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Police bust College Park party

By SCOTT BRODFUEHRER
News Writer

Over 15 police officers busted a St. Patrick's Day party at the College Park apartment complex Monday afternoon, citing approximately 10 students and confiscating 25 kegs of beer.

State Excise Police had two undercover officers at the party who purchased a cup for beer from a female student. The student was later arrested, said Captain William Thompson, Commander of the afternoon shift for the St. Joseph County Police.

Following this purchase, Thompson said Excise Police requested the assistance of the St. Joseph County Police and the Indiana State Police at 2:30 p.m. to control the party.

Lieutenant Greg Deitchley, commander of the Michigan City district of the Excise Police and the coordinator of the bust, was unavailable for comment.

"At least one of the undercover officers was able to make a purchase of alcohol from a person who did not have a permit. When our officers arrived at the scene, this person was identified and taken into custody for making [an alcohol] sale without a permit," said Anderson.

Following Excise's request for assistance, but before officers arrived on the scene, Thompson said that a person at the party fell from a balcony and was transported to the hospital by a private vehicle. That person was not seriously injured.

Thompson said that when officers arrived on the scene, there were several hundred students at the apartment complex, most of whom he said were of age but "maybe had had too much to drink."

Officers then went to five or six of the loudest and most crowded apartments. After receiving permission from a tenant of the apartment, Thompson said officers checked identifications to ensure that all those consuming alcohol were of age and issued between 10 and 15 citations for minor in consumption of alcohol. Twenty-five kegs and seven or eight taps were confiscated and are being held by the county police for the excise police.

Thompson said that residents did have the option of refusing police officers entry to their apartment, in which case the officers would have obtained a search warrant or performed an exigent circumstance entry if they had witnessed possible criminal activity.

In total, Thompson said eight county police officers and five or six excise officers participated in the bust. Lieutenant Robert Rich, commander of the

see BUST/page 6

Professors address U.S. authority in war

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Editor

While the country and the world prepare for war, several Notre Dame professors questioned the United States' actions and whether it has the authority to take action in Iraq while trying to figure out what could happen once the United States enters Iraq.

In a prime-time television speech Monday, President Bush said diplomacy and weapons inspections had failed to disarm Iraq. If Saddam Hussein and his sons did not relinquish power within 48 hours of Bush's speech, the American president said the only remaining option was to enter Iraq and forcibly disarm Hussein and remove him from power.

The New York Times reported that Kofi Annan, the secretary-general of the United Nations, said that using force in Iraq and bypassing the Security Council would damage the United Nations.

"If this action is to take place without the support of the Council, its legitimacy will be questioned, and the support for it will be diminished," Annan said.

Luc Reydams, international



Military personnel from the United States, Great Britain and Australia work at the U.S. Central Command's forward headquarters in Doha, Qatar. Members of the armed forces have been deployed to several Middle Eastern bases in preparation for war with Iraq.

law professor, said the United States has no authority to attack or invade Iraq based on self-defense and that doing so would violate Article 51 of the charter of the United Nations.

Article 51 states that a state

can defend itself against an aggressor state should the aggressor launch an armed attack against the state. Reydams said Iraq has not attacked the United States and that the United States cannot

claim that attacking pre-emptively is a justification for the use of Article 51.

Bush said the United States needed to defend itself against

see WAR/page 8

Students speak on alcohol policy

Editor's Note: A year after Notre Dame announced the most significant alcohol policy changes in over a decade, The Observer examines what effect the changes have had. This is the second in a four-part series.

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

After University officials instituted sweeping changes to the school's alcohol policy, students felt that the policy changes harmed campus life and the social atmosphere to some extent, but differed as to how much impact the changes had.

"One of the main reasons I came to Notre was for the sense of community," said senior Ricky Sadowski, a member of Student Senate and Campus Life Council. "This year I've spent considerably more time at off-campus parties. I go out to bars a lot more."

Sadowski, who also serves as the vice president for peer advocacy on the Judicial Board, transferred to Notre Dame his junior year.

Recent crimes off-campus and the death of Chad Sharon, combined with increased numbers of students going off-cam-



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

A Notre Dame student consumes a pitcher of beer in the fall. The new alcohol policy has sought to crack down on excessive drinking and partying.

pus, also worried Sadowski. "It concerns me. I'm looking for a healthy social drinking atmosphere [and] I think the new policy has hindered that," he said.

Freshman Alex Borowiecki was also concerned about off-campus safety.

"Students are exposed to more dangers off campus than on campus," he said. "If we were on campus a lot of that would be cut down."

Other students agreed with Sadowski on the issue of students increasingly leaving the

Notre Dame campus during weekends.

Sophomore John Abdo said he also believed the new alcohol policy resulted in more students traveling off campus on the weekends.

"I think there's definitely a lot less partying on campus and there's a lot more undergrads going off campus," he said.

Abdo said that the University had definitely succeeded in decreasing the number of par-

see ALCOHOL/page 4

Officials to cut ND budget

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Editor

University departments will be forced to make budget cuts for the 2003-04 academic year per the Board of Trustees' request due to the loss in the endowment and the slow economy, said a University official.

In past years, the Board expanded the budget. However, at their February meeting, the Board anticipated the presumed impact the down economy would have on contributions to the University and cut the student life and academic budgets and other department budgets by 5 percent and 7 percent, respectively, University spokesman Matt Storin said. The University has not made budget cuts in the past decade and Storin said he did not believe any cuts were made in the past two decades.

Storin added that the budget cuts are a nationwide trend and other universities are cutting faculty positions.

see TUITION/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

What is the war good for?

In the final hours before America becomes a nation at war, our thoughts undoubtedly turn to support and concern for our troops and the innocent civilians who will inevitably be killed. Some say that opposition to war is now futile and even unpatriotic, but I disagree.

Claire Kelley

Photographer

This war will have a drastic impact on our future world and as members of a democratic society, it is our responsibility to critically analyze the rhetoric and actions of our government.

Granted, it has been difficult to understand what has caused our failed diplomacy. In the past months, President Bush has expressed that he is committed to the war no matter the costs, the support or the prospects for a decent aftermath. With frequent references to the September 11 tragedies in an attempt to direct our anger toward Iraq, he has used language that breaks the complicated issues down to a simple conflict between good and evil.

This rhetoric is effective because it resonates with our ingrained tendency toward violent reactions to fear. We seem to have a fatal attraction to war, thinking it will be a quick and predictable solution, but we must maintain clarity and objectivity to avoid serious mistakes. Does war make sense when our priorities are the freedom and safety of both Americans and Iraqis?

The inspectors and international pressure were slowly working to disarm Saddam Hussein — regardless of what the Bush administration, most of whom have never seen the horrors of war, would like us to believe. Now our plan is to shock the Iraqis with 3,000 bombs in the first 48 hours, senselessly killing the very people we are supposed to be liberating.

The arrogant attitude with which President Bush has marched toward war and his willingness to discard foreign coalitions and trust has led to our isolated status, which only increases the difficulty of rebuilding Iraq. We are destroying any lingering notion of America as a moral and respected superpower. How can the United States become safer when the world hates us?

I participated in the Feb. 15 protest in New York City where people of all ages, races and backgrounds united in solidarity with millions around the world in the largest protest in the history of humanity. The inspiring witness for peace showed that hope exists beyond the desperation and resignation to violence that we find ourselves overwhelmed with today. I believe this amazing international union reflected the same spirit that inspired the United Nations.

This issue is really not about choosing sides, for we are all on the side that sees war as despicable, peace as ideal and the killing of the innocent as wrong. I believe that we shall overcome the obsession with violence, weapons and worldwide dominance working with a patient yet persistent vision of peace and justice.

Join us at the South Quad flagpole on the first day of bombing.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS

In Tuesday's Observer, the article headlined "ND announces tuition increase" was incorrectly attributed as written by Meghanne Downes. Natasha Grant wrote the story.

WHAT'S INSIDE

CAMPUS NEWS	WORLD & NATION	BUSINESS NEWS	VIEWPOINT	SCENE	SPORTS
Indiana doctor lectures on stem cell research	Saddam rejects Bush ultimatum	Oil prices fall with war near	Protestors are uninformed	Appalachia and beyond	Making their mark
Indiana University professor Dr. Frank Yoder shares the benefits of stem cell research while pointing out some ethical issues.	Iraqi president Saddam Hussein appeared on television in military garb for the first time since 1991 to warn Iraqis to prepare for battle.	The price of oil fell 9 percent as traders predicted a successful and likely U.S. invasion of Iraq.	Student Padraic McDermott criticizes the anti-war protestors he observes in London.	Students return from the popular Appalachia Seminar offered by the Center for Social Concerns.	The Notre Dame women's and men's track and field teams brought home three All-Americans from Fayetteville, Ark.
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WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ND

- ◆ "Has Justice Been Won? The case of the Salvadoran Torture Survivors and the Generals", panel discussion for Romero Week, 7 p.m., Hesburgh Center Auditorium
- ◆ "The Road to Peace and Justice: Reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians", 12:30 p.m., Hesburgh Center C-103
- ◆ Student Senate agenda: Nomination of Tai Romero, extension of weekday parietals, Presidential Pass in Review, Freshman Orientation; 6 p.m., Notre Dame

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SMC

- ◆ Student Academic Council meeting, 7 p.m., 303 Haggar College Center
- ◆ Ladies of ND/Saint Mary's meeting, noon, Haggar College Center Parlor
- ◆ Sophomore Major Night Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Regina Hall North Lounge

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

Minors cited for alcohol consumption
Three minors were cited Tuesday for violating the liquor law. NDSP issued citations for minor consuming to the three at Riley Hall of Art and Design.

Bikes found and turned in to security
NDSP received abandoned bikes near the Law School, Old College and Snite Museum of Art Monday.

Employee turns in cash to NDSP
A University employee found cash Monday behind the Security Building and turned it in to NDSP.

Police tow vehicle by the Stadium
NDSP towed the vehicle of a University employee parked by the Stadium Monday.

Employee reports vandalism to vehicle
A University employee reported to NDSP Monday vandalism to her vehicle while parked in the faculty lot by Hesburgh Library. The vehicle was parked there Thursday between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. There are no suspects.

-compiled from the NDSP crime blotter

WHAT'S COOKING

North Dining Hall

Today Lunch: Amatriciana, mushroom marinara, sausage pineapple pizza, meatloaf, scalloped corn casserole, chicken gravy, cherry cobbler, grilled tilapia, oatmeal, sausage patties, scrambled eggs, fried potato triangles, steakhouse fries, Szechuan vegetable stir-fry, chicken fajita, Lone Star rice

Today Dinner: Amatriciana, sausage pineapple pizza, roast top sirloin, zum zum potato salad, peas & pearl onions, cherry cobbler, lemon-baked perch, rice valencienne, curried vegetables, curly-q seasoned fries, chicken teriyaki, chicken enchilada, flame-roasted fiesta corn & black beans

South Dining Hall

Today Lunch: Spaghettini putanesca, Hawaiian pizza, toasted pretzel sticks, cheese & vegetable pie, winter-blend vegetables, beef chop suey, cajun-baked Pollock, roast top round of beef, grilled ham & cheese on white, steakhouse fries, soft pretzel, chicken tempura, California Eldorado casserole

Today Lunch: Spaghettini putanesca, Hawaiian pizza, toasted pretzel sticks, potato pancakes, hot chunky applesauce, beef stuffed peppers, tuna casserole, roast turkey breast, sauteed chicken breast, steakhouse fries, soft pretzel, BBQ Caribbean chicken, flame-roasted corn & peppers

Saint Mary's Dining Hall

No menu available.

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	HIGH 53 LOW 41	HIGH 58 LOW 41	HIGH 66 LOW 43	HIGH 53 LOW 30	HIGH 40 LOW 29	HIGH 50 LOW 32

Bishop Ruiz honors Oscar Romero's life

By CAITLIN EARLY
News Writer

Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia from Chiapas, Mexico discussed the preferential option of the poor to a standing room only crowd in the Hesburgh Center auditorium as a part of the University's 16th annual celebration of Romero Week.

Ruiz, speaking entirely in Spanish, relayed the great significance and meaning behind the life and work of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the Salvadoran bishop who was assassinated while celebrating Mass March 24, 1980 by a Salvadoran death squad during El Salvador's civil war.

Those in attendance were provided with copies of Ruiz's lecture in English and were aided by the translations of Julissa Robles, a second-year law student.

Ruiz cited a letter written by a group of Latin American bishops in the days following Romero's death, which stated, "...Archbishop Oscar Romero was a friend, a brother, defender of the poor and oppressed, of the campesinos, of the working class and of those who lived in the marginalized barrios."

Ruiz stressed Romero's ceaseless commitment to dire needs of the poor in El Salvador and throughout Latin America.

Throughout Romero's life, he continually emphasized that the plight of the poor is the responsibility of the entire Church and all followers of Christ, Ruiz said.

In a homily delivered Sept. 9, 1979, Romero stated, "The

Christian who doesn't want to live this commitment of solidarity with the poor, is not worthy of being called a Christian."

Ruiz attended Romero's funeral in San Salvador.

Ruiz, well acquainted with the poverty and desperate conditions which engulf the lives of people throughout Latin America, believes that poverty continues to exist because the "rich get richer at the expense of the poor getting poorer."

Ruiz cited that poverty is the byproduct of a series of economic, social, and political factors.

Currently in Latin America, the poor consists of 80 percent of the population while the rich consist of 5 percent.

Ruiz served as the bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas in Chiapas from 1960 to 2000. From 1962 to 1965, Ruiz served in all sessions of the Second Vatican Council in Rome.

During Ruiz's tenure as bishop, he did extensive work to advance the rights of the indigenous peoples throughout Mexico and Latin America. In 1989, Ruiz founded the Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolome, a non-governmental organization, which attempts to promote and protect human rights.

Ruiz was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in both 1994 and 1995 in recognition of his continued efforts to advocate the rights of indigenous groups throughout Latin America.

Contact Caitlin Early at cearly@nd.edu

Theology class spends break in Cuba

By MIKE CHAMBLISS
News Writer

While many members of the Notre Dame community spent their spring breaks in tropical climates, one group chose a location that is quite unique from the average Caribbean island.

Members of Father Robert Pelton's "From Power to Communion" theology class traveled to Havana, Cuba last week in order to study the Catholic Church in the context of socialism.

The group was composed of four law students, two graduate students, seven undergraduates, two professors and one administrator. Each member researched a different topic regarding the Church, which underwent 40 years of persecution in Cuba and has only recently been able to make progress.

The group talked with a number of people affiliated with the Cuban Catholic Church, including lawyers, priests and journalists.

"There was a wide array of perspectives, but all saw the Catholic Church as planting seeds now that will develop later on after Castro," said senior Ken Seifert.

Participants were struck by the natural beauty of the island as well as the sometimes surreal differences from the United States, such as the widespread presence of 1950s era automobiles.

"It's like a time warp. It makes your eyes hurt, it's so different and so beautiful," said Seifert.

The travelers were also quick to note the high poverty level in Cuba.

"You see how much the U.S. embargo affects Cuba. Doctors



Photo provided by Chris Welna

Members of the first theology class to take an experiential learning trip to Cuba stand outside of the Cathedral in Old Havana after the morning Mass.

and lawyers are driving cabs at night in order to support their families," said senior Ysmael Fonseca.

Law student Rebecca McCurdy is eager to share her newfound insights about the effects of U.S. foreign policy in Cuba.

"I hope that at least the small group that was able to go will be able to share our experiences and show the reality of the human consequences of our policies," said McCurdy.

Seifert pointed out that, despite the material poverty of the country itself, Cubans enjoy a very strong social welfare system and a richness in culture that enables them to appreciate

what they do have in their lives. While there are elements of repression, such as limited freedom to speak about government and politics, life in Cuba is not always as ugly as it may seem to outsiders, Seifert said.

"It's amazing that they have managed to keep this system alive for 50 years. There is an idealism in the people, which is beautiful despite the repression. The revolutionary spirit still exists to this day. Many people don't appreciate that," said Seifert.

Contact Michael Chambliss at mchambli@nd.edu

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Alcohol

continued from page 1

ties on campus, but that such a change brought serious harm to student life. "I think it actually made it more dangerous. I don't think it's prevented anybody from drinking," he said.

"Everybody's afraid to drink so they're just going off campus," added junior Shannon Goebel. "Dorm life is pretty disappointing."

Freshman Mary Ellen Botta said there was little for students to do on campus, but felt that the alcohol policies changes did not completely change the social atmosphere.

"There's a not really a lot going on on campus, but you can find stuff to do," she said. "I think [the changes] are livable but I don't think they're really that necessary. No one really likes them but you can deal with them." When she did go off campus, Botta said she felt relatively safe.

Borowiecki said the changes had caused students to seek entertainment off campus and had damaged the campus atmosphere.

"It seems like there's been more of an exodus off campus," he said. "Dorm life has kind of been in a downward spiral."

Sadowski also noted problems that the new alcohol policies had created for dorm dances, which are now required to be held outside of the residence halls.

"We had to cancel our first dance of the year because we just didn't have enough involvement," said Sadowski, who lives in O'Neill. "The lack of enthusiasm has trickled down to the underclassmen."

While he felt that the dances O'Neill held this year were well organized, he was concerned about the additional planning and funding that dances now require.

"They were relatively successful and I enjoyed them," he said. "It seems like they've added complications that are unnecessary."

Goebel, who lives in Lewis Hall, felt that the alcohol changes would negatively her dorm's signature event, the Lewis Crush, because tradi-

tions associated with the Crush, such as the section decoration contest, might have to be changed.

"It's just going to be weird. If we can't have it in the dorm, that takes all that away," she said.

Other students worried about the new rules on what students could do in the dorms before dances. "They've only had an hour where the guys could come over to pre-party," said Abdo. "I think it's heightened binge drinking."

