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A
look
at the
Oscars
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Cuts worry departments

By JULIA MILLER-LEMON
News Writer

The recent downturn in the economy has led the University to cut sections of its operating budget for the 2003-04 academic year.

"Faced with the financial challenges of the moment, we've fashioned a plan that makes the necessary hard choices while still allowing us to maintain our commitment to excellence in the academic and student life of the University," University President Father Edward Malloy said.

University spokesperson Matt Storin said the budget cuts primarily resulted from the decrease in the endowment.

"The economic trend has affected individual contributions from alumni and other outside sources," Storin said.

A portion of the University's operating costs comes directly from the funds generated by the endowment. When next year's budget takes effect on July 1, funds for academic and student life pursuits will be decreased by 5 percent and all other departments will see a 7 percent decrease.

"Individual departments are going to have to make their own decisions about how they

are going to implement these changes," Storin said. "I don't expect drastic overhauls."

Yet, with any decrease in funding, there are some questions as to how departments are going to deal with the changes in their budgets.

The Academic Council recently approved a reorganization of the Economics Department that will split the current department into two separate ones, Economics and

Econometrics and a new Economics and Policy Study. Current Economics Department Chair Richard Jensen will head the new Department of Economics and Econometrics and a chair will be chosen over the summer for the

Department of Economics and Policy Studies.

"The restructuring went forward with the understanding that the budget cuts were happening," Jensen said. "We're going to work around them."

Mark Pilkinton, chair of the film, television and theatre department, expressed concern about the budget cuts that his department will face and how FTT will pay for all of its current planned projects.

"Everyone is really concerned. [We're] having to watch things very carefully," Pilkinton said. "The depart-

ment is in more of a holding pattern than anything."

Paul Weithman, chair of the philosophy department, believes that Notre Dame's situation is more positive as compared to other schools.

"Unlike other universities, Notre Dame has not had to impose a hiring freeze," Weithman said. "We are very grateful that the University has continued to make resources available."

According to Weithman, the Philosophy Department will not experience any salary cuts. Instead, funding will be cut from the support budget — funds that are allotted for entertainment, postage and other miscellaneous departmental costs.

"What we will have next year in the support budget will be less in real dollars than what the department had in the early-1980s, a time when it wasn't nearly as recognized or accomplished," Weithman said.

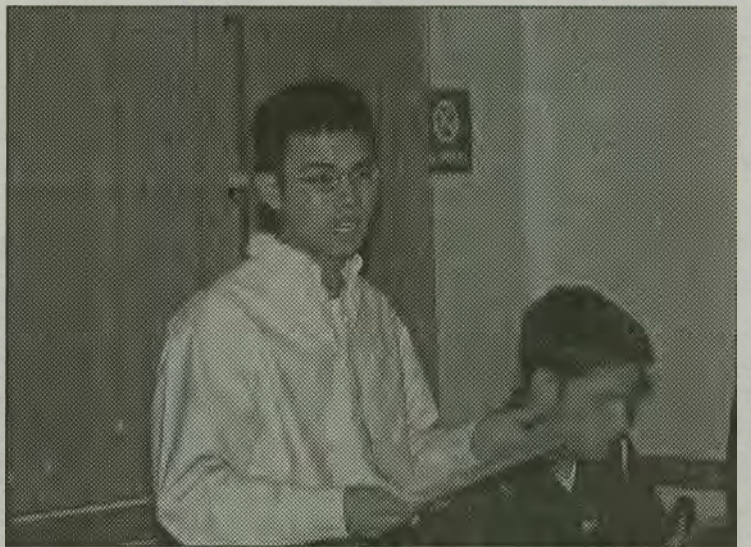
However, Weithman said he was optimistic that planned budget cuts would not drastically affect the University or its academic reputation.

"Talent [faculty, academic, and athletic] becomes available when other universities are in a pinch," Weithman said.

As part of an attempt to compensate for the decrease in the endowment, both tuition and room and board will be raised by 6.5 percent for next year, bringing the total undergraduate cost to \$34,100.

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Senators discuss Cabinet authority



Observer file photo

Then sophomore class president Jeremy Lao speaks at a Senate meeting. Senators discussed Executive Cabinet's proposal to limit Senate's power on Wednesday.

By MATT BRAMANTI
News Writer

In response to concerns over each group's authority, student senators discussed Executive Cabinet officials' suggestion that the Cabinet should serve as a check on the Senate's power.

Some members had perceived animosity between the two organizations, stemming from different views over the new dance policy. In February, senators directed outgoing student body president Libby Bishop to recommend reinstating dances in her report to the Board of Trustees. Bishop's report did not make that recommenda-

tion, leading senators to characterize the report as watered-down.

Seth O'Donnell, incoming president of the Club Coordination Council, had questioned the effectiveness of the Senate during what he characterized as a "brainstorming session" at the March 25 Executive Cabinet meeting. "I'm not sure the Senate accurately represents a majority of students' views," O'Donnell said at the time.

However, O'Donnell clarified his remarks, which he said were spoken while "looking for some possible ways that Exec Cab could ... hold a more productive role."

see EXECUTIVE/page 4

ND professor invents new 'smart' wheelchair

By NICOLA BRUNICK
News Writer

"Smart" wheelchairs, the brainchild of a Notre Dame professor, may soon be roving pathways.

Steve Skaar, professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering, invented a "smart" wheelchair, which has the ability to remember pre-programmed routes and travel to specific locations at the request of the user.

The chair uses video cameras, wheel rotation sensors and computer technology to navigate its way along various paths throughout a user's home.

Skaar developed the new wheelchair along with graduate research assistant Guillermo Del Castillo and sophomore research assistant Tim Sheehan.

Skaar began work on the project in 1990 when he was approached by a company work-

ing to create automatic floor maintenance equipment.

"I wrote a proposal and they didn't fund it," he said. "So I worked on the project without any research support in little bits and pieces over the years."

Last year, Skaar received a two-year, \$200,000 grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Rehabilitation Research and Development Service in Washington, D.C. to use his navigation technologies to create an automated wheelchair.

Skaar says his creation represents a more moderate approach to such navigational technology.

"More ambitious projects are trying to be fully automated," he said. "Ours relies on a prior teaching event."

Before the chair is used, sensors must be placed along the walls and obstacles in the user's home.

see CHAIR/page 4

PREPARING FOR BOOKSTORE



STEPHANIE GRAMMENS/The Observer

From left, DJ Ohns, John Anderson, Dave Cook and Matt Feucht shoot hoops at the bookstore basketball courts in preparation for the world's biggest outdoor 5 on 5 basketball tournament.

INSIDE COLUMN

A lesson from the Dartmaster

With all the stress and hair-pulling that accompanies this wonderful darting time of the year, there still exists a beacon of hope for all of us.

"The Dartmaster," as she has affectionately come to be known by her inner circle, epitomizes our dart-time hero.

Dolores Diaz

Viewpoint Copy Editor

This pillar of darting strength courageously dedicates days before her dart time to contemplation of the complexity that is the major requirement, convenient scheduling and interesting classes, in order to be most effective during the 15-minute window.

However, it is not these qualities that make this individual worthy of such an honorable title — if they were, we'd already be Dartmasters.

The true glory of the Dartmaster lies in her ability to persevere in the face of darting adversity. She is consistently faced with a last chance dart time.

Naturally, when her dart time finally rolls around, the slate must be wiped completely clean — all strategic analysis has been in vain. First choices have inevitably failed, as have second, third and so on. She could never have foreseen this.

It is at this point, when all seems lost, that the Dartmaster shows her true colors. Despite darting adversity, the Dartmaster refuses to let herself become a victim.

She is persistent, enduring and effective. With dart time draining, she is transformed into an entity known as "The Dartmaster" and becomes enthralled in constructing an entirely new schedule with the lightning speed and effectiveness of a well-shot arrow. This is her true medium — the moment must be embraced.

Once her dart time has come and gone, friends stand by with mouths agape and silent applause. Once again, the Dartmaster has proved herself. Not one class before 9:30 a.m. and not one day to be suffered without a lunch break.

The dragon lies at her feet. It is thus that the Dartmaster becomes a heroine to aspire to, and an individual to be admired.

The next time you find yourself dreading the arising 15-minute glimpse of hell, take a deep breath and relax. Know that out there exists a vision of darting perfection — a light in the dark.

Embrace the moment that is truly yours; do not fear it. After all, these are the times in which heroes are made. Be one of them. If the Dartmaster can do it, so can you; there is hope for the Notre Dame student yet.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Dolores Diaz at ddiaz@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

In Wednesday's Observer, the "What's Cooking" section incorrectly stated the North Dining Hall was serving cheese and pepperoni freedom bread pizza and almond french toast. It should have stated the dining hall was serving cheese and pepperoni French bread pizza and almond French toast. The Observer regrets the error.

