 3-pointers with deadly accuracy. When Carroll drained a 3-pointer from the corner, Miller simply raised his hands in celebration as he walked backward.

When the Irish dropped out of the Big East, the Irish spent

a week trying to figure out how to fix things. In that span, Brey turned to Miller and had the only player on his team who had played more than one weekend in the NCAA Tournament explain what it took to make it to the next level.

Miller might have talked about what it took, but his teammates probably remembered his actions on the floor Saturday a little better.

With Carroll hobbled by a sore ankle and the Irish getting relatively little offensive production from their post players, Miller decided to take over.

A few weeks ago, Brey told Miller not to "hang his hat" on his jump shot. But after Miller drained 5-of-5 3-pointers in a first-half shooting clinic, the Irish coach could only shake his head in disbelief.

Even Miller wasn't quite sure what to think when his fifth 3-pointer sailed through the net with 48 seconds to play in the first half, giving the Irish a 45-34 lead. But as he ran back toward midcourt, he shimmied his arms a little bit and a smile briefly crossed his face — a huge display of emotion for a player who sometimes looks like he'd rather be having a root canal instead of playing basketball.

They say experience is one of the most valuable things in the NCAA Tournament, with the last few national champions having teams loaded with senior leaders. They say a talented, youthful team can tumble to a team more accustomed to playing in March.

That might have been true in Notre Dame's game against Illinois, where the Illini started just one senior and the Irish started two, including one with Final Four experience and one with a burning desire to reach the Sweet Sixteen for the first time in his career.

But after the game, as the final seconds ran down while Brey excitedly pumped his fist and the Irish hopped around the court in a mass bear hug, Miller simply stood by himself, staring at the ceiling, thinking thoughts that nobody else could know.

In short, while the rest of the Irish celebrated, Miller looked like a man who had been there before.

And a man who isn't contented just by making the second weekend of the tournament.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu




Notre Dame forward Dan Miller drives to the basket against Illinois' Brian Cook and James Augustine during the second round of the NCAA Tournament Saturday in Indianapolis.

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FENCING

Team attitude leads to team victory

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. Maggie Jordan hadn't won a bout all day. In fact, prior to her last three bouts, Jordan had won only four bouts in 20 previous attempts. But she saved her first win of the day for the perfect time.

With the national championship still undecided, the Irish were ahead by less than five points when Jordan and teammate Destanie Milo fenced Nittany Lion Austin O'Neill in the last round of the womens sabre competition.

Milo had won her first bout, but Jordan dropped her first one when her pivotal bout with O'Neill was up.

Jordan won 5-2.

O'Neill was so shell-shocked, she dropped her bout to Milo 5-0.

Credit those knockout punches to the inspiration provided by the rest of the Notre Dame fencers.

"That was incredible because Notre Dame was cheering so much for me and I didn't even hear Penn State cheering for the other girl. I just blocked them out," Milo said.

"Their cheering helped me, kept me going and kept my adrenaline going. I don't know if I could have done it if I didn't have the team helping me out."

While the sabre fencers were finishing off the Nittany Lions, the Irish were also fencing their last bouts in epee. As these two weapons simultaneously took place, the Irish



Matt Lozar

Sports Columnist

faithful went from strip to strip providing support as they did all weekend.

They cheered the epeeists to a perfect 6-0 record, which set up the womens foil squad to put the finishing touches on a long-deserved national title.

"It feels unbelievable because we have been trying to do this forever," Jordan said.

More talented Notre Dame teams in the past failed to win it all. They didn't understand in such an individual sport as fencing, it's the team attitude that matters the most.

Notre Dame was the team from the first round Saturday yelling and cheering every point; last year that enthusiasm wasn't present until it was too late.

Notre Dame was the school with team members who weren't fencing encouraging others and giving advice, knowing each bout means so much.

Most importantly, Notre Dame was a team from the first touch at 9 a.m. Saturday morning to the trophy presentation 4 p.m. Sunday.

That support and team attitude out-matched any other school based on sheer numbers.

No other school had scholarship fencers who didn't qualify and walk-ons make the trip to Colorado Springs to cheer their team. Through being a part of the team in practices and dual meets, they knew first-year head coach Janusz Bednarski was building something special.

In the matchup against Penn State in early February, Bednarski brought the team in a huge huddle before the match against the defending national champions.

Bednarski had the team come back from spring break a few days early to travel to Chicago and train as a team at a fencing club.



Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Sports Information

Notre Dame fencer Alicja Kryczalo, right, goes on the attack at the NCAA Tournament held over the weekend. Kryczalo and the Irish captured the first national title for the Irish since 1994.