While some said they would move off campus because of the new changes, Sadowski chose to stay in his dorm but felt that the administration was contradictory in its attempts to convince seniors not to move off.

"That didn't even cross my mind," said Sadowski. "It frustrates me that the administration constantly asserts that they are trying to find ways to entice upperclassmen to stay on campus but their policies don't really gel with what they're trying to do."

Last year, when the changes were announced, Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman offered to refund the housing changes for any students who initially wanted to live on-campus but wanted to move off-campus as a result of the changes. Only four students accepted the offer, he said.

This year, he said applications for students wanting to live on campus increased 1.7 percent.

Goebel said she intended to move off campus next year and that while the alcohol changes played a role in her decision, they were not the only issue involved.

"I am moving off campus," she said. "[The new policy] was a defining factor but it was just one more rule."

Abdo gave a similar reasoning for his decision to move off campus but said that the alcohol policy changes were the last factor that convinced him to live off campus.

"I'm definitely moving off," he said. "I was planning on doing it before but that just really sealed the deal."

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfalish@nd.edu

ND's alcohol policy affected SMC

◆ Impact of last year's change also felt by Saint Mary's students

By ANNELIESE WOOLFORD
News Writer

As brother and sister schools, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's are closely related. When something affects one campus, its impact can usually be felt on the other and Notre Dame's alcohol policy is no exception.

This week marks the one-year anniversary of the announcement of Notre Dame's revised policy, and most Saint Mary's student's reactions to the changes are similar to those across the street.

"Notre Dame's new alcohol policy doesn't really affect me, because my friends and I usually go off campus to parties anyway," said junior Kate Dooley. "It has affected me in terms of the football games because we don't get to tailgate like we used to, and that was a

fun part of the whole experience."

In contrast to upperclassmen that lived through both policies and can compare the two, students say freshmen are missing out.

"I think who it has the biggest affect on is freshmen, because a lot of them would attend dorm parties and do more on campus activities," Dooley said. Freshman Katy Karr agrees.

"As a freshman, you have two choices on Friday and Saturday nights," she said. "You can walk around looking for an off-campus party, or you can sit in your room with a your girlfriends and pop the same chick flick you've been watching for the past five weekends into the VCR."

This scenario is one that many students, freshman or not, can relate to.

"The friends that I've made here at Saint Mary's are wonderful, but I regret to say there aren't too many opportunities to make new guy friends, or even meet anyone from Notre

Dame," Karr said.

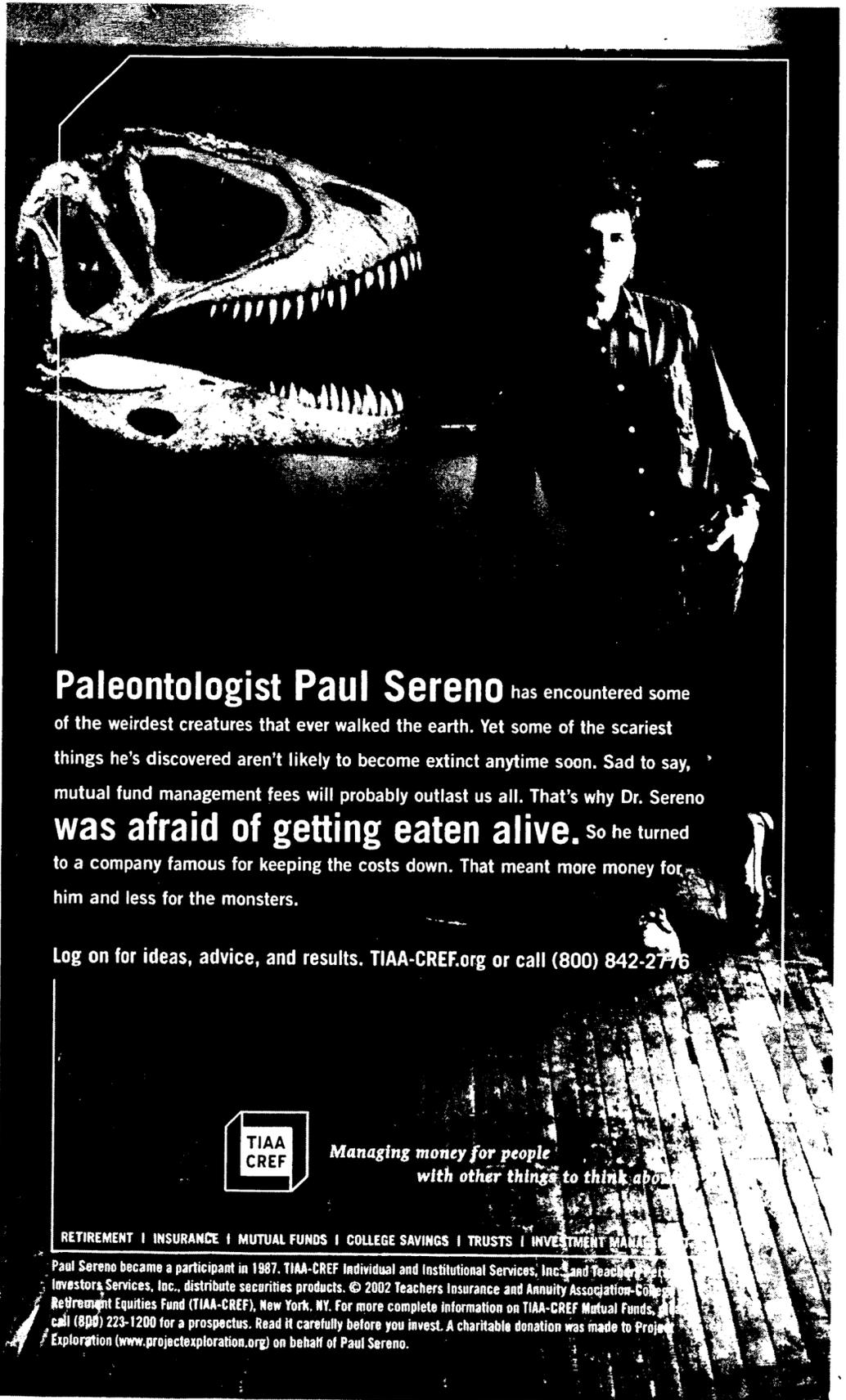
Although Notre Dame's alcohol policy has become more severe, some students feel it is incomparable to that at Saint Mary's.

Saint Mary's current alcohol policy states that persons under 21 may not possess, consume, provide, manufacture or sell any alcohol on the College campus. Students under 21 may not be present at any gathering where alcohol is present, whether they are drinking or not.

Those students who are 21 may use alcohol in their rooms provided that they follow a list of policies, similar to what might be expected on a college campus.

"We don't really have parties over here, so it doesn't affect us [students] that much," Dooley said. "I think a looser policy on drinking would possibly create more socialization on Saint Mary's campus instead of always going off-campus."

Contact Anneliese Woolford at wool8338@saintmarys.edu



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

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Paul Sereno became a participant in 1987. TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services, Inc. and Teachers Investment Services, Inc., distribute securities products. © 2002 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), New York, NY. For more complete information on TIAA-CREF Mutual Funds, call (800) 223-1200 for a prospectus. Read it carefully before you invest. A charitable donation was made to Project Exploration (www.projectexploration.org) on behalf of Paul Sereno.

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WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

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IRAQ

Saddam rejects Bush ultimatum, Iraq prepares for war

Associated Press

BAGHDAD

Iraqis prepared Tuesday to defend their nation against an American-led attack, stacking oil barrels and dry wood in parts of Baghdad — ready to be set afire in hopes of concealing targets during an aerial bombardment.

Baghdad residents mobbed bakeries and gas stations in a desperate rush for supplies. Shelves in many shops were empty after store owners moved merchandise to warehouses, fearing bombing or looting.

Defying a U.S. ultimatum to leave Iraq with his sons or face war, Saddam Hussein appeared on television in military uniform — for the first time since the 1991 Gulf War — and warned his commanders to prepare for battle.

Thousands of demonstrators swept into the streets of the Iraqi capital, mobilized by a televised appeal to show their support for the Iraqi leader. Waving pictures of Saddam, the protesters promised to give Saddam their "blood and souls."

The United Nations pulled its weapons inspectors out of the country Tuesday, ending the second effort in about dozen

years to verify that Iraq had ended its programs to build weapons of mass destruction.

In a televised speech Monday night, President Bush gave Saddam 48 hours to step down or face war, and promised "the tyrant will soon be gone." Nearly 300,000 U.S. and British troops are in the region poised to strike.

But Saddam indicated he wasn't going anywhere. After chairing a meeting of Iraq's highest executive body — the Revolution Command Council — the leader condemned Bush and his dictates.

Iraq's foreign minister Naji Sabri told reporters it was "Bush who should go into exile, because it is Mr. Bush who is endangering the whole world."

Saddam, Iraq's president of 23 years, also chaired a military meeting on Tuesday attended by his son Qusai, who heads the elite Republican Guard, and senior commanders. The meeting reviewed war plans and military readiness, Iraq's al-Shabab television reported.

The station, owned by Saddam's eldest son Odai, also called on Iraqis to demonstrate across the country to show support for Saddam. Soon 5,000 people gathered in Baghdad's Al-Mansour neighborhood, many armed and wearing the olive-green uniform of the rul-



Agence France Presse

Members of Iraq's ruling Baath party wave their weapons during a Baghdad rally in support of President Saddam Hussein Tuesday. Iraq rejected a 48-hour deadline set by U.S. President George Bush for Saddam Hussein and his sons to go into exile or face war.

ing Baath party.

Waving portraits of Saddam, they chanted, "We sacrifice ourselves for you Saddam, with our blood and souls!" and carried banners that read, "Saddam is

Iraq and Iraq is Saddam."

Smaller demonstrations took place elsewhere in Baghdad, but there were no immediate reports of demonstrations elsewhere in Iraq.

Meanwhile, at Saddam International Airport, hundreds of passengers snatched up the last available plane seats to Jordan and Syria — the only destinations available Tuesday.

Government begins plan to protect U.S. from terror

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

From airports to cattle feedlots to nuclear plants, the government began tightening security Tuesday to fortify America against terror.

The plan, called "Operation Liberty Shield," goes far beyond the government's previous responses to threats of terror because officials believe war with Iraq increases the possibility of attacks on U.S. soil or against U.S. interests abroad.

It envisions close cooperation among federal, state and local governments, as well as private businesses such as chemical plants and banks.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said individual Americans could play a part

as well by staying vigilant and prepared while avoiding panic.

"There is bound to be misinformation. Don't react to rumors. We will strive to get the facts out there as fast as we can," Ridge said Tuesday.

The nation's terror alert status was raised from "elevated" to "high" Monday night after President Bush said the U.S. military was ready to attack Iraq unless Saddam Hussein and his sons left the country by Wednesday night U.S. time.

Intelligence and law enforcement officials believe the al-Qaida terror network, while weakened, and its sympathizers remain the primary threat to mount terror attacks against America. There also is uneasiness about Iraqi agents or surrogate groups, as well as individual extremists or others.

Part of the homeland security plan

requires that anyone seeking political asylum in the United States from 33 countries with known terrorism presences, including Iraq, be detained while the government considers claims they face political persecution at home.

Last year, 577 people from those countries — including 348 from Iraq — claimed asylum out of more than 58,000 who sought entry in the United States, according to immigration officials. The goal of detention is to prevent terrorists or spies from using America's willingness to accept refugees as a pretext for entering the country.

"We want to make absolutely certain, during this period of time, that you are who you say you are," Ridge said.

Much of the plan is geared toward protecting the nation's transportation system,

including random searches of cars at airports, restricted airspace over certain cities, police or National Guardsmen protecting railroad bridges, enhanced identification checks for truckers who haul hazardous materials and more Coast Guard escorts of ferries and cruise ships.

The Coast Guard also is providing greater protection for petroleum and chemical plants near large cities. The General Accounting Office, which is the investigative arm of Congress, said in a report Tuesday that some of these 15,000 plants "may be attractive targets for terrorists intent on causing massive damage."

The report noted that nine months ago, Bush administration officials agreed on the need for mandatory security plans for such facilities, but no such plans have been proposed.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Palestinians approve prime minister post:

The Palestinian parliament created the post of prime minister Tuesday, taking a major step toward U.S.-sought reforms and rebuffing Yasser Arafat's attempts to retain a say in forming the next Cabinet. In the West Bank, Israeli forces killed two top Hamas fugitives accused in a string of shootings and bombings that killed dozens of Israelis. In a separate incident, an 11-year-old boy attending a Gaza funeral was shot and critically injured.

Turkey to urge parliament on war issues:

Turkey's government said Wednesday it would ask parliament to grant the U.S. Air Force the right to use Turkish airspace in an Iraq war but would not immediately ask the legislature to vote to allow in U.S. troops. Cabinet spokesman Cemil Cicek said a resolution allowing airspace rights would be put before parliament by Thursday at the latest and that a separate motion allowing in U.S. troops could be considered at a later date.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Two charged in Elizabeth Smart abduction:

Prosecutors charged a self-proclaimed prophet and his wife Tuesday with aggravated kidnapping and sexual assault in the abduction of Elizabeth Smart, disclosing for the first time details of the girl's nine-month ordeal. Brian Mitchell and Wanda Barzee also were charged with burglary and attempted aggravated kidnapping — a charge stemming from what prosecutors said was an attempt to later abduct Elizabeth's 18-year-old cousin.

Pentagon will investigate academy crisis:

The Defense Department is launching its own investigation of 56 alleged sexual assaults at the Air Force Academy. A separate investigation by the Air Force and its inspector general's office is already under way to look into allegations that female cadets were reprimanded or ostracized for reporting sexual assaults.

Gulf War vet executed for killing soldier:

A Gulf War veteran who raped and killed a female soldier was put to death by injection Tuesday after failing to win clemency with his claim that exposure to Iraqi nerve gas led to his crime. In a statement read by his lawyer, Louis Jones Jr. said he accepted full responsibility for the "pain, anguish and the suffering" he caused the private's family.

Tobacco farmer holds D.C. police at bay:

A tobacco farmer who said declining subsidies were forcing him out of business held police at bay Tuesday from his tractor in a pond near Washington's monuments. Streets were closed for blocks, and traffic was snarled for miles. "I'm going to get my message out or die trying," Dwight Watson, 50, of Whitakers, N.C., said in an interview posted on the Washington Post Web site. "I've got the rest of my life to stay right here. I'm not going anywhere."

Bust

continued from page 1

Bremen district of the Indiana State Police, said six of his officers participated in the bust at the request of the Excise Police.

Thompson said the bust likely occurred because the party started so early in the day.

"Our concern always is that if the party is that big early, what will it be like later? There were an awful lot of people at the party, some of which we had to give rides back to campus so they would

not stumble out into traffic. Our primary concern is safety rather than what is perceived as going to make a big bust," said Thompson.

Thompson said that his office received no advance warning of the party, but said it was possible that the Excise Police may have.

"It is not unusual for Excise to keep their ear to the ground around a big holiday that is generally associated with drinking, like St. Patrick's Day or Dingus Day," said Thompson.

Contact Scott Brodfuehrer at sbrodfue@nd.edu

Tuition

continued from page 1

Storin said some budget cuts would be made through attrition or not by filling open positions.

"There are no layoffs that are specifically mandated by this budget, but it's up to the various department heads both on the academic and administrative sides to implement those percentage reductions," Storin said. "You really can't entirely rule out the possibility of some reductions in personnel."

Storin added if layoffs were needed, there would be few and he knew of no plans for any department layoffs.

Father Mark Poorman, vice president of Student Affairs, said cuts in his department will include modest programming funds and unfilled positions will be eliminated.

"We are trying to do that strategically so that we don't have to lay anyone off and we are trying to keep as much programming money as possible," Poorman said.

The academic and administrative department chairs must make their budget changes prior to when the new budget becomes effec-

tive on July 1, Storin said.

Despite the budget cuts, the Board of Trustees also increased tuition for both undergraduates and the Graduate School by 6.5 percent to \$27,170 and \$27,070, respectively, said a statement released by the University. Both the Law School and the Masters of Business Administration program tuitions will also increase by 6.5 percent to \$27,800. The undergraduate room and board will also increase bringing the total cost for 2003-04, including tuition and room and board, to \$34,100.

In previous years the University worked to keep tuition increases below 5 percent and next year's tuition will be a significant increase from the 2002-03 academic year increase of 4.9 percent.

The increase in tuition and decrease in budget funds is directly linked to the significant decrease in the endowment in the past year. As a result, campus construction stalled indefinitely for the security and post office building, the new campus hotel and various athletic complex renovations.

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdownes1@nd.edu

Doctor lectures on stem cell research

By ANDREW THAGARD
News Writer

Mass-produced blood cells and platelets to ease the drain on America's blood clinics, insulin-secreting cells to treat diabetes and cardiac cells that can be infused into heart-attack victims are just a few of the potential benefits that stem cell research may yield in the coming years, said Dr. Frank Yoder in a lecture titled "The Promise and Perils of Stem Cell Research."

The Indiana University School of Medicine professor and mouse stem cell researcher, however, warned of the ethical dilemmas facing such research.

The key to understanding this research and the ethics associated with it, according to Yoder, is distinguishing between the different types of stem cells and the potential that each possess.

"There are many different ways to define stem cells," he said. "They are unique because of their ability to self-renew. At the same time, they can differentiate to make tissues and organs. As we sit here, your bone marrow will synthesize several hundred million blood cells and remove old ones, and it will happen so smoothly that your blood count will not change. It's a mind boggling thing to comprehend."

There are two classes of stem cells — embryonic and adult cells — and both have the ability to differentiate into other cell types. Within embryonic stem cells, there are two subtypes,

including cells derived from the blastocyst during the first few days of life and embryonic germ cells dissected from aborted fetuses 5 to 10 weeks old.