WHAT'S INSIDE

CAMPUS NEWS	WORLD & NATION	BUSINESS NEWS	VIEWPOINT	SCENE	SPORTS
Lecturer speaks on war experiences in Sri Lanka	Troops come within 20 miles of Baghdad	Mystery illness threatens Hong Kong	Critiquing Michael Moore's filmmaking	Scene looks at previous Best Picture winners	Womens tennis defeats Illini on the road
V i s a k a Dharmadasa spoke Wednesday at Saint Mary's about her experiences of war in Sri Lanka.	American forces fought to within 20 miles of the Iraqi capital Wednesday.	Severe acute respiratory syndrome threatens economic activity in Asia.	V i e w p o i n t columnist Peter Wicks talks about Michael Moore's sometimes controversial filmmaking.	Scene columnist Jack Watkins rates the Academy's previous Best Picture award winners.	The Notre Dame womens tennis team defeated the University of Illinois 6-1 Wednesday.
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WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ND

- ◆ International Festival Week: French Coffee House All day at the Center for Social Concerns Coffeehouse
- ◆ Softball vs. Loyola University 4-6:30 p.m. at Ivy Field
- ◆ Breen-Phillips Luau Picnic 6-8 p.m. at North Quad
- ◆ Acoustic Cafe 9-11 p.m. at LaFortune Notre Dame Room

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SMC

- ◆ Mass 7 a.m. at Church of the Loretto
- ◆ Alumni Board Meeting 8 a.m. at Noble Family Dining Hall

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

Car for towed illegal parking

A visitor's vehicle was towed for illegal parking from the Hesburgh Center for International Studies Tuesday evening.

Parking decal stolen

A University employee reported the theft of his parking decal from his unlocked vehicle while parked in the ROTC South lot Monday. There are no suspects.

NDSP investigates harassment

NDSP is investigating a report of harassing phone call received in O'Neill Hall Wednesday.

Abandoned bike returned

An abandoned bike was found near Carroll hall Wednesday and turned into NDSP for safe-keeping.

Bike stolen from Dillon Courtyard

A student reported that his unlocked was stolen from the courtyard between Dillon and Alumni Halls Tuesday.

-compiled from the NDSP crime blotter

WHAT'S COOKING

North Dining Hall

Today's Lunch: Roast top round, champagne rice pilaf, brown sauce, turkey gravy, whipped potatoes, corn, cherry crisp, baked Cajun pollock, cheese and vegetable pie, broccoli cuts, sliced carrots, winter-blend vegetables, oatmeal, bacon, scrambled eggs, hash browns, crinkle fries, applesauce

Today's Dinner: Roasted turkey breast, bread stuffing, brown sauce, turkey gravy, whipped potatoes, peas, cherry crisp, baked sweet potatoes, tuna casserole, corn, sugar-snap peas, stewed tomatoes, wilted spinach, steamed vegetable plate

South Dining Hall







Today's Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, cauliflower, BBQ chicken, grilled tuna with lemon, roast turkey breast, whipped potatoes, cut corn, long grain and wild rice, bread stuffing, baked potatoes, broccoli cuts, baby carrots, cut green beans, chicken breast, seasoned fries, onion rings, California eldorado

Today's Dinner: Spinach pie, green bean casserole, fried perch, roast top round, herb-sauteed mushrooms, whipped potatoes, cut corn, baked potatoes, broccoli cuts, baby carrots, cut green beans, Cajun chicken breast sandwich

Saint Mary's Dining Hall

Today's Lunch: Vegan burritos, Mexican rice, herbed pasta, marinara sauce, honey baked onions, zesty oven fries, peas and mushrooms, rolled broccoli pizza, cheese pizza, bread sticks, bacon, egg, and cheddar muffin, grilled beef and pineapple salad, sliced ham, turkey breast, hummus, brown sugar cookies

Today's Dinner: Grilled chicken breast, Cantonese tofu, vegetable lasagna, marinated bean salad, fennel pita toast, omelets cooked to order with hash browns, meatloaf, roasted yukon potatoes, green beans, sausage pizza, cheese pizza, carrot cake

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
												
	HIGH 65	LOW 50	HIGH 53	LOW 50	HIGH 58	LOW 30	HIGH 45	LOW 25	HIGH 50	LOW 45	HIGH 55	LOW 27

Atlanta 80 / 55 Boston 50 / 37 Chicago 68 / 48 Denver 62 / 29 Houston 80 / 64 Los Angeles 66 / 50 Minneapolis 48 / 34 New York 56 / 47 Philadelphia 70 / 52 Phoenix 75 / 49 Seattle 48 / 38 St. Louis 73 / 53 Tampa 83 / 65 Washington 74 / 59

Glee Club may face disciplinary action

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

Members of the Notre Dame Glee Club may face disciplinary action after a Glee Club member allegedly mooned other Glee Club members and high school students at Suffield High School in Suffield, Conn., where the Club performed during their spring break tour.

According to Tom Jones, principal of Suffield High School, a member of the Glee Club mooned other students in a rehearsal room before the Glee Club's performance.

"It was before they went on in one of the rehearsal rooms," said Jones. "It was an incident of poor judgment."

Members of the Glee Club did not return phone calls seeking comment.

After receiving complaints from students, Jones said he consulted with local Notre Dame alumni to decide on a course of action and then wrote a letter to David Moss, associate vice president for student

affairs at the University.

"I also had two telephone conversations with Dr. Moss in which he apologized for the incident and assured me that he would take appropriate action," said Jones.

Lori Maurer, assistant director of Residence Life, said that her office was looking into the incident but could not comment on any specific action that might be taken. Maurer noted, however, that Residence Life can only reprimand individual students and cannot take action against an entire group. However, Maurer said that Students Affairs or the director of an individual organization could reprimand an entire group.

Moss said that Student Affairs is not currently involved with the incident and that Residence Life would handle the investigation.

Suffield is the hometown of Notre Dame Glee Club member Garrett Westhoven, said Glee Club director Dan Stowe.

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STUDENT SENATE

Group outlines new approach

By MAUREEN REYNOLDS
News Writer

In their first meeting of the 2003-04 term Wednesday, the new senators discussed their plans for the coming year and the issues that they wish to consider.

Pat Hallahan, student body president, outlined what he believed should mark a successful Senate and stressed the importance of the senators' involvement with the University administration, saying that it was the only way they could bring change to campus policies.

Hallahan said that next year the University would begin fundraising initiatives for campus building projects and said senators must represent student opinion to the administration on important issues such as fundraising.

"This University is for the students," said Hallahan. "Look at the people you're representing and see what they need to make this University better."

Hallahan also asked the senators to look beyond campus issues.

"Think big and look for ways to make a difference in the world," he said. "We can make a difference both here and outside Notre Dame. Don't be afraid to do it."

The new Senate will begin working next week on cam-

pus issues.

In their new positions, senators said they feel a sense of obligation to their peers to represent student opinion and deal with issues that are most important to students.

"I wanted to give back to my dorm and represent what the dorm feels that we need to do and help in improving student life," said John Laskowitz, Dillon senator.

Senators also said they are now in a position to affect campus life and they want to

use that position in a positive way.

Jordan Bongiovanni, Cavanaugh senator said, "I wanted to be in the Senate because I know they

accomplish a lot on campus and I wanted to be involved in student government at Notre Dame. The outgoing Senate had a lot of really interesting things that they were working on and we're really excited to pick those up and start working on things of our own."

In addition to the 26 new senators, two senators will be serving in their positions for a second term. Kaitlyn Redfield, Pangborn senator, and Brin Anderson, Howard senator, said they wanted to stay involved with the Senate for another year in order to see that a focus remains on important campus issues.

"I thought that there were a lot of issues started last year and I really wanted to be a

part of making sure those things got accomplished. I want to make sure the in-hall dance policy is favorably represented," Anderson said.

Redfield also expressed the need for the Senate to consider more important student issues.

"I think that there are a lot of issues that still need to be addressed on this campus," Redfield said. "I think that Student Senate has a lot of resources to effect change."

In other Senate news:

♦ The Senate unanimously approved four new members of the Office of the President. Emily Chin, who served as Student Union Secretary this past year, will serve as Chief of Staff. Kate Schlosser, will serve as Academic Delegate. Mario Braz, currently working in the Office of Business Operations at Notre Dame, will become Controller and Tiara Nelson, Walsh Hall's 2002-03 representative to the Freshman Council, will serve as Secretary.

♦ Senators also unanimously approved a new member to the Judicial Council. James Terilli will serve in the position of Student Union Parliamentarian for the 2003-04 term.

♦ In the first three resolutions passed in the new term, Senators bestowed the title of "Emeritus" on outgoing Student Body President Libby Bishop, Student Body Vice President Trip Foley and Chief of Staff Henry Scott.

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BLEU

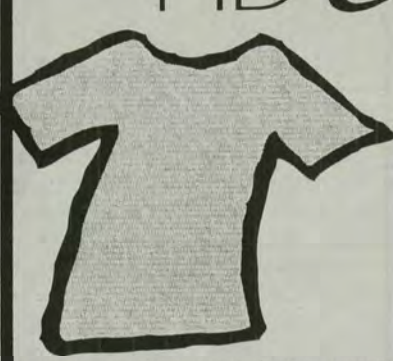


NDcinema FILM, TELEVISION, AND THEATRE

THURSDAY, APRIL 3 ♦ 7:00 P.M.


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Mall

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Kids These Days talent show

sunday, april 6, 2003
1-3pm

jordan auditorium
admission

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mendoza college of business
donations welcome

Chair

continued from page 1

"These are used as signposts to mark the paths and allow the chair to and infer where it is relative to the center of the path," said Skaar.