They went to see the movie "Chicago" Friday as a team.

Bednarski gathered them as a team before the start of Sunday's competition for some final words of motivation. After his speech, a loud "Go Irish" echoed throughout the Cadet Fieldhouse. Then, when all the flashbulbs were done popping, Bednarski gathered his team again in the middle of the fieldhouse,

told them, "For the whole year, we made it," led them in the Our Father and once again, a "Go Irish" rattled the training facility.

Never before had that phrase meant so much to this team.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu.

Last year's disappointments step up to lead Irish

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. With all the pressure at the NCAA Championships to perform well for the team, one thing totally invaluable is a little something called experience.

For three Notre Dame fencers at this weekend's national championships, that experience factor meant all the difference in the world.

Senior Matt Fabricant qualified for his first NCAA Championships last year as a junior and finished 15th with a 9-14 record. Fabricant had that many wins after his first 10 bouts this year.

"[The experience] helped a

lot, tremendously," Fabricant said. "Last year, I didn't know what to expect coming in. It helps a lot knowing exactly how many bouts you have to fence and the format."

As former All-Americans Andrzej Bednarski, Andre Crompton and Luke La Valle and current All-American teammate Gabor Szelle blocked his path to being one of the top two sabre fencers, Fabricant waited patiently and worked to become the All-American he is today.

"Matt Fabricant was waiting because we had so many good fencers," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said. "When he came, he worked hard, but they were a little ahead of him. He made a great jump here to help us."

After a disappointing third-place finish at the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships by the mens epee squad, Bednarski challenged sophomore Michal Sobieraj and said if he straightens himself out, he could win the national title.

Bednarski must have been right, because Sobieraj was first after the team bouts and dropped an 8-7 overtime match to Weston Kelsey in the epee championship to finish second in the country.

"I am still telling everybody he is one of the most talented fencers. He was very close to winning," Bednarski said. "We enjoyed his victories because he helped us win the gold medal in the team competition."

Sobieraj started his freshman

year 26-1 but suffered a foot injury that caused him to miss five weeks of competition. He won the regional title before finishing a disappointing 10th at the NCAAs.

That letdown provided some motivation for this year, but like the rest of his team, Sobieraj put the team first.

"Last year I didn't fence very well because I had a foot injury and that didn't allow me to judge distances correctly," Sobieraj said. "First, it was for the team competition so I wanted to win as many bouts as I could for the team."

The third Irish fencer to recover from past substandard performances was junior sabre captain Destanie Milo. In her first two years, Milo failed to earn All-American honors but

learned from those past experiences to compile a 16-7 record this weekend and become a second team All-American.

"This year everything just clicked for me. Mentally, I was on my game," Milo said. "The last two years, I was so nervous about NCAAs. This year I looked at it again as a team aspect."

"We are all going into this together. I am there for my teammates and they were going to be there for me."

The only way to not let history repeat itself is to learn from the past and over the weekend, these three Notre Dame fencers did just that.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Champs

continued from page 24

butterflies, epeeist Jan Viviani had total confidence in Notre Dame's "A-Team."

"I think we had a lot of confidence in them and it was really exciting to have them in control of what happens," Viviani said. "For us, it was exciting waiting. I wasn't really nervous, but waiting for the moment to actually happen."

Ament and Kryczalo finished in the top four after the round-robin bouts and claimed first-team All-American honors for the second straight year. Ament took third while Kryczalo defeated Zimmerman

15-13 to become the first woman in Notre Dame fencing history to repeat as national champion.

"She is a great fencer and is one of the best in the world," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said of Kryczalo. "It is a great feeling of satisfaction and we are proud of her winning the gold medal again."

Michal Sobieraj rebounded from a 10th place finish at the

2002 NCAA Championships and was in first place after

pool play with a 20-3 record. Sobieraj lost 8-7 to Weston Kelsey in the mens epee championship bout to end up second.

"She is a great fencer and is one of the best in the world. It is a great feeling of satisfaction and we are proud of her winning the gold medal again."

Janusz Bednarski
Notre Dame coach

Americans. Seniors Ozren Debic and Jan Viviani earned the honor for the fourth time and became the 11th and 12th

fencers in Notre Dame history to earn that distinction.

Sophomore foilist Derek Snyder finished fifth and earned second-team All-American honors for the second year. Junior sabre Destanie Milo improved on finishes of 17th and 18th in her first two years and became an All-American for the first time with a sixth place finish.

Notre Dame had two All-Americans at mens sabre and womens epee.

Fabricant and Gabor Szelle finished sixth and 11th, respectively.