Of the three stem cells, those obtained from the blastocyst are the most versatile. In other words, they possess the greatest degree of pluripotency, or the ability to differentiate into the three types of tissue, according to Yoder.

Adult stem cells tend to display less diversity in their ability to differentiate into other tissue types, Yoder said, although special cells that behave similar to embryonic stem cells have been discovered in human bone marrow and brain and muscular tissues.

Lately, stem cell research has been directed toward cloning, both of an entire organism and individual tissues and organs for medical purposes, Yoder said. Both of these processes utilize a method called nuclear transfer technology, which involves extracting the nucleus from a cell and inserting it into an egg. The egg can then be implanted into a hormonally-primed female animal to generate a cloned organism or, cells from the clone can be removed early in development and cultured to form tissues and organs in therapeutic cloning.

Cloning, including for therapeutic purposes, poses several ethical problems, according to Yoder. Currently, the cloning process requires an excessive amount of eggs to generate results. For example, researchers used over 10,000

eggs to produce six cloned pigs, Yoder said.

"It's not a very efficient process," he said.

Problems also arise in using stem cells to grow replacement organs, according to Yoder.

Organs are complex three-dimensional structures and bio-engineering technology is required to provide the scaffolding needed to orient the cells correctly. While organs, including kidneys, have been successfully engineered in animals like cows, the productivity of such organs has been minimal.

The direction of differentiation of stem cells is also difficult to control, Yoder said. For example, researchers who want to generate cardiac muscle cells may find they end up with a different cell type.

"The embryonic cells sort of randomly turn into whatever they want to," he said. "It's very difficult to control this process."

It's also difficult, according to Yoder, to control what types of research scientists are working on, despite recent federal laws.

"Experiments are being done and they're not being reported as of yet," Yoder said. "We hear about certain things in meetings and wonder."

Tuesday's lecture was the first in a six-part series hosted by the South Bend Center for Medical Education, Indiana University School of Medicine and sponsored by The Medical Education Foundation.

Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu

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Wednesday, March 19, 2003

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MARKET RECAP

Market Watch March 18

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<i>NASDAQ</i>		
1,400.55	↑	+8.28
<i>S&P 500</i>		
866.45	↑	+3.66
<i>AMEX</i>		
819.32	↓	-1.33
<i>NYSE</i>		
4,800.16	↑	+16.21

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ-100 INDEX(QQQ)	+1.24	+0.33	26.93
MICROSOFT CORP (MSFT)	+0.42	+0.11	26.04
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	+0.50	+0.07	14.20
INTEL CORP (INTC)	+1.05	+0.19	18.25
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	-0.79	-0.10	12.25

IN BRIEF

New housing projects drop 11 percent

The number of new housing projects builders broke ground on in February plunged by 11 percent, the sharpest decline in nearly a decade, as bad weather and an uncertain economic climate took its toll on the residential construction market. Housing construction dropped to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.62 million units in February, representing a 11 percent decline from the month before, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday. The level of housing activity in February was weaker than the 1.75 million pace economists were forecasting.

United asks to scrap labor contract

United Airlines warned in a court filing that it could be forced out of business this year if unable to secure the deep labor cuts it's proposing in bankruptcy — its bleakest assessment yet of its prospects. The statement was contained in a court filing late Monday in which it requested that its labor contracts be scrapped unless new agreements can be worked out by the first week of May. "Liquidation is a distinct possibility if United does not achieve its proposed labor cost reductions," said the company, which is seeking \$2.56 billion in annual labor reductions.

Bayer ruled not liable in drug suit

A jury cleared Bayer Corp. of liability Tuesday in a \$560 million lawsuit that accused the pharmaceutical giant of ignoring research linking the cholesterol-lowering drug Baycol to dozens of deaths. The jury deliberated for 2 1/2 days before returning the verdict. It was the first of about 8,000 cases against Bayer to go to trial. "The verdict validates Bayer's assertion that the company acted responsibly in the development, marketing and voluntary withdrawal of Baycol," Bayer said in a statement. The lawsuit was brought by Hollis Haltom, an 82-year-old engineer who said a muscle-wasting disease caused by Baycol severely weakened his legs.

Oil prices fall with war near

◆ Despite 2 month low, oil prices still volatile

Associated Press

NEW YORK
The price of oil plunged 9 percent Tuesday, falling to its lowest level in more than two months as traders bet that the impending United States invasion of Iraq will go smoothly and that global stockpiles of crude are sufficient to offset any supply disruptions.

The April futures contract fell \$3.26 to \$31.67 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the lowest close since Jan. 8.

However, with U.S. supplies low and uncertainty in the Middle East high, traders said petroleum prices likely will remain volatile in the short term.

"This thing could go right back up," said Tom Bentz, an analyst at BNP Paribas in New York. "We're still vulnerable because inventories are tight."

The most recent Energy Department data showed commercial stockpiles of crude at 269.8 million barrels, 18 percent below year ago levels. Supplies have dwindled as a result of high demand for heating oil in the Northeast and fewer imports from Venezuela, whose oil industry was crippled for months by a nationwide strike.

Yet Bentz and other traders mostly expressed confidence Tuesday that the loss of Iraqi crude could be made up elsewhere and that the U.S. government will tap its own 600 million barrel stockpile, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, in the event of a supply emergency. European nations have their own stockpiles that could help make up for any supply shortages resulting from war, which could begin as early as Wednesday night.

Furthermore, industry watchers said OPEC producers — with the exception of Iraq and Venezuela — all are pumping over their quotas, eager to take advantage



A car arrives at a petrol station which offers discount fuel in Singapore Tuesday. Oil prices eased after President Bush gave a 48-hour ultimatum to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

of the high prices. That extra supply could hit the market just as demand for gasoline, heating oil and other fuels drops to seasonal lows.

"There's quite a bit of oil in vessels and it's now beginning to hit the consuming areas," said Leo Drollas, chief economist of the London-based Center for Global Energy Studies. He said Saudi Arabia may have as much as 50 million barrels in storage or en route to markets.

"They've chartered 25 vessels over the last month and a half," said Drollas in a telephone interview, with each tanker capable of carrying 2 million barrels of crude.

The United States consumes roughly 19.5 million barrels of crude a day and more than half of that is imported.

Fadel Gheit, senior oil analyst at Fahnstock & Co. in New York, said traders are coming to the conclusion that the world has enough oil to meet demand, even assuming that Iraq's estimated daily production of 2 million barrels is taken out of the equation.

Venezuela, whose oil industry was all but shut down earlier in the year because of a nationwide strike, is now producing enough oil to make up for an Iraqi shortfall, Gheit said. And Saudi Arabia has increased its production by 1 million barrels a day to more than 9 million barrels a day, Gheit said.

"We have plenty of oil," he said. "This war premium has to come out of the price."

The biggest fear in the

market is that oil facilities in other Middle Eastern countries, such as Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, could be attacked — a scenario that would cause oil prices to shoot higher very quickly, Gheit said.

Short of that, he said prices could easily drop another \$5 a barrel in the coming weeks.

The price of crude, which reached a 12-year high of \$37.83 last Wednesday, has fallen 16 percent over the past four trading sessions.

Tuesday's decline in oil prices also drove down wholesale prices for gasoline and heating oil. Heating oil for April delivery fell 5.79 cents to close at 85.78 cents a barrel, while gasoline futures dropped 6.52 cents to close at 96.19 cents a gallon.

Fed opts to stick with current rates

Associated Press

WASHINGTON
With looming war making economic forecasting unusually difficult, the Federal Reserve decided Tuesday to leave interest rates unchanged at a 41-year low.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues held out the prospect, however, that they would move quickly to cut rates if fallout from military conflict should threaten to push the country back into recession.

The Fed's decision to leave its target for the federal funds rate unchanged at 1.25 percent disap-

pointed investors who had been hoping the Fed would cut rates again, driving the funds rate to 1 percent or lower, a level last seen when Dwight Eisenhower was president.

Stocks, surging in recent days over hopes of a quick and successful war against Iraq and a possible Fed rate cut, momentarily lost altitude after the Fed's afternoon announcement. However, the Dow Jones industrial average managed to finish the day up 52.31 at 8,194.23, extending a rally that has added a stunning 670 points to the blue chip average over the past five trading days.

Many investors had been hoping that if the Fed did not cut rates, it would at least change the portion of its statement designed to foreshadow future moves. They had expected a move from a statement that risks were equally balanced between inflation and economic weakness to a statement that cited economic weakness as the greater threat.

Instead, for the first time since it began releasing a "balance of risks" assessment in early 2000, the Fed said the "unusually large uncertainties clouding the geopolitical situation" made it impossible to determine where the risks stood.

War

continued from page 1

needed to defend itself against Iraq because the Middle Eastern country is linked to terrorists and weapons of mass destruction. While the Bush administration had sought a Security Council resolution authorizing force, administration officials said the United States did not need a resolution to launch an attack.

Reydams said Article 2 of the UN Charter prohibits the use of threat or force against a nation in all but two exceptions — the Security Council's decision for collective security and cases involving Article 51. Only twice has the Security Council authorized war — in the Korean War and the Persian Gulf War.

Monday, diplomatic measures appeared to come to a halt as the United States, Great Britain and Spain withdrew their resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq. There is no collective security measure to use force in Iraq, which requires nine members of the United Nations Security Council to vote in favor of and none of the permanent members to veto a resolution authorizing force.

"The proclaimed right to self-defense and anticipatory strike is against the UN Charter," Reydams said. "It's ironic that the U.S. always says that Iraq must comply with resolutions, but so must the U.S. comply with the UN Charter."

Kier Leiber, political science professor, offered a different view by saying Bush offered an effective and persuasive presentation for the need for war.

Leiber believes that fighting in urban Baghdad will not be difficult and that many Iraqi troops will surrender, bringing about a quick end to the war.

Dan Philpott, political science professor, said military actions in Iraq created a rift in the international community.

Great Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair, a staunch supporter of military action in Iraq despite intense domestic criticism, said Tuesday, "What would any tyrannical regime possessing [weapons of mass destruction] think viewing the history of the world's diplomatic dance with Saddam? That our capacity to pass firm resolutions is only matched by our feebleness in implementing them. That is why this indulgence has to stop. Because it is dangerous. It is dangerous if such regimes disbelieve us."

Two traditional U.S. allies, Germany and France, said they would not support the U.N. resolution for use of force before the United States and its allies pulled the resolution before it went to a vote.

"War erodes the just war conception of self-defense as a justification for war," Philpott said.

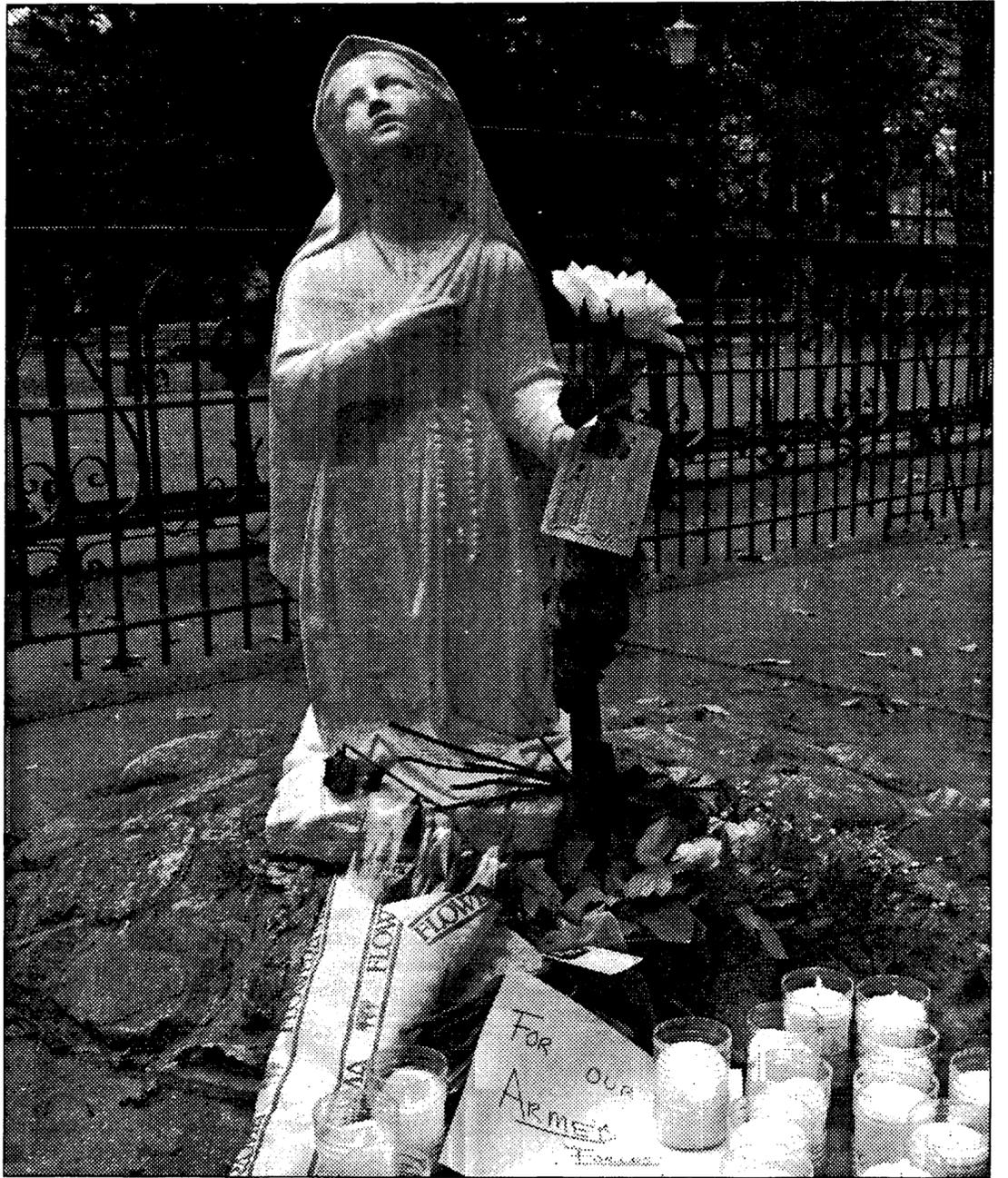
Philpott doubted Hussein would abdicate due to his high sense of honor. He added it was highly likely Hussein will use weapons of mass destruction against the United States and Israel and that he may have cells operating in these countries.

Philpott said the war would be quick, but installing democracy in Iraq would be difficult and could fuel terrorism.

Matt Bramanti also contributed to this report.

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdownes1@nd.edu

PRAYERS FOR PEACE



ANDY KENNA/The Observer

Candles and flowers sit in front of the Virgin Mary statue located in the Grotto as prayers for peace and the safety of U.S. troops in light of the impending war with Iraq. In a nationally televised speech Monday, President Bush gave Saddam Hussein 48 hours to leave Iraq or face war.

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Oscar red-carpet arrivals cancelled

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES
The Academy Awards ceremony will go on but organizers Tuesday canceled the splashy red carpet arrivals for celebrities because of the looming threat of war with Iraq.

Gil Cates, producer of Sunday's Oscar telecast, said many celebrities had asked to use a back entrance away from the barrage of photographers and interviewers.

He said the red carpet will remain, but the reporters and photographers and bleachers for fans in front of the Kodak Theatre will be gone.

"I think you'd all agree it would be very inappropriate

to have 500 fans yelling and screaming 'Julia' or 'Tom,'" Cates told reporters.

Nicole Kidman, lead actress nominee for 'The Hours,' and Daniel Day-Lewis, who is up for lead actor for 'Gangs of New York,' have told The Associated Press that they would feel uncomfortable appearing cheerful and stylish in the midst of war.

The show is unlikely to be canceled or postponed. However, "all of us in this room are at the mercy of the winds of war and we just simply don't know," Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences President Frank Pierson said.

Television's Emmy Awards were delayed twice in 2001, the first time after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that year and then again after the United States and Britain attacked Afghanistan's Taliban government in response.

When the show finally did take place in November, it was a scaled-back affair at which celebrities put aside their tuxedos and fashionable evening gowns in favor of business attire.

The Oscar ceremony, from host Steve Martin's monologue to the celebrity presentations and film clip montages, are also being changed to reflect the nation's mood.

Professor addresses suffering, Bible

By NATALIE BAILEY
News Writer

Pauline Viviano, theology professor at Loyola University Chicago, shed light on the explanations of suffering and the Bible's instructions on how to cope with it during the second Lenten lecture for the Center for Spirituality, titled "Suffering in the Bible."

The attachment of retribution to suffering dominated the Pre-Exilic period, which existed before 587 B.C., she said.

"The Book of Deuteronomy is based on the idea that the good are rewarded and that the bad are punished," Viviano said. "This is based on the notion that God is just."

God was not viewed as arbitrary in the use of his power, which greatly contrasts the view people had of the Greek and Roman gods, she said.

"God was thought to be extremely patient with his people," Viviano said.

"Time after time, throughout many books of the Bible, God should have wiped out the people entirely but He gave them chance after chance," she said.

The loss of the Holy Land and the Temple in the Exilic Period, which stretched from 587-539 B.C., devastated the faithful.

"Too much suffering calls into question God's love for his people and his justice," Viviano said.

The people then began to

think that undeserved suffering resulted from unleashed forces of chaos in the heavens.

The people appealed to God to regain control of these forces and cease their suffering through laments as seen in the Book of Psalms.

Viviano analyzed the Book of Job to interpret the people's feelings of suffering and God at this period of time.

Job was a good man who suffered because God made a bet with the devil.

Job ceased to silently suffer in chapter three when he began to curse God and the day he was born. The book ends with Job putting God on trial and saying, "I despise myself and repent in dust's ashes."

Traditionally, this is taken to mean God is all-powerful and all-knowing, making it wrong for man to question the motives of God.

Using her knowledge of Hebrew, Viviano lent a different translation to Job's final conclusion.