Then the chair must be manually walked through trajectories of all the possible destinations in the user's home. The computer component of the chair can recall these trajectories when the user requests a travel location. When users want to engage a certain path, they listen to a voice synthesizer read off the various possible destinations and then select one by either blowing through a straw, using a bite switch or by speaking aloud, depending on their level of ability.

Sheehan and Del Castillo are actively involved in the project. Sheehan primarily runs laboratory tests on the chair here on campus while Del Castillo did much of the coding for the software that runs it. Del Castillo chose to focus his thesis on his work with the chair project. Sheehan became involved because he was looking for a way to supplement his engineering classes with experience.

"I was looking for some experience beyond what I was learning in the classroom," Sheehan said. "I wanted to feel like I was actually accomplishing something other than just in class."

Currently the Department of Veterans' Affairs has applied for a patent for the chair, but Skaar said more work must be done on the prototype model before the chair would be ready for commercial use.

"Right now we are working to deal with narrow confines and avoiding obstacles if they are introduced after the path has been taught," he said.

Currently the chair can only be used on pre-programmed paths and cannot be used outside.

Contact Nicola Brunick
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Speaker discusses war experiences

By MEGHAN CASSIDY
News Writer

Women must work together to help promote peace and conflict resolution in the world's war-torn areas, said Visaka Dharmadasa, a woman from Sri Lanka who has dedicated herself to educating others about personal ethics and the realities of war.

Dharmadasa's talk Wednesday was the first in the College's Women as Peacemakers Series.

Dharmadasa explained how her role as a peacemaker was impacted by her role as a mother. Her two eldest sons are soldiers in Sri Lanka, which has been involved in a civil war for the past 20 years.

"The war was at my

doorstep," she said. "People asked how I can be so passionate about my work. It is my life."

In an attempt to raise awareness of the reality of civil war and the importance of peace, Dharmadasa has become involved in many organizations that promote conflict resolution.

Dharmadasa is the founder of Parents of Servicemen Missing-in-Action, chair of the Association of War-Affected Women, secretary of the Kandy Association for War-Affected Families and a participant in the Women Waging Peace program at Harvard University.

Dharmadasa said her work was based on building honesty and trust within any relationships and fostering respect for all individuals involved. She is particularly

concerned with helping the mothers of soldiers.

"Nobody took me seriously initially but I knew they would respect me as a mother and this gave me courage to cross the barriers," Dharmadasa said.

Dharmadasa helped to publish a booklet that emphasizes the importance of respect for the identification tags soldiers wear.

Additionally, Dharmadasa is involved with peace dialogues, support groups and marches that focus on women. She wants them to come together not only share stories and find comfort together but also to make a difference in the peace process.

"Developing an active participation of war-affected women is important because we need a space to be together and support each other.

We are shouting for peace from the bottoms of our throats and we want to be involved as women in the official peace process," said Dharmadasa. "We are shouting for peace from the bottoms of our throats."

Dharmadasa's talk was sponsored by the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership and the Department of Justice Education. The series will continue next year and focus on women like Dharmadasa who work to promote peace and intercultural dialogue in their daily work.

Dharmadasa will be at Saint Mary's throughout this week, lecturing in classes and further sharing her experiences with students.

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Executive

continued from page 1

"I wasn't trying to attack the Senate. I think the Senate stands for very good things," O'Donnell said.

He denied the notion of a power struggle between the two organizations and cautioned against making false judgments.

"Jumping to conclusions is rarely good for anyone," said O'Donnell.

Outgoing student body vice president Trip Foley likewise dismissed suggestions that the Cabinet and Senate were not working together.

"There's really been no clash," Foley said.

His successor, incoming student body vice president Jeremy Lao, said that cooperation between the two bodies is important for a well-functioning Student Union.

"I don't want to see Exec Cab try to take more power away from the Senate," Lao said. "Leaders [of both bodies] should keep in mind the betterment of student life in general."

At least one senator voiced strong distrust of the cabinet, however. Outgoing St. Edward's senator Sean Williams said he is concerned about the authority of Cabinet members.

"I don't see why an unelected body should get more power than the Senate, which really represents the stu-

dents," Williams said.

Other senators viewed the Executive Cabinet differently. Outgoing Pasquerilla West senator Sarah Bates expressed hope that the two bodies could cooperate.

"As we're all members of student government, we should all work together toward a common goal," Bates said.

She also cautioned Cabinet members who might seek to limit the Senate's power.

"A check is totally unnecessary," Bates said. "Executive Cabinet should let us do the job we were elected to do."

Breen-Phillips senator Joanna Cornwell agreed that the Cabinet should not become involved with Senate's authority.

"I think the idea of a check is ridiculous," Cornwell said.

Both Bates and Cornwell agreed that senators and Cabinet members should work together for the benefit of the student body.

"Both bodies could work together to further student interests," said Cornwell.

O'Donnell echoed the sentiment, calling for cooperation among all areas of the Student Union.

"The goal — at least as I see it — of student government leaders should be to know what students want and then work together to best bring positive change to this cam-

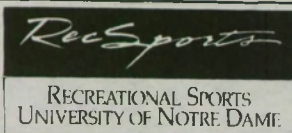
Contact Matt Bramanti at
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Congratulations
Telis on your
birthday!

Keep challenging
yourself!

Love,
Dad, Mom, and Eirene



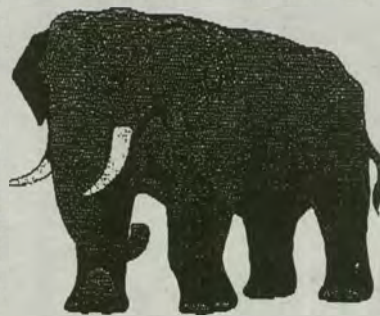
RecSports has openings for this summer and the 2003-2004 academic year in the following positions:

Student Supervisors
Front Desk Supervisors
Fitness Room Supervisors
Issue Room Supervisors
Lifeguards

Any one who is interested in applying for these positions should stop by the RecSports office and fill out an application. Office hours are 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-5:00. First consideration will be given to those who apply before April 10, 2003.

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(1,000 square feet apartments available at Notre Dame Apartments)

WORLD & NATION

Thursday, April 3, 2003

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

page 5

IRAQ

American forces drive within sight of Baghdad

Associated Press

SOUTH OF BAGHDAD

U.S. forces fought to within sight of the Baghdad skyline 20 miles away Wednesday, seizing key bridges and shattering two divisions of the vaunted Republican Guard as they thrust north from two directions — the Army from the southwest, Marines from the southeast.

Along the way, some Iraqi soldiers shed their uniforms for plain robes, and smiling civilians proffered the troops Iraqi-brand cigarettes.

"It feels better going north," said Marine Cpl. John Edwards of Clovis, N.M. "The sooner we do it, the sooner we go home."

Thousands of Marines who had protected the U.S. Army's eastern flank along the Euphrates River turned sharply east, joining other Marine forces moving quickly along the Tigris River southeast of Baghdad. At the same time, Army troops southwest of Baghdad moved to within 20 miles of the city, said a senior military official in Washington.

"Our guys are able to see the skyline. That's how close we've gotten," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But confidence over the steady northward advance was tempered by fear of the unknown: What

does Saddam Hussein's regime have in store for coalition forces as they approach the capital?

Lead U.S. infantry units donned their chemical suits after capturing a bridge 40 miles southwest of Baghdad. Some Marines began adding their protective boots to the suits they already wear, and Marine helicopter pilots were advised for the first time to be ready to don chemical suits at a moment's notice — now that the so-called red zone, the range of guns and missiles defending Baghdad, has been breached.

U.S. officials warned that a cornered Saddam might resort to unleashing his worst weapons. "There may be a trigger line where the regime deems [a] sufficient threat to use weapons of mass destruction," said U.S. Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks.

An officer with U.S. Central Command explained that the "red zone" begins on an imaginary line running east from Karbala, about 50 miles south of Baghdad on the Euphrates River, to Kut on the Tigris River southeast of Baghdad.

The United States believes Iraq has mortar shells, artillery and short-range missiles capable of carrying chemical weapons, including the FROG-7 — used to carry mustard gas during the Iran-Iraq war — which has a 40-mile range.

Iraq denies it still has weapons



AFP Photo

Sergeant Matthew Gadzallinski from Milwaukee, Wis., directs his squad as they clear a captured Iraqi army outpost on the outskirts of Baghdad. The division continues to close in on the Iraqi capital after crossing the Euphrates River and engaging Iraqi Republican Guard units.

of mass destruction, and U.S. troops have yet to locate such weapons, although they've found hundreds of chemical protective suits.

One thing was certain to be waiting for coalition forces in Baghdad: whatever remains of the Republican Guard, Saddam's best-trained and best-equipped

forces. U.S. officials said Wednesday that two of the six primary units had been largely eliminated as an effective fighting force.

Divided Supreme Court debates affirmative action case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Supreme Court justices vigorously debated the role of race in higher education Tuesday in a pair of cases that could rewrite the rules for affirmative action on campus and beyond.

The justices aggressively questioned lawyers, focusing on likely consequences of discrimination and educational opportunity.