Junior Kerry Walton and senior Meagan Call recovered from rough starts on day one to take fifth and 10th.

The Irish set the goal from

day one to win the team national title after last year's disappointing third place finish.

When they had the advantage of 12 fencers compared to Penn State's 11, that was the final piece of motivation necessary.

"Coming into this year, I knew that like any other year, and we were going to end up in the top three. A couple of bouts separating us from Penn State," Debic said. "After the qualifiers, I knew that we had the man advantage. If we put our heads together, we could get it done."

And get it done they did.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

HOCKEY

Irish blow lead, ousted from playoffs by Buckeyes

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Writer

DETROIT

For Notre Dame to stand a chance against No. 13 Ohio State in the CCHA Super Six, they knew they had to stop talented Buckeye center and first-team all-CCHA member R.J. Umberger. They did just that, keeping Umberger off the scoreboard all game and forcing him into taking penalties.

Unfortunately, they didn't count on senior forward T.J. Latorre and freshman defenseman Nate Guenin stepping up for the Buckeyes.

Latorre scored his first goal of the season and Guenin scored just his second of the year, which would end up being the eventual game-winner, to lead the No. 3 seed Buckeyes to a 3-2 victory over the No. 6 seed Irish at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit on Thursday afternoon.

A little more than six minutes into the third period and with the score tied 2-2, forward Paul Caponigri skated the puck down the left side of the ice before centering to Guenin, who had jumped into the play from the right point. Irish goaltender Morgan Cey tried to get back into position, but Guenin was able to wrist the shot above his glove.

"Obviously, we're very disappointed in the locker room right now," Irish coach Dave Poulin said following the game. "I thought we played well tonight. I liked where we were at the end of the second period. I thought we were forechecking them well," Poulin said. "We built a game plan around stopping R.J. Umberger, and I

thought our guys, particularly Aaron Gill and John Wroblewski, did a great job doing that."

It was the Irish who had the most offensive pressure early in the first period, before the Buckeyes came back with an offensive flurry of their own, but neither team was able to score. The Irish outshot the Buckeyes 9-8 in the period.

The Buckeyes came out strong at the start of the second period and finally cracked the scoreboard a little more than two and a half minutes in. Forward Dave Steckel sent a beautiful pass to junior Chris Olsgard that remained onsidelines. Olsgard took the puck down the right side of the ice before centering back to Latorre, who beat Cey low for a 1-0 lead.

The goal ended Cey's shutout streak at 147:19, an impressive feat that spanned four hockey games and included two shutouts. He had blanked the opposition since the 15:25 mark of the third period in the opening game of the Miami series on March 14.

The Irish kept up its offensive pressure and managed to tie the game six and a half minutes later when sophomore forward Brad Wanchulak scored his second goal of the season after sloppy puckhandling by Ohio State netminder Mike Betz.

Freshman forward Mike Walsh beat a Buckeye defenseman to the puck and tried to center to junior forward Rob Globke. Betz came out of goal to poke the pass away, but Wanchulak was trailing the play and shot the loose puck into the vacated net.

The Irish gained the lead five



LIZ GAYDOS/The Observer

Sophomore goaltender Morgan Cey makes an easy stop. Cey gave up 3 goals in Notre Dame's loss to Ohio State in the CCHA Super Six on Thursday.

minutes later, after a terrific individual effort by senior forward Connor Dunlop.

Dunlop blocked a pass by a Buckeye defenseman and then carried the puck in down the left side. He saw Globke coming down the right side and made a cross-ice pass to get him the puck. Globke then went around Betz before beating the goalie high with a wrist shot.

The Irish were unable to end the second period with the lead, however. With a little more than two minutes left in the period, Kesler poked a

loose puck in the crease between Cey's pads to tie the game at 2-2. Notre Dame outshot the Buckeyes 8-5 in the period.

The third period was all Buckeyes as Cey made several nice point-blank stops before Guenin's game-winning goal. The Irish were outshot 9-3 in the final period and 25-22 for the game.

Notre Dame tried to pull Cey for an extra attacker, but were unable to get the equalizer past Betz. At one point, Betz knocked down an Irish shot and a Buckeye appeared to knock the puck all the way down the ice for an empty net goal, but replays showed the puck was illegally played with a glove.

The disallowed goal ultimately did not matter. The Irish end their season with a 17-17-6 record.

"I think the key for us was when the score was 2-1," Poulin said. "We had several chances to put it away, but could not."

Michael Chin, Connor Dunlop, Evan Nielsen, Jake Wiegand, John Wroblewski and Tony Zasowski played

their last game in an Irish uniform.

