

THE OBSERVER

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Irish
dance
clubs
kickin'
page 10

Sharon remembered in campus Mass

◆ Hundreds attend memorial Mass held in Basilica

By TERESA FRALISH
Assistant News Editor

Several hundred students, faculty, friends and family gathered Tuesday at Sacred Heart Basilica for a memorial mass for freshman Chad Sharon, whose body was found Feb. 12 after police searched for the missing student for two months.

"We have entrusted Chad into the arms of the living and loving eternal God. May that be our strength," said University President Father Edward Malloy in his homily at the Mass. Sharon's parents, Steve and Jane Sharon of Pelican Lake, Wis., attended the Mass along with other relatives of the family.

In his homily, Malloy also reflected on the search effort that preceded the weeks before Sharon's body was positively identified.

"When the word went out that Chad was missing, so many members of this community rose to the challenge," Malloy said. "People who had never met Chad tried to be there with com-



Hundreds of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and South Bend community members attended a Mass held Tuesday at Sacred Heart Basilica in memory of Chad Sharon. Many Mass-goers came in advance of the service to offer condolences to Steve and Jane Sharon, Chad's parents.

see MASS/page 4

◆ Autopsy and blood test results come back

By TERESA FRALISH
Assistant News Editor

After reviewing the results of the autopsy and blood tests, officials said they ruled the death of Notre Dame freshman Chad Sharon as "accidental," said St. Joseph County Deputy Coroner Randy Magdalinski.

Blood test results released this week indicate that Sharon's blood alcohol content level was 0.224, said Rex Rakow, director of Notre Dame Security Police.

The legal blood alcohol limit for driving in the state of Indiana is 0.08, although Indiana's alcohol laws prohibit minors from having any alcohol in their system. Rakow also noted that the level indicated in the test results may be slightly higher because of the time that had passed since Sharon's death.

"That level may be a little elevated," said Rakow.

Rakow noted that Sharon's blood alcohol level at his time of death could have been anywhere from about

see AUTOPSY/page 4

600 sign anti-war petition

◆ Petitioners object to military action in Iraq

By HELENA PAYNE
News Editor

Hundreds of students, faculty and staff from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's collaborated in a petition to oppose a potential U.S.-led war against Iraq.

The petition, which appears as a two-page ad in today's Observer, emerged from the Center for Social Concerns Voice group, a student advisory board. CSC Voice joined Pax Christi and the Peace Coalition and modeled their petition after the "Not In Our Name" anti-war ad that recently ran in the New York Times.

"Our idea was to present a counter to the very pro-war path our government seems to be taking by presenting to our own community a diverse group of our own peers who stood against this course of action," said senior Katie Ball, a member of Pax Christi.

The petition received over 600 petitions at press time with a slight increase in the last few days.

Senior Margaret Laracy of CSC Voice said the students wanted to get a wide cross-

section of the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's community from freshmen to University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh, who was the first to sign the petition.

"The great thing about this ad is we have all these people who have their own reasons for opposing this war," Laracy said.

One reason petitioners repeated in multiple interviews with The Observer was just war theory. A theory rooted in St. Augustine's writings, it purports to draw up criteria for the declaration of war. In general, just war theory holds that war should be a last resort, but if it comes from the right authority for the proper reasons, it can sometimes be validated. A just war must also have a reasonable chance of success, a fitting means to achieving the end and as few civilian deaths as possible.

"I don't think a pre-emptive attack follows a just war," said Father Tom Bednar, rector of Zahm Hall and director of cross-cultural ministries for Campus Ministry.

Bednar said he signed the petition because he felt the American public should speak out against the Bush administration's support of a U.S.-led war against Iraq.

"There are certain times when we can't be silent."

Bednar said.

Proponents of the war have said that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein has violated United Nations resolutions for the last 12 years by harboring weapons of mass destruction.

However, since Iraq has not declared war on the United States, many, such as Ball, believe a pre-emptive strike would be inappropriate.

"Attacking Iraq under the pretense of enforcing an United Nations objective would be in and of itself violating a United Nations objective," she said, citing the non-aggression provision of the UN charter.

Philosophy professor Gary Gutting also signed the petition, saying even if Hussein "probably does" have biological arms and weapons of mass destruction, there is no eminent danger.

"Congress is obviously unwilling to stand up to the administration," he said. "The American public has to make its own statements."

The students who organized the petition said they have not yet made plans as to what they will do with the signatures but they said they hope their published petition makes a strong statement against a war in Iraq.

Contact Helena Payne at
payne.30@nd.edu

Disability week kicks off with talk

By AMANDA ROTHEY
News Writer

The Office of Student Disabilities and Best Buddies kicked off Disability Awareness week Tuesday night with "Life After College," a discussion aimed at offering students with disabilities advice and experiences to ease their transition into post-graduate life.

Laura Hoffman, a junior political science major, led the talk by sharing her experience as an intern for the Justice Department in Washington, D.C. Hoffman, who has difficulty reading small print because of a vision impairment, emphasized that disabled students must take the initiative to find services that can enhance their independence.

"You have to be your own advocate and take the initiative to ask for accommodations," she said.

Psychology professor Kathy Gibney relayed her struggle to overcome dyslexia at a time when few educators understood learning disabilities. Using self-created study techniques, Gibney persisted through college and eventually earned her

master's degree in counseling.

After a car accident that placed him in a wheelchair the summer before his junior year at Notre Dame, Adam Sargent reevaluated his focus. Sargent, a varsity lacrosse player before the accident, eventually graduated and went on to work for Academic Services for Student Athletes and pursue a master's degree in mental health counseling.

"Don't limit your choices," Sargent told the group. "But be realistic about the environment you put yourself in."

Hoffman also discussed the importance of understanding the rights afforded to people with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Under the ADA, employers cannot discriminate against disabled persons and must provide accommodations for disabilities.

Disability Awareness Week continues today with a panel discussion entitled "Experiences with Special Needs: Students, Parents, Children, Siblings, Adults" at 7 p.m. at the Center for Social Concerns.

Contact Amanda Rothey at
arothery@nd.edu

INSIDE COLUMN

Good stuff late at night

Hey, don't you all want to go... where nobody knows your name, but they're always glad you came? No, I don't mean the 'Backer, Finnigans, Heartland, Corby's or even the sinking Boat. Oh, and I apologize for the shameless rip-off of one of the greatest TV shows ever. Anyway, there's a place, well, thousands of places all across America that strike a chord in the hearts of those who know it. After all, where else can you get awesome hash browns in the wee hours of the morning except at Waffle House?



Will Puckett

News Production

Waffle Houses across the country have their share of antics that would do any local bar or campus dorm proud. Well, maybe not proud exactly, but I think there's some similarities there. For instance, one proud Domer once walked confidently into a Waffle House "store," placed his order, and then asked for a pitcher of syrup. The waitress gave him an odd look, but produced the goods. Evidently taste-challenged, our young man promptly picked up the pitcher, cocked it back, and downed it in one swig, provoking both hearty laughter and a hearty tip, presumably to avoid being run off the premises.

While this may be one person's "Once upon a Waffle House" story, another took it far too literally. Following the consumption of a glass of hot water, our completely sober subject hopped atop the bar counter, singing "Oh, hash browns, oh, hash browns, we stick our fork in thee!" I had the unfortunate pleasure of witnessing this event, and while it was hilarious, eating half a ham and cheese sandwich in the parking lot proved not quite so amusing.

If your tastes stray more towards staying inside the restaurant, however, there's still plenty to do. Just find a random waitress and a random group of young people, and say the following: "So there was this guy in a bar, right? He looks at the bartender and says, 'One piece of bread.'" Proceed to laugh like crazy, at which point, the waitress and the group of people will begin to laugh too, acting like they get your joke that wasn't really a joke. If you play this one right, it will get you far — maybe even out to the street.

I prefer to start out on the street and end up inside a Waffle House, myself. I've ended up in three or four of them in one night, driving all over southern Ohio for the hash browns. It's all about the hash browns, if you're a diehard Waffle Houser. Beware of ending up getting lost and ending up in the parking lot of a Lions Den, though. It's been known to happen to a few poor lost souls who only wanted to find Magic Mountain and then a get double order of hash browns scattered, smothered, covered, chunked, topped, diced and peppered.

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

CORRECTIONS

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

CAMPUS NEWS	WORLD & NATION	BUSINESS NEWS	VIEWPOINT	SCENE	SPORTS
Activist Victor Lewis shares stories of inequality	Blix sees Iraqi information as signal of cooperation	Kmart may sue former CEO	It's not about the oil	Notre Dame Dance	The 'Mouth of the South'
The author and activist discusses diversity, feminism and Iraq during a Saint Mary's lecture.	The chief U.N. inspector says Iraq is providing new information about two bombs.	Former chief executive Charles Conaway could be the target of a lawsuit involving the retailer's bankruptcy filing.	A senior analyzes an anti-war argument that the U.S. would enter into war with Iraq because of oil interests in the region.	Dance troupes such as the Pom Squad, First Class Steppers and Irish step dancers entertain Notre Dame campus eventgoers.	Bengal Bouts senior captain Clay Cosse of Louisiana preps for his last year in the ring.
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WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ND

- ◆ Exhibition: Contemporary Impressions: Art by Native American Artists, Snite Museum of Art, all day
- ◆ Student Senate: Jesse Norman of OIT, LaFortune Notre Dame room, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Panel discussion: "Experiences with Special Needs: Students, Parents, Children, Siblings, Adults." Center for Social Concerns, 7 p.m.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SMC

- ◆ ND/SMC Tax-Assistance Program, Haggar College Center, 3 p.m.
- ◆ Accreditation Celebration, Noble Family Dining Hall, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting, Madeleva Hall, 7 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

Harrassment complaint filed

NDSP is investigating a harassment complaint that was reported Friday at WNDU.

Employee loses decals

A University employee reported losing two parking decals at an off-campus location Friday.

Student loses decals

A student reported losing her wallet outside DeBartolo Hall Thursday at approximately 2 p.m.

Trespasser charged with misdemeanor

The prosecutor's office charged the suspect who trespassed in Nieuwland Science Hall on Feb. 13 with a Class A Misdemeanor Criminal Trespass Thursday.

-compiled from the NDSP crime blotter

WHAT'S COOKING

North Dining Hall

Today Lunch: Buffalo chicken lasagna, Hawaiian pizza, roast top round, champagne rice pilaf, turkey gravy, cherry crisp, baked cajun pollock, cheese and vegetable pie, broccoli cuts, sliced carrots, winter-blend vegetables, oatmeal, bacon, scrambled eggs, sausage gravy and biscuits, hash browns, crinkle fries, snow peas and noodles with soy dressing, black beans with tomato and cilantro

Today Dinner: Buffalo chicken lasagna, provencal sauce, Hawaiian pizza, roasted turkey breast, cherry crisp, baked sweet potatoes, tuna casserole, stewed tomatoes, wilted spinach, steamed vegetable plate, BBQ pork spareribs, hot apple-sauce

South Dining Hall

Today Lunch: Pasta shells primavera, fettuccine, french bread pizza, turkey turnovers, London broil with wine marinade, cheddar-baked pollock, shrimp creole, grilled turkey sandwich, crinkle fries, soft pretzel, chicken teriyaki, portobello fajita, chicken cacciatore

Today Dinner: French bread pizza, roast top round, oven-fried chicken, grilled polish sausage, rotini with vegetables, polish-style kluski noodles, cabbage, honey-mustard chicken, seasoned fries, onion rings, chinese noodles and snow peas with soy dressing, flatbread beef pizza

Saint Mary's Dining Hall

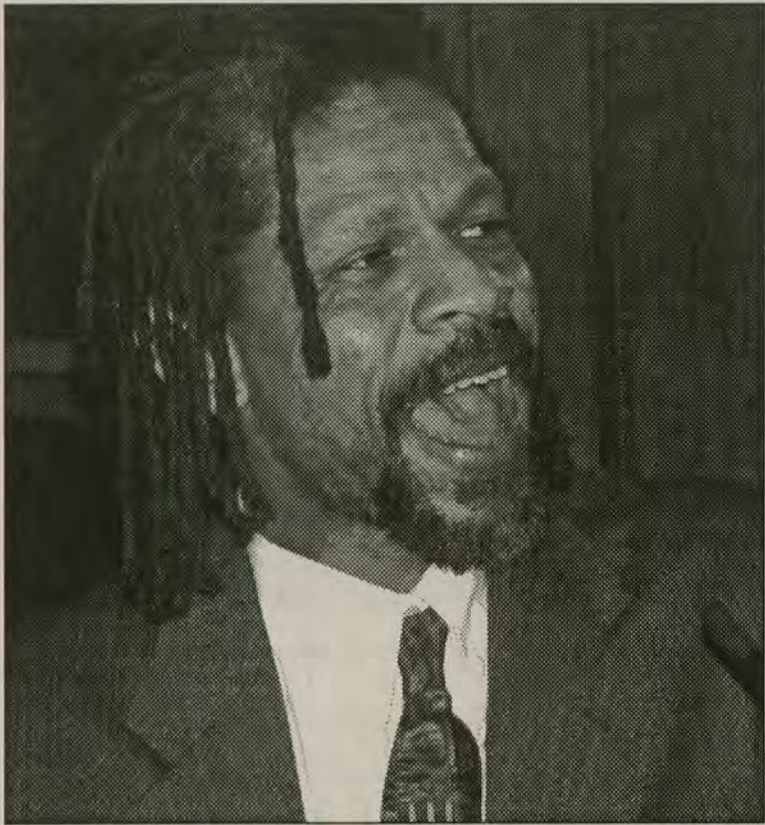
Today Lunch: Grilled hummus baguette, herb pasta, cous cous salad, sizzling chicken, fajitas, fruit and cheese bar, grilled roast beef wrap, herb rice pilaf, cauliflower, sausage pizza, cheese calzones, BLT loafer, tuna salad, sliced honey ham, sliced turkey, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and rice soup

Today Dinner: Vegetarian panini, pancake and waffle bar, bagel french toast, Belgium waffles, pancakes, sausage, hash browns, wings and things bar, spaghetti and meatballs, asparagus spears, cheese pizza, Santa Fe pizza, bread sticks, sicilian surimi casserole, pineapple upside down cake, cheesecake

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
HIGH	27	28	31	37	35	38
LOW	18	14	19	23	26	18

Atlanta 51 / 41 Boston 26 / 16 Chicago 28 / 16 Denver 65 / 42 Houston 27 / 16 Los Angeles 60 / 48 Minneapolis 24 / 12 New York 29 / 19 Philadelphia 30 / 20 Phoenix 61 / 47 Seattle 46 / 34 St. Louis 29 / 21 Tampa 76 / 64 Washington 34 / 26

Activist Victor Lewis shares stories of inequality



By SARAH NESTOR
Saint Mary's Editor

Speaking to a standing-room only crowd at Saint Mary's in Stapleton Lounge, activist and educator Victor Lewis shared his thoughts on diversity, feminism and the possibility of war with Iraq. Lewis' lecture, titled "Why is diversity important and why it's good for you," was the keynote address of Black History Month at the College.