"I despise [God] and repent [feel sorry for] in dust's ashes [frail humanity]." This translation turns Job into a satire of the idea of God as unfair, distant and unconcerned.

"In either interpretation, what is left a mystery is the reason for suffering," Viviano

said. Viviano's answer for the existence of suffering is the existence of sin. She used the New Testament to bring comfort to the situation.

"Jesus is the Messiah through suffering," she said. "At the moment of His death He is declared the son of God in the Gospel of Mark."

She also pointed out that Jesus' actions of healing the sick and forgiving sinners prepared the way for God.

"The kingdom of God is where God rules and where God rules there is no place for suffering," Viviano said. "We think sin should be punished; God thinks sin should be forgiven," she said. "People don't want to hear this — it was the

"When we are suffering, we are not abandoned by God. He can bring victory out of suffering."

Pauline Viviano
Loyola University professor

religious authorities who put Jesus, a troublemaker, to death."

Viviano interprets an unconditionally loving God in the New

Testament. "When we are suffering, we are not abandoned by God. He can bring victory out of suffering," she said. "God is with us through suffering and He will bring life and benefit out of suffering."

Contact Natalie Bailey at bail1407@saintmarys.edu

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The consequences of coming of age

As near as I can tell, the best thing about being 21-years-old is that I can finally write about all of the bars I've been going to since I was a freshman. That and I have the added benefit of being able to be calm when cops show up at a party. My pre-legality strategy for dealing with law enforcement officers was simply to run as fast as I could in the opposite direction. And while I feel that there was a certain quiet dignity and nobility in my classic slow, chubby, white kid's retreat over the back fence of some house on St. Pete's, I prefer the new way.

I especially relish the leeway that my new age gives me to be publicly intoxicated. I can tailgate without fear. I can rally with total immunity in any alley I desire. All I have to do is make sure that I don't do anything stupid. If I can somehow avoid stealing a Papa John's delivery car or falling off of a balcony at College Park, I should be hunky dory. That being said, a license to be publicly drunk is just about the only benefit I can see right now to being legal. Other than that this is a very scary time to be reaching manhood. Or, in my case, thinly-veiled womanhood.

As you're reading this, either American troops are preparing to turn Baghdad into a sheet of glass or Saddam Hussein and his sons are in the middle of a ferocious conga line on a one-way Carnival cruise to Rio. Personally, I hope it's the latter. Don't get me wrong — I'm no

peacenik. In fact, I'm a firm believer in bombing foreign countries — especially if those countries are far away from me and are full of little brown people with funny mustaches and goofy clothing.

There's been some talk that the draft may be reinstated. This would not be surprising, as George W. Bush seems to have made it his personal goal to end civilization as we know it. Normally, I would have no problem following the President into battle, but this president in particular doesn't inspire confidence, due mostly to the fact that he looks, acts and talks like a ventriloquist's dummy. Watch closely during the next press conference. I swear to God you can see Dick Cheney's lips move a little while Bush is talking. I keep waiting for the podium to fall over only to reveal Donald Rumsfeld with his hand up Bush's nether region, expertly working the controls.

I have no problem with war, as long as I'm not the one actually fighting it. I'm a lover, not a fighter. Plus, I bruise like a peach, and I have a feeling that a direct impact from a Scud missile would bruise the hell out of me. So, as much as I love my country, if I do happen to be drafted one of these days, I'll be in Windsor faster than you can say "draft dodger," whistling "O Canada" while a stripper pulls dollar bills out of my unzipped fly with her teeth.

I feel especially bad for my ROTC friends. I suspect that the free education is looking less attractive by the minute. Ironically, Notre Dame is perfect training for life on the front lines, what with segregation of the sexes, harsh weather conditions and

clueless authorities who try to control every aspect of living; anyone who's survived a walk back from Boat Club after dark knows what it's like to advance under fire. Plus, Saddam's got nothing on some female dorm rectors. We could ship Pasquerilla West to Baghdad tomorrow — the girls would feel right at home.

If the war does start, as most people think it will, tonight at 8 p.m., it's scary to think that seniors in ROTC could be shipping out after graduation. One day you're at Finnigan's trying to coax a girl you're not even that attracted to back to your apartment; two weeks later you're ducking bullets in some godforsaken desert. This is what we call surreality.

Of course, even those opposed to the war have to acknowledge that they support our brave men and women of the armed forces. Although, let's not mince words here. As brave as our troops are, the real brave ones are the Iraqi troops. America has the greatest, most dominating arsenal the world has ever seen. Iraq has some guy named Khalim with a rusty AK-47 and a hand-me-down helmet. That guy is brave. He has a snowball's chance in hell of surviving a fight with us.

Twelve years ago, Saddam promised the "mother of all wars." Today, what he's gonna get is the "mother of all heinie-whoopings." God bless the USA.

Joe Muto is a junior majoring in FTT and English. Contact him at jmuto@nd.edu.

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

Joe Muto

Muto Time

TODAY'S STAFF

News Helena Payne Joe Trombello Mike Chambliss	Sports Chris Federico Pat Leonard Scene Maria Smith Lab Tech Chip Marks
Viewpoint Claire Kelley Graphics Katie McKenna	

NDTODAY/OBSERVER POLL QUESTION

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

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell."

William Tecumseh Sherman
Civil War general

VIEWPOINT

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

page 11

Let the games begin

You sit there, head down, looking at your hands as if to learn once again that they can move on your command. They are cold and clammy but still sweating profusely even amidst your constant rubbing of the two together. Nervously looking around the room, you realize that you're not the only one among your group who is nervous. Anxious glances and worried eyes can be seen from everyone.

Adam Cahill

Silence envelopes the room to the point of pure insanity. Leaving you alone to your thoughts, the time passes slower than you ever thought possible. Silently you plead to those around you to say something. Anything. Please!? Anyone. Talk.

A Domer's Outlook

No one answers your call though, and the tension in the room grows exponentially. A quick glance to the front of the room ends your madness. Coach has come into the room silently, pensively a few moments before and all eyes focus on him, calling for help. He starts talking and the sudden break in silence makes his words mix together incomprehensively in your head. You look around to see if anyone else is as confused as you. Relief comes when you seemingly aren't the only confused person in the room.

The longer he talks the more you begin to understand his words and the chicken scratch he's scribbling on the board. Hours of practice rush back to you like a wave on some far away beach. Man, it'd be nice to be there, you think. Silently you scream to yourself to stop it. It's time to concentrate now. You need to be ready for yourself, your school and, most especially, for your coach and teammates.

You try and pull focus back to the board only to observe Coach putting the cap back on the marker while looking down at the floor, seemingly gathering his thoughts. Fellas, he says, you all know who we are, what we're doing here, but if you want to win this game, there are a few things you should know. One, as he pauses for dramatic effect, nothing except the team you've become during the season matters now. The wins, the losses, the celebrations and heartbreaks don't matter at all. But the people you've become because of those same situations is going to make the difference. Believe in each other and there's nothing you can't accomplish.

Continuing to talk, Coach is starting to get fired up and you can tell the rest of the team is getting antsy. His face is getting red and sweat forms on his brow. After a while, his normal voice rises into a yell. You can feel the energy from his passionate speech and hope that your teammates do as well. Jittery twitches and active body languages make it evident that everyone just wants to get out of the room and onto the floor.

A few final remarks from him and the team collapses together into a team prayer. Silence swallows the room again, but this time you can hear something different. It starts out as a low, far-away murmur and grows into a pulsating roar, rattling the overhead lights in the locker room.

Heart racing and stomach in your throat, you mouth the prayer like you've done so many times before. This one is different, though. You can feel the desperate nervousness in the room. Wandering eyes and sweaty palms are all over the place. And suddenly you feel an overwhelming emotion come over you. Something you've rarely felt and never before at this level of intensity.

You finally succumb to your teammates. You've been through so much together. All the sweat, all the blood, all the joys, all the tears come rushing over you like a storm. Prohibitions and barriers are now gone. You know you would walk through hell for them and they would do the same for you. Heading out the locker room door, you know this is what sport is all about. Love. Passion. Commitment. Sacrifice. Camaraderie.

Moving your way down the tunnel to the court, the crowd's roar becomes deafening. Bands. Fans. Television cameras. Announcers. You can feel it in the air. You've been waiting for this moment all your life. I was born for this.

Scenes from Hoosiers flow through your head as you jog onto the floor. You ask yourself, are we Hickory or the white team no one remembers as South Bend Central? It doesn't matter, you decide. Whether you end up as a Cinderella story at the end of the day or as the team nobody remembers, it doesn't matter. Right now, all that matters is that you have the opportunity to do something about your dreams. Anything is possible.

Yes, this is a special time of year. It's time for March Madness. The impossible is now possible. Let the games begin.

Adam Cahill is a junior majoring in history and American studies. His column appears every other Wednesday. Contact him at acahill@nd.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

United States is abandoning principles in war with Iraq

There's a gag line you hear occasionally on The Simpsons. Homer catches himself doing an honest day's work or in some way acting nobly and wails, "I've become everything I ever hated!"

Listening to President Bush explain his decision to order U.S. troops into Iraq, one wonders if he isn't transforming the United States into something Americans have always hated. And that is, an arrogant bully without respect for the law or concern for the opinions of others.

In issuing his 48 hour ultimatum Monday night, not unlike an Old West sheriff ordering the bad guys to "Get out of town by sundown," the former governor of Texas alluded to nations in the 20th century appeasing murderous dictators "whose threats were allowed to grow into genocide and global war."

It's hard to see how the United Nations has been "appeasing" Saddam Hussein the last decade-plus with its no-fly zones, starvation-grade trade sanctions, inspectors combing the cities and countryside and demands to dismantle missiles.

As for the present century, Mr. Bush speculates that any hint of appeasement toward a regime suspected to possess nuclear, chemical or biological weapons (other than us) "could bring destruction of a kind never before seen

on this earth."

The same could be said of the notion that countries ought to wage best-guess wars against any neighbor they are convinced intends them harm. Only God can know the future, yet implicit in the doctrine of preemptive war is a belief that someone on the White House payroll knows with certainty what bad acts will be committed tomorrow and by whom. How else to justify meting out advance punishment today?

The president warns us that waiting to respond to terrorists or "terror states" until after they've acted (a.k.a. waiting for a crime to be committed, trying a suspect and, if the suspect is found guilty, only then administering punishment) is not self-defense, it is suicide. The alternative path he has chosen is called homicide.

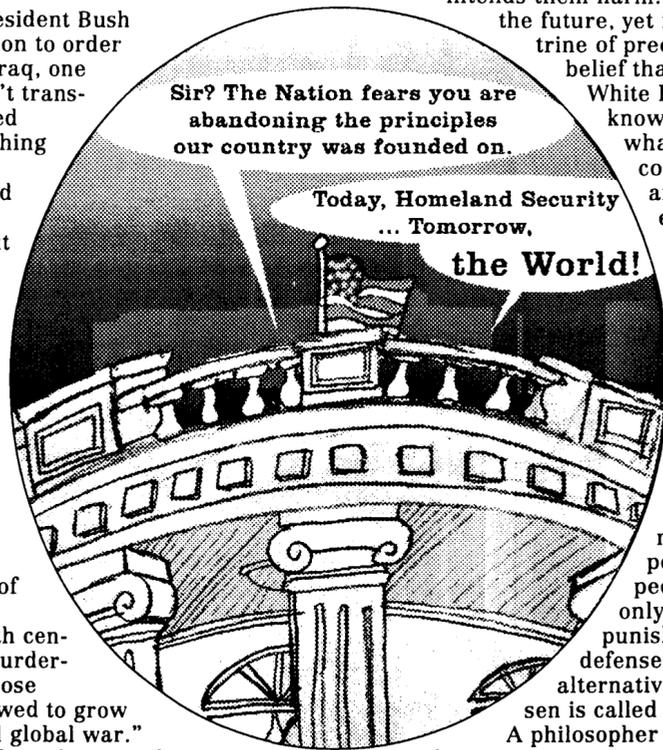
A philosopher familiar to most on this campus was once quoted as asking, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul?" I can't help but wonder about the net cost of our ridding the world of a brutal dictator but abandoning our principles to get the job done.

Ed Cohen

staff

Granger, Indiana

March 18



Protestors are uninformed

I just walked through Parliament Square in the heart of London, from where I now send these observations. It is a heady time here, and today especially the air is pregnant with tension and anxiety. Beside the massive statue of Churchill, along one side of Parliament Square park, numerous protesters have joined the long-standing demonstration there.

Soft, hazy light filters through the thin clouds, across the face of Westminster Abbey, whose bells ring the bedlam of protest to a weird, subdued fever. Across the street, beneath Big Ben and deep within the massive Palace of Westminster, Tony Blair addresses a packed House of Commons. Blair and the protesters are physically separated by no more than Parliament Street — but stare at each other across a gaping moral void.

As I stare at the protesters holding signs which read "Don't Invade Iraq" and "Defend Civil Liberties — Stop Racism." I do not pay any heed to the innumerable idiotic signs and statements, so quixotic as to be unintelligible, and I can only shake my head. The scene would be laughable, if the stakes and the scope of these protesters' ignorance were not so damnably tragic.

Here we have people calling the Prime Minister's policies "racist" and against "civil liberties" — where were they when Hussein raped, murdered and gassed his own people and his neighbors over long decades? If there were any

credence to these protests, why did not anyone protest Hussein's treatment of his people? Why do they reserve their deepest distrust for the United Kingdom and the United States?

These protesters decry the "massacres" and "genocide" they accuse us of planning. They evidently paid no heed to the Afghanistan War; they know little to nothing of recent history. And again — why do they not protest the massacres which we all know have taken place?

All the arguments for war, as a sad necessity in the national interest, are now all but moot; but the morality of our undertaking must finally be proclaimed loudly, in the streets of Britain and America. These chic "Greens" activists, who have not informed themselves of the history of the matter, must not be allowed to slander our nations, without opposition.

Across the street, Blair offers moral and political arguments for war. And every single argument being offered in the Commons debate regards the morality of war. Let the protesters watch an intelligent and informed debate, which keeps in perspective the character of our nations, and let them take heed. And may God bless the American and British men in the Persian Gulf.

Padraic McDermott

junior

London

March 18

SCENE *campus*

Appalachia and beyond

The Center for Social Concerns sends students across the country from East Harlem to Toronto to the Coachella Valley, for spring break service projects.

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

What could be better than spending your spring break in sunny Florida or Mexico?

For some students, spending it in sunny West Virginia covered with paint would be. So said sophomore Brendan O'Neill, who spent his break in Appalachia working on houses, playing basketball with local kids and trying out his grandma's chili recipe for the first time on one of the Center for Social Concern's seven Social Concerns Seminars.

"It's always nice to go to Florida, but we had great weather in Charleston too," said O'Neill. "It was a great time for new friendships, a lot of fun and a lot of laughs."

Social Concerns Seminars are becoming increasingly popular way for Notre Dame students to spend their spring breaks, both to do service and make new friends. This year, the CSC had a record number of students apply for seminars with over four times as many students applying than were accepted for some seminars. Around 200 students were accepted to participate in these one-credit service seminars.

The Social Concerns Seminars are built around a variety of national and international issues. Students are immersed in the environment of a migrant worker, a New York City child or other situations with a small group of other students to learn about the causes, realities and potential solutions of some of the most serious social prob-

lems facing the United States.

The seminars were largely organized by students, although the CSC endeavored not to let the project become too great a drain on students' time.

"We had lots of help from the CSC staff," said Michael Poffenberger, one of two student coordinators for the Washington Seminar.

While the Appalachia Seminar examining religious, social, political and environmental issues across five Appalachian states is the largest and most well-known of the seminars, the CSC also sends students to a variety of other locations.

The Washington Seminar, "Christian Response to a Violent World," examined Christian ways to deal with conflict in a violent world. Students met with prestigious minds such as George Wiegel, author of "A Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II."

"We gelled really well together early on," said coordinator Andrew DeBerry. "Because we had that kind of relationship, it made respectful but intense dialogues possible."

Living the Gospel of Life Seminar, also located in Washington, focused on pro-life issues such as abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, cloning and stem cell research. Students met with groups such as the National Right to Life and the U.S. Bishops' Conference working on the issues. The seminar was in its first year after being postponed last fall due to the sniper attacks.

"It went really well," said student organizer Bryan Haffey. "Things ran very smoothly."

Students in the Children and Poverty



Photo courtesy of Mary Ann Dougherty

The Washington Seminar group relaxes together in the Pilgrimage where the group stayed. The students spent the week discussing Christian views on violence and conflict.

Seminar in New York City visited schools in East Harlem and other neighborhoods, which are home to children below the national poverty line. The groups spoke with representatives from the UN and UNICEF about what to do for children in poverty. The group also spoke with the founder, co-founder and executive director of World Hunger Year about how initiatives in the area work.

"One highlight of the trip was definitely the Cornelia Connelly Center for Education, a Catholic girls' middle school," said senior Megan Anderson. "It was great to see a supportive faculty for the girls, and to see how the teachers respected the kids."

The students in the Migrant Seminar traveled to Immokalee, Fla. to work with migrant workers in the farming community that produces almost 80 percent of the nation's tomatoes. The group toured a farm, went to a packing plant, picked tomatoes and looked at services for child and health care in the area.

"It's so easy to look at simple things like tomatoes or clothes, things we rely on, and forget the people who make that possible," said freshman Alicia Lachiondo. "It's an eye-opening experience to see how amazing and courageous people have to be to get up and do that every day."

The CSC's two smallest seminars sent students to the Coachella Valley in California and to Toronto.

The Holy Cross Mission in Hispanic Ministry Seminar helped students learn about the culture, religious and work

experiences in a region that is not only 99 percent Hispanic but also one of the poorest in the country.

"The point of the seminar is to give students an experience of the increasing Hispanic presence in the Catholic church," said coordinator Kevin



Photo courtesy of Kevin Sandberg

Notre Dame student Matt Mitchell picks strawberries in Coachella Valley in southern California on the Holy Cross Mission in Hispanic Ministry Seminar.