It was the first time in 25 years that the court had taken up the polarizing question of racial preferences in admissions. People eager to get courtroom seats lined up hours before the cases were heard and a crowd estimated by police at between 5,000 and

7,000 people gathered outside and on the nearby Mall.

Three white applicants rejected by the University of Michigan and its law school are challenging the school's admissions policies as unconstitutional racial discrimination. They contend that black, Hispanic and American Indian candidates with the same qualifications are given preferential treatment.

"I have to say that in looking at your program it looks to me like this is just a disguised quota," Justice Anthony M. Kennedy told a university lawyer.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who with Kennedy is considered a crucial swing vote on the issue, asked skeptical questions of the white applicants' attorney.

"You say [race] can't be a factor at all. Is that it — is that your position, that it cannot be one of many factors?" O'Connor asked lawyer Kirk Kolbo.

Told yes, O'Connor replied that the constitutional argument isn't so simple.

"You're speaking in absolutes and it isn't quite that," she said. "I think we have given recognition to the use of race in a variety of settings."

The court amassed more than 100 friend of the court filings on the affirmative action cases, an apparent record. Most of the filings backed the idea that affirmative action has a place in American life, from the classroom to the boardroom.

In another measure of the issue's resonance, the court agreed to release an audio

tape of the arguments the same day. The court had done that only one other time, after the last presidential election.

The race issue is awkward for the Bush administration, whose most conservative supporters hope the cases will spell the end of all preferences or set-asides for minorities. Bush has not gone that far, pointing instead to what he calls racially neutral ways to achieve campus diversity.

The Michigan undergraduate school uses a point system to screen the thousands of applicants it receives each year. A minority member can get a 20 point bonus out of a the system's possible 150, while various measures of academic performance, extracurricular activity and other attributes are generally worth less.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

American POW leaves Iraq after rescue:

Pfc. Jessica Lynch left Iraq on a stretcher Wednesday after U.S. commandos, acting on a CIA tip, rescued the prisoner of war. But the operation also brought sad news — the troops found 11 corpses, some believed to be Americans. Lynch, a 19-year-old Army supply clerk, arrived at a U.S. air base in southwestern Germany on a C-17 transport plane late Wednesday for treatment at a U.S. military medical center. Her condition was not disclosed, but U.S. officials in Kuwait said she was believed to have broken legs, a broken arm and at least one gunshot wound.

WHO to probe mystery illness in China:

Under escalating global pressure, China agreed Wednesday to let international health investigators visit the place where the mystery illness apparently began — the southern province of Guangdong. Officials also updated the nation's death toll by a dozen to 46 as they revealed the illness had spread to other regions.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Grand Jury wraps up Church probe:

As a state grand jury wraps up its investigation of the clergy sex abuse scandal that touched off a nationwide crisis, alleged victims say it appears unlikely any indictments will be issued against the Boston archdiocese. A spokeswoman for State Attorney General Thomas Reilly confirmed Wednesday the investigation is nearing an end, nearly a year after the grand jury began questioning witnesses including Cardinal Bernard Law.

Cuban exiles denounce crackdown:

A leading Cuban exile group denounced a crackdown by the Cuban government on dissidents. The Cuban government has jailed dozens of activists, members of political opposition groups and independent journalists since last month on grounds they were conspiring with the United States to undermine the government.

Race riot murder defendant enters plea:

A white man charged in the 1969 murder of a young black woman during the city's convulsive race riots pleaded no contest Wednesday to attempted murder and conspiracy. Ezra T. Slick, 53, entered the plea over his role in the slaying of Lillie Belle Allen, of Aiken, S.C., at the hands of a white mob girded for war with blacks. His case was the only one pending in Allen's slaying.

Mystery illness raises concerns in U.S.:

A scare over a mystery illness on an airliner in California turned out to be a false alarm, but the cautious reaction by officials suggested that serious concerns about the disease have made their way to America's shores. An American Airlines flight from Tokyo that landed in San Jose, Calif., was briefly halted after the captain reported five people on board appeared to have symptoms of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS. None of the five turned out to have the disease.

IRAQ

Missile hits Navy fighter jet

Associated Press

Iraq shot down a U.S. Navy F/A-18C Hornet with a surface-to-air missile Wednesday, military officials said.

There was no immediate word on the fate of the pilot. Statements released from U.S. Central Command said the twin-engine jet, flying from the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk, went down at about 3:45 p.m. EST.

The plane went down near Karbala, a city about 50 miles south of Baghdad where fighting raged between U.S. Army forces

and the Iraqi Republican Guard. Iraqi forces shot down an Army Black Hawk helicopter in the same area Wednesday.

Lt. Brook DeWalt, a spokesman for the Kitty Hawk, said the Hornet had flown a bombing mission over northern Iraq Wednesday. Other planes flying over Iraq at the same time reported seeing surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery fire in the same area in which the plane disappeared.

Central Command said the downing is being investigated. Officials would not comment on search and rescue operations, but both Central

Command statements said the military is committed to accounting for all coalition personnel.

It was the first American fighter jet shot down during the war on Iraq. The Iraqis have downed several pilotless surveillance drones.

Navy and Marine pilots fly the F/A-18 Hornet from aircraft carriers. The supersonic jets are armed with a 20mm cannon and can carry a wide range of bombs and missiles.

The easily maneuverable Hornet can operate as a fighter jet, shooting down enemy planes, or as an attack plane, bombing enemy targets.

Film focuses on global poverty

By MEGAN O'NEIL
News Writer

In an effort to increase awareness about global poverty, writer and producer Gerard Thomas Straub presented a film documentary that gave viewers an in depth look at poor communities.

The presentation, entitled "When Did I See Hunger" was the highlight of several events planned at Saint Mary's for Hunger and Poverty Awareness Week.

A former Hollywood producer of shows such as General Hospital, Straub became interested in documenting world poverty after meeting and talking to a group of Franciscan monks while on a trip in Europe.

"For most of my life, I was a television producer. But I just couldn't do what I was doing anymore," said Straub.

Narrated by Martin Sheen, the film shows a collection of black and white still photos taken by Straub. His travels took him to slums and shanty towns in such places as India, the Philippines, Jamaica, Kenya, Brazil, Mexico and the United States.

"The first time I went to Calcutta I stepped off the plane with this big bag of stuff and it was like I had stepped onto another planet. I had more in my bag then these people had at all, I felt like such an idiot," said Straub.

Straub said he could not even pick up his camera on the first day and ended up giving most of his things away.

One section of the film showed

images of Payatas, the mountainous garbage dump on the outskirts of Manila in the Philippines. The trash heap is home for 75,000 people, the film explained. These people support themselves by scavenging through the waste of their fellow Filipinos in search of anything that could be sold to junk shops. After heavy rains in 2000, the heap collapsed and garbage landslides crushed hundreds of people to death.

The film also explained that children make up a significant part of the world's poor. The documentary included many photos of toddlers with bloated stomachs and noted the high child mortality rate in these places.

"Every minute of every day, 20 children die of hunger or disease related to hunger," the film said.

The film also showed images of people afflicted by leprosy and the effects of the disease in Jamaica and Brazil.

"I did not expect to see leprosy at all," said Straub. "I thought it was a disease from the middle ages."

And it is awareness and compassion, the film says, that are the most important components of combating desperate hunger and poverty. Straub chooses to look at it from a spiritual point of view.

"Our faith requires that we care for the poor," he said. "There has to be a fundamental awareness about the conditions of other people."

Contact Megan O'Neil at
onci0907@saintmarys.edu

TV Guide affected by time

Associated Press

At age 50, TV Guide is showing signs of maturity. Circulation is down amid competition from newspapers that offer their own listings and TV shows that provide a steady stream of celebrity news.

But TV Guide has also adapted to the changes in the media business in recent years, with online listings, an interactive program guide and a television channel that make the most of its instantly recognizable name and logo.

Founded by Philadelphia publisher Walter Annenberg, the television viewer's bible debuted April 3, 1953 in 10 Midwest and East Coast cities with Lucille Ball's young son Desi Arnaz Jr. on the cover. Now owned by Gemstar-TV Guide International Inc., it has 209 regional editions nationwide and just over 9 million subscribers, according to the latest figures from the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

The magazine is now just one part of TV Guide's domain. The company estimates that it reaches about 100 million users each week, when all of its various formats are considered

— the Web site, www.tvguide.com; the TV Guide Channel on cable and the TV Guide Interactive digital program listings.

As more home technology develops around the television screen, TV Guide's mission is to help readers make the most of their leisure time, not just tell them what to watch, said John Loughlin, president of the TV Guide Publishing Group.

To that end, the company plans a redesign of the magazine to make the listings easier to read. It will also have shorter stories and expanded coverage of home-entertainment products, such as DVDs and high-definition TV sets, Loughlin said.

It will also direct readers to the Web site and on-screen guides for the latest news.

"The magazine, because of its history and its size, it's at the heart of the brand, and we've got to be sure that these different platforms, these different media reinforce the same set of messages," Loughlin said.

TV Guide has a place in the heart of baby boomers who grew up in the early days of TV, and that nostalgia has helped make issues of TV Guide collectors' items. Vintage

editions can command up to \$100 on the Internet auction site eBay.

"You would come to know the cover of that thing because it would stay with you for a week," said Robert Thompson, director of Syracuse University's Center for the Study of Popular Television.