Lewis began his talk by likening society to a boat, using the analogy throughout his talk.

"First and foremost every single human being, you and me, is in the same boat," he said. "We're all on the same boat but we are not all on the same deck [of the boat]."

Having established that all humans are on the same boat and intrinsically connected, Lewis added the problem of a hole being in the bottom of that boat.

"If there is a hole anywhere, especially in the bottom of the boat, then there is a problem for everyone," Lewis said. "It is just

the people closest to the hole have a more urgent problem."

"Holes," or problems, in society that he discussed included white privilege and male supremacy. Lewis shared his own personal encounters with both instances. Lewis, who grew up in Cleveland, said he did not have any direct encounters with prejudice until he was 11, when he said he changed schools and was one of a few African-American children in his class. According to Lewis, his new teachers assumed he was dumb, which pushed him to achieve more.

"I became intellectually defiant," Lewis said. "Whereby it became a process of me being praised for being so articulate."

Once in college, Lewis, who considered himself an intelligent person, discovered feminism and the existence of a male privilege.

"My ignorance of the condition of women's lives made me ignorant of my own life," Lewis said.

To change this, Lewis began to read and learn about the struggles women face. According to Lewis, women do 70 percent of the world's work but only earn 10

percent of the world's wages. Lewis also added that the No. 1 reason in America that women visit the emergency room is because they are victims of domestic abuse.

"There has been a breach on the U.S.S. Gender," Lewis said. "The more comfortable your seat on the boat than the more likely you are to think the boat is fine."

On Lewis' boat, the people on the bottom deck have the most intimate knowledge of the hole, but that does not mean that the people on the top deck are not in danger.

"Diversity is important to you, whether you know it or like it, because everything and everybody you love is threatened," Lewis said.

Lewis points to a hierarchal system of education that perpetuates prejudices and slows change. According to Lewis, knowledge flows from the top to the bottom, but not vice versa. This hierarchy flows from those who have a Ph.D. to those who have a master's degree, to those who have a bachelor's degree, etc. Those with the most education are the most likely to make decisions, not listening to those with the least amount of education.

"We live in a culture that assumes that knowledge comes from the top down," Lewis said.

Instead, Lewis pointed again to the boat analogy, where the people at the top of the boat and the captain have the most authority but the people at the bottom and next to the hole have most intimate knowledge about the hole.

According to Lewis, there are four antidotes to the barriers of diversity: service, sacrifice, struggle and solidarity.

Lewis sees the solidarity of humanity as being threatened if a war with Iraq was to occur. He pointed to the solidarity of humans that occurred when worldwide demonstrations were recently organized.

"I'm very heartened by the focus group that came out and marched before Washington," Lewis said. "[They were] unprecedented, spontaneous, internationally, uniformly, unified people."

Lewis was involved and led the race relations documentary "The Color of Fear" and is also the co-author with Hugh Vasquez of "Beyond the Color of Fear: Dismantling Racism." He is currently the Director of the Center for Diversity Leadership.

The Saint Mary's Office of Multicultural Affairs sponsored Lewis' talk. He also presented a lecture sponsored by the Notre Dame Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services earlier in the day at the University.

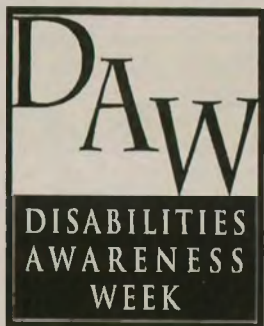
Contact Sarah Nestor at
nest9877@saintmarys.edu

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6. All menu items taste-tested and approved by Notre Dame students.



Notre Dame
DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK
February 24-27, 2003



Wednesday, Feb. 26 th	Thursday, Feb. 27 th
<p>Experiences with Special Needs Panel Discussion</p> <p>Listen to a panel of expert students and parents discuss their experiences working with children and adults with special needs.</p> <p>7p.m. Center for Social Concerns</p>	<p>Keynote Speaker,</p> <p>Girard Sagmiller, Author of <i>Dyslexia, My Life</i></p> <p>Discover how <u>you</u> can help someone with a Learning Disability.</p> <p>7p.m. DeBartolo Hall Room 101 Free Admission.</p>

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Mass

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forting words."

At the end of the Mass, Notre Dame sophomore Danita Altfillisch, who attended high school with Sharon in Merrill, Wis., read a letter that Sharon's parents had written to their only child. The Sharons addressed the letter "to the best son a parent could ever hope for" and said that they hoped they would make their son proud.

Cedric Alvarez, Sharon's resident assistant in Fisher Hall, also spoke at the end of the Mass about his memories of Sharon.

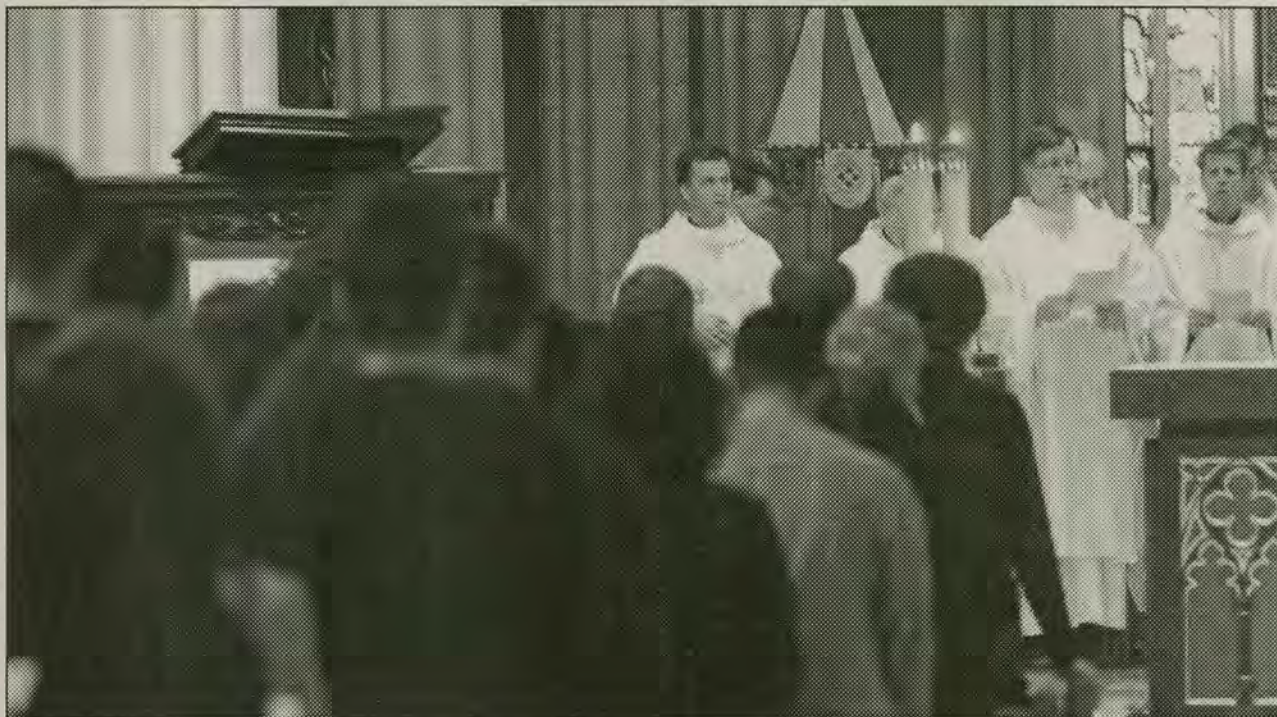
"[His] smile earned him the nickname on the

third floor of Fisher Hall as Smiling Chad," said Alvarez.

Malloy also noted that Sharon would receive his diploma posthumously at graduation ceremonies for the class of 2006, continuing in the tradition of awarding degrees to Notre Dame students who died. Sharon was attending the University on a full-ride scholarship and, at the time of his disappearance, was receiving all A's in his classes.

Funeral services for the Fisher freshman were held Feb. 22 at Bible Presbyterian Church near Sharon's hometown.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu



ANNA O'CONNOR/The Observer

A memorial Mass was celebrated Tuesday in Sacred Heart Basilica for Chad Sharon, whose body was found Feb. 12 in the St. Joseph River.

Autopsy

continued from page 1

0.18 to 0.224.

Rakow said it would be difficult to tell how an alcohol level like the one reported in Sharon's body might impair an individual's judgment.

"It just depends on the person," said Rakow. "I don't think you can make any generalizations."

Sharon's body was discovered Feb. 12 under the Angela Bridge in the St. Joseph River. Sharon had been missing since Dec. 12 and was last seen by friends at an off-campus party on Corby Street at 2 a.m. on Dec. 12.

A Madison Center Hospital employee later reported

speaking with Sharon around 4 a.m.

The Madison Center is located farther away from campus than the party Sharon had attended.

Throughout the investigation, police felt that foul play was not involved in Sharon's disappearance or death.

Magdalinski said the involvement of the coroner's office in the case is over unless there are major developments, but the St. Joseph County Metro Homicide Police will continue

their investigation into the circumstances of Sharon's death.

"It just depends on the person. I don't think you can make any generalizations."

Rex Rakow
director of NDSP, on how much alcohol might have affected Chad Sharon

"It's primarily closed but the County Metro Homicide Police are still going to be conducting an investigation. They're still investigating some information that was given to them."

Magadalinski said without specifying what the information was.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

Student Open Skate

Friday
February 28



ReeSports

9:30 - 11:00 pm

Joyce Center Ice Rink



Open to Notre Dame
and
St. Mary's Students

Bring your ID!
\$2.00 Skate Rental

Breen-Phillips Meal Auction



Bid on the opportunity to share a meal with great campus celebrities!!

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Father Mark Poorman ♦ Chandra Johnson ♦ Bill Kirk
Father Tim Scully ♦ Chuck Lennon ♦ David Moss
Ken Dye ♦ Anre Venter ♦ James McKenna
Nick Setta ♦ Joey Hildbold ♦ The Leprechaun
Chris Quinn ♦ Torin Francis

Wednesday, February 26th
8-11 PM
The Huddle, LaFortune

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WHERE: Rockne Memorial

WHEN: Wednesday, February 26th from 7:00-9:00pm

HOW TO REGISTER: Go to Rockne Memorial during the hours listed for more information or to register

HOW TO PLAY:

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- Score as many points as you can in 60 seconds
- Outshoot your opponents during preliminary and final rounds for your chance to play in the Conference Championship

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WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

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Blix sees Iraqi information as signal of cooperation

Associated Press

NEW YORK

Iraq is providing new information about its weapons and has reported the discovery of two bombs, including one possibly filled with a biological agent — moves that the chief U.N. weapons inspector said Tuesday signal real cooperation.

President Bush, however, predicted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would try to "fool the world one more time" by revealing the existence of weapons he has previously denied having. He urged the United Nations to back U.S. action against Iraq.

With the Security Council deeply divided over whether Iraq has squandered a final opportunity to disarm, Canada was trying to bridge two competing plans that were introduced Monday: a U.S.-British-Spanish resolution that seeks U.N. authorization for war; and a French-Russian-German proposal to strengthen weapons inspections and continue them at least into July.

Canada, which isn't on the Security Council, circulated a document to council members Tuesday proposing a series of benchmarks Iraq would have to meet by the end of March. The council would then be asked to vote on whether Iraq was complying with its U.N. obligations, diplomats told The Associated Press.

The Canadian ideas were well

received by some of the swing voters the United States is trying to court, but it was unclear how the five veto-holding powers would react. U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte seemed to reject the concept Monday when he said the only benchmarks Iraq had to meet were already in Resolution 1441, which the council unanimously approved in November.

Bush said Tuesday it would be helpful to get U.N. backing for war, "but I don't believe we need a second resolution."

The United States and Britain maintain they already have U.N. authorization to attack Iraq. The November resolution gave Iraq a final opportunity to disarm or face "serious consequences."

But British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar face strong opposition at home to a war without the approval of a new resolution.

The vote, expected in mid-March, could well be influenced by whether Iraq complies with an order last week from chief inspector Hans Blix to begin destroying its Al Samoud 2 missiles by Saturday because they exceed the 93-mile limit in U.N. resolutions.

Saddam apparently hinted in an interview with CBS' Dan Rather that he might not destroy the missiles. But Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz insisted Tuesday that no decision had been reached.



Hans Blix, chief UN weapons inspector, presides over a meeting at U.N. headquarters in New York Monday. Blix said that Iraq has informed arms inspectors of 100 documents concerning weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq maintains the missiles don't exceed the limit and has asked for technical talks. But Blix said the issue was not open for debate.

Saturday is also the deadline for Blix's next written report. He is then due before the council on March 7 with U.N. nuclear chief Mohamed ElBaradei.

A key issue for many coun-

tries in deciding on war or more inspections is Iraq's cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors. Blix has said in previous reports that Iraq was cooperating more on the process of inspections than on the substance of its weapons of mass destruction programs.

But he said Tuesday that Iraq had provided inspectors with

half a dozen letters containing new information on weapons, including two R-400 aerial bombs. Blix said one of the bombs was "likely to be filled with biological stuff, it's a liquid that appears to be biological."