Students on the Appalachia Seminar take a break. Students build friendships through spring break service projects.

SCENE
campus

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

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d

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break service

Sandberg, a Notre Dame student working on a Masters of Divinity.

Students in the L'Arche Seminar lived with disabilities and developmental challenges. The students helped with painting and cleaning projects and observed what life was like for many of the older residents of the community.

"It's all about living in a community," said director Marisa Runkel. "Everybody is codependent and needs the other person."

The L'Arche center is the oldest of many similar communities worldwide, several of which offer opportunities for students to work and travel in other countries. Notre Dame graduates John Guido and Liska Steskl currently work at the community in Toronto, and many students go on to work in other communities in Rome, England and Ireland after graduation.

"It's a great opportunity for students who want to travel abroad and have a job," said Runkel. "It's a great way to learn a language as well."

As the popularity of the Social Concerns Seminars increases, students hope the program will continue to expand.

"It's a great thing to see people really knowledgeable and willing to learn," said Stephen Keppel, student coordinator for the Children and Poverty Seminar. "I hope it's something that just continues and gets bigger in the future."

Contact Maria Smith at
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Photo courtesy of Brenden O'Neill

nk from work for a paint fight. Many stu-
ce.

Irish Melodies

Two of Notre Dame's most famous musicians invite students to audition for their newest CD

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

Tim and Ryan O'Neill have come a long way since performing an ode to Patty O'Hara set to the music of Billy Joel at the 1994 Keenan Revue.

In the years since their humble premier, the brothers have performed for prestigious audiences, including former President George Bush in March 2002. They were also featured on the season finale of "Sex and the City" in February of 2002, playing a rendition of "Sweet Charlotte" and an original lullaby for Miranda. They have released 16 CDs and sold over 700,000 copies nationwide.

The O'Neills share a love of piano, singing, Irish music and, above all, their alma mater. "A Notre Dame Experience," their 2000 release, features many of the piano duets of Notre Dame favorites that play in the bookstore and around campus.

In addition to their duets and solo work, the brothers enjoy the chance to work with other members of the Notre Dame musical community. Before recording "A Notre Dame Experience," the O'Neills held a contest to choose a student to perform on their CD.

Contest winner Emmeline Schoen, now a senior Liberal Studies major, was selected to record her original piece "At the Grotto" for the album.

"The entry was supposed to be anything about the Notre Dame experience," said Schoen. "My music is very mellow and meditative, so I wrote a piece about one of my favorite places on campus."

Schoen flew to Minneapolis to record her piece in the O'Neill brothers' studio for their private record label, Shamrock-n-Roll records.

"It was really neat, I got a full afternoon in the recording studio and my own time to work with the sound engineer," said Schoen. "The O'Neills were very enthusiastic and supportive."

This fall the brothers will release another tribute to Notre Dame. "Here Come the Irish," their latest project, will be a collection of classic Irish tunes performed by the O'Neills and other

Notre Dame musicians.

"This is going to be hugely promoted in the fall," said Tim O'Neill. "Everyone on campus is going to know about this CD."

The brothers are once again holding a contest for any student who plays a traditional Irish instrument or who has composed an original song or set of lyrics about Notre Dame to contribute to the CD. Interested students are invited to send a miniature biography and some musical ideas to Tim O'Neill at tim@pianobrothers.com by April 1. The brothers will either select a musician to perform on the album or select a song not performed by the composer to record themselves.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to get a glimpse into the professional music and recording world," said Schoen. "It's been cool, I've definitely heard my song playing as I've shopped at the bookstore."

Among the other featured musicians is Notre Dame alum Steve Wehmeyer and his band "Gaelic Storm," who performed in the 1997 hit "Titanic." The band can be both seen and heard in the steerage scene.

John Kennedy of Kennedy's Kitchen, who performs frequently at Fiddler's Hearth in downtown South Bend and weekly at Lula's Café, will also perform on the CD, as well as Notre Dame alumni David James and Sean Ryan.

"The O'Neill brothers are great ambassadors for Notre Dame," said Jim O'Connor, head of publicity for the new CD at the Notre Dame Bookstore. "And their interest is in more than just selling albums. Giving a student a chance to record professionally is a great thing."

Contact Maria Smith at
msmith4@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of Tim and Ryan O'Neill

Notre Dame graduates Ryan O'Neill, left, and Tim O'Neill have gone on from the Keenan Revue to become two of Notre Dame's most successful musicians.

NBA

Nets hang on to first place with win over Celtics

◆ Jefferson leads New Jersey with 27 points

Associated Press

BOSTON

Richard Jefferson and the New Jersey Nets are rolling again at the right time.

With the Atlantic Division lead in jeopardy, Jefferson matched his career-high with 27 points and the Nets held on to first place with an 87-74 win over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night.

The Nets are 3-1 in their last four games after struggling through a 1-7 slump. In his previous 10 games, Jefferson averaged only 11.5 points and hit 33 percent of his shots.

"This is huge. People had really started to talk bad about us and write us off," Jefferson said.

He was 11-of-20 from the field as the Nets remained a half-game ahead of Philadelphia in the division and moved three games in front of third-place Boston.

"He was aggressive. It's about time," said Kenyon Martin, whose 22 points gave New Jersey's starting forwards a total of 49. "That's the way I expect him to play. I'm not surprised."

Jefferson and Martin also played tight defense on Paul Pierce, who scored 23 points, and Antoine Walker, who had 14.

"We're not executing our game plan when we play a team like New Jersey," Pierce said. "For some reason, they have our number."

The Nets beat the Celtics last Thursday in New Jersey, 90-75, but Boston came back to beat Eastern Conference leader Detroit on Saturday. But the Celtics shot only 3-of-20 from 3-point range against the Pistons and were 1-for-21 against the Nets.

"Every game is important. This is a big loss for us," Walker said. "We had an opportunity to help ourselves out in the standings."

Pierce didn't return after spraining his left ankle with seven seconds left in the third quarter.

"It's feeling all right," said Pierce, who expects to be

ready for Wednesday night's game at Indiana.

Jefferson also scored 27 points against San Antonio on Nov. 13. He had 12 in the second quarter Tuesday and put the Nets ahead to stay with an 18-footer that made it 34-32 with 7:03 left in the period.

"At the beginning, they were playing five feet off Kenyon and me," he said. "Immediately, we got the mindset [that] we have to be aggressive."

Jason Kidd matched his season high with 13 rebounds to go with seven assists and nine points.

The Nets began to take control late in the second quarter.

They scored 15 consecutive points — the last nine of the second and the first six of the third — to increase their lead from 46-43 to 61-43.

Martin started the surge with two free

throws and Lucious Harris hit a jumper. Kidd then made a 3-pointer and Harris ended the half with another jumper.

Jefferson started the second half with a 15-footer, Kerry Kittles added a 21-footer and Martin sank two free throws. The 15-point streak was broken when Tony Battie hit a foul-line jumper with 10:00 left in the third quarter.

Detroit 94, Washington 90

Ben Wallace blocked Michael Jordan's first and last shots. He made a flying out-of-bounds save on the first possession of overtime, and he ended the game by stealing an inbound pass.

And, by the way, he became the first player in five years to grab 20 rebounds in four straight games.

Wallace finished with 20 rebounds and seven blocks, and Richard Hamilton hurt his former team's playoff prospects by scoring six of his 16 points in overtime as the Detroit Pistons beat the Washington Wizards.

"I've run out of adjectives to describe what he's doing right now," Detroit coach Rick Carlisle said. "When you play 50 minutes and get 20 rebounds and seven blocked shots, that's a man's man."

Chauncey Billups scored 26 points for the Pistons, who broke a six-game road losing streak. Reserve Corliss Williamson scored 12 of his 16

points in the fourth quarter, and Detroit's bench outscored Washington's 38-5.

Jerry Stackhouse scored 28 points and Jordan had 23 for the Wizards, but both were silent in overtime until Stackhouse's runner in the dying seconds.

The Wizards, who fell back into a tie with Milwaukee for eighth place in the Eastern Conference, now leave for a six-game West Coast trip that will likely decide their season. Washington is 9-21 on the road.

"I'm glad it's here," guard Larry Hughes said. "If this is it, then everybody understands that. We've talked about it long enough."

Wallace appeared out of nowhere to stuff Jordan's layup from behind to start the game, and swatted the ball away when Jordan tried a spin move in traffic in the final minute of overtime with the Wizards trailing by three. Jordan complained that no foul was called.

"I didn't think it was a foul, but that it's Mike, he usually gets that call," Wallace said. "That just compliments us playing hard. Never concede anything — making them make tough plays and making them make tough shots."

"I got all of it. The ball ain't went nowhere toward the basket, so something got all of that."

Jordan also had two turnovers on bad passes in overtime, but he felt he should have been shooting free throws after Wallace's block.

"I was just trying to make contact and get to the free-throw line," Jordan said. "They saw it as a block. But I'm not the referee. They didn't call it, and that's the way it goes."

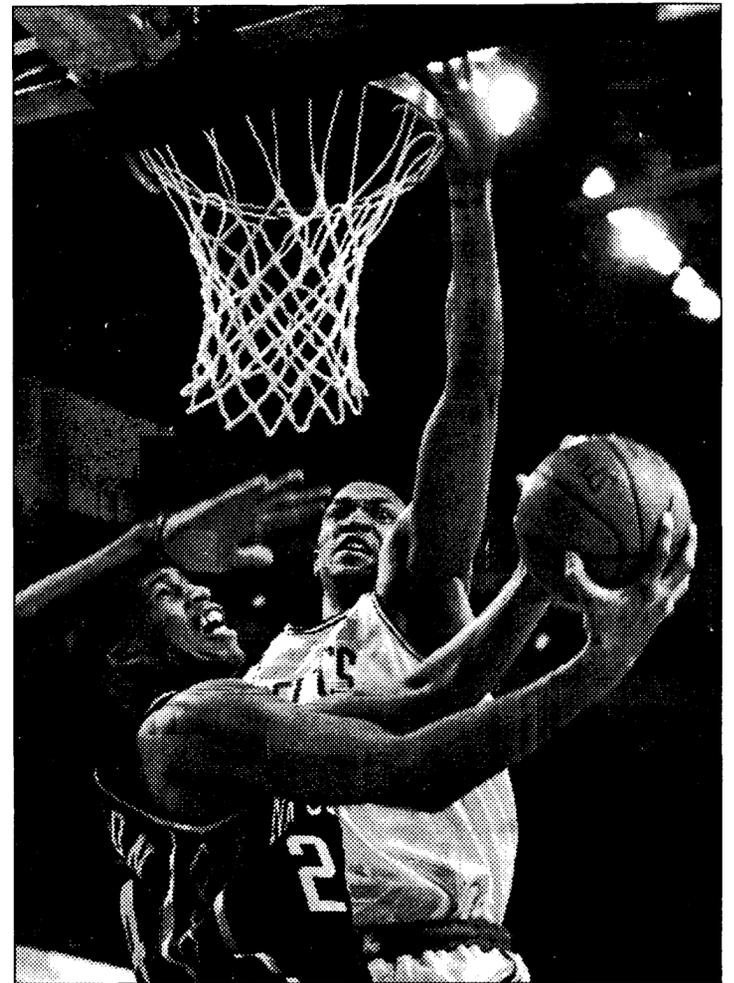
In his last four games, Wallace has 21 rebounds against the Los Angeles Lakers, 24 against the Wizards, 21 against Boston and 20 against the Wizards again. The last player with four straight 20-rebound games was Dennis Rodman in the 1997-98 season.

"It's kind of hard to expect 20 rebounds out of someone every night," Detroit center Clifford Robinson said. "But he does a really good job of making you expect it."

76ers 103, Heat 83

Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers just keep rolling along.

Iverson scored 32 points and the 76ers kept pace with the Nets in the Atlantic Division by



Richard Jefferson attempts a reverse layup against the Celtics Tuesday night. Jefferson scored 27 in the Nets 87-74 win.

coasting to a victory over the Miami Heat.

The Sixers, 15-2 since the All-Star break, stayed a half-game behind New Jersey for first place in the Atlantic Division, improving to 40-26. Philadelphia shot 56 percent and never led by fewer than eight points in the second half.

"We've just been playing good team basketball, and our chemistry is a lot better when we understand what we want to do and how we want to score night in and night out," Iverson said. "It doesn't really matter if we play a good team or a bad team. We just want to rack up as many wins as we can."

Iverson, averaging 32.1 points in his last eight games, went 13-of-25 from the field to go along with six assists. It was his 29th game this season with 30 or more points.

Keith Van Horn scored 17 points and Kenny Thomas added 16 for the Sixers, who completed a four-game season sweep of the Heat.

"It was a good win for us," Sixers coach Larry Brown said. "Any time you win on the road, you have to be happy."

Miami continued its descent

toward the draft lottery. The Heat have lost six of seven overall and five straight at home.

Rookie Caron Butler scored a season-high 26 points and was the Heat's only starter to reach double figures in scoring.

Minnesota 96, Memphis 80

Kevin Garnett's case for MVP continues to get stronger.

Garnett made eight consecutive field goals in the second half and finished with 29 points and 19 rebounds as the Minnesota Timberwolves ended the Memphis Grizzlies' six-game winning streak.

Garnett, who shot just 5-for-15 in the first half, made nine of 11 shots after the break as the Wolves beat the Grizzlies for the eighth consecutive time. It was Garnett's 18th consecutive double-double and his NBA-best 59th of the season.

Even the Grizzlies were defending Garnett's MVP credentials.

"That's an MVP right there," said Shane Battier, who led Memphis with 18 points. "He came back in the game and hit some big buckets for them."

CLASSIFIEDS

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NBA

Hill undergoes fourth ankle surgery

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla.

Grant Hill had surgery on his left ankle for the fourth time Tuesday. Doctors are confident he will play again but there is no timetable for his return.

The Orlando Magic star's heel was reshaped to realign his left leg during the operation at Duke Medical Center in Durham, N.C.

Surgeons also removed three screws from previous surgery as well as some bone. A steel plate was inserted to reinforce the stress fracture.

The heel will take three weeks to heal and Hill expects to be on crutches until late June at the earliest.

Magic general manager John Gabriel was pleased with the outcome.

"We're hopeful for Grant's recovery and return to basketball," he said. "The prognosis on his return will be based on

a re-evaluation of the repaired areas in the future."

The 30-year-old forward has missed nearly 200 games since signing a \$93 million contract with the Magic three years ago. He sustained a stress fracture in 2000 while playing for Detroit.

Dr. James Nunley, Hill's surgeon Tuesday, thinks one reason the stress fracture has not healed is because of a misaligned leg.

"We found no reason why Grant Hill will not be able to

play basketball again for the Orlando Magic," Nunley said. "His bone had good strength and good blood supply and we felt good about how the surgery proceeded."

"Although I feel like he will play basketball again, there is no time frame at the present to when he will be able to return to play."

Hill was placed on the injured list in January after playing just 29 games. He averaged 14.5 points, 7.1 rebounds and 4.2 assists.

NHL

San Jose says bye to GM

♦ Lombardi fired after leading team out of doldrums

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif.

The San Jose Sharks fired general manager Dean Lombardi on Tuesday, capping their disappointing campaign with a complete overhaul of an organization that won the Pacific Division last season.

Lombardi, who transformed the Sharks from NHL laughingstocks to Stanley Cup contenders during seven seasons in charge, was abruptly fired by owner Greg Jamison. Assistant general manager Wayne Thomas will run the club's day-to-day operations until a successor is named.

The shocking move was made three weeks before the close of the Sharks' first regular season in six years in which they won't improve their points total from the previous season. San Jose is 26-33-6-7 this season, last in the division and 13th in the Western Conference.

"This season has been a struggle and clearly has not progressed as any of us expected," Jamison said in a statement. "We feel this move is a necessary step in returning the San Jose Sharks to the postseason next year."

Lombardi, generally considered one of hockey's brightest young executives, took over the Sharks late in the 1995-96 season. He hired coach Darryl Sutter and acquired almost every player on the Sharks' current roster.

As the Sharks struggled this season, Lombardi fired Sutter and traded Marcus Ragnarsson, Jeff Jillson, Niklas Sundstrom, Owen Nolan, Bryan Marchment and Matt Bradley, but the team never turned things around.

Jamison, who leads a group of investors that purchased the team last season, apparently believed the Sharks' above-average payroll was too much to spend for a non-contending team. No other changes were made to the Sharks' hockey operations.

While Lombardi's player evaluation skills and deal-making abilities were commended, the Sharks seemed to engage in more annual holdouts with their top players than any other team. Lombardi claimed the holdouts resulted from his attempts to stick close to a tight budget.

Last fall, goalie Evgeni Nabokov and defenseman Brad Stuart held out through the start of the regular season, which played a large role in the Sharks' slow start.

When San Jose won just one of its first five games, Lombardi abruptly capitulated to Nabokov's salary demands — but without participating in training camp, Nabokov started slowly and never got into top form this season.



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NIT

Sweetney, Hoyas advance in NIT with victory

◆ **Center scores 17 points, grabs 14 boards in win**

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.

Georgetown coach Craig Esherick was glad he accepted a bid to the National Invitation Tournament this year.

A year after declining an invitation, Mike Sweetney had 17 points and 14 rebounds and Ashanti Cook scored a career-high 16 points as the Hoyas beat Tennessee 70-60 in the first round of the NIT on Tuesday night.

Georgetown rejected the bid last year because school officials said they didn't want to travel very far or have the players miss more classes. Esherick had campaigned hard for an NCAA berth but didn't get one, and the decision to shun the NIT caused a stir.

"I accepted the invitation last year originally when we first were told who we were going to play, and actually put a tape of the team in my briefcase and was getting ready to leave the office," he said. "I should have left the office and maybe I wouldn't have gotten into the public relations difficulties I got into. But I don't want to revisit that."