"This is a tough way to end my career," Nielsen, who is also a captain, said. "I've had a good four years here. I've made a lot of friends and had some great experiences. That's what I want to take away from Notre Dame."

Cey, who was a crucial factor in Notre Dame's first round upset of Miami of Ohio, commented on his team's season following the disappointing loss, the third straight year that the Irish have been ousted in the first round of the Super Six.

"Getting to the Joe [Louis Arena] was really expected of us this year. As the year progressed, I think a lot of people thought we had a disappointing season, but we stuck together through the ups and downs," Cey said.

The Irish return 20 players next season, including team-leading scorer Globke and number-one goaltender Cey.

"There's a lot of really talented guys coming back next year," Nielsen said.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

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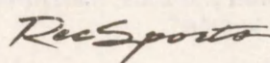
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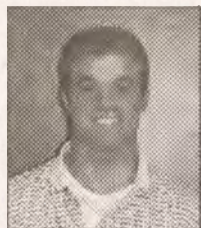
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WOMENS BASKETBALL

Irish survive, thanks to leadership and persistence

MANHATTAN, Kan.
If Notre Dame proved anything in their win against Arizona Sunday night, it was simply that the NCAA tournament is all about surviving.



Joe Hettler

Sports Editor

Sure, the Irish could have used a seeing-eye dog in the first half en route to shooting an atrocious 19.4 percent.

Then there was Jacqueline Batteast's 1-for-16 performance from the field. (For those scoring at home, that equates to an impressive 3.9 percent shooting percentage.)

And yes, Notre Dame was outrebounded 52-43, including giving up a 28-15 edge on the offensive glass.

But the only stat that matters is points — 59-47. Advantage Notre Dame.

Despite only shooting 29.1 percent for the game and looking sloppy at times with ugly shots and turnovers, the Irish upset the Wildcats to advance to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

"It's hard to believe you can win a game when you give up 52 rebounds, 28 offensive to the other team. I don't know how it happened, but I thought defensively we made a lot of stops," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Notre Dame was able to win

the game thanks to great play down the stretch by Alicia Ratay, solid defense and the fact that Arizona couldn't, as their coach Joan Bonvicini put it, "throw a pea in the ocean" from the perimeter after their atrocious 2-of-25 3-point shooting performance.

Notre Dame's victory can also be attributed to experience.

The Irish didn't get flustered when shots didn't fall or they had a turnover. They simply moved onto the next play and didn't dwell on the negative.

Batteast was a great example of this experience. After missing 9-of-10 shots in the first half, the forward didn't hang her head.

She didn't quit, although that would have been the easy option.

Instead after missing two easy layups in a row in the second half, Batteast just looked at the Irish bench, then laughed, as if to say, "It's been that kind of night."

But she still played good defense and pulled down nine rebounds and even was complimented by Bonvicini for her defensive effort in the game.

She sucked it up when things went bad.

However, on the other

bench, Arizona's star freshman Shawntinice Polk showed how important experience and maturity can be to a player.

After missing all five of her shots in the first half and picking up four fouls with eight minutes still left in the game, you could see the mounting frustration on Polk's face. She missed a free throw with 4:25 left in the game and threw her arm across her

body in disgust.

Her immaturity was what showed, while Notre Dame's poise came through when things got tough.

That difference made all the difference in the outcome of the game.

So for all the things they didn't do well at times, the Irish definitely did enough things right to pull out the victory.

And that's all that matters. Just ask Arizona.

They'll be watching the second round of the tourney from their comfortable dorm rooms, while the Irish try to reach the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 2001.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu.

"It's hard to believe you can win a game when you give up 52 rebounds, 28 offensive to the other team. I don't know how it happened, but I thought defensively we made a lot of stops."

Muffet McGraw
Notre Dame coach



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Notre Dame guard Alicia Ratay drives to the basket against Arizona in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Sunday. Ratay's experience paid off in the late stages of the victory.

Upset

continued from page 22

Ratay was the difference on a night when both teams shot the ball in a disgusting manner.

The Irish shot a woeful 19.4 percent (6-for-31) from the field in the first half, just below Arizona's 22.6 percent (7-for-31) shooting.

"That wasn't the prettiest game to watch," Arizona coach Joan Bonvicini said. "Both teams didn't shoot a great percentage and it was pretty much a defensive game."

The Irish held Pac-10 Freshman of the Year Shawntinice Polk to 14 points on just 4-of-14 shooting. Arizona's 6-foot-5 center, who averaged 17 points in the regular season, didn't hit her first field goal of the game until the 18:28 mark in the second half.