He gave no other details, but R-400 aerial bombs can be filled with biological or chemical agents.

KUWAIT

4 U.S. troops die in chopper crash over Kuwaiti desert

Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY

A U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter on night training crashed Tuesday in the Kuwaiti desert, killing all four crew members. The Kuwaiti military said sandstorms were reported in the area at the time the chopper went down.

The aircraft, which belonged to the Army's V Corps, was part of the force that has massed in this Persian Gulf emirate for a possible invasion of Iraq.

The Pentagon identified those killed Tuesday as Spc. Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza, 26, of Texas; Chief Warrant Officer Timothy

W. Moehling, 35, of Florida; Chief Warrant Officer John D. Smith, 32, of Nevada; and Spc. William J. Tracy, 27, of New Hampshire.

Kuwait army spokesman Col. Youssef al-Mulla said the helicopter went down in bad weather. Sandstorms and high winds were reported overnight and continued Tuesday afternoon.

The UH-60 Black Hawk crashed about 1 a.m. near Camp New Jersey about 30 miles northwest of Kuwait City, an Army statement said.

The helicopter was part of the 158th Aviation Regiment, 5th Battalion, of the 12th Aviation Brigade based in Giebelstadt,

Germany. The group is attached to V Corps' 11th Attack Helicopter Regiment, which is part of some 9,000 troops from the corps deployed as part of the recent U.S. buildup. It includes a headquarters unit commanded by Lt. Gen. William Wallace.

V Corps spokesman Bill Roche said from the corps headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, that it was still too early to speculate about a cause of the crash.

"A V Corps safety team is already on site, and then additional people are coming in from the U.S. Army Safety Center in Fort Rucker, Ala.," Roche said.

The bodies are expected to be brought back to Germany, Roche said.

The helicopter was one of two V Corps helicopters participating in the exercise. The other returned safely.

On Jan. 30, an MH-60, an adapted version of the Black Hawk, crashed in a training mission seven miles east of Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Four members of an elite aviation regiment were killed.

More than 70,000 U.S. troops are training in the Kuwaiti desert in preparation for a possible invasion of Iraq. President Bush has threatened to use force to disarm Baghdad of weapons of mass destruction if it does not do so voluntarily according to U.N. resolutions. Iraq denies it has such weapons.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

N. Korea warns of possible U.S. attack:

North Korea urged its military and people to be ready for a U.S. attack, a South Korean news agency reported Wednesday, quoting a statement from the communist government. The North's Foreign Ministry issued a statement late Tuesday accusing the United States of planning massive war games in the Korean Peninsula in preparation to attack North Korea, Yonhap news agency said. "The United States can launch a pre-emptive attack on us at any time," the North Korean statement said, according to Yonhap.

Aftershocks claim more lives in China:

Hundreds of aftershocks rocked western China on Tuesday, claiming more lives a day after a major earthquake crumpled thousands of homes and schools. The death toll rose to at least 266 people, with another 2,000 injured, state media reported. The latest deaths included rescue workers who were struck by debris as they pulled victims from the rubble during aftershocks.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Great White subpoenaed in club case:

Members of the rock group Great White have been subpoenaed by prosecutors and said Tuesday they will appear before a grand jury investigating whether criminal charges should be filed in the nightclub inferno that killed 97 people. The grand jury is expected to convene today, law enforcement officials said on condition of anonymity. Band publicist Byron Hontas said the musicians are cooperating with authorities and expect to testify early next week.

Alleged gunman gives up in shooting:

A Huntsville, Ala. man looking for work opened fire at a temporary employment agency Tuesday during an argument over a CD player, killing four fellow job-seekers and wounding a fifth, police said. The gunman later surrendered after a standoff at his apartment, where police tracked him down using the address he put on his job applications. Police said the man shot at officers early in the standoff.

Teens said to drink a 5th of U.S. alcohol:

Underage drinkers account for nearly 20 percent of the alcohol consumed in the United States each year, a study says. Attempting to correct botched statistics they released a year ago, researchers from Columbia University's National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse analyzed three sets of data from 1999 and said underage drinking amounted to 19.7 percent of alcohol consumed that year, or \$22.5 billion. The previous estimate — now discredited — was 25 percent.

Justices side with death row inmate:

The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that a black death row inmate in Texas deserves a new chance to press his claim that prosecutors stacked his jury with whites and death penalty supporters. The 8-1 ruling is a rare example of the conservative-leaning court agreeing that a death row inmate may have been treated unfairly at trial.

Malvo implicates partner in shootings

Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Va.

Sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo implicated his alleged accomplice as an equal partner in their shooting spree, with John Allen Muhammad acting as a spotter and calling out shots, prosecutors said.

In a legal brief made public Tuesday, Fairfax County prosecutor Raymond Morrogh also said Malvo made multiple confessions to the Oct. 14 shooting of FBI analyst Linda Franklin, the case that is expected to be his first to go to trial.

The brief was the first official confirmation of reports from anonymous sources that Malvo had confessed to taking part in the multistate shooting spree last year that left 13 people dead and six wounded. It also was prosecutors' first substantial description of the relationship between Muhammad, 42, and Malvo, 18.

The pair "acted as a unit," Morrogh said. "One would be the spotter, while the other would do the shooting."

Malvo also "claimed both were equals and either could call a particular shot on or off," Morrogh wrote.

Nothing in the brief indicates that prosecutors have any evidence that Muhammad fired any shots. But if the pair acted as a team, Muhammad could get the death penalty under Virginia's

new anti-terrorism law, passed in the wake of Sept. 11.

Malvo's confessions are unusually detailed and are corroborated by other evidence, Morrogh wrote. He added that Malvo has expressed no remorse.

Morrogh wrote that the confession made by Malvo "was uncoerced and completely voluntary. ... In fact, the defendant was calm and rather boastful of his doings in this case."

The two men have been accused of shooting 19 people, killing 13 and wounding six in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. No one was hit in another incident, in which a bullet went through a craft store window.

Malvo is set for trial in November in the slaying of Franklin. Muhammad is scheduled for an October trial in another slaying in neighboring Prince William County. Both face the death penalty.

Morrogh's brief was a response to a request from Malvo's lawyer, Michael Arif, for any evidence that might clear his client. "The Commonwealth does not have evidence that casts doubt upon the defendant's guilt," Morrogh wrote.

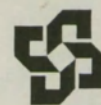
Efforts to reach Arif Tuesday evening were not immediately successful. Peter Greenspun, who represents Muhammad, was out of town Tuesday and could not be reached for comment.

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THE
OBSERVER

BUSINESS

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

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MARKET RECAP

Market Watch February 25

Dow Jones	↑	
7,909.50		+51.26
NASDAQ	↑	
1,328.98		+6.60
S&P 500	↑	
838.57		+5.99
AMEX	↓	
828.58		-0.66
NYSE	↑	
4,713.38		+7.16

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	-2.08	-0.30	14.12
NASDAQ-100 INDEX(QQQ)	+0.69	+0.17	24.91
MICROSOFT CORP (MSFT)	+0.71	+0.17	24.24
INTEL CORP (INTC)	+1.15	+0.19	16.73
SPDR TRUST SER (SPY)	+0.70	+0.59	84.39

IN BRIEF

Home Depot says 4Q profit down

The Home Depot said Tuesday its profit slipped 3.4 percent in the fourth quarter as sales dropped for the first time ever despite gains in its appliance business. The earnings results still beat Wall Street expectations, and Home Depot shares rose. The nation's largest home improvement store chain also announced it will no longer give quarterly earnings guidance so it can focus on its long-term outlook. It will give guidance only on an annual basis.

Clear Channel beats expectations

Clear Channel Communications Inc., the nation's largest radio station operator, posted a fourth-quarter profit on Tuesday in contrast to a loss a year ago, beating analysts' expectations. Each of the company's key divisions posted sizable revenue gains. San Antonio-based Clear Channel reported profits of \$184 million, or 30 cents per share, in the final three months of 2002 in contrast to a loss of \$366 million, or 61 cents per share, in the corresponding period in 2001. Thomson First Call had the consensus of industry analysts at 27 cents per share for the most recent quarter.

Alstom calls of EDS outsourcing talks

Electronic Data Systems Corp., attempting to recover from problem contracts and troubled clients, suffered another blow Tuesday when French engineering group Alstom SA said it has ended talks with EDS on an outsourcing contract. The companies were negotiating a multiyear deal to have EDS manage Alstom's information-technology systems in 14 countries. Company officials suggested that the deal would not have met more-stringent financial requirements that EDS is now applying to new contracts, including lower upfront costs. Chairman and chief executive Richard H. Brown, while not addressing the Alstom deal specifically, said EDS would focus more attention on smaller contracts and ones that provide short-term payoffs.

Kmart may sue former CEO

◆ Corporation claims possession of evidence

Associated Press

DETROIT
Kmart Corp. said Tuesday it has found evidence supporting possible legal action against former chief executive Charles Conaway for allegedly hiding the retailer's deteriorating finances from the board in the months before the company filed for bankruptcy.

The conclusion was part of hundreds of pages of documents related to its internal probe and reorganization plan that were released at federal bankruptcy court in Chicago, where Kmart representatives appeared for a hearing Tuesday.

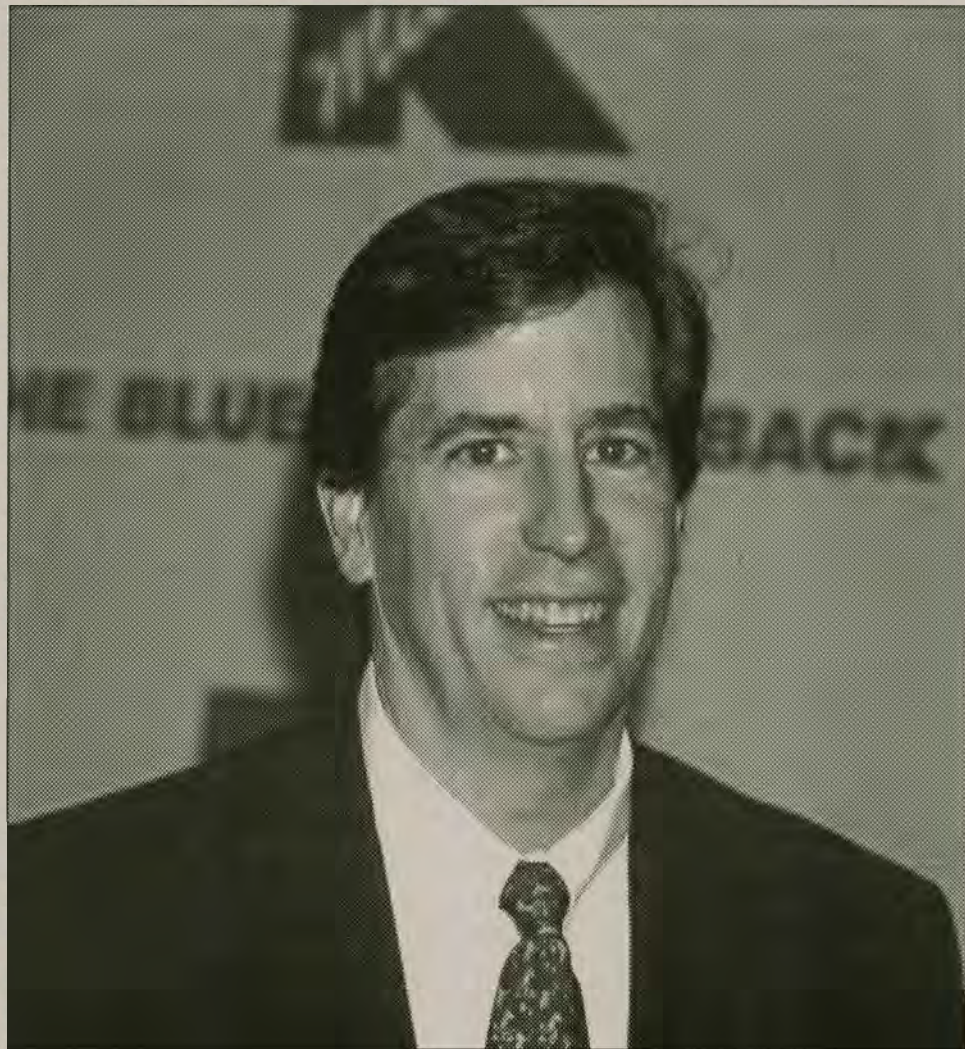
"Conaway failed ... to adequately supervise and direct other company executives who reported directly or indirectly to him," the company said in a summary of its investigation into the events leading up to its bankruptcy filing in January 2002.

Conaway denied the claims. A statement issued by his lawyer said Conaway "poured his heart and soul into trying to turn around the giant retailer."

"At all times he acted honorably and in the best interests of Kmart's employees and shareholders," the statement said.

The retailer deposed Conaway last month. Then Kmart's law firm and Conaway's counsel made presentations Feb. 11 to Kmart's board, which concluded that there is "credible and persuasive evidence" to support legal action, according to the summary.

Kmart, which plans to exit Chapter 11 protection by April 30, said last month that it had conducted more than 570 interviews of current and former employees and reviewed more than 1.5 million pages, including accounting records, audits,



Zuma Press

Former Kmart CEO Chuck Conaway appears at a promotional event April 2001. Conway may face legal action by Kmart for covering up the corporation's finances.

and e-mails, as part of its internal investigation.

According to documents, the board believes Conaway participated in the implementation of a program to suspend vendor payments as Kmart scrambled to avert a liquidity crisis in the fall of 2001 and failed to keep Kmart's directors apprised of the company's financial situation in the last half of fiscal 2001, which ended in January 2002 — the same month Kmart filed for bankruptcy.

The documents also claim that Conaway permitted executives to receive nearly \$24 million in retention loans and other payments that they would not have received had more information been disclosed. Conaway

received a \$5 million retention loan.

Walter Connolly Jr., an attorney with Foley & Lardner who reviewed the findings of the probe, said he advised Kmart's board to support seeking the return of the \$5 million loan and about \$4 million in severance from Conaway.

"It (the loan) was approved by the board without independent knowledge of the liquidity crisis at Kmart, what had been done to slow down payments to vendors and the like," Connolly said.