"But I'm very glad were playing the NIT and I wish we

had been able to play in the NIT last year."

The Hoyas (16-14) used a 12-1 run to begin the second half to take the lead and kept the Volunteers (17-12) from rallying.

Gerald Riley added 15 points and Victor Samrick had 11 for Georgetown, which advances to a second-round game next week. The date and opponent has yet to be determined.

Ron Slay, the Southeastern Conference's player of the year, finished his career at Tennessee with 17 points.

"I told Ron, 'I appreciate everything you've done for the University of Tennessee and

the mens basketball program,'"

Tennessee coach Buzz Peterson said.

"I said, 'Son, you've had a tremendous career and a tremendous year coming off the knee injury. Don't let this one game disappoint you.'"

Thaydeus Holden added 12, Brandon Crump had 11 and C.J. Watson 10 for the Vols, who felt snubbed by the NCAA selection committee because they had a 9-7 SEC record. Alabama made the tournament with the same overall

record and a 7-9 SEC mark.

Tennessee's Elgrace Wilborn added six blocks and 11 rebounds.

"I've been in that position where you don't make the NCAA tournament and you think that you should have been in the tournament or thought you had a real good chance of making the tournament. Then as they say, your bubble has burst," Esherick said. "That was a tough game I'm sure for them."

Siena 74, Villanova 59

Siena wore down undermanned Villanova with 3-point shooting by Austin Andrews

and Tommy Mitchell and pressure defenses to defeat the Wildcats in the first round of the NIT.

Siena (20-10) advances to play the winner of a first-round

game Wednesday between Illinois-Chicago and Western Michigan.

Again having only seven players available because of suspensions, Villanova led by as many as 10 points in the first half and was still even at 42-42 with 12:15 to play.

But Andrews hit a 3-pointer,

Mitchell two free throws and Andrews another 3-pointer to put Siena up 50-42. After a free throw by Curtis Sumpter, Siena's Prosper Karangwa hit another 3-pointer to put the Saints ahead by 10 with 8:59 to play.

Villanova never seriously threatened the rest of the way.

Siena, only 2-13 in the first half on 3-pointers, was 8-10 in the second half on long-range shots. Mitchell, who had five 3-point goals for the game, led Siena with 23 points while Michael Haddix scored 14 points.

Sumpter had 23 for Villanova.

Villanova (15-16) ended a disappointing season that started with NCAA tournament hopes thanks to a strong incoming freshman class. The season turned especially sour on March 8, when 12 Wildcat players were suspended on a staggered basis from three to eight games for unauthorized use of a telephone access code.

Boston College 90, Fairfield 78

Troy Bell scored 28 points to lead Boston College past Fairfield in an NIT opening round game.

The Eagles (19-11), who advanced to play Temple, also got 19 points from Craig Smith and 18 points from Jermaine Watson.

Nick Delfico scored 14 points

and Terrence Todd added 13 points for Fairfield (19-12).

Fairfield trailed 67-64 with eight minutes remaining and had a chance to tie, but Michael Bell's 3-pointer missed the mark with the shot clock set to expire. The Stags never got closer than five points the rest of the way.

Bell scored 10 points in less than four minutes in the second half, including a 3-pointer with 4:11 remaining that ran the Eagles' lead to 77-68.

North Carolina 83, DePaul 72

David Noel scored a season-high 21 points and Rashad McCants added 19 as North Carolina shot 64 percent from the floor in the second half to beat DePaul in the first round of the NIT.

The Tar Heels (18-15), playing in the NIT for the first time in 29 years, overcame a dismal final eight minutes of the first half to advance to play the winner of the Wyoming-Eastern Michigan game, which was postponed until Thursday because of a snow storm.

Noel, a 6-foot-6 freshman, was 10-for-13 from the field and added a season-high 11 rebounds. His previous best scoring output was 19 against Duke on Feb. 5.

It was the most points the Blue Demons (16-13) have given up since a 102-71 loss at Notre Dame on Dec. 14.

"... I'm very glad we're playing the NIT and I wish we had been able to play in the NIT last year."

Craig Esherick
Hoyas coach

STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK

March 17th - 21st

MONDAY: FREE St. Patrick's Day T-shirts at Fieldhouse Mall

TUESDAY: 25% off of all imprinted apparel and gifts at the Bookstore

WEDNESDAY: FREE Powerbars and Powerade at Rolf's and the Rock

THURSDAY: FREE SUB Movie: "Die Another Day"

FRIDAY: Ice Cream Social during lunch and dinner at Dining Halls

ALL WEEK: 25% off on all long sleeve T-shirts and fleece (sweatshirts) at the Bookstore (ends March 23rd)



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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Gonzalez agrees to 3-year, \$30M extension

Associated Press

PHOENIX

Luis Gonzalez and the Arizona Diamondbacks agreed Tuesday to a \$30 million, three-year contract extension.

It's a substantial raise for Gonzalez, a three-time All-Star and .316 hitter in his four years with the team. He will get \$4 million for this year under his current contract.

"The trade that was made to bring Luis here was an all-time deal for us," Diamondbacks owner Jerry Colangelo said. "Gonzo has become an icon."

Gonzalez told agent Jeff Moorad that he didn't want to become a free-agent and that he wanted to stay with the Diamondbacks. Gonzalez gets a \$250,000 signing bonus, \$8.25 million in 2004, \$10 million in 2005 and \$11.5 million in 2006. The contract includes a mutual

option for 2007 at \$10 million

"This gives me a lot of peace of mind," said Gonzalez, whose ninth-inning single against the Yankees' Mariano Rivera won the 2001 World Series. "Contracts are kind of always lying in the back of your mind, but now I can just let it go. I'm very excited today for myself and my family and I'm excited to put the uniform back on."

Gonzalez and his wife, Christine, said they will give \$1 million to as-yet unspecified charities.

"Everyone in the whole state has treated me like part of their family. This is where I want to be," he said.

Gonzalez separated his shoulder chasing a ball in a September game against St. Louis when he collided with shortstop Tony Womack. He had surgery and wasn't available as the Diamondbacks lost in the

first round of the playoffs.

"I'm glad he's back because he's the anchor in the middle of our offense," manager Bob Brenly said. "He is the face of the Diamondbacks."

Gonzalez said Arizona is where his career turned around and that he has no desire to play anywhere else.

"This team gave me an opportunity and my confidence peaked ever since," Gonzalez said. "I felt from the first day I walked into the clubhouse that I was wanted here."

A journeyman outfielder when he came to Arizona in a trade from Detroit in 1998, Gonzalez hit .336 with 26 homers and 111 RBI in 1999 and .311 with 31 homers and 114 RBI in 2000.

He batted .325 with 57 homers and 142 RBI in 2001, and last year his average dipped to .288 but he still led the team with 28 homers and 103 RBI.



Arizona's Luis Gonzalez leads away from first in a 7-5 Diamondback victory over the Dodgers last season.

Selig cancels season-opening series in Japan

Associated Press

PHOENIX

Major league baseball canceled the season-opening series in Japan between Seattle and Oakland because of the threat of war in Iraq.

"Given the uncertainty that now exists throughout the world, we believe the safest course of action for the players involved and the many staff personnel who must work the games is to reschedule the opening series," commissioner Bud Selig said

Tuesday. "It would be unfair and terribly unsettling for them to be half a world away — away from their families at this critical juncture."

The teams were scheduled to leave Wednesday for games March 25-26 at the Tokyo Dome.

Baseball opened its 2000 season in Tokyo, with the New York Mets and Chicago Cubs playing two games.

"I'm disappointed," said Athletics manager Ken Macha, who played four years in Japan and had looked forward to see-

ing many friends. "The safety of the players going over there and the spectators is utmost. A lot of things do happen. Whoever foresaw 9-11? Those people were just going to work. That was a huge wake-up call to this country — anything can happen."

Seattle's visit was highly anticipated because of two Japanese stars on the Mariners: Ichiro Suzuki and Kazuhiro Sasaki. Reliever Shigetoshi Hasegawa also is Japanese. It would have been the first time Seattle owner Hiroshi Yamauchi, who lives in

Japan, saw his team play.

Some players were reluctant to make the trip.

"I don't like the idea of being out of the country when the country is going to war," Seattle first baseman John Olerud said.

The games were rescheduled for April 3 and June 30 in Oakland.

"With world tensions so high, this is the prudent course of action," union head Donald Fehr said.

Baseball had already been planning to have the New York Yankees open the 2004 season in Japan, probably against Tampa Bay, Toronto or Baltimore.

"I find it extremely unfortunate, but it's because of war and there is little we can do," Japanese baseball commissioner Hiromori Kawashima said. "Japanese baseball fans who were looking forward to the event must find it extremely disappointing."

"It can't be helped," Moriyoshi

Kaneko, a fishmonger in Tokyo. "I guess the threat of terrorism is frightening."

Other sports also discussed contingency plans, but the NCAA said Tuesday that it would not change its schedule for the mens and womens basketball tournaments, which start this week.

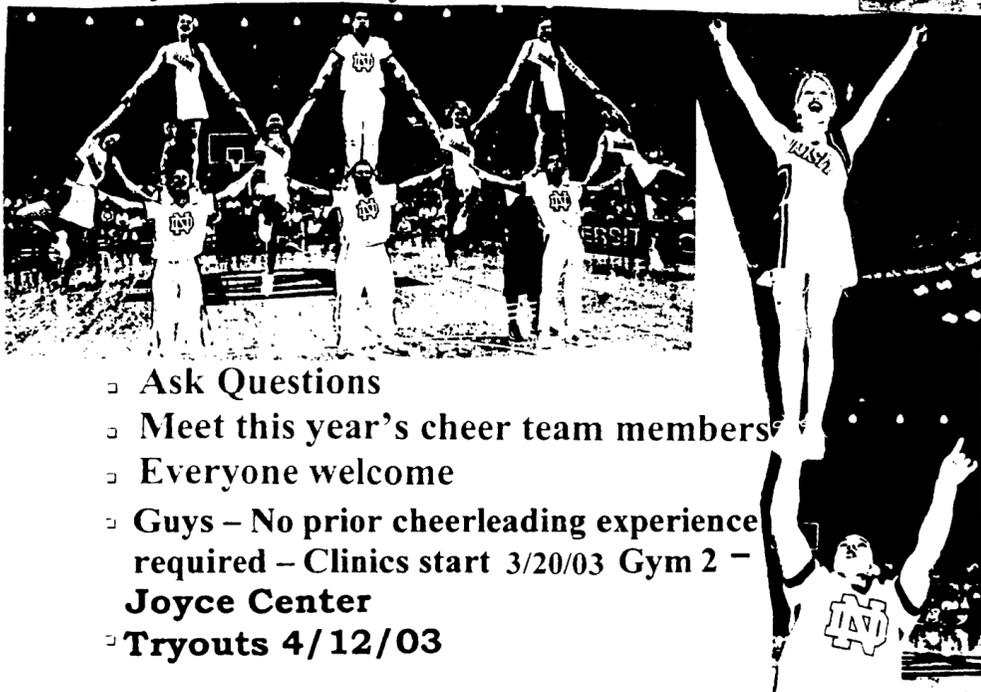
There also has been talk that NCAA games and other sports events might be moved from network television to cable if war breaks out in Iraq.

Mariners reliever Jeff Nelson understood baseball's decision.

"I think when you heard the president's speech yesterday, you were kind of wondering where we were going to be in that 48-hour deadline," he said. "We probably would have been halfway over to Japan and maybe they would have called us and told us to turn back. I'm disappointed. I wish that we would have gone. But obviously with the security and the safety reasons, there was no way we could go."

CHEERLEADING And Leprechaun Tryouts

Informal INFORMATION Meeting
 Wednesday, March 19, 2003 -- 5:30 pm
 Joyce Center Gym 2 - Above Gate 10



- Ask Questions
- Meet this year's cheer team members
- Everyone welcome
- Guys - No prior cheerleading experience required - Clinics start 3/20/03 Gym 2 - Joyce Center
- Tryouts 4/12/03

McGlinn Casino Night

JACC Gate 2

Friday, March 21

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Games

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AROUND THE NATION

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
New Jersey	41-26	.612	4-6	-
Philadelphia	40-26	.606	8-2	1/2
Boston	38-29	.567	6-4	3
Orlando	34-33	.507	6-4	7
Washington	32-35	.478	4-6	9
New York	30-37	.448	6-4	11
Miami	21-46	.313	2-8	20

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Detroit	42-24	.636	5-5	-
Indiana	39-28	.582	2-8	3 1/2
New Orleans	38-30	.559	7-3	5
Milwaukee	32-35	.478	4-6	10 1/2
Atlanta	27-41	.397	6-4	16
Chicago	24-45	.348	3-7	19 1/2
Toronto	20-45	.308	3-7	21 1/2
Cleveland	12-54	.182	2-8	30

Western Conference, Midwest Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Dallas	51-16	.761	7-3	-
San Antonio	47-19	.712	8-2	3 1/2
Minnesota	44-26	.629	5-5	8 1/2
Utah	38-29	.567	5-5	13
Houston	35-30	.538	6-4	15
Memphis	24-42	.364	7-3	26 1/2
Denver	14-53	.209	2-8	37

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Sacramento	47-21	.691	7-3	-
Portland	43-24	.642	6-4	3 1/2
LA Lakers	38-28	.576	7-3	8
Phoenix	35-31	.530	5-5	11
Golden State	32-35	.478	5-5	14 1/2
Seattle	30-35	.462	6-4	15 1/2
LA Clippers	21-46	.313	2-8	25 1/2

Baseball Polls

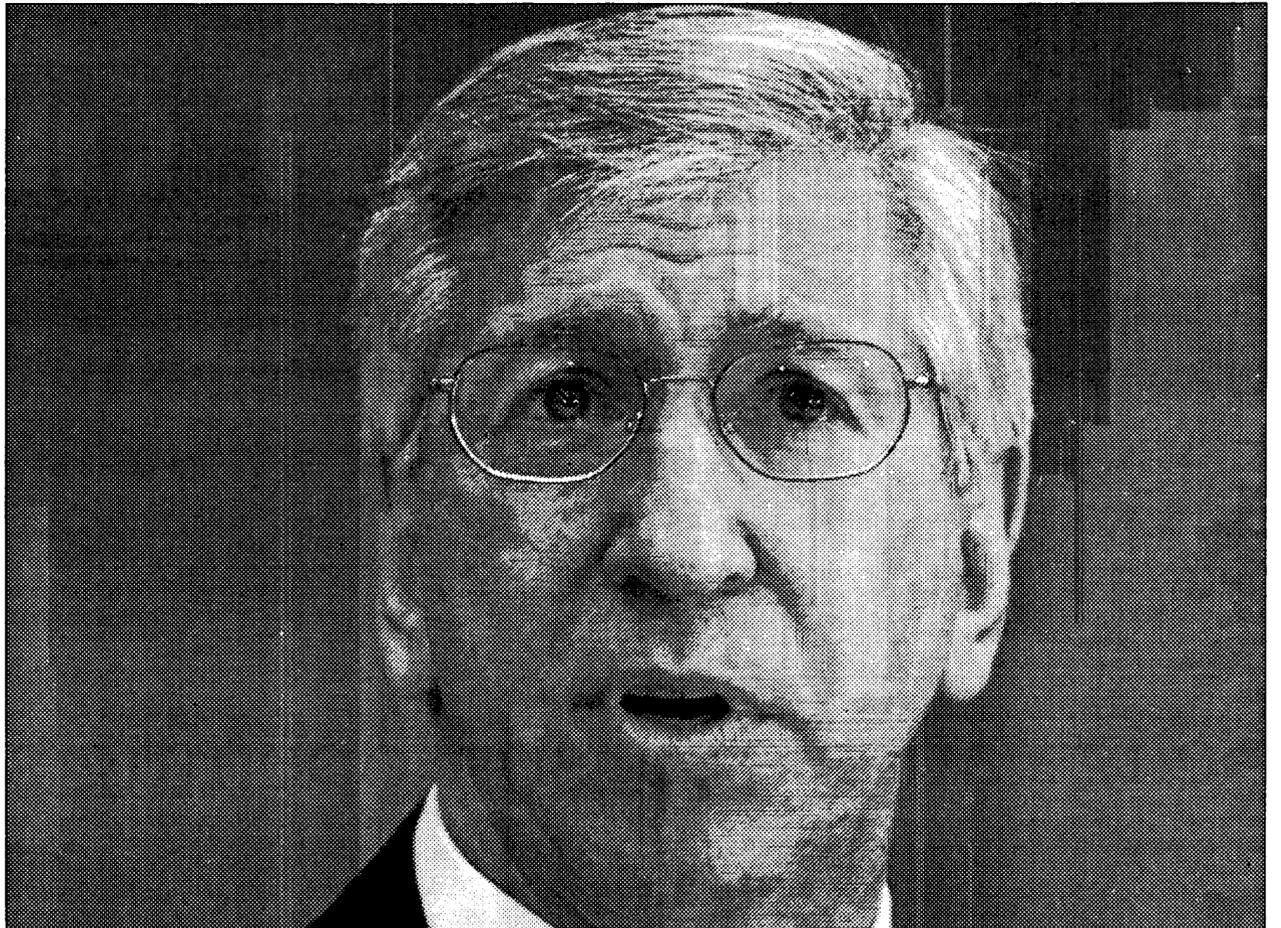
Baseball America

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

Coaches' Poll

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

NCAA BASKETBALL



NCAA president Myles Brand announced the NCAA Tournament will go on as scheduled this week as the United States prepares for war in Iraq. Reuters

Despite war, tournaments play on

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS

The NCAA will not postpone the men's and women's basketball tournaments if the United States goes to war with Iraq this week, the organization's president said Tuesday.

NCAA president Myles Brand said the games would go ahead as scheduled after tournament officials consulted with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

"Our thoughts and

prayers are with the normal. We see no reason, after consulting with Secretary Ridge, to make any alterations to our plan."