"Our goal was to double-down on her anytime she got the ball, whether it was a man or a zone," Irish forward Courtney LaVere said. "I think that really affected her play and got her out of rhythm and made her pass out of the double team."

Notre Dame also limited Arizona to connecting on just 2-of-25 3-point field goals in the game. The Wildcats Dee-Dee Wheeler and Aimee Grzyb combined to make just one of 18 3-pointers. Notre Dame also forced 23 Arizona turnovers.

"That's the best defense we've played in a long time," McGraw said.

The turning point in the game came with the Irish down 37-34, and both teams still struggling

with their shooting at the 11:13 mark in the second half. The Irish grabbed a defensive rebound and pushed the ball down the court. LaVere took the ball in the paint, then kicked it out to Ratay who swished an open 3-pointer to tie the game at 37-37.

After sinking one of two free throws on the Irish next possession, Ratay drilled another long ball to extend the Irish lead to 41-37.

The Irish went up 43-37 after Ratay stole the ball from Arizona and passed to Megan Duffy, who eventually assisted LaVere on another field goal. After an Arizona timeout, Ratay drove to the basket and drew contact, then sank two free throws to put the Irish ahead 45-37.

The Irish scored two more field goals to extend their lead to 49-37 before Arizona finally scored. The Wildcats went held scoreless for 8:35 during the Irish 15-0 run.

"We were all just trying to do the best we could because none of us wanted to go home early," Ratay said.

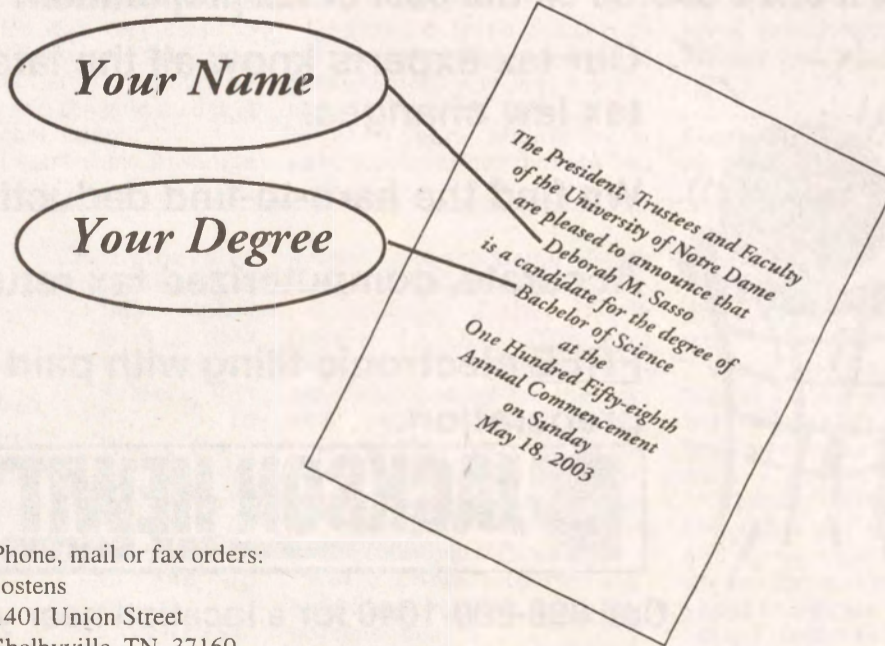
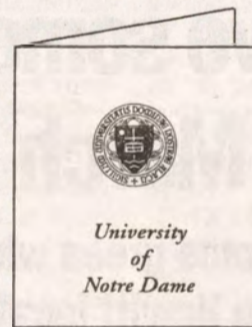
The Irish shot only 29 percent for the game but hit on 41.7 percent of their second half shots. Ratay hit four of her five second half shots and knocked down 5-of-6 free throws.

Meanwhile, Arizona only hit 23.3 percent of their field goals for the game.

"I think when the lead got a little bit bigger later in the game, the basket probably looked a little bit smaller [for Arizona]," McGraw said. "That's why we stayed with the zone, instead of the man-to-man."