A statement on behalf of Conaway released by his lawyer's office said the company appears to be blaming Conaway for problems at Kmart that preceded his tenure. It said that

the board was kept regularly apprised of the company's initiatives and condition.

"Conaway wishes the best for Kmart and its employees, but he will not be the scapegoat for problems not his doing," the statement said.

Conaway, who blames the economic downturn and fierce competition in the retail industry for Kmart's difficulties, joined the company in May 2000. He left last March amid sweeping management changes.

Troy-based Kmart is under investigation by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the FBI, and the company is looking into the way it was managed under Conaway.

Crossover cars gain popularity

Associated Press

DETROIT
More and more, U.S. motorists are opting for vehicles with the feel of a sedan and the roominess of a minivan or sport utility vehicle, seeking space without bulk and a thirst for fuel.

The so-called "crossover" vehicle, which has characteristics of a car, minivan and SUV, seems to be the happy medium for drivers who like the stylishness and on-road command of an SUV but who recognize they don't need the off-road ruggedness.

Traci Syperrek, for instance, traded in her Ford Explorer last month for

the tamer Honda Element.

"The minivan just isn't my style ... I'm not even 32," the Baton Rouge, La., resident said.

Crossovers were the fastest growing category of U.S. autos last year and the pace is certain to continue this year as several automakers — including Cadillac, Chrysler, Mitsubishi, Infiniti, Porsche and Volkswagen — introduce models.

Crossovers accounted for 7.4 percent of the U.S. light vehicle market last year, up from 1.8 percent in 1999, according to Ward's Automotive Reports. Some analysts predict they'll surpass vans and luxury cars to become the industry's

fourth-largest segment this year, behind mid-size cars, pickups and SUVs.

The Element, which went on sale in December, is shaped like an SUV, but the hard plastic floor inside is like the bed of a pickup truck. Starting at \$16,100, the Element has removable seats and is designed to make loading and unloading through the side doors easy — a strong selling point for Syperrek, the mother of a 1-year-old.

"It has a smooth ride and what seems to be a solid base, so I feel safe with my daughter," she said. "But we also like to ride bikes and go surfing, and we have a 115-pound dog that fits in just fine."

VIEWPOINT

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Wednesday, February 26, 2003

THE OBSERVER

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024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

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WEB ADMINISTRATOR: Scott Brodfuehrer

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CONTACT US

OFFICE MANAGER/GENERAL INFO.....631-7471

FAX.....631-6927

ADVERTISING.....631-6900/8840

observad@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF.....631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR/ASST. ME.....631-4541

BUSINESS OFFICE.....631-5313

NEWS.....631-5323

observer.obsnews.1@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT.....631-5303

observer.viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS.....631-4543

observer.sports.1@nd.edu

SCENE.....631-4540

observer.scene.1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S.....631-4324

observer.smc.1@nd.edu

PHOTO.....631-8767

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Jason McFarley.

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POSTMASTER

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A message from the source of evil

Where does all this evil come from? Bombs, terrorist attacks, biological weapons and war against other peoples have become commonplace in today's world, but the origins of the evil that produces these things is unknown. You can hardly walk through a day without facing hardship and devastation in the news. So, I'll ask the question again. How is this evil fabricated? Where does it come from?

I'll tell you.

The evil comes from me.

I come as an embarrassment to many, especially when I affect large groups or nations. Everyone knows who I am, but I don't get much publicity. Deep down, though, in places you don't talk about at parties, I am always there. And I always will be, choking off the air to your lungs and paralyzing you when something unexpected happens. I am the reason your heart races at night when there's tapping on the window or your car travels through a bad neighborhood. But you cannot stop me because I have no limitations. I can consume millions of lives without much effort and can cause a confident man to become a mere shell of himself.

But my existence, though sickening and incomprehensible to most, serves a purpose. Those who recognize me can and have used me to their advantage. I am and have been the driving force of many of the world's most impressive movements. Hitler used me as his personal puppet to form a movement that killed countless lives. He used me to manipulate his people

into believing that race matters because God had predestined one to be superior to others. Joseph Stalin used me through Marxist ideals to intimidate and frighten his countrymen into believing in a political system that was doomed to fail from the start and then proceeded to campaign and push for its spread throughout the world.

These two men were fools, but they knew how to use me to get what they wanted.

I am also the backbone of any smaller country's quest to become recognized as a world power. I am present in their lives only because they long not to be forgotten in the world. Right now, I am Saddam Hussein's minion because he exploits my talents, allowing me to grow even larger and more powerful. And because of me, Hussein grabs your attention like a bear trap even though he is a leader of a relatively small country halfway around the world. I cause you to meddle in his and others' business so that you can sleep soundly at night and not worry about danger from beyond the horizon.

I only tell you this now because I'm beginning to tear the world apart again like I did during World War I, World War II and the Cold War. I brought the world to the brink of nuclear holocaust during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and I could possibly do it again in the next few weeks. It's so easy for me to do that I will warn you, ahead of time, that I'm coming. But I'll also let you in on a little secret. I don't think that you can stop me.

I do have one weakness, though, and it's love. You may say that it isn't smart to inform others of your weaknesses, but I'll tell you anyway. Love cuts through me like a tornado through the prairie and krypt-

tonite through Superman. Love binds people together so tightly that even I can't pry them apart. But even certain types of love can be manipulated. That's where I come in.

I look for severe nationalism to grow. Nationalism breeds contempt for other nations. It's my red-flag sign that I am wanted and can find a good place to prosper. My recent travels have taken me to Afghanistan, Iraq and North Korea. I go to countries where jealousy of larger more powerful nations is a contagious disease and the only thing they desire is recognition as one of the world's elite nations. So they build bombs, make threats and kill a few people here and there to get others' attention. I am only a byproduct of the system.

That's when my plane ticket allows me to go the powerful nations — the United States, Russia, China, France and Great Britain. The smaller countries know that the only way to distinguish themselves among the world's best, in this day and age, is to give me to the larger nations. So, in a way, I am a gift from a forgotten brother to the family's favorite son.

I am dangerous because once I take hold of you, it is hard to be rid of me. One of your greatest presidents was right about me. I am the only thing to fear.

I am the source of all evil.

My name is Fear.

Adam Cahill is a junior majoring in history and American studies. His column appears every other Wednesday. He can be reached at acahill@nd.edu.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Conservatism without compassion

Not much more than one year ago, in response to the tragedy of Sept. 11, the United States intervened in the small country of Afghanistan to disrupt the government's sheltering of al Qaeda terrorists. When reports of massive forced refugee movements and civilian casualties reached the American media, the Bush administration quelled the unrest that accompanied this news with rhetoric about the altruistic nature of the military operations; the liberation of the Afghani people from their oppressive government was seen as something even Afghani civilians were willing to trade their lives for. This tendency, to see war as a way of fulfilling human rights, is being mirrored again today in the debate for or against war in Iraq. The fallacies of the self-named compassionate conservative must be known.

First, this aspect of our intervention in Afghanistan was not successful. President Bush slashed all funds in the upcoming budget for continued rebuilding of Afghanistan's broken civil infrastructure. All of his promises of liberating the Afghani people, of creating a democratic, human rights-respecting environment have been shown hollow. International focus is off of this issue for the moment, and Bush capitalized on this opportunity to back out of his financial obligations. Our government's true motivations are thus demonstrated.

During the Gulf War, the United States purposely targeted such buildings as water treatment and power plants. Hospitals were forced into impotence; clean water and sanitation quickly became

a fading memory. Our "smart bombs," said to accurately target only military sites, were used only in a slim minority of all bombing campaigns. And even when they were used, instances such as the destruction of the Amariyah bomb shelter, when more than 400 hundred innocent women and children were incinerated to dust, still occurred. The Gulf War, and the U.S.-led sanctions against Iraq that followed, have been responsible for an estimated 500,000 to one million innocent deaths (that is at least 175 times as many people as perished on Sept. 11). Yet we are the benevolent nation, with the moral authority to announce that we have the best interest of the Iraqi people in mind when forming our foreign policy? The irony is biting and upsetting.

Do not be fooled by language from the Bush administration that would lead one to believe that we are doing a good deed for the Iraqi people. Our past actions show that we have no such intent. The Iraqi people are strongly against our intervention. We have already wreaked humanitarian havoc on this Third World nation. How many more lives are going to be lost, how much more desperation are we going to generate in return for a false sense of security?

Michael Poffenberger

sophomore

Keenan Hall

Feb. 24

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NDToday/OBSERVER POLL QUESTION

Would you support a war in Iraq?

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt
former U.S. President

VIEWPOINT

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

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Back from politics

Well, so much for political aspirations. The dream is over. Mimi Matkowski and I did make a hell of a run of it, in spite of the efforts of campus publications who were seemingly endorsing candidates by picking names out of hats. We got almost 20 percent of the total vote, misk, kkkkkksing the runoff by a mere 50 votes. We handily won the vote in several dorms, in addition to winning the junior class, the off-campus vote and the abroad vote. Considering that one candidate got a mere 18 votes, I consider our 786 votes an accomplishment.

Joe Muto

Muto Time

I think my one problem in strategy was that I was depending heavily on those voters who were least likely to vote. The other candidates had the nerd vote locked up — I wasn't getting any of those votes. I needed the coveted stoner/slacker vote. These votes, of course, proved elusive. The stoner/slacker demographic isn't really big on civics, and voter turnout was predictably low. At parties in the weeks since the election, I've been getting a lot of "Dude, if I had remembered to vote, I would have totally voted for you."

Alright, enough sour grapes. A lot has happened since I last graced these sacred pages back in the merry month of November. This column was on "hiatus" for the duration of the election. I thought I'd do a brief recap just to get caught up on the various things that have happened that have made me say, "Hmm, I should write an article about that." So, a warning is in order — this article is a lot more unfocused and rambling than usual. That's saying a lot.

Christmas Break: No real highlights here. Once again, one of the laziest months of my life. The only highlight was my friend who purchased an — ahem — tobacco waterpipe. The main activity of the break became a contest to see who could name the three foot tall glass apparatus. One night, after a drunken viewing of the Fox News Channel, inspiration struck: Osama Bong Laden. One friend voiced his concerns as to the Karmic implications of naming one's piece after an internationally reviled murderer. I tend to look at it as good Karma. It co-opts the name and makes it a positive thing. Instead of inducing terror alerts, the only thing this new "Osama" is inducing is trips to Taco Bell. If I ever buy a similar piece, I'm naming it Sa-bong Hussein.

3/4 = 28%: This was the most ill-informed ad campaign since ... well ... ever. The teaser posters generated a ton of buzz, and then the payoff was somewhat confusing. Three-fourths of students drink 28 percent of the alcohol? The only thing this proves is that three-fourths of the student body needs to step up and grow a pair. Drink up, three-fourths. Time's a wastin'!

Saint Mary's trip to pro-choice conference: Let's not mince words here. The reason that the Saint Mary's pro-life protesters didn't get funded to go on their trip to Washington is because they weren't bright enough to apply for funding. The handful of girls that went to the pro-choice meeting applied for funding and rationalized it enough to sound like they were going to a leadership conference. The pro-lifers could have done the exact same thing. Also, I have a message for all you people who are writing into Viewpoint and saying that a Catholic school should not support divergent points of view: Stop it. You are scaring me. If you are so insistent on this point, I cordially invite you to move to Afghanistan. The Taliban would welcome you with open arms.

Boat Club bust: Alas, Boat Club, we hardly knew ye. As someone who will be living literally one block from the Boat next year, I would love to see it stay open, as it is by far the greatest and most fun bar in South Bend, period. However, we were kidding ourselves when we thought it would never get busted. I was there a couple of times this year, and I felt like an old, old man. Boat was the underage haven, and there is nothing wrong with that, but we all knew that the bubble was going to burst eventually, even though some of us were in denial. On the plus side, The Observer did milk the event for everything it was worth, breaking out a full range of nautical metaphors.

Heartland boycott: Is anybody really surprised that a bouncer made a racist comment? Anyone who's been to even one South Bend bar knows full well that they're not exactly hiring the most enlightened individuals. This fact is fine with me — when a crazed townie is coming after me with the jagged end of a broken liquor bottle, I don't want order restored with a discussion group led by Noam Chomsky. I want Bruno the 300-pound recent ex-con to jump in and start beating ass. If a few errant comments are the price to pay for Bruno's loyalty, I'm just fine with that.

Well, that's it for me for now. I think I'm sufficiently caught up. I promise to be more current next time.

Joe Muto is a junior FTT and English double major who reminds the student body to yell "Happy 21st, Joe!" if they happen to see a man naked from the waist down being chased by NDSP next Monday afternoon. Contact him at jmuto@nd.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

America needs missile defense

Terrorists and their increasing capacity to obtain weapons of mass destruction pose the utmost danger to the United States. First, the United States is confronted with a myriad of hostile state-sponsors of terrorism: Iraq, North Korea, Libya, etc. Second, these rogue nations are engaged in an unprecedented, aggressive and lethal campaign to develop, harbor and use weapons of mass destruction against freedom-loving people. Third, lethal Islamic terrorist groups continue to consolidate their efforts, in order to achieve their ultimate goal: murdering free people. Fourth, the connectedness and cooperation between state-sponsors of terrorism and rogue terrorist groups, such as al Qaeda and Hamas, is rapidly increasing.

State-sponsors of terrorism, as we have seen with North Korea and Iraq, now have the technology and capacity to develop the most dangerous weapons known to man. Each day, these psychotic regimes purchase enriched uranium, fuel rods, "dual-use" nuclear material and missile technology from developed nations in order to develop these offensive weapons. These are serious times.

As we saw on Sept. 11, 2001, the ability of terrorist groups to consolidate, plan and implement an attack is great. We have seen that these murderers do not value human life, and one cannot negotiate with such people. Their drive to murder the innocent, matched with their extremist ideologies, poses a severe threat to the United States. Shadowy terrorist groups continue to cooperate with terrorist states in an effort to obtain and use the most deadly weapons.

As Baker Spring, a research fel-

low at the Heritage Foundation, stated: "As increased security and heightened alertness make a Sept. 11-style attack harder to mount, we can expect to see terrorists turning to missiles capable of delivering the chemical, biological and nuclear weapons they're trying to obtain."