Myles Brand
NCAA president

Brand said Tuesday. "We are also concerned that life go on as big sports event affected

by any military conflict in Iraq.

The first game of the tournament, between North Carolina-Asheville and Texas Southern, was scheduled for Tuesday night in Dayton, Ohio.

The rest of the first round begins Thursday, which would be after the 48-hour deadline President Bush set Monday night for Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq or face war.

The womens tournament is scheduled to begin Saturday.

IN BRIEF

Tomjanovich will not treat cancer with surgery

Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich has a cancerous tumor on his bladder lining that the team said will be treated without surgery.

Tomjanovich, 54, was released from the hospital and was resting at home, the Rockets said Tuesday.

Team physician Dr. James Muntz said Tomjanovich has "transitional cell cancer of the bladder." The coach will begin weekly treatments in two weeks, but Muntz did not specify the nature of the treatments.

"Rudy's treatment options are optimistic," Muntz said following a biopsy of the bladder lining Monday by Dr. Richard Goldfarb.

Tomjanovich will not coach Tuesday night's game at Seattle. Assistant Larry Smith will coach the team in his absence.

Tomjanovich entered Methodist Hospital on Monday for tests as his team headed to Seattle, planning to

join the team during its five-game West Coast road trip. Before Tuesday night, Tomjanovich had never missed a game in his 11-plus seasons as coach.

After recovering from a bladder infection about a month ago, Tomjanovich said he went in for routine follow-up tests, the second of which turned up abnormal cells. He informed his team after a victory over Phoenix on Sunday.

Tomjanovich's next game will be his 884th with the Rockets since taking over as coach in 1992, tying Don Nelson for sixth all-time for number of games coaching the same team.

NFL may expand playoffs

NFL owners might vote on a plan to expand the playoffs next season at their meetings in Phoenix, the Daily News reported Tuesday.

The playoffs would increase from six teams to seven for each confer-

ence if the plan is approved next week, the newspaper reported, citing anonymous sources. The current playoff format has been in place since 1990.

The newspaper reported that the league's competition committee discussed the issue at its meeting in Florida last week, and members were split on the idea. The News said sources indicated the playoff structure will change eventually but weren't sure when that would happen.

With seven teams, the newspaper said, only the No. 1 seeds in each conference would get first-round byes — instead of two under the current format. The other teams would play in the wild-card round.

The newspaper also reported that owners probably will turn down a plan to change overtime rules. The proposal would guarantee each team at least one possession.

around the dial

OPENING ROUND NIT TOURNAMENT
Ohio St. at Georgia Tech 7 p.m., ESPN2
Nevada at Texas Tech 9:30 p.m., ESPN

NBA

Celtics at Pacers 7 p.m., ESPN

NHL

Sharks at Avalanche 9 p.m., ESPN

BASEBALL

Sollmann, Niesel get conference honors

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame junior second baseman Steve Sollmann earned his second Big East Player of the Week honor of the young 2003 season while Irish sophomore righthander Chris Niesel was named Big East Pitcher of the Week, after both played key roles in the team's successful Spring Break trip to Jacksonville, Fla., for the Kennel Club Classic.

Sollmann joined teammate and senior rightfielder Kris Billmaier with team-leading totals during the six-game week in batting average (.478), hits (11-for-23), total bases (17) and slugging percentage (.739), plus six RBI, seven runs, three walks, a home run, triple and double, two sacrifice bunts, four stolen bases, just one strikeout and no errors in 28 fielding chances.

His three-run, inside-the-park home run accounted for all of Notre Dame's scoring in the 3-2 win over Eastern Illinois. He totaled four multiple-hit games, boosting his season total to nine games with two-plus hits, including his third and fourth three-hit games of the season during the Jacksonville trip.

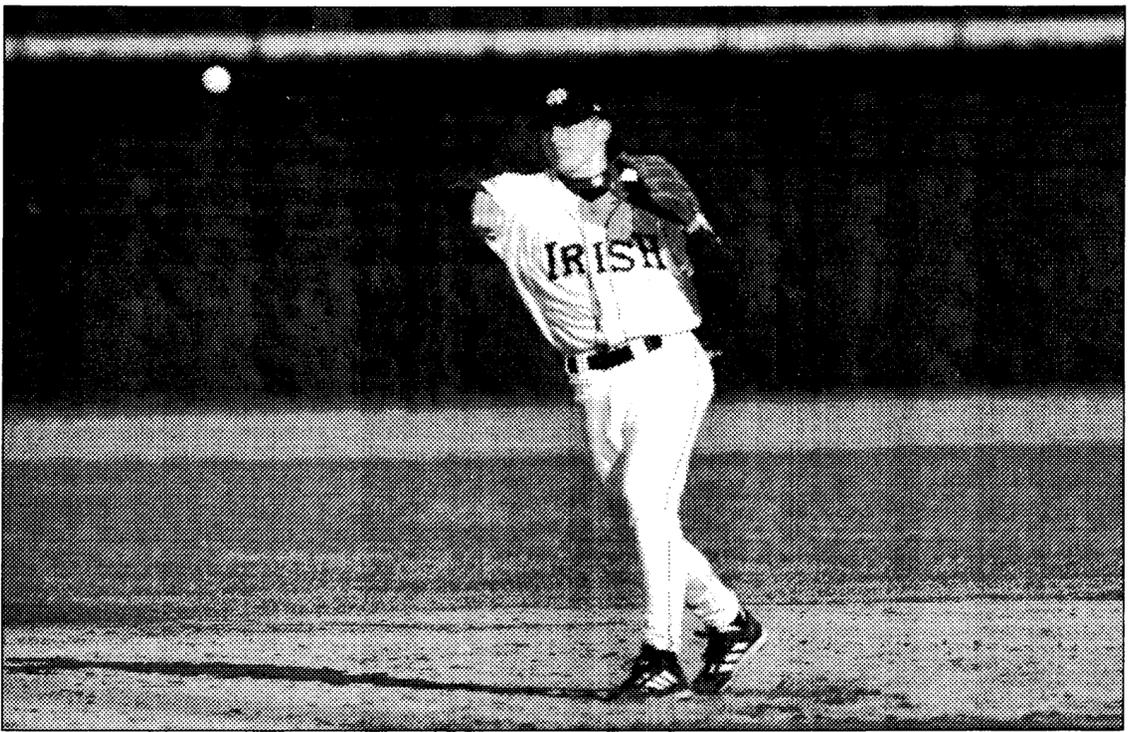
Niesel logged his second consecutive dominant outing on the spring trip to help the Irish overcome missed offensive chances and four errors, in the 3-2 win over Eastern Illinois. He posted nine strikeouts and eight groundball outs

against Eastern Illinois while allowing two hits, two walks and a pair of unearned runs.

The Panthers managed to hit just six balls out of the infield versus Niesel, with four flyouts to right field and a pair of singles through the infield. He allowed just two baserunners in the first six innings, facing the minimum in five of those innings. Niesel displayed his usual control, with 75 of his 105 total pitches going for strikes.

As Notre Dame (ranked 19th in the Baseball America poll and 25th in the USA Today/ESPN coaches poll) readies for its first Big East Conference series this weekend at Villanova, Sollmann ranks among the league leaders in several overall categories: first in triples (two), second in hits (24), runs (15) and stolen bases (nine), fourth in total bases (33), fifth in on-base pct. (.492) and slugging pct. (.589), and sixth in batting avg. (.429).

Niesel — who has won 23 of his last 25 overall decisions, dating back to his senior year of high school — ranks second among Big East pitchers against opponent batting avg. (.198), third in innings (26.0) and fifth in strikeouts (21). His classmate John Axford ranks seventh among Big East pitchers in ERA (2.62) and wins (3-0), seventh in strikeouts (20) and eighth in innings (24.0), while senior closer J.P. Gagne ranks second in saves (three) and fifth in appearances (seven).



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Notre Dame junior Steve Sollmann throws the ball to second base in a game last season.

SMC TENNIS

Belles finish 4-1 over break

By LISA REIJULA
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's tennis team started the season off in style, winning four matches during their spring break trip to Florida.

In Orlando, the Belles defeated Haverford, Ohio Dominican, Wesleyan and Wheaton College, falling only to Saint Cloud State.

"It was great getting actual match practice, since we had only been playing against each other before," freshman Kristen Palombo said. "It got us going for

the season."

Playing five straight days, the Belles opened with a 6-3 loss to Saint Cloud State.

Junielle Kaitlin Cutler and Kris Spriggle and senior Elisa Ryan posted victories at number three, four and five singles, respectively.

The Belles rebounded with a win over Haverford, winning 7-2. At No. 1 singles, junior Jeannie Knish won, as did Cutler at No. 3 and Spriggle at No. 4. In doubles, the top team of Knish and Palombo were victorious. The No. 2 duo of Cutler and Ryan also won their match.

Against Wesleyan University in Daytona Beach, Fla., the Belles won the contest 5-4. Palombo earned her first win at No. 2 singles. Spriggle defeated her oppo-

nent at No. 3. While Knish and Palombo lost at No. 1 doubles, Cutler and Ryan won their match in the No. 2 slot.

The Belles ended their trip with a victory over Wheaton College. While Knish fell at the top singles position, Palombo and Cutler won their matches. In doubles, Cutler and Ryan defeated their opponents.

Palombo said the importance of the win over Wheaton and spending time with teammates as highlights of the trip.

"We're getting to know each other and the girls have been so welcoming," Palombo said. "We feel really comfortable and feel like part of the team."

Several individuals were undefeated on the road trip. Cutler, Spriggle and Ryan did not drop a match, finishing 4-0 in singles play.

The team has set high goals for the season, looking to be invited to the Midwest tournament in Madison, Wis. The Belles also want to defend the MIAA championship they won last year.

The Belles (4-1) are back in action Wednesday at Valparaiso at 2:30 p.m. Sunday they will face Tri-State University at 1 p.m., also on the road.

Contact Lisa Reijula at lreijula@nd.edu

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ECDC Registration

The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) is currently registering kindergarten age children for the 2003-04 School Year. 2003 Summer Day Camp registration for children ages 2.5-10 will occur in early March. 2003-04 School Year registration of preschool age children will take place in early April. For more information and ECDC Parent Meeting & Tour dates, please call one of the numbers below.



Early Childhood Development Center, Inc.

284-4693
(ECDC-SMC)

631-3344
(ECDC-ND)

MENS GOLF

Irish kick off spring season in sunny South

By ERIK POWERS
Sports Writer

The Irish opened their spring training for the NCAA Tournament last week, competing in two meets over spring break. The team snapped out of the winter doldrums with a strong display at the Big Red Invitational in Ocala, Fla.

The Irish started slowly, firing a 300 in the opening round. In their first meet in four months, the Irish needed a little bit of time to warm up. Because the field was inundated with Midwestern schools in similar situations, the Irish did not fall too far off of the lead. After one day, they were in eighth of 18 places.

On the second day of the tournament, the Irish made great strides. The team improved its score by 16 strokes to 284, although they were unable to move up in the standings. Freshmen Eric Deutsch (76, 69) and Tommy Balderston (77, 70) led the Irish run by shooting seven shots lower than the previous day. But the team could not build on this run as the third round was rained out.

Deutsch and Scott Gustafson (73, 72) finished in 18th place, tying for the Irish lead. The pair's scores of 145 were only 11 strokes behind tournament champion Corey Mahoney of Eastern Michigan.

The team finished 23 strokes

behind Kent State. Austin Peay, Miami of Ohio, Xavier and North Carolina-Greensboro rounded out the top five.

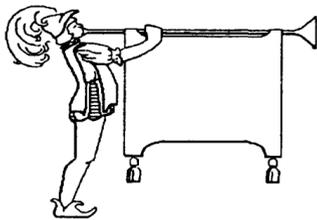
In their second meet of the break, the Irish traveled to the Conrad Rehling Alabama Spring Invitational. The Capstone course was not kind to the team on the first day, as the squad finished in 11th place with a score of 301. The Irish slid the next day to 12th place with 309 strokes, where they finished despite shooting 302 in the final round.

Gustafson was again the top golfer for the Irish, tying for 36th place. The emerging leader shot an 11 over par 224 (72-77-75). On the last day of the invitational, four of the team's golfers improved from their second-round. Balderston (74-77-75) tied for 49th place, Mark Baldwin (74-78-77) finished in a tie for 54th place, Brandon Lunke (81-77-77) took 64th place, and Deutsch (84-81-75) shaved six strokes off of his second round to move to 67th place.

Warm-weather schools dominated the 13-team event. Auburn (857), Alabama (865) and Southeastern Louisiana (867) filled out the top three.

Notre Dame's next meet is the Johnny Owens Invitational in Lexington, Ky. Notre Dame will travel to the University of Kentucky Golf Club March 29th.

Contact Erik Powers at
epowers@nd.edu



Announcing the Year 2003 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2003 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed \$3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:

- 1) an explanation of how the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame
- 2) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals
- 3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow
- 4) a budget indicating the costs involved
- 5) the names of two references.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, March 26th, 2003
Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship
 Program in Italian Studies
 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
 University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame Dining Halls Welcome Natural Ovens Breads!

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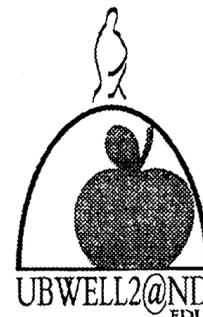
What makes flax seeds good for you? Flax is high in Omega-3, which removes cholesterol from your arteries, boosts production of brain cells, lowers blood pressure, and helps make hair and skin soft and smooth. There are lots of other great benefits from eating foods high in flax, including the sustained source of energy it provides!

Stop by South Dining Hall on March 24 or North Dining Hall March 26 at 11 a.m. to win fruit smoothies from Reckers, gift certificates for other Natural Ovens Bakery products, and gift certificates to Harmony Markets to purchase your favorite foods!

For more information about Natural Ovens Bakery, stop by the Dining Halls next week or visit their website at www.naturalovens.com.

Any further questions can be emailed

to ubwell2@nd.edu.



PHOXY PHACTS:

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PHOXY PHACTS questions:

- 1) Jessie joins a singing trio with Kelly and Lisa. Zack confronts Jessie in the famous "I'm so excited" scene about her addiction to what?
- 2) In 1993, what NBA star left the hardwood to pursue a career on the baseball diamond?
- 3) George Bush doesn't want Bart to touch his photo album because he probably has what on his hands.
- 4) Which dorm is the home of the PHOXY LADIES?

*Talk to your dorm presidents TODAY about joining your dorm's brother-sister team.
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- 1) caffeine pills
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- 4) Pangborn Hall

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Please recycle The Observer

Kings

continued from page 24

King finished as an indoor All-American for the first time, but it was the third All-American honor she has received.

"I am not totally happy now; I want something more," King said. "But, I am very grateful to receive this honor."

Senior Tamiesha King also made an extremely strong showing and finished sixth in the long jump, garnering her first indoor All-American honor, and third of her career.

King soared 20 feet, 6 inches on her first attempt, just two inches below her school record and season-best jump.

Meanwhile, the younger athletes on the Irish squad stepped up. Freshman Molly Huddle narrowly missed All-American consideration in the 3,000 meters by finishing ninth. However, Huddle was only .79 seconds out of eighth place — and All-American

honors — with a time of 9:20.30.

In the last of the qualifiers, the 4x400 Irish relay team repeated last year's performance, taking ninth with a time of 3:38.28. They too just missed All-American consideration, finishing just one second away from an eighth-place finish.

The quartet of sophomore Tiffany Gunn, junior Kristen Dodd, sophomore Ayesha Boyd and Kymia Love qualified at the Alex Wilson Invitational en route to breaking a school record, when they ran to a 3:55.26 effort. Gunn replaced All-American Liz Grow from last year's team.

As far as the team score, the Irish collected five points, matching last year's total.

"I didn't have any expectations for the team," King said. "Our program obviously has been building, and I think that we can do better than five points in the future."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

Watson

continued from page 24

a school record and qualifying for the NCAAs.

"It was a really big accomplishment to qualify and just to go and get experience," said sophomore Eric Morrison, a member of the distance medley relay team.

At the Championships at the University of Arkansas, Watson was replaced by teammate Kevin Somok, who finished 11th in the Meyo Mile several weeks ago. Somok was joined by Morrison and freshmen Ryan Postel and Thomas Chamney. The Irish finished 10th with a time of 9:44.05.

"We were disappointed to not get top eight and All-America," Morrison said. "But we're a young team and definitely capable of breaking through and improving on that for next year."

The Notre Dame men scored six points in the meet, which is the third-highest point

total for the Irish at the NCAA Championships. The school record is nine points, which the

team tallied last year.

The accolades for Watson have continued to pile up, as the senior was recently

named the Mondo Great Lakes Regional Track Athlete of the Year.

This season, Watson beat an elite field in the Meyo Mile and also won the Big East championship in the event. In the 3,000 meters, he posted the eighth-fastest time (7:55.78) in the nation at the Boston Indoor Games Jan. 31.

He now holds six All-America awards, four Big East championships, and six school records. Last year, Watson placed third in the 3,000 meters, which was the highest finish for an Irish athlete at the Indoor Championships since 1972.

"Luke is definitely a central part of our team," said Morrison, who also qualified in the mile but decided not to compete. "For me it was important to train with him and travel with him to see the experience and drive it takes to become a great athlete."

Contact Lisa Reijula at lreijula@nd.edu

Excited about the end of winter?

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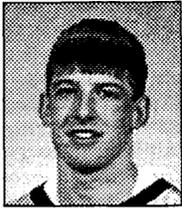
7-9pm

MENS LACROSSE

Irish fight tough schedule

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Though Notre Dame has lost two consecutive games to No. 1 Virginia (14-8) and No. 11 Loyola (9-8), respectively, the Irish emerged from a tough early-season schedule with a 3-2 overall record, having defeated No. 13



Howell

North Carolina March 8.