But by expanding to other media, TV Guide is appealing to younger readers who are more drawn to online and interactive formats than many boomers are.

Most consumers are already looking to multiple sources for news and entertainment, said Rebecca McPheters, head of the New York magazine consulting firm McPheters & Co. Inc.

Apply for the Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D. Collaborative Community-Based Research Mini-Grant

The Center for Social Concerns is offering a Mini-Grant in the amount of \$5000, awarded in two phases, to support a joint faculty-student-community research partnership addressing a social challenge articulated by a community organization. It may support the planning and development of a new project, the expansion of an existing one, the assessment of a project, or the dissemination of findings from a project that is ongoing or in its final stages.

The purposes of the award are to foster faculty-student-community partnerships that

- * result in measurable, positive impact in the South Bend area;
- * reflect the investment of faculty expertise in the local community; and
- * offer students community-based learning opportunities that promote civic responsibility.



The proposal should be submitted by **Monday, April 7, 2003**. Please go to our website at centerforsocialconcerns.nd.edu for more information about applying.



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THE
OBSERVER

BUSINESS

Thursday, April 3, 2003

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

page 7

MARKET RECAP

Market Watch April 2

Dow Jones		
8,285.06	↑	+215.20
NASDAQ		
1,396.72	↑	+48.42
S&P 500		
880.90	↑	+22.42
AMEX		
828.93	↓	+4.72
NYSE		
4,897.97	↑	+104.41

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
MICROSOFT CORP (MSFT)	+5.63	+1.37	25.72
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	+5.98	+0.66	13.64
INTEL CORP (INTC)	+6.70	+1.10	17.52
SUN MICROSYSTEM (SUNW)	+3.87	+0.13	3.49
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	+6.51	+0.70	11.46

IN BRIEF

Raytheon may up missile production

Defense contractor Raytheon Corp. said it is in talks with the Navy to accelerate production of the next generation of Tomahawk cruise missiles after two weeks of war in Iraq have depleted stocks of the existing model.

In response to queries from the Navy, Lexington-based Raytheon has said it could accelerate production of the new Tactical Tomahawks, to be manufactured in Tucson, Ariz., from 38 to 50 per month if funding becomes available, Raytheon spokeswoman Jennifer Allen said Wednesday.

The Navy has said it plans to spend as much as \$2 billion for 1,353 of the next-generation weapons, which are scheduled to become operational in the summer of 2004. That date could be brought forward.

Raytheon is under two contracts totaling \$260.5 million to build 192 of the new missiles.

Allen said it is unknown whether the Navy would order further missiles or just ask for accelerated delivery of those currently under contract.

Tyco sues former CFO for \$400M

Tyco International Ltd. has filed a \$400 million lawsuit against former chief financial officer Mark Swartz, claiming he looted the conglomerate for his personal gain.

Swartz already faces criminal charges of theft and fraud filed by government prosecutors, who say he and former CEO L. Dennis Kozlowski stole \$600 million from Tyco. Both men have pleaded innocent.

The suit accuses Swartz of using Tyco funds to buy a \$16.5 million Manhattan apartment, tickets to Miami Heat basketball and Florida Panthers hockey games, cable television service, country club memberships and concert tickets for Billy Joel and Elton John.

It also accuses Swartz of accepting more than \$134 million in pay from 1997 to 2002 for "services that were never rendered" and awarding himself tens of millions of dollars in unauthorized bonuses.

SARS hurts Asian economies

◆ Mystery illness strains economic activity across Asia

Associated Press

HONG KONG

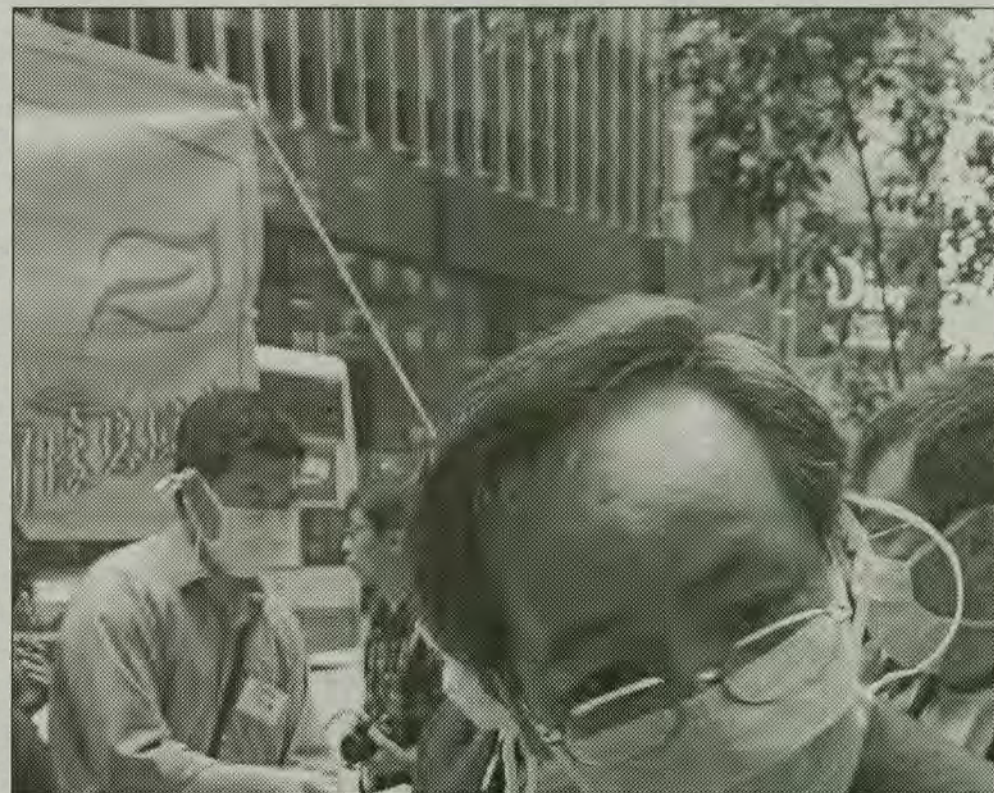
A mysterious life-threatening illness is straining economic activity across Asia, forcing manufacturers to temporarily shut down, bankers to cancel face-to-face meetings and visitors to stay away.

Near-term productivity will undoubtedly suffer, delivering the harshest blow to the struggling travel industry. Economists say the outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, will hurt much of the retail and service sectors as consumers avoid malls, restaurants and other forms of entertainment.

The greatest financial impact, so far, has been felt in Hong Kong and Singapore, where the incidence of infection is highest. But financial analysts are also keeping an eye out for signs of the disease's spread in mainland China, South Korea and Vietnam.

"The outbreak of SARS is significant enough to affect growth across the region," said Merrill Lynch economist T.J. Bond.

Bond and other financial experts on Wednesday lowered their 2003 economic growth forecasts for East Asia, which excludes Japan, by 0.6 percent. Those predictions assume the spread of SARS will be under control by early summer, a hopeful scenario given the current environment of fear and ignorance surrounding



AFP PHOTO

Hong Kong politicians hand out free protective face masks. Travel to Asia and tourism in the region has been hit hard by the outbreak.

the illness.

Motorola and Hewlett Packard briefly closed factories in Singapore and Hong Kong, respectively, to disinfect them after workers showed symptoms. Intel canceled a trade show in Taiwan and General Motors scrapped plans to have journalists tour its operations in South Korea.

Several major banks shut down branches near Hong Kong's Amoy Gardens, an apartment complex where the government imposed a 10-day quarantine Monday after reporting about 200 cases of the disease.

Such outbreaks have led many companies, including U.S.-based Eastman Kodak and Finland-based Nokia, to restrict travel to Asia. Others, such as Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics, have asked

families of employees working in Hong Kong to return to South Korea.

Standard Chartered, Hong Kong's fourth largest bank, told employees to avoid face-to-face meetings. But teleconferencing and other technologies has helped ease the crisis. "We're using virtual or online reporting for most offices," said Mary V. Lam, a spokeswoman for Motorola Asia Pacific.

Still, the alarm caused by the deadly flu-like illness has had a devastating effect on Asian tourism, causing airline and hotel bookings to drop sharply. Many carriers have reduced service to the region and future bookings remain weak as business fliers postpone trips and leisure travelers explore other options.

Canadian businesses

are increasingly feeling the crunch, too, as the country's financial center, Toronto, grapples with a growing number of cases of the illness. Hospitals there are packed treating those who may have contracted SARS and elective surgeries have been halted. Air Canada filed for bankruptcy earlier in the week and mentioned the SARS epidemic as a drain on its business.

With the exception of airlines such as Northwest and United, U.S.-based corporations with operations in Asia are at relatively little financial risk, for the time being. But even the slightest negative news becomes magnified at a time when the global economy is already dealing with the effects of war, terrorism fears and high oil prices.

Court: HMOs can be more open

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that states can pass laws forcing HMOs to open their networks to more health care providers, giving patients broader choices of doctors and hospitals but potentially boosting costs.

The unanimous ruling was a setback for the managed care industry, which argued that closed networks lower health care costs because providers agree to accept lower fees in return for a guaranteed stream of patients.