State-sponsors of terrorism have the infrastructure, finances and technology to develop weapons of mass destruction, and terrorist groups have the shadowy networks to employ these deadly weapons covertly and without notice. Dangerously, the relationship between terrorist states and terrorist groups are blending into one.

The United States is faced with a severe problem. For example, the CIA recently reported that a North Korean three-stage rocket could strike at a distance of 9,300 miles — far enough to strike all of North America. These three-stage rockets are built to carry several hundred pounds of weapons payload. The frightening part is: in 1998, North Korea tried to use the three-stage version to launch a satellite into orbit. Even the less sophisticated two-stage Taepo Dong 2 could hit Alaska or Hawaii.

On Feb. 24, the South Korean Defense Ministry announced that North Korea fired an anti-ship missile that landed in the sea between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. As White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said, "Technology and time means regimes like North Korea will increasingly have the ability to strike at the United States."

Given these frightening details, it is apparent that the U. S. government cannot condemn the American people to permanent

vulnerability — we must develop a missile defense system now. Presently, if any type of missile were launched, preemptively, against the United States, then the U.S. could do absolutely nothing about it. An effective missile defense system, using land, sea, air and space-based sensors and battle management control systems, would use an interceptor rocket to destroy an offensive missile heading towards the United States.

Critics of this idea constantly try to remind us that a missile defense system cannot and will not work because the technology required to implement such a plan is too expensive and far-fetched. The critics are wrong. Five out of the last eight tests conducted by the United States Military were successful. In addition, the Navy has conducted several successful tests on short-range ballistic missiles, including the Standard Missile-3.

Critics also complain that a missile defense system would demonstrate that the United States' foreign policy is becoming too aggressive. Wrong again. The interceptor rockets are of a defensive nature only. Each nation has an inherent right to self-defense, and the United States should exercise its right to develop a missile defense system.

We have the technology to make this plan happen. We have the technology to defend the American people from hostile and unexpected attacks. We have the opportunity to save millions of lives.

Mike Koprowski

freshman

Knott Hall

Feb. 25

It's not about the oil

In her Feb. 21 column, "Questioning reasons for war," Professor Shrader-Frechette raises some very important questions about the Bush administration's case for war. One in particular is worth some extended discussion, mostly because such discussion will show that whatever else might motivate the Bush administration, not to mention Congress which in various ways has endorsed the President's design, oil is not the reason for war.

The familiar mantra "No War for Oil" takes on an interesting meaning when discussing not only proponents of war but also such nations that oppose war. France is currently Iraq's most favored trading partner and is heavily involved in Mideast regional energy development. A war in Iraq would have very negative effects on French economic prospects in the region. The French energy giant Total Fina Elf has multibillion-dollar oil contracts with Iraq, but because of U.N. resolutions, these contracts have not been signed and cannot be executed until sanctions are lifted.

One outstanding question is whether there will be automatic succession of the existing agreements should Saddam be overthrown. Regime change

could bring about a shift in fortunes, with American and British petroleum companies being the primary beneficiaries. So goes the theory. However, note that

Kuwait has been reticent to extend such privileged access to American oil firms, and that country owes its very existence to the United States.

Nevertheless, all of this will be moot if war breaks out, because the oil wells will likely not survive. Saddam will most likely seek to destroy Iraqi petroleum production facilities to deny them to potential successors.

Whoever inherits these flaming ruins will face years of reconstruction and billions in investment to restore full Iraqi production. This is hardly a bargain — but if no war is fought, the oil wells will survive, sanctions will be lifted and the contracts could be executed.

The fact that French oil interests tend to mitigate the potential conflict is an irony for the Greens to ponder.

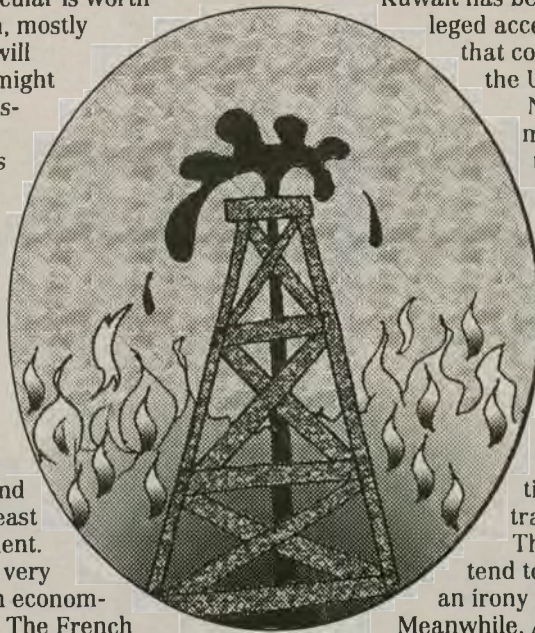
Meanwhile, Americans ought rest assured that oil does not explain why the United States purportedly ignores alternatives to war.

Jacob T. Rodenbiker

senior

off-campus

Feb. 23



SCENE
campus

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Wednesday, February 26, 2002

Notre Dame Da

*The Poms, the First Class Steppers and the Irish
campus and around the com*By JULIE BENDER and MARIA SMITH
Assistant Scene Editor and Scene Editor

When people think of Notre Dame, dancing usually isn't the first thing to come to mind. Football, basketball, academics and Catholicism are normally associated with the University, giving it its national reputation as one of the finest institutions in the nation.

Many students would be surprised to discover, however, that dance at Notre Dame is an essential part of the culture. It goes far beyond the Irish jig at football games or the bump-and-grind that used to work so well at Boat Club. Dancers at Notre Dame put just as much time and effort into their groups as varsity-lettered athletes, while at the same time having a blast moving to music.

Probably one of the most conspicuous groups of dancers on campus is the Notre Dame Pom Squad. Founded in 1988, this club has been entertaining spectators at sporting and other campus events for nearly 15 years now with their sleek dance moves choreographed to popular music. Every year, the Pom Squad performs at football pep rallies, basketball games and at other signature events around campus, such as the Keough Chariot Race.

The time and effort required of the members of the Pom Squad is as intense as any varsity sport on campus. During the fall semester, the 14 members of the group meet nearly as often as any sports team on campus, with practices five times a week for two hours each. At practices, the women run through their routines, which they choreograph themselves.

"All the members are involved with the

choreography," said senior co-captain Michelle DeLay. "Every member takes a turn choreographing a specific dance that we perform."

Competition is fierce to be a member of the Pom Squad, with over 50 women trying out every year for only 14 spots on the team. The try-outs include a learning clinic where the captains teach a routine, usually to a well-known piece of music like the Victory March. The girls trying out get one day to work on the routine before first cuts take place. During second cuts, the squad also holds a practice clinic and then tryouts, until the team is pared down to its 14 members.

Nearly everyone who survives the try-out to become a member of the squad has had some sort of dancing experience in the past. Tryouts are still open to anyone including men, although DeLay said "male interest in the Pom Squad, beyond being a spectator, has never been very high."

Another dancing group on campus that is gaining more and more popularity is the First Class Steppers. Unlike most dancing groups, the Steppers rarely use music in their routines. Members use their hands, feet and whatever else is around to create fast-paced beats and rhythms. "It's kind of like 'a cappella dancing,'" said Linda Hu, a junior who has been a member of the Steppers for two years. "There's no music in the background. We create the beat with our bodies."

The club is fairly new, only having become official in 1999, but their reputation is growing fast. The Steppers have performed at a number of popular multicultural campus events, including Black Images, Asian Allure, Latin Expressions, Freshmen Orientation and most recently last Saturday at Fiestang.



The Notre Dame Pom Squad performs at pep rallies, basketball games and signature Keough Chariot Race. Over 50 girls audition for 14 spots on the squad each year.

Similar to the Pom Squad, the time and effort the Steppers put into their club is quite impressive. The group meets two times a week for two-hour practice sessions. Before a show, the practices are more intense, with the group meeting four times a week to perfect the performance.

Another similarity the Steppers have with the Pom Squad is that they choreograph their own routines. Some of the dance moves and rhythms are influenced by other groups, but many are created by the First Class Steppers themselves.

Currently, the group has just over 10 members, including five women and six or seven men. People try out each semester and cuts are made based on the performance of a routine learned in a prior workshop session. Most members don't have experience with dancing in the stepper style before trying out, so there is an opportunity for anyone to make the group.

"It's a lot of fun," said Stepper vice-president Kameron Chappell. "The attention from the crowd is great, it's really neat to watch the audience react to a performance."

Hu agreed, saying, "It brings a lot of diversity to the campus. Without Step, there would be something missing at Notre Dame."

Most people are familiar with Irish step dance in the form of Riverdance and Michael Flatly. The home of the Fighting Irish also has its own devoted group of Irish step dancers who perform throughout the year around campus and the community.

Notre Dame's Irish Dance Team, a stu-

dent-run University club, has been part of Notre Dame's dance scene for about seven years. While many people might think picking up Irish dance at a college level would be too difficult, the group of 30 dancers is equally split between experienced Irish steppers and students who joined the club as novices.

"The beginners pick it up fast, it's incredible," said club co-president Kristy Hernandez, who had never danced Irish step before starting at Notre Dame. "The advanced dancers are very helpful."

The Irish Dance Team also lost one of its own with the death of Chad Sharon, who danced with the team during his time at Notre Dame.

"There's been an amazing group camaraderie," said Hernandez. "The team has really banded together during a hard time."

The members of the Irish Dance Team practice together twice a week, with two-hour meetings for the advanced members of the group on Monday nights and rehearsals for the beginning dancers on Thursdays. The group performs at a wide variety of events, including performances at a tap dance exhibition organized by club adviser and professor of anthropology James McKenna, at the Notre Dame cultural fair and at nursing homes around the community. An upcoming performance at Latin Expressions will also put Irish step dance to Latin music.

"People hear about us and ask us to dance," said Hernandez. "We never say no."

To pick up the style of Irish dance,

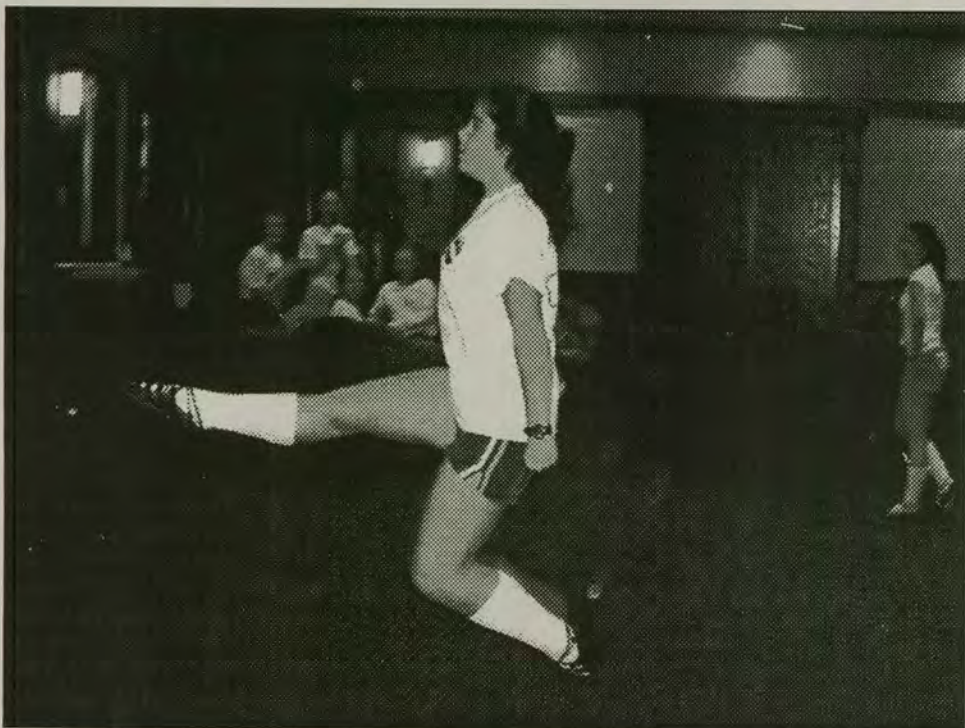


Photo courtesy of Kristy Hernandez

One of the advanced Irish step dancers performs her moves before the show with the Gaelic Society at the Coleman-Morse Center.

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ance

h Step Team perform on
community

beginning dancers on the Irish Step Team begin learning softshoe, one of the two styles of Irish dance. Softshoe dancers wear flexible shoes which lace around the ankle and are easier on the feet of novice dancers. The shoes worn by advanced dancers resemble tap shoes, with built up toes and heels to create the complicated rhythmical tapping famous in Irish dance.

Irish step dance is one of the few styles of dance that focuses entirely on footwork. Dancers perform with straight backs and with their arms at their sides. Traditionally performed to Irish jigs and reels, the numbers are always up-tempo.

"It's the best workout I've ever had in my life," said Hernandez.

In addition to dance teams that are official and actually have tryouts, there are also recreational dance clubs. One of the most popular groups is the Swing Club, which was started in 1998. Since then, the club has had over 600 interested

members sign up. As many of the posters on campus advertise, the club gives lessons every Monday night for only \$2. There is an open dance for everyone twice a month, which is free of charge. The instructors of the club are all stu-

dents who teach basic dance moves which progress as the semester wears on. Examples of the swing moves that have been taught so far are the basic step of the East Coast Swing, the Cuddle, the Charleston and the Washing Machine.

Besides inexpensive lessons and exercise, the Swing Club also boasts a great atmosphere for meeting members of the opposite sex. With 30 to 40 people showing up for lessons, the social climate is just right for mingling and dancing. As sophomore Emily Tumbrink, a member of the Swingers, said, "The weekly lessons are a great way for those with an interest in swing to meet others, especially members of the opposite sex, while learning great moves and having lots of fun."

Another way to participate in dance at Notre Dame is through Rec Sports. Instructional programs are offered for both jazz and ballet. Classes meet bi-weekly and are given at the beginner or intermediate level as well as the intermediate and advanced level. The atmosphere of the lessons is informal, but the classes are still challenging. Sophomore Van Tran, a student in the jazz class, said, "The dance lessons are a great workout. In fact, I'm still sore today!"