Notre Dame junior attacker Matt Howell had four goals and one assist as the Irish staved off a Tar Heels second half comeback and won the game, 10-8, at Fetzer Field in Chapel Hill, N.C. North Carolina fell to 1-2.

The Irish led by five when freshman midfielder Matt Ryan made it 7-2 late in the third quarter.

North Carolina pecked away at the lead, but Howell was too quick and too powerful for the Tar Heel defense. He scored his first goal with 12:44 in the third quarter and his second about three

minutes later. Howell extended the

Irish lead to 8-4 by completing a hat trick at the 10:26 mark of the fourth quarter.

North Carolina narrowed the lead to 8-6, but the junior scored again with 6:41 remaining to put the Irish back up by three.

Seven players scored for Notre Dame including Travis Wells, Dan Berger, Pat Walsh, Matt Karweck and Chris Richez.

However the Irish had no such luck in Virginia or at home against Loyola. Virginia beat the Irish only 7-5 last season, but Notre Dame was not ready for the 14-goal offensive barrage it received from the Cavaliers on Tuesday.

Virginia (4-0) scored five unanswered goals in the second half to pull away with the victory.

Notre Dame's Berger, Howell and Walsh each scored two goals. Karweck and Wells added two late goals in the fourth quarter, but the lead proved too large for the Irish to overcome.

The Cavaliers' John Christmas tallied four goals and two assists as the Irish fell 14-8.

On March 15, the Irish hosted No. 11 Loyola. Notre Dame got down early and went into halftime down 6-3 after a goal by Walsh.

Notre Dame's persistence in the second half mirrored that of North Carolina the previous Saturday, as the Irish chipped away at a fairly large lead.

Still, Loyola got the last goal and sneaked by the Irish 9-8 in a thriller.

Loyola beat Notre Dame by one goal last year, 7-6, as well.

Owen Mulford scored two goals and Howell (one goal, two assists) added an unassisted score with 2:35 remaining in the game to tie it at 8-8.

Irish goalie Stewart Crosland made eight saves and let up only three goals in the second half. Loyola's Craig Georgales spoiled the Irish's comeback, however, when he scored with 41 seconds remaining in the game to give his team the victory and send Notre Dame to 3-2 on the season.

Howell leads Notre Dame with 11 goals and 10 assists in five games.

Contact Pat Leonard at
pleonard@nd.edu

WOMENS LACROSSE

Shearer's last-second shot stopped in loss

By ANDY TROEGER
Sports Writer

Despite a valiant rally in the final minutes, the womens lacrosse team dropped a 7-6 game against No. 13 Yale Tuesday in Orlando, Fla.

No. 12 Notre Dame almost overcame a three goal deficit in the final five minutes, but Danielle Shearer's free-position shot with one second remaining was saved by Yale goalkeeper Amanda Laws to preserve the victory.

The Irish were led by junior Abby Owen's career-high three goals, while Lauren Fischer added two goals and Shearer had a goal and an assist. Owen scored five goals with two assists in her last two games against Yale and Boston College.

After trailing 5-3 at halftime, the Irish fell behind 7-4 with about eight minutes remaining on a goal by the Bulldogs' Sarah Queener. The Irish rallied within two when Shearer scored with 3:49 remaining and pulled within one goal on Owen's third goal of the game with 2:24 left.

The Irish had two chances to score in the final minute as Laws stopped Shearer's shot

from close range. After the Irish picked up the ground ball, Shearer was fouled with one second remaining, but Laws came up with another big stop for Yale.

Fischer got the Irish off to a good start by scoring the first goal of the game to give the Irish the lead. After two goals by Yale, another Fischer goal tied the game at two. After another Yale goal, Owen scored her first goal to tie it at three before Yale scored the last two goals of the half for the 5-3 half-time lead.

Yale was led by Queener and Miles Whitman, who both had two goals and an assist. The pair scored Yale's only two goals in the second half, which proved to be just enough.

Irish goalkeeper Jen White made 11 saves, while Laws had 10 for the Bulldogs.

Yale moved to 3-1 with the victory. The loss sent the Irish to 2-2, with all four games coming on the road. They play their home opener March 25th against Ohio State at Moose Krause field.

Contact Andy Troeger at
atroeger@nd.edu

Accepting student nominations for the Michael J. Palumbo Award

Student Government welcomes all undergraduate students for nominations for the Michael J. Palumbo Award. This student must have the following criteria:

-Be an undergraduate student at the University of Notre Dame in good standing with the University

-Have been a member of the Notre Dame Student Union, in any capacity, for at least one academic year

-Have been nominated for the award by at least one undergraduate student of the University of Notre Dame

-Have performed services so as to greatly further the causes of student government at the University of Notre Dame

-Have gone beyond the call of duty to show honor and respect for the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame and its associated bylaws

-Have demonstrated an outstanding character in the best tradition of the University of Notre Dame and its ideals.

If you know a student that fits the above criteria, in 250 words or less describe why this person deserves the Michael J. Palumbo Award.

You can turn in a typed nomination to the Student Government Office in the second floor of LaFortune or email the nomination to cornwell.3@nd.edu.

The deadline for nominations is this Friday, March 21.

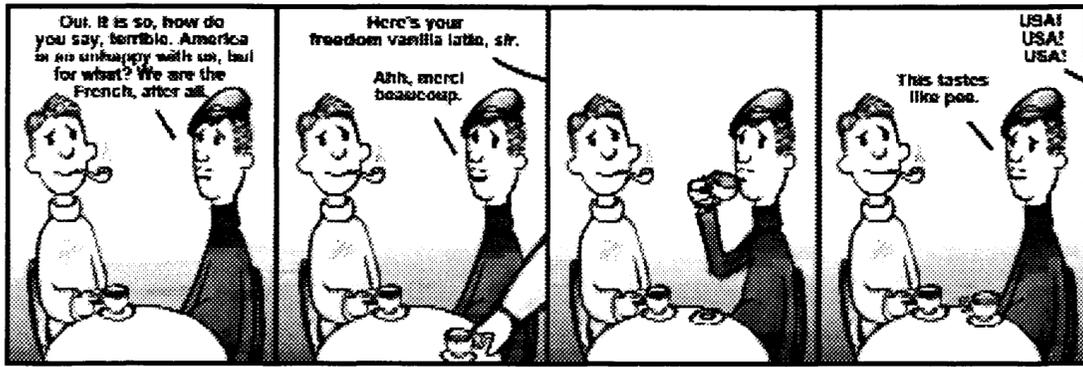
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JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

Jumble puzzles: EJYTT, DAAHE, CLOPIE, TELKIN. Each has a grid of squares for letters.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

Answer: TO [circled letters] [circled letters] (Answers tomorrow)

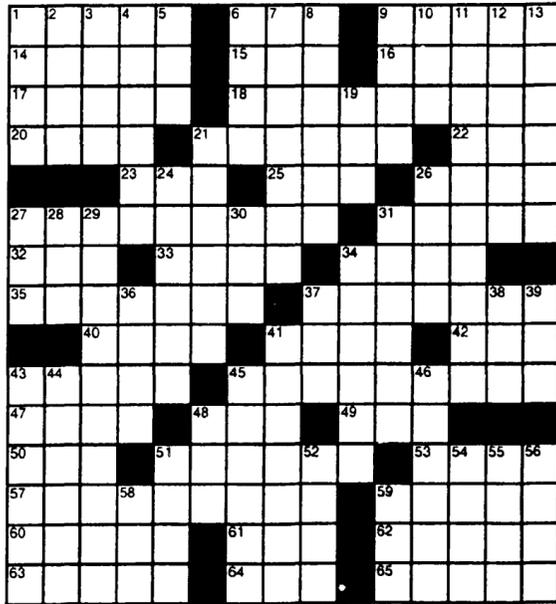
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS: 1 Airborne toy, 6 "The Simpsons" storekeeper, 9 Loafers holder, 14 Après-ski drink, 15 Zip, 16 Spacious, 17 Native on the Bering Sea, 18 Sea lion, e.g., 20 Horseshoer's tool, 21 Sports page summary, 22 Purge, 23 Sinuous swimmer, 25 Galley tool, 26 Fall off, 27 Like the verb "to be", 31 Bigot, 32 Society page word, 33 "Step ___!", 34 Bamako's land, 35 Theater receipts, 37 It shouldn't be stuffed, 40 Boozehound, 41 Smidgens, 42 Dundee denial, 43 French seaport, 45 Food device, 47 10K, for one, 48 "You stink!", 49 Triangle part: Abbr., 50 CPR giver, 51 Tune player, 53 Scads, 57 "Come to think of it ...", 59 A-1, 60 Pitchfork wielder, 61 Actor Billy ____, 62 Emerson piece, 63 Excellent viewing spot, 64 Comics bark, 65 Transmission



Puzzle by Ron O'Hair

- DOWN: 1 Part of a freight train, 2 ___ nut (caffeine source), 3 Boardwalk treats, 4 False top, 5 Chow down, 6 Zoo animals, 7 Naval attire, 8 Commotion, 9 One-named singer from Nigeria, 10 Pinafore letters, 11 Organ transplants, e.g., 12 "Seinfeld" pal, 13 Tree of the maple family, 19 Blunder, 21 Meal-to-go, 24 Self-interested one, 26 Mural site, 27 Correspondence collector, 28 Antique auto, 29 Like a mirror, 30 Get prone, 31 W.W. II U.S. admiral nicknamed "Bull", 34 Miniature auto brand, 43 Classic item in size comparisons, 52 Staff leader, 54 Actress Kudrow, 55 Mullah ____, former Afghan leader, 56 Place for playthings, 58 River inlet, 59 Hard throw, in baseball, 36 It may be blown, 37 Life story, in brief, 38 Chinese "path", 39 Film's Rocky, e.g., 41 Range part, 44 Any of several Egyptian kings, 45 Spanish inn, 46 Meager, 48 Florida N.F.L.er, 51 Become soft

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.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

Grid of answers from the previous puzzle: NOTV, SWAG, DWARF, IDEA, TITO, IONIA, NITS, INTO, ARDOR, ONESECONDPLEASE, ASKS, GEM, PHELPS, ART, AVID, AOL, ROSSI, PRIDE, TWOMINUTEDRILLS, CSPOT, NOFEE, LEK, HOED, SSR, SMEARS, DOH, ACID, THREEDAYWEEKEND, BEING, DEAN, ODAY, AMANA, ENID, CINE, RILES, SSTS, HEAD

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bruce Willis, Glenn Close, Ursula Andress, Phyllis Newman

Happy Birthday: Set your game plan and stick to it. You will find yourself in a good position with plenty of opportunities. You have built a solid base, so don't be afraid to take on whatever comes your way. Your numbers are 5, 12, 19, 28, 35, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't shy away just because someone is trying to take the upper hand with you. This is precisely when you must show your strength as well as your ability to take control. ★★★
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Opportunities are available, but you will have to watch out for people who may be jealous of you and your achievements. Don't jump to conclusions or be too quick to retaliate. ★★★
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Let yourself go and have some fun. Whether you decide to party a little, enjoy doing something creative or even take your romantic life to new levels, this is the time. ★★★★★
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Expect things to be hectic at home. Don't be surprised if there is a little tension going on with a loved one. Cheer up and everyone will want to spend time with you. ★★
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Opportunities to find out some interesting information will develop through the conversations you have. Keep an open mind and heart. Others will support you. ★★★★★
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's time to lay your cards on the table and let someone who could be instrumental in your life know exactly what you game plan is. Work hard and nothing will be too difficult to accomplish. ★★★
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your desire to socialize or work on something creative should be on your agenda, but it shouldn't stand in the way of personal obligations you have promised to fulfill. Emotional ups and downs can be expected. ★★
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Putting money into your home or investing in yourself or something else you believe in should pay off. Help an older relative with personal finances and you will also profit. ★★★
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This is a great day to dazzle the people you meet with your dashing personality and daredevil approach to life. Get involved in a club that has a purpose or a belief and you will flourish. ★★★★★
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will have to watch your back today. Not everyone will be on your side. Don't divulge information that could be used against you. Work by yourself. ★★
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can gain valuable knowledge just by hanging out with people you look up to or those who have more experience. You have a lot to offer as well. ★★★★★
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): This is a great day to put your professional plans in motion. If you aren't interested in a career, consider making some changes to your home. ★★★★★
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Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com, eugenialast.com, wnetwork.com.

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THE OBSERVER

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SPORTS

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

TRACK AND FIELD

Making their mark

◆ Pair of Kings lead Irish women in NCAA Indoor Championships

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

The Irish women's track team has let the country know that they are a threat.

On March 8-9, in the Alex Wilson Invitational which was perhaps the most crucial meet of the season to date, the Irish qualified seven athletes for the 2003 NCAA Championships.

The Irish then traveled to the University of Arkansas to compete in the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

It was there that sophomore distance runner Lauren King left her mark. Clocking a time of 4:43.89, the miler took seventh-place, finishing only two seconds out of third-place and becoming an All-American with her finish.

"I am very happy to get All-American," King said. "It is always a priority for anyone competing at the NCAA level; however, I would like to step it up in the future."

see KINGS/page 21



ANDREW KENNA/The Observer

Notre Dame sophomore Lauren King, right, leads a pack of runners in a meet earlier this year. King earned All-America honors in the mile at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

◆ Watson grabs All-America honors in mile with third place finish at nationals

By LISA REIJULA
Sports Writer

Senior Luke Watson continued his stellar year for the Irish at the 2003 NCAA Indoor Championships last weekend by placing third in the mile to earn All-America honors for the third time in his indoor career.

The top-ranked mile runner in the nation during the indoor season, Watson's time of 4:06.48 placed him only .02 seconds out of second place and just .78 seconds away from a national championship.

Watson also competed in the 3,000 meters for Notre Dame, placing 11th in 8:10.79. The double duty meant three races in two days, as the mile required a preliminary the night before.

The senior was also instrumental in getting the distance medley relay team to the Championships. At the Alex Wilson Invitational the week before at Loftus, the Irish team finished third in 9:38.40, setting

see WATSON/page 21

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles have fun in the sun with strong week

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's softball team took its first step to becoming a contender in the MIAA this past week, jumping out to an 8-2-1 record during a four-day road trip to Fort Myers, Fla.

The Belles then split a double-header with Bethel College on Tuesday to move to 9-3-1.

The Belles received solid pitching from junior captain Libby Wilhelmy and others, but it was the Saint Mary's offense that impressed as the team outscored opponents 65-24 in a week in which first-year coach Anna Welsh saw her young team mature quickly.

"We have only one senior, five juniors and nine freshmen, so there is a lot of excitement between the upperclassmen teaching the freshmen what college softball is all about," Welsh said. "The team has gone through many coaching changes in the past few years, so with a young team this year, the freshmen know no different and the upperclassmen consist of six of the greatest leaders on Saint Mary's campus."

The Belles opened the trip with consecutive shutouts over Elms College 5-0 and the College of Mount St. Joseph 3-0. A strong Winona State program trounced Saint Mary's 14-5 in the third game, but the Belles responded by tying Salve Regina 7-7 and beating Ursinus

3-0, Defiance College 7-3 and Simmons College 8-0 to increase to 5-1-1.

The Belles won just four out of eight games on the entire trip last season under then-coach John Ganeff.

"We have a talented group that has unified very quickly," Welsh said. "They are very understanding of their roles. I think we will surprise a lot of the teams in our conference this year."

Saint Mary's would lose only one game after the Winona State match-up, dropping a 2-1 contest to Cazenovia College. Closing with an 8-2 win over Hiram College, a 6-5 victory over Transylvania University and a 2-1 win against Slippery Rock, the Belles finished 8-2-1

heading into league play.

Welsh's girls also got revenge on a Transylvania team that shut them out on the same trip last season, 4-0.

Team captains senior catcher Susan Kutz, junior Erin Sullivan and Wilhelmy have led their team in the right direction so far. Welsh likes what she has seen and anticipates an exciting turnaround year for the Belles.

"I expect a very aggressive team, defensively and offensively," said Welsh. "We are going to manufacture a lot of runs on the bases which is a very fun style of softball. I think they will bring a lot of excitement [in] every inning [and on] every pitch. We will be a fun team to watch."

In Tuesday's first game

against Bethel, Wilhelmy lost a 5-1 decision, giving up four hits, striking out four and walking three batters. Katrina Tebbe batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs. The Belles came back strong in the second game, however, winning 9-4 behind the dominating pitching of Kate Sajewich. Sajewich struck 10 ten batters Tuesday, walking only two, giving up five hits and allowing no earned runs.

The team's offensive capabilities emerged in the second game as well, as Greta Linde went 3-for-3, and Jackie Zurcher, Bridget Grall and Sajewich all had two hits and an RBI in the contest.

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SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MENS LACROSSE

The Irish go 1-2 over spring break by dropping matches to No. 1 Virginia 14-8 and No. 11 Loyola 9-8 and by knocking off No. 13 North Carolina 10-8. Notre Dame is now 3-2 on the year.

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WOMENS LACROSSE

Yale 7 Notre Dame 6

The Irish were unable to knock off the 13th-ranked Bulldogs in Orlando, Fla., when Danielle Shearer's last second shot was saved.

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MENS GOLF

The Irish grabbed an eighth place finish at the Big Red Invitational in Ocala, Fla., and a 12th-place finish in the Conrad Rehling Alabama Spring Invite in action over spring break.

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SMC TENNIS

The Belles got off to a good start in their spring season by finishing 4-1 in their spring break trip to Florida. Saint Mary's beat Haverford, Ohio Dominican, Wesleyan and Wheaton College.

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BASEBALL

Notre Dame second baseman Steve Sollmann received his second Big East Player of the Week award of the 2003 season and Irish pitcher Chris Niesel earned his first Big East Pitcher of the Week award of the year.

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