The decision also gives states more freedom to regulate insurance companies, another in a line of decisions from the court expanding states' rights.

About half the states have passed

"any willing provider" laws in the past decade in response to complaints that HMOs and insurance companies sometimes block people from seeing the doctors of their choice.

The laws require managed care networks or insurance companies to accept out-of-network health care providers — physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners or specialists. In return, the providers must agree to the insurer's reimbursement rates and contract terms.

The court ruled on a challenge to Kentucky's laws, considered the broadest in the country. The Bush administration had sided with Kentucky.

"It's a message to states that you can have consumer protection laws," Kentucky Insurance Commissioner Janie Miller said.

Donald Young, president of the Health Insurance Association of America, said the laws "are one more instance of government unnecessarily interfering in private relationships between doctors and health plans."

Industry lawyers had told the court that the laws increase administrative costs, make it harder for HMOs to monitor quality and jeopardize deals that health plans have made with providers.

Karen Ignagni, president of the American Association of Health Plans, which represents more than a thousand health maintenance organizations and other plans, said the Kentucky laws drove up patients' health care expenses. In court filings, justices were told that in states with willing provider laws, studies found 15 percent increases.

Crude prices to dip further

Associated Press

NEW YORK
May crude futures tumbled for a second day Wednesday, amid unexpectedly large builds in oil imports and inventories and rapid progress in the American trek toward Baghdad.

Those factors, along with increased oil output in March from members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and Russia, created a "bearish trifecta," said Tim Evans, an analyst at IFR Pegasus.

In heavy fighting, U.S. troops neared the outskirts of Baghdad and now are threatening the core of the Iraqi regime there, Pentagon officials said.

The Pentagon also warned that, as coalition troops get closer to waging a major offensive in Baghdad, the likelihood grows that Iraq's government may unleash weapons of mass destruction.

Oil-supply worries were eased Wednesday morning when the Department of Energy reported U.S. crude inventories increased by 6.8 million barrels to 280.7 million barrels for the week ended March 28.

The latest figure was well above the critical 270-million-

barrel mark, as imports soared by 706,000 barrels a day to 10.361 million barrels a day, the highest weekly import volume on record from the agency.

The American Petroleum Institute, which also released stocks data Wednesday, reported an even larger build of 9.011 million barrels in crude stocks. The API put imports at 9.812 million barrels a day.

Analysts surveyed earlier in the week by Dow Jones Newswires projected a build of 2.55 million barrels in crude stocks.

On the Nymex, light, sweet crude for May delivery closed \$1.22 lower, or 4 percent, at \$28.56 — the lowest settlement price since March 25, when crude closed at \$27.97 a barrel.

At London's International Petroleum Exchange, North Sea Brent blend futures for May delivery fell \$1.15 to \$25.21 a barrel.

Members of OPEC continued pumping extra oil in March, making good on their pledge to make up for any shortfall in the market as a result of the conflict in Iraq, a survey by Dow Jones Newswires found Wednesday.

In a separate report, Prime-Tass news said Russian crude oil output rose by 10.9 percent

to 8.11 million barrels a day in March from 7.32 million barrels a day a year earlier. The news agency cited a source close to Russia's energy ministry.

Even if Nymex crude manages to gain a bit in overnight trading, traders are likely to seize opportunities to sell, said Tom Bentz, an analyst at BNP Paribas in New York.

"Ultimately, the trend is still down, so, in the next week or so, we may see prices go even lower," he said.

The Energy Department reported gasoline stocks increased by 1.7 million barrels to 200.7 million barrels last week, as gasoline output rose to 8 million barrels a day and demand dropped by 382,000 barrels a day to 8.284 million barrels a day. That and higher imports helped push gasoline futures lower Wednesday.

"The gasoline build was rather surprising," said Steve Bellino, an analyst at Fimat Futures Inc. "Things don't look as dire as we once thought they were."

It was the first weekly build in gasoline stocks in seven weeks. Gasoline for May delivery fell 5.03 cents to 86.39 cents a gallon.

While heating oil futures also dipped, tight distillate inventories were seen as keeping them well-buoyed, Bentz said. May heating oil fell 2.23 cents to 71.86 cents a gallon.

Natural gas for May delivery lost 6 cents to settle at \$5.065 per 1,000 cubic feet.

IRAQ

Journalists returned safely from prison

Associated Press

BAGHDAD

Four journalists expelled by Baghdad said Wednesday they feared for their lives "every second" they were held in Iraq's most notorious prison.

Newsday correspondent Matt McAllester, 33, and photographer Moises Saman, 29, were set free Tuesday after being held for a week in Abu Ghraib prison, along with Molly Bingham, a freelance photographer from Louisville, Ky., and Danish freelance photographer Johan Rydeng Spanner.

Their expulsion came amid a growing crackdown on foreign journalists in Baghdad. The Iraqi government also expelled an Australian and a South African reporter Tuesday and detained two journalists working for the Sydney newspaper The Australian.

"From the time we realized we were being taken to prison until the time we crossed the border into Jordan, we felt our lives were in danger," said McAllester, who is British.

"We had no idea what they were going to do to us," Bingham said. "They kept blindfolding us and taking us away. Everyday it was a question of, 'Are they going to kill me or are they just going to

ask me more questions?'"

The group had been held since March 25, according to Newsday's managing editor, Charlotte Hall. An American peace activist, Philip Latasha, was expelled with the journalists.

All five were in good health when they reached Amman on Tuesday.

The journalists said Iraqi authorities searched their hotel rooms and drove them to Abu Ghraib prison, where they were separated and given prison clothes and two blankets each.

Iraqi opposition groups say hundreds of political dissidents have been executed in recent years at Abu Ghraib, the largest prison in the Arab world.

"Over the next few days, they interrogated us over and over," Bingham said. "We had to sign papers."

She said she did not know why she was arrested. "I did not work for my government or another government. I just wanted to do stories about normal people," she said.

Saman, of Barcelona, Spain, said: "They asked me ... what kind of pictures I was taking, if I was involved with any kind of intelligence service ... just what was the purpose of me being in Baghdad at such a time."



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Thursday, April 3, 2003

4 p.m.

Notre Dame Law School Courtroom

UN to discuss N. Korean crisis

Associated Press

NEW YORK

The U.N. Security Council has agreed to discuss North Korea's nuclear crisis next Wednesday, a day before its withdrawal from a key non-proliferation treaty becomes final, diplomats said Wednesday.

The United States has been pressing the 15-nation council to adopt a statement condemning North Korea for failing to meet its international obligations to prevent the spread of nuclear arms. But China, which has close ties to North Korea, has refused to discuss it.

North Korea announced Jan. 12 it intended to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the Vienna-based U.N. nuclear watchdog agency referred the matter to the council.

Mexico's U.N. Ambassador Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, the current council president, said the council would meet April 9

and noted that North Korea's withdrawal from the treaty will be final on April 10.

For weeks, the United States has been trying to get the four other veto-wielding council members - China, Britain, France and Russia - to discuss a statement of condemnation from the council. But China has refused to attend the meetings.

China's U.N. Ambassador Wang Yingfan said Wednesday that Beijing agreed to consultations among all 15 council members on North Korea on April 9.

Asked whether the closed-door meeting might lead to progress on a statement from the council, Wang said: "It depends on what kind of consultations we would have, but I hope that consultations will be constructive to the political solution of the issue we face."

North Korea insists on direct talks with the United States on nuclear issues and says that if the Security Council imposes sanctions, it will be tantamount to war.

The Bush administration wants to settle the dispute through multilateral channels, saying North Korea's nuclear programs threaten not just American interests but also those of Russia, China, Japan and South Korea.

China has been trying to bring Washington and Pyongyang together and in mid-March Wang said he didn't want the Security Council to be involved.

The ambassador said Wednesday China was still working "with others" to arrange talks between North Korea and the United States.

Next week's council meeting will be the first on North Korea since Feb. 19. Some council diplomats expressed hope that China would have some new ideas to end the diplomatic impasse.

"This is a very delicate subject," said U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte.

China's Wang said, "We hope that we could have good coordination so finally we could accomplish something."

IRAQ

US allowed to send aid but not weopans

Associated Press

ANKARA

Turkey agreed Wednesday to let the United States send food, fuel and medicine — but not weapons — through its territory to U.S. soldiers fighting in Iraq, another sign of limited cooperation from NATO's only Muslim member.

Secretary of State Colin Powell and Turkish leaders also agreed on an "early warning" system to avert friction between Turkey and Iraqi Kurds — an accord designed to block Turkey from sending its forces into northern Iraq. Washington fears that could lead to Turkish clashes with Iraqi Kurds and undermine the U.S.-led war effort in Iraq.

Powell's visit came amid tensions between Washington and Turkey, where polls show more than 90 percent of the people

are against the Iraq war.

Some 500 protesters gathered outside Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's office while Powell was inside, chanting "Yankee, go home."

Turkey's parliament last month rejected a motion that would have allowed in 62,000 U.S. ground troops to open a northern front against Iraq, a move that analysts said likely would have led to a shorter, quicker war.

The rebuff helped strain Turkish-U.S. ties. U.S. officials were angry the northern front was lost, and Turkish officials said Washington wanted democracy in Iraq but could not accept a "no" vote from one of the only democratic parliaments in the region.