Tran also said, "College is a time to branch out and try new things, and that's what jazz dance is for me, a way to try something new. Everyone should get involved with dancing!"

Contact Julie Bender and Maria Smith at bender.10@nd.edu and msmith4@nd.edu

HA! presents
Notre Dame's
best comedy

Stand-up comedians Mike Bradt and Peter Wicks promise rolling in the aisles

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

This Friday's show "Is This Thing On?" will feature at least four of Notre Dame's premier comic artists. Stand-up comedians Peter Wicks and Mike Bradt and others will present their show at 8 p.m. in the Hesburgh Auditorium. Tickets are expected to cost around \$2.

The last-minute show will replace a planned performance by Humor Artists, a Notre Dame club of about 20 members devoted to original skits and improvisational humor. The club was started about eight years ago and is run by students. HA meets on Tuesday nights and Sunday afternoons throughout the school year to work on their shows. Normally the group performs once in the fall and twice during the spring semester.

Co-presidents Molly McShane and Brian McLaughlin have also been invited to join the line-up.

First-year law student Bradt, the headline comedian for the show, was a member of HA during his senior year as an undergraduate student at Notre Dame. He recently won a competition for amateur stand-up comedians at The Comedy Spot while living in Chicago. Bradt was invited to audition for a show he described as "a mix between The Real World, American Idol and Survivor" on NBC after winning the competition. Unfortunately auditions fell in the middle of finals week and the comedian could not attend.

McShane, who witnessed Bradt's beginnings as a comedian, said she was glad to

give Bradt a chance to perform on campus.

"He's gotten really good, he's hilarious" McShane said. "And it all started in the Notre Dame room in LaFortune."

"It's a dying art, it was over-exaggerated in the 80's," Bradt said. "But we're bringing it back. We're all good, I promise."

Wicks, a philosophy graduate student at Notre Dame, will act as master of ceremonies for the show. Wicks has an extensive stand-up history. The comedian has performed stand-up comedy for six years at universities around England and at the New York Comedy Club. He also started a comedy club at Princeton last year.

Students have had a chance to sample Wicks' humor on United States immigration policies, bachelor parties and South Bend crime in his Observer column. Students under 21, however, had the misfortune of missing his stand-up comedy last semester in Alumni Senior Bar. Friday's show will offer underage students a chance to enjoy Wicks' live comedy in a legally accessible venue.

"The frustration at my last show was that it was at a bar, so no one under 21 could attend," said Wicks. "However, I think it was well-received."

The University hopes to run parallel shows of an increasing number of comedians such as Wicks and other acts performing on campus after the opening of Legends, the renovated Senior Bar, for the benefit of both underage students and those over 21.

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu



Courtesy of Maureen Schink
events like the

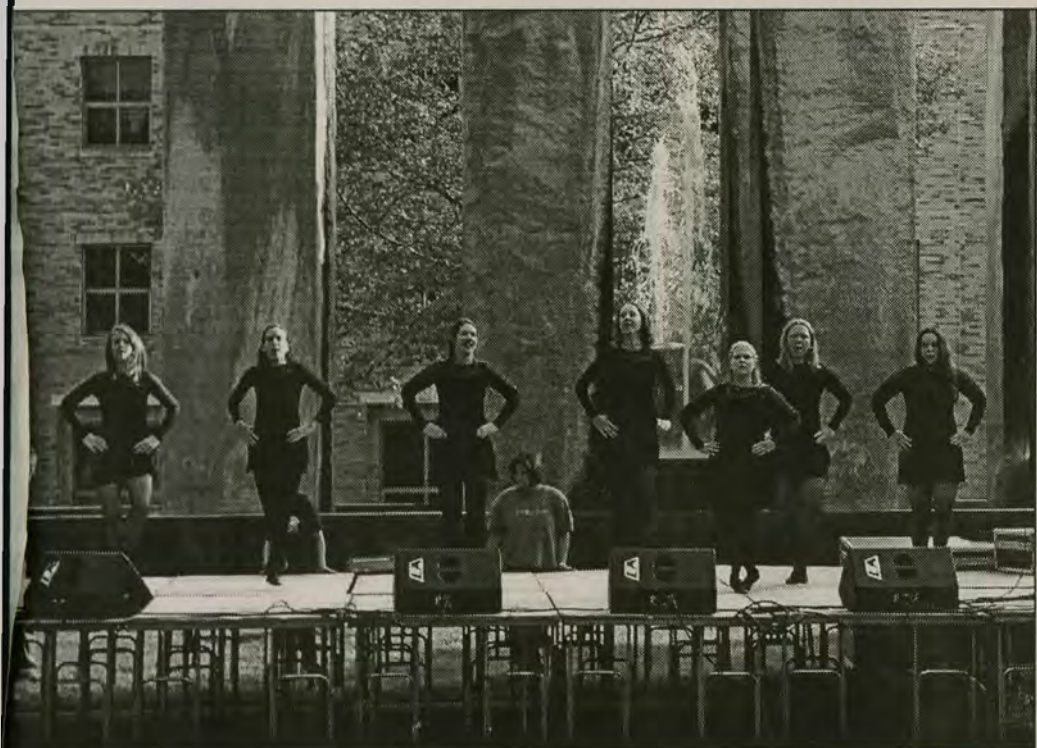


Photo courtesy of Kristy Hernandez

The Irish Step Dancers perform at the Notre Dame Cultural Fair in the fall of 2002. The Irish Step Dancers perform at numerous events throughout the year.



Photo courtesy of Peter Wicks

Stand-up comedian Peter Wicks performs one of his numerous shows. The comedian will perform Friday on campus.

BENGAL BOUTS — 125 POUNDS-165 POUNDS

Senior Newburg begins defense of 125-pound crown

By LUKE BUSAM
Sports Writer

Tonight's semifinal action will begin with senior captain Shawn Newburg's first appearance in the 2003 Bengal Bouts. As returning champion of this seven-fighter weight class, Newburg received two byes and will meet his first opponent tonight in freshman Brian Faist, who won a split decision victory over Michael Feduska in Sunday's quarterfinals.

Jon Valenzuela, coming off an impressive unanimous decision over Robert Musiala, will face Sung Hoon Kim to see who advances to Sunday's finals. Kim's fight was stopped in the first round after he sent his opponent Gerardo Rojas to the mat. Both fighters are extremely quick and used multiple punch combinations in the semifinals victories.

140 pound

Junior captain Tony Hollowell will attempt to earn his second trip to the finals in the last three years in his match against Joe Schmidlin. Both Schmidlin and Hollowell had first-round byes and both boxers' quarterfinal round fights were called early as they dominated their opponents.

Senior Bill Wuest will fight Christopher Hoffman in tonight's second match in the 140-pound class. Wuest's long jab won him a unanimous decision victory against

Edward Liva Sunday. Hoffman won an evenly-matched brawl against Mark Pfizenmayer and may have trouble with Wuest's long reach tonight.

145-pound

Luke Dillon withstood a serious challenge from Andrew Sylling to earn his spot in tonight's semifinals. He will meet law student Paul Harris, who earned a spot in the semifinals with a forfeit quarterfinal victory because Paul Robinson was unable to fight because of medical reasons.

Jeffrey Ham won a unanimous decision victory Sunday over Jon Streit and will fight Ryan Duffey tonight. Duffey, the No. 2 seed in the 145-pound class, won a close fight over Dave DeBoer on Sunday.

150-pound

Sorin sophomore Ryan Rogers has a tough fight ahead of him tonight against Juan Diego Vargas. This is Rogers' second Bengal Bouts and Vargas' first, yet the advantage still lies with Vargas, who looked impressive in both of his wins this year.

No. 3 seed Brandon Gasser will meet the No. 2 seed Nathan Lohmeyer in the other 150-pound semifinal. Each boxer looked strong in the early rounds and both have ring experience behind them. Tonight is the first time that Gasser has been to the semifinals, but the second for Lohmeyer, who lost to Jemar

Tisby last year in the semis.

155-pound

Galen Loughrey slipped his way past the taller Mark Basola and will face Colin Kerrigan tonight. Kerrigan won an impressive victory over No. 1 seed Mike Melby in the quarterfinals to earn his spot in the semis tonight.

Freshman Greg Schaefer will face senior Steve Keppel tonight. Schaefer bled a bit in his quarterfinal match against Cliff Arnold and his straight punches should be an interesting match to the brawling style of Keppel.

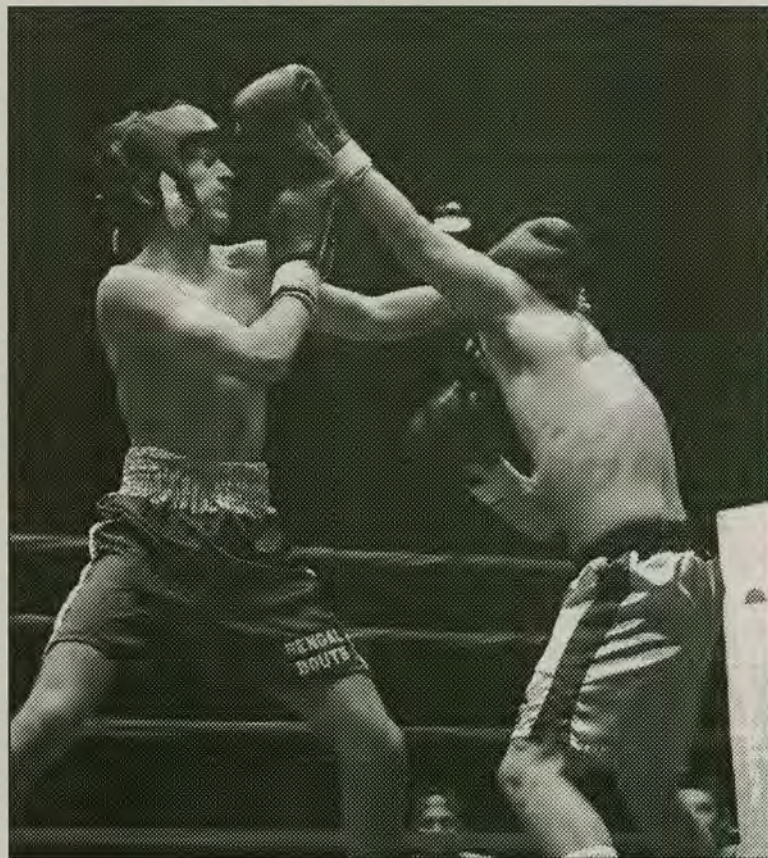
160-pound

Mark DeSplinter will exercise his technical style and straight left jabs tonight as he tries to earn his second trip to the finals. DeSplinter faces John Enterline and the two fighters should match up well. Enterline is more of a brawler than DeSplinter, but boxes well when he settles down.

Senior captain Tom Pierce will meet Bill Philip in the second match of the 160-pound class. Phillip has a reach advantage over Pierce, but this disadvantage has never been a problem in the past for the hard-nosed captain who seeks his second trip to the finals.

165-pound

Junior captain Pat Dillon meets freshman Charlie Gough tonight.



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Michael Feduska, left, and Brian Faist, right, fight in a 125-pound quarterfinal round bout Sunday. Faist defeated Feduska and faces defending champion Shawn Newburg tonight.

Gough, who had a first round bye, earned a victory over Chris Milliron Sunday when the fight was called due to Milliron's bleeding.

Dillon, fighting in his seventh career bout tonight, hopes to move on to Sunday's finals for the first time in his career.

Freshman Alex Fergus will battle senior Mark Yost follow-

ing the Dillon-Gough fight. Yost, who found himself on the ropes a number of times in his quarterfinal match, will have a tough challenge in Fergus, who won a called fight against Brian Foy.

Contact Luke Busam at
lbusam@nd.edu

NBA

Bryant's streak ends in Lakers 109-98 win over Clippers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Kobe Bryant's remarkable scoring streaks ended. But he still helped the Los Angeles Lakers win for the 12th time in 14 games.

Shadowed closely by Corey Maggette and often double-teamed, Bryant scored 32 points as the Lakers beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

Bryant thus failed in his attempt to extend his streak of scoring at least 40 points to 10 games, which would have tied Wilt Chamberlain for the second-longest streak in NBA his-

tory.

Chamberlain scored 40 or more in 14 straight games twice in the 1961-62 season, when he averaged an NBA-record 50.4 points. He had his 10-game streak the following season.

Bryant's streak of nine straight was the longest since Michael Jordan scored 40 or more in the same number of games in the 1986-87 season.

Bryant had also scored at least 35 points in 13 consecutive games. Only Chamberlain has longer streaks, having accomplished that feat in 33, 23 and 20 straight games.

The Lakers played without Phil Jackson, who missed his first game as an NBA head coach recuperating from having a kidney stone removed a day earlier. Assistant Jim Clemons served as acting head coach.

Bryant shot 11-of-26 and made 9-of-10 free throws. He also had six rebounds and three assists.

Bryant wore a wide grin as he dribbled out the final 20 seconds or so without shooting, as the Lakers had the game in hand and the Clippers didn't try to foul.

Shaquille O'Neal had 33

points and eight rebounds, and Rick Fox added 12 points and eight assists for the Lakers (31-25), who have won five straight games.

Their latest victory moved them a season-high six games over .500 and within two games of sixth-place Utah in the Western Conference.

Bryant scored off an assist from Rick Fox with 5:07 remaining for his first points of the fourth quarter, giving him 25 overall and handing the Lakers a 94-87 lead.

Baskets by Bryant and O'Neal and a dunk by Bryant made it 100-89 with 3:04 to play, and

at that stage, with the Staples Center crowd roaring its approval, the Lakers made every effort to help Bryant get to 40.

But the Clippers were too tough on defense, surrounding him at every turn. He scored his final point on a foul shot with 2:32 to play.