Contact Joe Hettler at
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Answer: HIS

Saturday's Jumbles: CREEL OBESE GOBLET TRUSTY Answer: Why the band teacher kept the brass section after practice - TO SETTLE A "SCORE"

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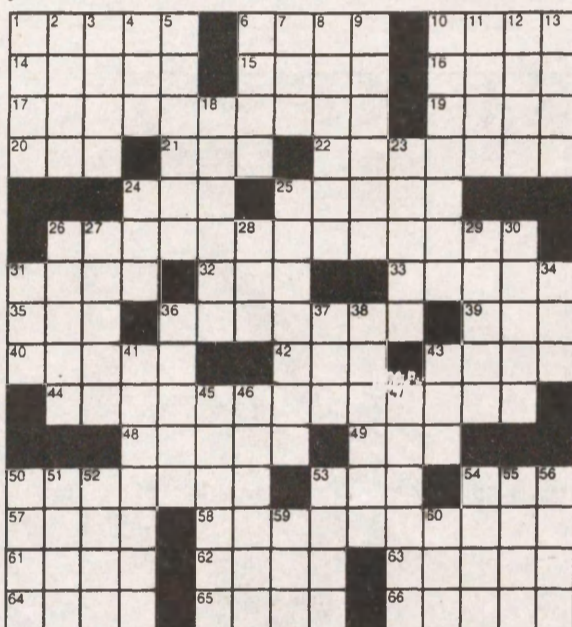
CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

- ACROSS 1 Rand McNally offering 6 Señor's emphatic yes 10 Poker stake 14 It's rubbed on a cue tip 15 Garden with forbidden fruit 16 "Gone With the Wind" plantation 17 Indoor antenna 19 Egyptian goddess 20 UFO crew 21 Charged particle 22 Sneaker 24 Swan song 25 "Jelly's Last Jam" dancer Gregory 26 Conductor of a sham trial 31 Ramadas and such 32 Spigot 33 Pooped out 35 "Mazel ___" 36 Zoo bosses 39 A's opposite, in England 40 Former veep Agnew 42 Extra-wide, at the shoe store 43 Sorrows' opposites 44 Sellers in stalls 48 Mattress supports 49 Sizable sandwich 50 On the ___ (preparing for battle) 53 Poet's "eternally" 54 Mai ___ cocktail 57 Skin soother 58 Inedible mushrooms 61 The "D" in CD 62 Jane Austen classic 63 Paper size 64 Editor's "let it stand" 65 Paper purchase 66 Clear the boards



Puzzle by Nancy Salomon and Harvey Estes

- DOWN 1 Good-size field 2 "How 'bout ___?" 3 Chem classes 4 Vatican vestment 5 Downhiller's sport 6 Witnessed 7 Actress Lupino 8 Italian film director Leone 9 On the same wavelength 10 Under debate 11 Ogden who wrote light verse 12 Duet plus one 13 Simplicity 18 So far 23 Cat chat 24 U.S.N.A. grad 25 What the starts of 17-, 26-, 44- and 58-Across all are 26 Big name in book publishing 27 Blacksmith's block 28 Sally Field's "Norma ___" 29 Gillette product 30 Deuce beaters 31 "___ show time!" 34 Football gains: Abbr. 35 Mean something 36 Furry marsupial 37 Comics shriek 38 ___ Peanut Butter Cups 41 Look up to 43 One of the Bushes 45 Where telecommuters work 46 Terrapin, e.g. 47 Rolls of bills 49 Hit the ground 50 Flower for Valentine's Day 53 Red-wrapped Dutch cheese 54 Roman robe 55 Word of woe 56 Castaway's locale 59 Doc bloc: Abbr. 60 "___ the ramparts ..."

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/diversions (\$19.95 a year). Crosswords for young solvers: The Learning Network, nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bob Mackie, Patti Labelle, Robert Carradine, Louie Anderson

Happy Birthday: It's time to stop hiding from issues that are uncomfortable and deal with them head-on. Shed yourself of everything and everyone who has held you back and take charge of your life, your direction and your future. You can do it if you really want to, and now is the time. Your numbers are 8, 13, 17, 22, 31, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be energetic and ready to try anything that sounds the least bit exciting. Socializing will lead to a romantic time. ***** TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Real estate and home-improvement projects will bring you high returns. Invest in something you have always wanted to do. *** GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be emotionally sensitive today, but if you focus on love and relationships, you should be able to satisfy your needs. You will have a wonderful opportunity to form a partnership. *** CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't worry about the changes going on around you at work or at home. Wait patiently and you will see that any alterations being made are to your benefit. Accept the inevitable and success will be yours. *** LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should gear yourself toward making personal changes that will enhance your appearance today. Make social plans with friends. The conversation will spark new ideas. ***** VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You should do the things around the house that will please you as well as those you live with. Valuable changes can be made without overspending. *** LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may be forced to change your plans. Be prepared to do whatever is necessary quickly and efficiently. Relationships will develop if you volunteer your services. ***** SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Opportunities are present that will lead to sudden changes regarding your direction. Set your goals high and put your time into developing your own original ideas. *** SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A change of attitude will take place, especially if you don't see eye to eye with someone with whom you are dealing. Control your actions and focus on the things you enjoy. *** CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Investments should start to pay off. You will be able to make changes to your personal papers that will be beneficial in the future. *** AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will discover an opportunity to get to know someone worthwhile if you take a serious approach to volunteer work. Your involvement will contribute to your good fortune. ***** PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Think for yourself. Emotional instability will take over if you leave yourself open to other people's abuse. Put your efforts into yourself and your own work. ***

Birthdays: Nothing will be able to stand in your way once you set your mind on something. You will be dashing, deliberate and determined to set high standards for yourself and those you love.