However, Powell and his Turkish counterpart, Abdullah Gul, emphasized U.S.-Turkish cooperation.

Restricted aid after house passes social security bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

The House passed legislation Wednesday to end a Social Security practice that allowed some government workers to receive increased retirement benefits. Texas Democrats claimed the bill was a hardship for their state's teacher.

The bill, approved 396-28, also would deny Social Security benefits to fugitive felons and to

people who violated probation or parole. Voting against the measure were 25 Democrats and three Republicans.

Last month, Democrats, after intense lobbying by teachers unions, joined their Texas colleagues in opposition to the bill, and it failed under a special procedure requiring two-thirds approval. But many lawmakers changed their position since then.

Spouses of retired, disabled or deceased workers usually

receive Social Security benefits. A 1977 law reduces those benefits for employees of some state and local governments who do not pay into the Social Security system and do not collect benefits, and are covered by their own retirement systems.

But a provision allows those workers to avoid the reduction in benefits if they are covered by both Social Security and their government pension during their last day on the job.

Congressional investigators found that 4,795 teachers in Texas and 24 in Georgia had taken advantage as of June 2002, transferring briefly to other jobs before retiring. For as little as about \$3 paid to Social Security, those teachers will receive on average an extra \$4,800 a year.

Some school districts also started charging processing fees ranging from \$100 to \$500 to make the switch. One district collected an additional \$283,000 in revenue from the fees.

The provision is costing the federal government about \$450 million. Social Security officials say the practice could grow as more people become aware of it.

"No single group of workers should have an unfair advantage over workers in other school districts, in other pension systems, or across the nation," said Rep. Clay Shaw,

R-Fla., the bill's sponsor.

The bill would require state and local government workers to pay into Social Security for a minimum of five years to be exempt from the offset.

"This is no way to treat hard-working people who have dedicated their entire lives to serving their communities and this nation," said Rep. Martin Frost, D-Texas. "It hurts real people — especially women and lower-income individuals."

Most Democrats voted to support a measure that would repeal the offset altogether, but those attempts failed.

Rep. Nick Lampson, D-Texas, warned of a "mass exodus of good teachers from our schools."

The bill also tightens controls on people who serve as legal financial representatives for about 7.6 million Social Security recipients who are minors or have physical and mental impairments.

summer session

university of notre dame



JUNE 16 – AUGUST 1, 2003

anthropology
architecture
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chemistry
classical languages
computer applications
economics
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Irish studies
italian
mathematics
music
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political science
psychology
sociology
spanish
theatre
theology

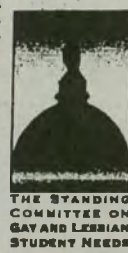
The 2003 summer session will begin on Monday, June 16 (enrollment), and end on Friday, August 1 (final exams). Some courses—primarily in science and languages—will begin and end before or after these dates. The *Summer Session Bulletin* contains complete schedule information. The *Bulletin* is available at the Summer Session Office (510 Main Bldg.) beginning on Thursday, February 20. Information on summer courses, as it appears in the *Bulletin*, is also available at the Summer Session Web site (www.nd.edu/~sumsess).

Notre Dame continuing students—undergraduate and graduate students in residence during the spring semester of 2003 who are eligible to return in the fall—must use Web Registration (1) to register for summer courses and (2) to add or drop courses according to the add and drop dates printed with each course. The Web Registration PIN (personal identification number) for summer is available on IrishLink for all continuing students. Instructions for course registration (selection) are available at <http://registrar.nd.edu>. Course call numbers are published in the *Bulletin* and at the Summer Session Web site.

Web Registration will be available for summer registration from Wednesday, March 19, through the course add and drop dates published in the *Summer Session Bulletin*. Students may register or make schedule changes whenever they choose during this period; no appointment times are necessary.

Air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned housing and (optional) summer meal plans will be available. Forms for these services may be obtained at the Summer Session Office at any time during the spring semester.

Tuition for the summer session of 2003 will be \$486 per credit hour for undergraduate students and \$270 per credit hour for graduate students, plus a \$45 general fee.



University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Students

The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs

(Confidential information, education, and resources)
Contact: Sr. M.L. Gude, CSC, 1-5550, or student members (see web site for student contact info.)

Office of Campus Ministry

(Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students and their friends; pertinent library resources in 304 Co-Mo; confidential discussion and support)
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VIEWPOINT

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Thursday, April 3, 2003

THE OBSERVER

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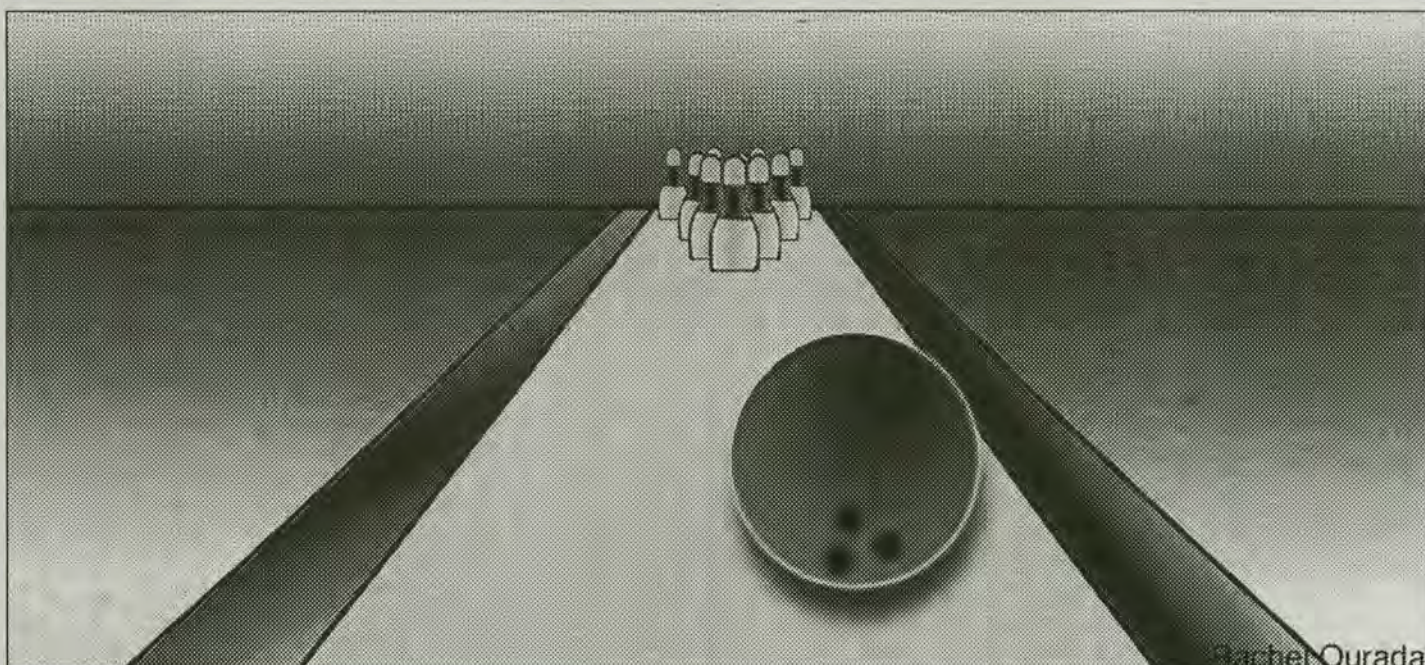
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Rachel Ourada

Michael Moore's gutterball

It is over a decade since Michael Moore rose to prominence with "Roger & Me." The film documents Moore's attempt to get an interview with Roger Smith, the chairman of General Motors, who is responsible for the closure of a manufacturing plant in Moore's hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Peter Wicks

Englishman
Abroad

"Roger & Me" shows the devastating effect the closure had on the Flint community, providing a vivid and salutary reminder of the human cost of an economic system which treats labor as a commodity.

Moore's film became the highest grossing non-musical documentary of all time and received mostly adulatory reviews. However, a small number of critics, including the revered Pauline Kael, accused Moore of rearranging the chronology of the events he portrayed to better serve his political message. Moore alternated between saying that this was a lie and saying that, yes, he had altered the chronology, but he was within his rights to do so. This was one too many answers, and a premonition of problems which would come to dominate his later work.

Moore followed up with the satirical Fox series "TV Nation," a show built around political pranks. The show was uneven and unpolished, but at its best it combined politics with a mischievous sense of fun. This was the last time Moore was actually funny. In his latest book, "Stupid White Men," Moore's leaden witticisms are to humor what socialist realism was to literature.

Mary McCarthy famously said of Lillian Hellman, "Every word she writes is a lie, including 'and' and 'the.'" Moore has not yet attained Hellman's rarefied level of dishonesty, but there are enough false and mis-

leading claims in "Stupid White Men" to make everything in the book suspect. The purpose of the bad jokes is to license these false facts. Interviewing Moore on CNN, Lou Dobbs asked him why he did not respond to charges of glaring inaccuracies in his book. Moore replied, "Why should I? How can there be inaccuracy in comedy?"

Moore's documentary "Bowling for Columbine," which won this year's Academy Award for Best Documentary, is about the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., and by extension America's gun culture. The film mocks the stupid white men who placed the blame for Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold's killings on Marilyn Manson. Manson is interviewed sympathetically by Moore, who chats amiably with him about the corruption of politicians and the media.