Baskets by Andre Miller, Brand and Odom put the Clippers on top 61-56 with seven minutes left in the third quarter. But the Lakers outscored the Clippers 22-11 for a 78-72 lead, and the Clippers weren't closer than five points after that.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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The current Mario record is 5 minutes, 20 seconds

And it is not held by me

Congrats to our former EIC on finally becoming 21

AROUND THE NATION

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
New Jersey	37-16-5-4	82	5-4-1-0
Philadelphia	31-17-11-2	75	4-3-3-0
NY Islanders	29-23-7-2	67	5-3-2-0
NY Rangers	25-31-8-2	59	4-5-1-0
Pittsburgh	25-28-4-5	59	4-6-0-0

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Ottawa	39-17-7-1	86	6-3-1-0
Toronto	35-22-4-1	75	8-2-0-0
Boston	28-24-8-2	66	2-5-3-0
Montreal	24-26-7-7	62	3-5-0-2
Buffalo	18-30-8-5	49	3-5-1-1

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Washington	29-25-7-3	68	4-6-0-0
Tampa Bay	26-22-10-5	67	4-2-3-1
Florida	19-22-12-9	59	4-3-2-1
Carolina	18-30-9-6	51	1-5-3-1
Atlanta	20-31-5-4	49	3-5-2-0

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Detroit	33-17-9-3	78	6-2-1-1
St. Louis	31-18-8-6	76	3-3-2-2
Chicago	24-25-10-3	61	2-7-1-0
Nashville	23-25-9-4	59	6-3-1-0
Columbus	22-31-6-2	52	3-6-1-0

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Vancouver	37-16-9-0	83	8-0-2-0
Colorado	29-15-11-6	75	8-1-0-1
Minnesota	31-22-8-1	71	6-4-0-0
Edmonton	26-21-7-8	67	2-5-1-2
Calgary	19-31-10-4	52	2-5-2-1

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Dallas	35-12-15-1	86	5-1-4-0
Anaheim	29-22-8-4	70	6-3-1-0
Los Angeles	26-28-4-4	60	6-4-0-0
Phoenix	23-26-8-4	58	4-5-1-0
San Jose	23-28-6-6	57	3-7-0-0

Womens College Basketball Big East Conference

team	W	L	Pct.
Connecticut	13	0	1.000
Rutgers	11	2	.846
Villanova	10	3	.769
Boston College	10	3	.769
Virginia Tech	8	5	.615
Miami	7	6	.538
NOTRE DAME	7	6	.538
Seton Hall	6	7	.462
Georgetown	5	8	.385
Syracuse	4	9	.308
Pittsburgh	3	10	.231
West Virginia	3	10	.231
Providence	3	11	.214
St. John's	2	11	.143

MLB



Trevor Hoffman delivers a pitch last season for the San Diego Padres. Hoffman will undergo shoulder surgery that will keep him out indefinitely, but he hopes to pitch sometime after the All-Star break.

Hoffman sidelined until All-Star break

Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. Trevor Hoffman already is focusing on his comeback — and not the shoulder operation that will make him miss half of the season. “We’re going to take care of this,” the San Diego Padres’ closer said Tuesday after deciding to have surgery. “The ball will be in my court. I’ll do the things in rehab that I need to do to get on the field and pitch. Hopefully, we’ll write a better ending, the way I want it done.”

In 10 major league seasons, the San Diego Padres right-hander never has

been on the disabled list. “To lose his ability to close games, which is basically automatic, is going to be tough,” first baseman Ryan Klesko said. Manager Bruce Bochy said the length of rehabilitation won’t be known until the surgery. It will be performed at the end of the week in Los Angeles by Anaheim Angels medical director Dr. Lewis Yocum. “It’s a blow when you lose your closer, especially when your closer is one of the best of all time,” Bochy said. The 35-year-old Hoffman ranks fifth with 352 career saves. He’s never gone on

the disabled list in 10 major league seasons, and since Bochy took over the Padres in 1995, Hoffman has 327 of the team’s 359 saves — 91 percent. There is no timetable for Hoffman’s return, though general manager Kevin Towers was optimistic Hoffman could pitch sometime after the All-Star break. An MRI last week revealed no additional damage to the rotator cuff but showed arthritic degeneration of the clavicle. Doctors will shave the edge of the clavicle — the collarbone — to reduce irritation and give tendons more

room. “It’s not a 25-year-old shoulder anymore, but I feel confident with the procedure we’re going in to do,” Hoffman said. Hoffman was 2-5 with a 2.73 ERA in 61 games last year, converting 38 of 41 save opportunities. Last fall’s operation was the first time doctors saw problems with Hoffman’s AC joint, where the clavicle meets the shoulder blade. The coarse edge of the collarbone didn’t show on an earlier MRI. “If this procedure is able to relieve some of the discomfort, then he’ll be back,” Towers said.

IN BRIEF

Bechler’s widow to sue

The lawyer for the widow of Steve Bechler plans to sue the manufacturer of a dietary supplement the Baltimore Orioles pitcher was believed to be taking before his death. Bechler, 23, died on Feb. 17 from heatstroke after collapsing during a workout at training camp. In his preliminary autopsy report, Broward County chief medical examiner Dr. Joshua Perper linked Bechler’s death to a diet supplement that contains ephedra. A bottle of Xenadrine RFA-1, an over-the-counter weight-loss product containing ephedra, was found in Bechler’s locker after he collapsed. “The way we see it, Steve Bechler is dead, and ephedra is the primary cause of death,” David Meiselman, the attorney for Kiley Bechler, said Tuesday. “We will wait for the toxicology report to come back, do our homework, then go hunting for the com-

pany that distributes this drug,” Meiselman said. “This drug is a killer. Our real concern is to get this poison off the shelves.” Cytodyne Technologies of Manasquan, N.J., the supplement’s manufacturer, responded with a statement that read, in part: “We feel that it is reckless and irresponsible for an attorney to prematurely place blame or deflect responsibility to others for the events leading up to Mr. Bechler’s death. At this point in time, it is clear that this attorney is making these statements without the benefit of any toxicology results ... It’s unfortunate that this attorney has chosen to ignore the fact that Mr. Bechler had a number of serious medical conditions including liver disease, hypertension, an enlarged heart and history of heat-related illnesses.” “The arrogance of this company is beyond belief,” he said. “It’s never their fault, and in the meantime, people are dying. It’s important to

note that three days before his death, Steve Bechler passed a physical exam to play baseball.”

Broncos release 3 starters

The Denver Broncos cut starters Chester McGlockton, Kavika Pittman and Denard Walker and four other players Tuesday as the team trims payroll before the free-agent signing period. Denver also released guard Lennie Friedman, tackle Blake Brockmeyer, cornerback Jimmy Spencer and defensive end Keith Washington. The Broncos tendered offers to restricted free agent receiver Chris Cole, running back Reuben Droughns and quarterback Jarious Jackson. The Broncos were about \$20 million over the salary cap heading into the free agency period, which begins Friday. Denver general manager Ted Sundquist said Tuesday’s moves should clear about two-thirds of that amount.

around the dial

- COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Duke at Georgia Tech 7 p.m., ESPN
Western Kentucky at Louisiana-Lafayette
10:30 p.m., ESPN2
- NBA
Indiana at Boston 7 p.m., FSCH
Utah at Minnesota 9 p.m., ESPN
- YACHTING
America’s Cup Championship
7 p.m., ESPN

This statement is the result of a combined effort by members of the student body to speak out against the war. To join those within our community who oppose a war in Iraq send an email to voice1@nd.edu.

The decision to go to war is perhaps the most significant one that the leaders of a democracy can make.

As citizens of the United States and the global community, we feel compelled to evaluate the decision to invade Iraq.

Having done so, it is our duty to speak out against this act which is being undertaken on our behalf.

From diverse backgrounds and for many reasons, we the undersigned students, faculty, staff and affiliates of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College stand unified in opposition to the impending war against the nation of Iraq and in our desire to pursue alternatives to this course of action.

Educate yourself on this important issue. Speak out. Talk to your family, your colleagues, your friends. Take a stand. Contact your local representative. Write President Bush. Call the UN headquarters. If you agree with this statement, post this ad on a wall or in your window.

Let your voice be heard.

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BENGAL BOUTS — 170 POUNDS-HEAVYWEIGHT

Cosse takes on Knust and looks to return to finals

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Writer

On the heels of a split-decision victory over Patrick McGarry, No. 1 seed Clay Cosse will take on junior Matt Knust. Cosse, a senior, serves as this year's 170-pound captain.

Knust defeated James Gaffey in the first round and earned a victory by unanimous decision over Brian Michalek in the quarterfinals.

Two seniors face off in the second semifinal, Jason Voss against Rob Joyce. Joyce is the No. 2 seed, while Voss is participating in the semifinals after only winning one bout last year.

Joyce received a bye in the first round, and easily defeated James Ward in the quarterfinals by unanimous decision. Voss defeated John Lantz in the first round and prevailed over Matt Padilla in the quarterfinals, by unanimous decision as well.

180-pounds

The first semifinal in the 180-pound division features an intriguing matchup between No. 1 seed Tommy Demko and senior Christopher Pearsall.

Demko, a junior from Alumni Hall, defeated dorm rival Erik Rocca of Dillon in the quarterfinals and serves as this year's captain. Last year, he advanced to the semifinals only to lose to eventual runner-up Matthew Sarb.

"You always set a goal to go

farther each year," Demko said. "You're always trying to do better. That's what this fight tomorrow means to me."

Demko is one of three junior captains this year; the other four are seniors.

"I look at it as we all get to know each other and help each other," he said. "You don't really think about what year you are. Some sophomores are really good boxers."

Pearsall hopes to use his seniority to defeat the younger Demko. Pearsall defeated Michael Ryan in the first round and earned a unanimous victory over Denis Sullivan in the quarterfinals.

Junior Larry Rooney and senior Andrew Groebner face off in the second semifinal match. Rooney defeated Chris Orenchuk and Eric Callahan

en route to the semifinals. Groebner defeated Christopher Cavanagh in the first round and earned a unanimous decision over junior James Christoforetti in the quarterfinals.

190-pounds

No. 1 seed John Lynk takes on Mwangi Gathinji in the first of two semifinal matches. Lynk is defending champion and serves as this year's captain.

He'll face a formidable opponent in Gathinji. Gathinji, a senior from Alumni Hall, dominated Jose Ronchetta in a unanimous decision victory in the second round.

Both Gathinji and Lynk earned first round byes, with Lynk advancing to the semifinals after defeating David Escobales by technical knock-

out in less than two minutes.

The defending champion is rather composed before the semifinal round.

"The night before you just kind of relax," Lynk said. "You just try not to think about the fight until the day comes."

The senior said that the Bengal Bouts is a unique tournament in the way that friends become rivals.

"We practice as a team, so you're working with the people you'll be fighting," Lynk said. "It's kind of weird because you could use skills they help you learn and vice versa. It's different from any other tournament in that way."

In the second semifinal,

senior Patrick Otlewski faces off against No. 2 seed junior William Zizic. Last year, Zizic lost to Lynk in the semifinals.

To advance to the third round, Otlewski defeated Jeff Golen in the first round and upset No. 3 seed John Caver in the quarterfinals. Zizic defeated Nathan Schroeder by unanimous decision to earn the right to face Otlewski.

Heavyweight

Third-year law student Carlos Obeyta and sophomore Darryl Burton face off in what might be the bout with the greatest age differential in the first of two semifinal matches.

Obeyta, the No. 1 seed, advanced to the semifinals

with a knockout of Nick Morrison just a little less than one minute into the third round.

Burton defeated senior Timothy Pezanko by a unanimous decision. The heavyweight division only included eight participants, so all competitors had first round byes.

In the second match, Ben O'Connor takes on Stefan Borovina. O'Connor defeated Brian Farkas in the first round, while Borovina easily took care of Donovan McFerron, advancing with a knockout.

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WOMENS BASKETBALL

Irish looking to make a run at NCAA Tournament

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

Both Pittsburgh and Notre Dame head into tonight's game at the Joyce Center with much to play for in terms of making tournaments.

The difference in the two teams lies in the tournament each is aiming for at the end of the regular season.

Pittsburgh (11-13 overall, 3-10 in the Big East), is fighting with West Virginia and St. John's for 12th place in the Big East standings. The top 12 teams from the conference participate in the Big East postseason tournament, which Pittsburgh hasn't made in three years.

The Irish (15-9, 7-6) are looking towards a possible NCAA Tournament bid. Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said two weeks ago in a press conference that 18 wins would likely get the Irish into the tournament.

"Last year we were 18-9, and we got a [seventh seed], and our RPI wasn't nearly as good as it is now," McGraw said. "So if we can go into the Big East

Tournament and win a game or two and get to 19 wins — although I think that 18 wins will get us in — but if we get to 19 or 20 wins, we'll get a better seed."

With three games left, all against teams with worse league records than themselves, Notre Dame has the opportunity to get at least 18 wins, if not more, by the end of the season. But they'll need to get the first of those three tonight against the Panthers.

Pittsburgh is looking for their first win ever against Notre Dame, who has won all 11 contests of the series. The two teams last met Feb. 5, 2002, when the Irish beat the Panthers 68-56 in Pittsburgh.

The Panthers have been in a slump, dropping seven of their last nine games and their last game was a 78-52 loss to No. 22 Boston College Saturday. Laine Selwyn and Haley

Harguth led the Panthers, scoring 18 and 15 points, respectively.

The Irish lost their last game to No. 1 Connecticut in Storrs 77-59. However, Notre Dame did have some positive performances in the game, especially their rebounding. Led by Jacqueline Batteast's career-high 18 boards, the Irish outrebounded the Huskies 43-40. It marked only the third time a Connecticut opponent had accomplished such a feat.

But poor shooting ruined any chance of an upset for Notre Dame. They could only manage to hit just over 33 percent of their field goal attempts.

Notre Dame faces Seton Hall in their final home game Saturday before ending the season at Syracuse March 4.

Tonight's game tips off at 7 p.m.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Senior guard and captain Alicia Ratay looks to pass against a St. John's defender earlier this season. The Irish play Pittsburgh at the Joyce Center tonight.

Cosse

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to offer. He hopes to pass this message along to the younger boxers.

"[Being a captain] means that I have worked really hard to receive a prestigious position, but also that I have the

opportunity to make a huge difference, both in sending money to the needy of Bangladesh, and in teaching younger guys to do the same in years to come," Cosse said.