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SPORTS

Monday, March 24, 2003

FENCING

Irish win national championship

◆ Thrilling finale helps lead Notre Dame to first NCAA title since 1994

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.

Finally.

After eight years of disappointing second and third-place finishes, the Irish used a total team effort to win the 2003 NCAA Championship with 182 points this weekend at the Air Force Academy. Penn State, who qualified only 11

fencers, finished second with 179 and St. John's finished third with 171 despite having only 10 fencers.

"It feels great. It's amazing," Notre Dame sabre Matt Fabricant said. "Three years of trying and to finally get it in your senior year is great."

What made the day even more stressful was the fact the title wasn't officially decided until the final round of womens foil. With all other

weapons completed, the Irish possessed a 178-174 lead over the Nittany Lions. Notre Dame needed a combination of three Notre Dame wins and Penn State losses to clinch their first title since 1994.

"I couldn't even watch. I was just sitting there waiting for someone to scream and then turn around," Fabricant

"It feels great. It's amazing. Three years of trying and to finally get it in your senior year is great."

Matt Fabricant
Irish sabreman

said. "I was really nervous." Sophomore Alicja Kryczalo dropped

her first bout to Eva Petschnigg of Stanford and Andrea Ament made the Irish hearts beat faster by losing to Stanford's Iris Zimmerman.

Ament recovered to defeat Cal-State Fullerton's Senta Breden to give the Irish 179 points. A Penn State loss brought the Irish within one.

To win the title, Kryczalo needed to defeat Zimmerman. Kryczalo dropped the first point, but came back to win the next two. Tied at three, Kryczalo won the next two points to give the Irish the title.

While Fabricant's stomach was full of

see CHAMPS/page 16

MENS BASKETBALL

Shaved Irish scalp Illini

◆ Strong defensive performance gives Notre Dame first Sweet 16 berth since 1987

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

INDIANAPOLIS

When asked what he thought about his team shaving their heads before the NCAA tournament, Notre Dame coach Mike Brey could only shake his head and laugh.

"If they play defense, I don't care what they do," Brey said.

The Irish did just that Saturday afternoon against

Illinois, and now they're advancing to the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 1987.

Dan Miller had 23 points, including five first half 3-pointers, and Notre Dame held their second straight opponent to under 35 percent shooting, en route to a 68-60 victory over the Illini.

"Our defense won the basketball game for us today," said Brey, who celebrated his 44th birthday Saturday. "It is an area where we knew we needed to be better at if we wanted to win any games in this tournament."

Chris Thomas added 17 points, including three 3-pointers, and Matt Carroll limped his way to 11 points for the Irish, who will

face top-seeded Arizona Thursday in Anaheim, Cal.

"This is huge for our program," Brey said. "In the summer, we talked about playing on the second weekend. I'm happy this group set a goal and achieved it. They should be proud of themselves."

Brey also credited the superb play of Miller, who has played in 12 NCAA tournament games in his college career, as the difference in the basketball game.