After receiving a first-round bye in his 170-pound weight class this year, Cosse brought the crowd to its feet in his quarterfinal bout with Pat McGarry Sunday, marking the

first standing ovation of this year's tournament.

"This was another spectacular fight," Cosse said. "Pat really came after me, but I came right back and the crowd loved it. I didn't know that Pat would fight me so tough, but I'm glad he did, because that's what Bengal Bouts is all about."

After the ovation subsided,

Cosse emerged victorious.

"I came into my first fight this year knowing that I might never box competitively again," Cosse said. "So I fought as hard as I could, and left it all in the ring. That's been my philosophy every year, but it seemed more urgent this year with graduation looming on the horizon."

Tonight, the top-seeded Cosse faces fourth seed Matt Knust in the semifinals. He knows that, just like every other fight he's taken part in,

he is going to leave the ring knowing he put everything he has into the fight.

As a senior, Cosse would enjoy a victory in the finals in his swan song in Bengal Bouts.

However, a phone call he received Tuesday means he has a whole lot more to fight for.

"[Tuesday] morning, my mother called me to tell me that my grandfather had passed away," Cosse said. "I was very close to him, and he always supported my boxing. So now I'll be fighting even harder because I know he's watching."

"So now I'll be fighting even harder because I know [my grandfather is] watching."

Clay Cosse
boxing captain

Contact Bryan Kronk at bkronk@nd.edu

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HEARTLAND

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles season ends after 77-50 first-round loss at Hope

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's couldn't overcome a 24-point halftime deficit and ended its season with a 77-50 loss to Hope in the first round of the MIAA tournament.

For the Flying Dutch, Bria Ebels scored 18 points in only 14 minutes of action. Amanda Kerkstra, the MIAA Player of the Week, added 12 points along with four assists and was the second of three Hope players to score double digits.

Meanwhile, the Belles were led once again by senior Shaun

Russell, who scored in double digits for the third time in as many games, as she finished with 11 points. Maureen Bush also scored 11 points.

However, the efforts of these two players were not enough for the Belles to overcome poor shooting that included going 2-for-20 from beyond the arc. Saint Mary's finished shooting 29 percent from the field for the game.

Hope, on the other hand,

"We made a very good effort, and we did some good things in the game."

Suzanne Bellina
Belles coach

shot 51 percent from the field, and was 5-for-11 in 3-point shots. However, the Flying Dutch only outscored the Belles 33-30 in the second half.

Though the Belles were the obvious underdog in the matchup with the No. 2 team in the country, the loss was still disappointing, as another season came to a close on Tuesday night.

"Hope is such a good team," coach Suzanne Bellina said. "We made a very good effort,

and we did some good things in the game."

Another positive for the Belles was sophomore forward Emily Creachbaum, who scored 10 points while grabbing six rebounds. Despite only shooting 4-for-17 Tuesday, Creachbaum has been a bright spot for Saint Mary's all season, as she has been their most consistent performer.

"Our posts played extremely well," Bellina said. "We did a good job of getting the ball inside, and we were much

more aggressive."

Sophomore Katie Boyce added seven points for the Belles, while senior Kristen Matha scored four points with seven rebounds.

Saint Mary's ends their season with a record of 6-20 overall and 2-13 in the conference. The Belles only lose two seniors to graduation and had one junior on the team this season.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

Records

continued from page 20

Irish.

"Notre Dame was always a school that I really wanted to go to," said Krakowski. "It was a program on the up, so I figured it was the right fit for me."

Krakowski's siblings are also swimmers. His sister Mary is a freshman on the women's team at Bucknell. Younger brother Joe is a member of his high school swim and water polo teams, and seventh-grader George plays three sports.

Krakowski's stellar performance last weekend capped a strong year for the sophomore. He qualified and placed in three individual events at the Big East, setting two new records. In dual meets this season, Krakowski won the 100 fly against Oakland University, the 50 free against Northwestern, the 100 free against Texas Christian University and the 100 fly against University of

Pennsylvania, among others.

"I think I bring intensity and a lot of enthusiasm to get up for races," he said. "I want to get everyone motivated to do their best. I want the team to have an attitude about ourselves; a swagger. You have to have a positive attitude to succeed."

Coach Tim Welsh considered Krakowski's performance a major boost to the team.

"If you look at the seven University records that we set this weekend, Frank Krakowski was a part of five of them. In terms of special per-

formances, he's contributed to five of the seven University records and he's a sophomore. We know that we're building a young team, so that's pretty good."

After his standout performance at the Big East Championships, Krakowski will take time off to rest and heal his injuries. For the last two years he has suffered from shoulder problems. Recently, numbness followed by shooting pains in his elbow has been a concern.

"I want the team to have an attitude about ourselves; a swagger."

Frank Krakowski
Irish swimmer



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"Rest is the only way to get healed," Krakowski said. "I want to avoid surgery. I've been going for MRIs and tests, so hopefully we'll figure out what's wrong."

The Big East's were the conclusion to a very long season for the Irish. They began work in August, and will now take about a month-long break from the water before starting to train again.

"We made a lot of improvement this year and hopefully next year we'll get people to the NAAs," said Krakowski. "Also, we just missed the 100 free record by .7 of a second. But you can't do everything."

Judging by his record-breaking efforts in the pool for the Irish last weekend, it looks like Krakowski can.

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SPORTS

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BENGAL BOUTS

The 'Mouth of the South'

Senior captain Cosse hopes swan song will honor departed grandfather

By BRYAN KRONK
Sports Writer

Clay Cosse leaves everything in the ring — especially some pretty aggressive talking.

So it's only natural that the Chalmette, La. native earned the nickname "Mouth of the South" early in his brief boxing career.

"I talk a lot and I like to joke around a lot to lighten up the atmosphere,"

Cosse said. "Sometimes, or maybe a lot of the time, I'd be better off keeping my mouth shut, but I don't. Back home, when someone talks a lot, you call say, 'Man, mouth of the south over here' or something like that. I'm very proud of where I'm from, so 'Mouth of the South' was a great fit."

Cosse didn't actually turn to boxing until he arrived at Notre Dame in the fall of 1999. Having never competed in any sort of athletic competition in high school, it was a tough adjustment for him to make.

"I showed up at the first day of practice for the novice season and it was pretty ridicu-

lous for me, because I was pretty out of shape," Cosse said. "It was a difficult skill for me to learn, because I had never been aggressive or competitive. I definitely took my licks freshman year, and I lost my first fight in the Bengal Bouts tournament, but I loved the experience."

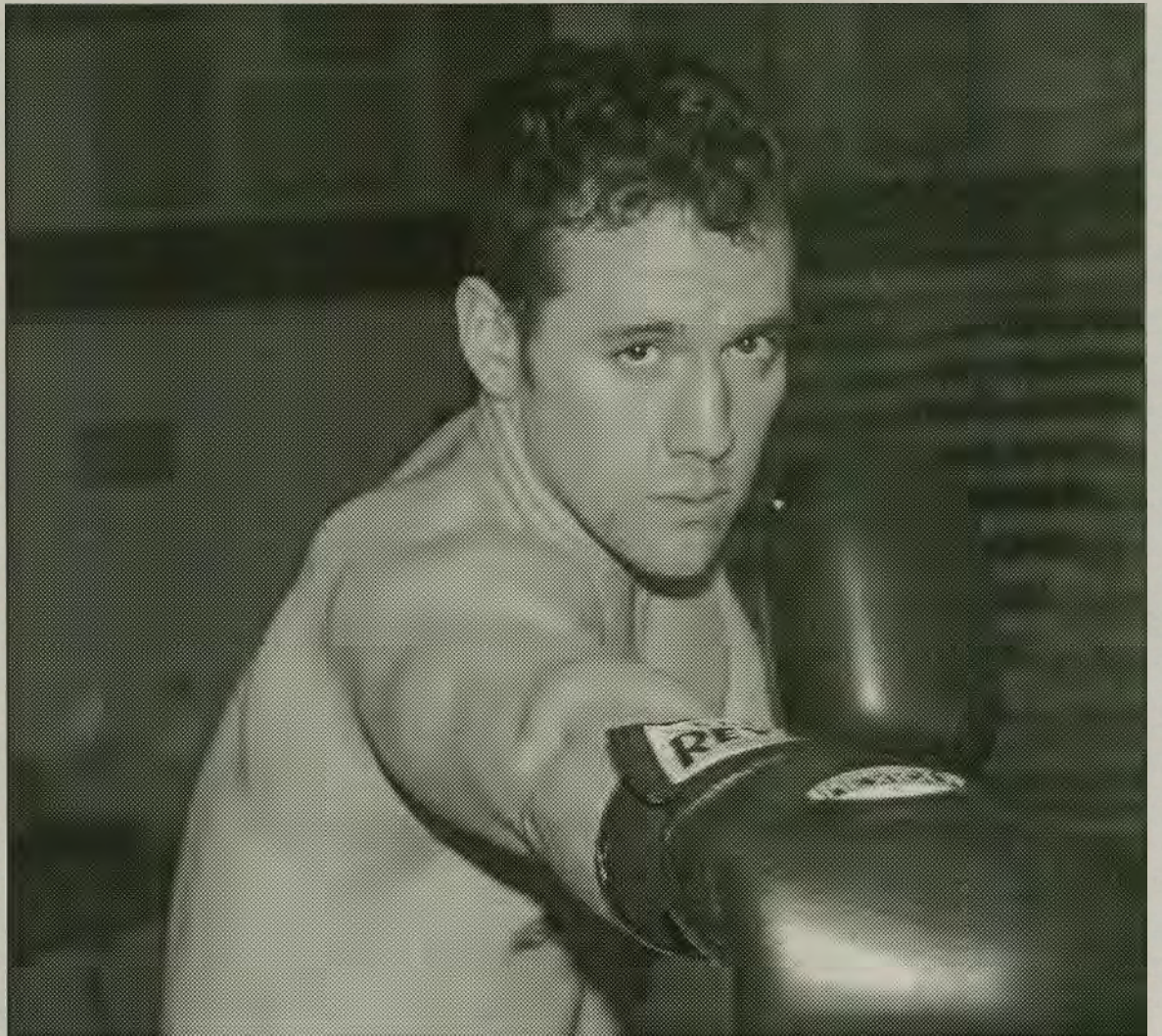
Undeterred by the early loss, he loved the experience so much that he bulked up in the off-season and returned for his second turn at Bengal Bouts the next year. He moved up from the 155-pound weight class to the 165-pound class, and he even advanced to the second round before being defeated.

His junior year, he advanced to the finals of the 165-pound bracket before he dropped an exciting back-and-forth bout with then-senior Chris Matassa.

"[Matassa] was about 6-foot-3 and had a lot of reach on me," Cosse said. "This was a truly great fight. I took the advantage early on, but it was back and forth for the rest of the fight. We won the award for best fight of the tournament."

This time around, Cosse has more to prove. As a senior and a captain, he represents the best of what Bengal Bouts has

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LISA VELTE/The Observer

Senior captain and top seed Clay Cosse fights in the Bengal Bouts semifinals tonight against Matt Knust. Cosse has extra motivation due to the recent death of his grandfather.

MENS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Karkowski caps standout season with 5 school records

By LISA REIJULA
Sports Writer

UNIONDALE, N.Y.

At last weekend's 2003 Big East Championships, if a new Notre Dame record was being set in the pool, it was a safe bet that sophomore Frank Krakowski was a part of it.

Seven previous school records were broken over the course of the three-day competition, and Krakowski was involved in five of them.

"Our team swam awesome," said Krakowski. "It was an incredibly fast meet. We set seven records and everyone had season bests. People really stepped it up to get to the finals."

Relays were an Irish strength all season, which they proved at the Big East meet. The third-place 200-medley relay team of freshmen Doug Bauman and Tim Randolph, senior Jason Fitzpatrick and Krakowski set a new mark of 1:30.58. The old record was 1:32.23, set in 2000.

In the 400-medley relay, Krakowski was again part of a record-setting effort with Bauman, Randolph and Fitzpatrick. Their finish in 3:19.45 established a new Notre Dame best.

A third relay team, Randolph, Fitzpatrick, Krakowski and junior Matt Obringer, set a new mark in the 200 freestyle final with their time of 1:22.02, easily

eclipsing the old time of 1:23.09.

Krakowski shone individually as well. In the 50 freestyle preliminaries, he shattered the previous school record with a new time of 20.45. He finished seventh in the finals with a time of 20.53.

In the 100 butterfly, Krakowski placed seventh overall and set yet another new record for the Irish, touching in 48.92. His time broke the oldest standing record in the Irish books, set back in 1994 by Ry Beville

(50.02).

Krakowski nearly set a record in the 100 freestyle, missing the mark by only .7 seconds. He placed seventh in the final, finishing in 45.46.

"I was really happy with how I swam," said Krakowski. "I would have liked to place higher in some of the

really close races. I got touched out a couple times." As a freshman last season, Krakowski provided immediate help in the freestyle events. He qualified for the 50 free, 100

free, and 100 fly in the 2002 Big East Championships and had the fastest Irish times in those events. He finished 12th in the 100 fly at the Big East last year.

Krakowski began swimming in the fourth grade, eventually choosing it over basketball and soccer. During high school in Erie, Pa., Krakowski set 11 varsity swimming records. He won the 2001 state championship in the 100 fly, and was captain and MVP of his state championship team. He was also a standout in water polo, leading his team to second place in the state as a senior. His accomplishments made him a prized recruit for the

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SPORTS
AT A GLANCE

SMC BASKETBALL

Hope 77
Saint Mary's 50

Nationally-ranked No. 2 Hope defeated Saint Mary's in the first round of the MIAA Tournament. The loss in the first round of the conference tournament ended the Belles season.

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WOMENS BASKETBALL

Pittsburgh at Notre Dame
Tonight, 7 p.m.

With the 11-13 Panthers visiting the Joyce Center, the Irish look to get a win to improve their chances of qualifying for the NCAA Tournament.

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BENGAL BOUTS

Tonight, 7 p.m.

The semifinal round for all weight classes takes place at the Joyce Center.

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