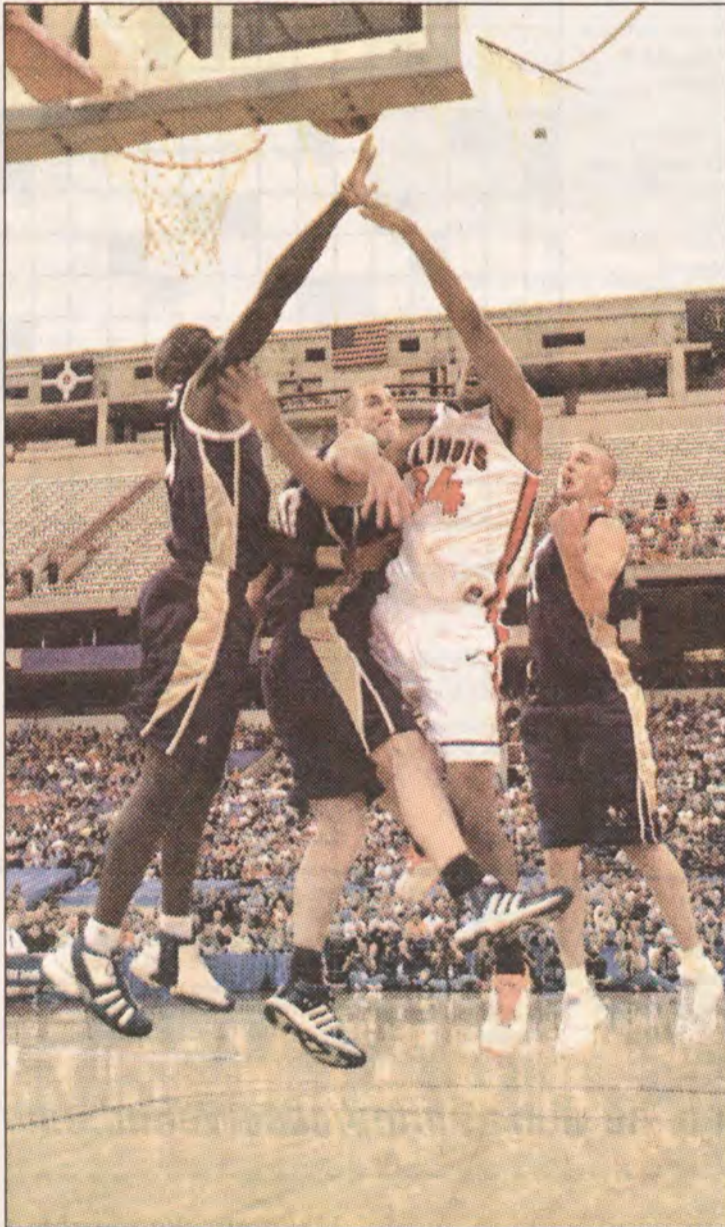
"Dan Miller was fabulous and that's one of the reasons we invested in him," Brey said. "... He's made us an overall tougher team. There's no question he has talked in our locker room on what it takes to advance. He has helped us take the next step."

Illinois's All-American candidate Brian Cook had 19 points, but made only six of his 23 shots and Dee Brown added 14 points for the Illini. Neither got many easy looks, thanks to the defensive play of Jordan Cornette, Tom Timmermans and Torin Francis.

The Irish jumped out to an early 8-0 lead on 3-pointers by Miller and Carroll and two Torin Francis free throws. Francis, who scored 23 against Wisconsin-Milwaukee Thursday, was held to only two points, but did pull down 14 rebounds for the Irish.

Brown then knocked down a jumper and a 3-pointer to cut the Irish lead to 8-5. Notre Dame extended their lead to nine, at 16-7, when Thomas nailed another 3-pointer. The Irish drilled 11 of their 16 3-pointers in the first half.

see SWEET/page 19



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Notre Dame players, from left, Torin Francis, Tom Timmermans and Dan Miller defend Illinois' Brian Cook during the 68-60 Irish victory Saturday.

WOMENS BASKETBALL

Irish knock off Wildcats

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

MANHATTAN, Kan.

Just when it seemed no one on the court could hit a shot, Alicia Ratay found hers and sent Notre Dame into the second round of

the NCAA Tournament for the eighth straight year.

The Irish guard overcame a poor first half of shooting to score 20 points, including three second half 3-pointers, and grabbed nine rebounds to lead 11th-seeded Notre Dame to an upset victory over sixth-seeded Arizona 59-47 Sunday night at Kansas State University. Notre Dame will face host Kansas State for a spot in the Sweet Sixteen Tuesday.

"She played, probably, her most complete game of this season," said Irish coach Muffet McGraw, who picked up her 450th victory as Notre Dame's head coach. "Offensively, we called her number every single time down the floor for awhile there. Rebounding, steals — she did it all tonight. Obviously, it was great to see her step up like that as a senior."

see UPSET/page 22

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

HOCKEY

Ohio State 3
Notre Dame 2

A third-period goal by the Buckeyes sinks the Irish in the Super Six round of the CCHA playoffs.

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MENS TENNIS

Saturday
Minnesota 6
Notre Dame 1

Sunday
Notre Dame 5
Virginia Tech 2

page 18

WOMENS TENNIS

Saturday
Notre Dame 4
Iowa 3

Sunday
William and Mary 4
Notre Dame 3

page 18

SMC SOFTBALL

Saint Francis 1
Saint Mary's 0

Judson 2
Saint Mary's 1
Saint Mary's 2
Olivet Nazarene 1

page 18