The problem is that Moore's own explanations are no better. At several points in the film Moore points out that the Columbine massacre occurred on the same day (April 20, 1999) that the United States dropped more bombs on Kosovo than at any other time during the war and suggests that it may be the example of American violence overseas that is responsible for domestic violence such as school shootings. The implied parallel between the NATO campaign in Kosovo and the Columbine massacre is pure moral idiocy. I doubt Moore really believes it himself; it seems like a device to allow him to preach about American foreign policy in a film claiming to be about guns in American culture.

Once again Moore has too many explanations. At some points he suggests that the media is the real culprit for instilling a climate of fear amongst white people. Then he goes further and tells the whole history of the United States as the history of scared white people shooting native Americans, blacks and each other. His

history is so cartoonishly distorted that it is wholly appropriate that it is told with a cartoon.

In the cartoon Moore suggests that the National Rifle Association is connected to the Ku Klux Klan. His narrator says, "In 1871, the same year the Klan became an illegal terrorist organization, another group was founded, the National Rifle Association."

Lest we miss the point, a Klansman and an NRA member are shown setting fire to a cross together. In fact the NRA was founded by two Union officers, and Ulysses S. Grant, who signed into law the act making the Klan illegal and enforced it vigorously, would later become the NRA's eighth president. Moore's innuendo is not merely polemic, it is propaganda of the worst sort.

While it is worrying that so many people did not seem to notice Moore's errors and deceptions, it is more disturbing that many who did notice were willing to excuse them because they sympathized with Moore's politics. Aside from its sheer hypocrisy, the problem with such a position is that it assumes that the Left has nothing at stake in the quality of this country's public debate, only its outcome. Propaganda corrupts, always. Serious progressives should reject Moore's tactics, and they should reject Moore.

Let us hope that in exchange conservatives do something about Ann Coulter.

Peter Wicks is a graduate student in the Philosophy Department. Like Michael Moore, Peter received an award for marksmanship while in his teens. He will be happy to further substantiate his claim that Moore's work is rife with errors and deceptions for anyone who writes and asks him nicely. He can be contacted at pwicks@nd.edu.

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

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You know what's interesting about Washington? It's the kind of place where second-guessing has become second nature."

George W. Bush
president

VIEWPOINT

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The travel bug

One of my roommates gave me a card for my birthday that said "I think we should go bowling in Canada. Then we could look back for the rest of our lives and say, remember that one time we went bowling in Canada?"

Normal people would laugh at this and forget it, but, being me and a bit prone to doing odd things, I decided that I really, really wanted to go bowling in Canada.

It took me until spring break to plan it, but that first weekend my roommates, one of my roommates' fiancée, and a friend of mine all piled into one car with our "Canada or Bust" sign, and headed for the border. Spring break began and we headed north.

Canada was great. All we did the entire time was drink, gamble, eat, sleep and bowl, the perfect start to spring break. Our actual bowling took place at Bowlero, the largest bowling alley I have ever seen, with some 76 lanes of bowling fun.

We learned on our way back that there is one concrete way in which the terror alerts and federal warnings about terrorism do affect our lives: you now need a passport or birth certificate to get back to the United States. From Canada, something that is not actually mentioned until you are outside the country.

Apparently you were always supposed to have one of the two, but now they actually enforce the law.

So we ended up having an unpleasant discussion with the Customs and INS officials at the border, as they let us know in no uncertain terms that we were morons for not bringing our passports to Canada. (Who needs a passport in Canada? It's Canada, for the love of God! I basically told one of the officials this, which he didn't take tremendously well.)

Eventually, after losing our paperwork and forgetting us completely for 45 minutes, they let us go by after checking our driver's licenses. I suspect they were supposed to do something more than that, but one official finally told the other to let us go because they had a lot of other people to deal with. So apparently you either need a passport to get into the United States or a 45 minute span of patience.

Anyway, it got us talking about our prior bad traveling experiences, which were pretty numerous, as one of my roommates did an international summer service project in Ghana, I went to Ireland last spring, my other roommate spent a year in Austria, and the fiancée spent a summer working in Scotland.

The fiancée talked about a trip he'd taken from France to Spain, when he and his traveling companion had reservations in a sleeper car. The train broke down a few hours outside Paris, and everyone was herded off, with no apologies made (about par for the course, in my experience of the French).

They were finally loaded up on another train a few hours later, after spending a few hours sleeping on benches in the cold. This train, however, did not have sleeper seats, and in fact, did not have enough seats for everyone on the train. So the fiancée and his friend end up smooshed into the corridor, trying to sleep and thinking longingly of the sleeper car they should have had.

The fiancée's girlfriend (otherwise known as my roommate) then told us about her experiences being stuck in a small town in Ghana after dark. Only one person in the whole town owned a car, and when he was awakened, he smelled as if he'd a bit of the drink taken. However, my roommate had no other choice, so she and her fellow traveler took the slightly inebriated ride back to their city.

Our third roommate has a great story about getting very, very drunk, tripping on a rock and breaking her nose. As it gushed blood, she and her friends continued to drink and have a jolly old time. She didn't bother to see a doctor until the next day.

We must have spent more than an hour exchanging horror stories about our travels abroad. The bizarre thing was that after hearing all of these stories, I wanted more than anything to go back. The French abuse and ignore you, and you love their capital city. You break your nose in Germany, and you adore the country. You ride with a drunk driver in Ghana, and you are committed to the Ghanese for the rest of your life.

Travel gets into your blood like a disease. It's illogical, really — you run into all sorts of problems, you're treated rudely, you live on very little money in places you would never think to stay if you were in the States, you get frustrated and confused and you just love the whole experience. I can't wait to get enough money together to do it all again.

Marlayna Soenneker graduated from Notre Dame in January but is continuing to live in the South Bend area until May graduation. She can be contacted at msoennek@nd.edu.

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

Marlayna
Soenneker

Here we go
again ...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Abandoning Asian stereotypes
during Asian Heritage Week

Sharp eyes, goofy-acting, emasculated, bad English — qualities that American media have ingrained onto American mindsets regarding Asians. The beginnings of these stereotypes can be traced back to Charlie Chan, that Confucius-quoting gumshoe with the "fortune-cookie wisdom" who appeared in numerous mystery movies during the '30s and '40s and whose white actors who portrayed him would tape their eyelids to look "Oriental." Chan, along with his cousins Fu Manchu, Suzie Wong and the infamous Long Duck Dong in Sixteen Candles, helped generate the most offensive and disgraceful stereotypes of Asian Americans in the media that exist today. Even Bruce Lee's efforts to show the world the beauty of the eastern art of martial arts proved to spearhead yet another stereotype of Asians: martial arts-practitioners. Sorry to disappoint, but not every Asian practices martial arts.

When Asian men are seen in American media nowadays, they are always the roundhouse-kicking, fist-throwing Jackie Chan's and Jet Li's. If not that, Asian men are petite school nerds (Glen in "The New Guy"), foreigners with bad English, or some old man with an ancient art to pass on (Mr. Miyagi in "The Karate Kid"). Even movies and books with predominantly Asian characters such as "The Joy Luck Club" fail to portray strong and independent male characters. The only blemishes of interracial dating in movies and TV between Asians and non-Asians seem to be between Asian females and Caucasian males (Ross and Julie on TV's "Friends"), whereas interracial dating between an Asian male and a non-Asian female is almost non-existent in the media. Do American media not think Asian men should be shown in an attractive, strong-willed manner?

Only recently have the media begun to represent Asian men in a slightly different light through roles such as Johnny Tran (Ricky Yune) in "The Fast and the

Furious" and John (John Cho) in "American Pie" I and II and through Asian athletes such as Yao Ming (Houston Rockets) and Ichiro Suzuki (Seattle Mariners), which are only beginning to chase away media-programmed stereotypes of "small, unattractive little Asian men."

Asian women as well have gotten the shaft in media through being depicted as "exotic objects" to please men ("Rush Hour 2," Lia in "Pay It to the Bone"), dragon ladies (Ling Wu on TV's "Ally McBeal"), martial arts superheroes (Michelle Yeoh in "Tomorrow Never Dies"), foreign dry-cleaning ladies/waitresses/massage therapists/beauty stylists, dumb foreign bimbos (Pearl in "Payback") or reporters.

As men, Asian women in American media have only begun to stretch out of the confines of their stereotypes with emerging actresses such as Lucy Liu, whose spunk and self-confidence have landed her roles that were originally Caucasian-specific ("Charlie's Angels," "Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever"). In the music business, we can only hope that the hard efforts of Coco Lee, one of the most famous singers in Asia and the first Asian singer to perform at the Oscars in 2001 (singing the theme song for "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon"), will pay off in the end with the release of her second international English album later this year.

Likewise, we can only hope that movies such as "Better Lucky Tomorrow," due out in select theatres April 11, can help broaden the limitations of Asian portrayal in our society. "Better Lucky Tomorrow," a Sundance Film Festival selection bought by MTV Films, portrays the lives of several Asian-American students in Southern California and the obstacles they face. What will come of all these efforts? Only time and public open-mindedness can tell.

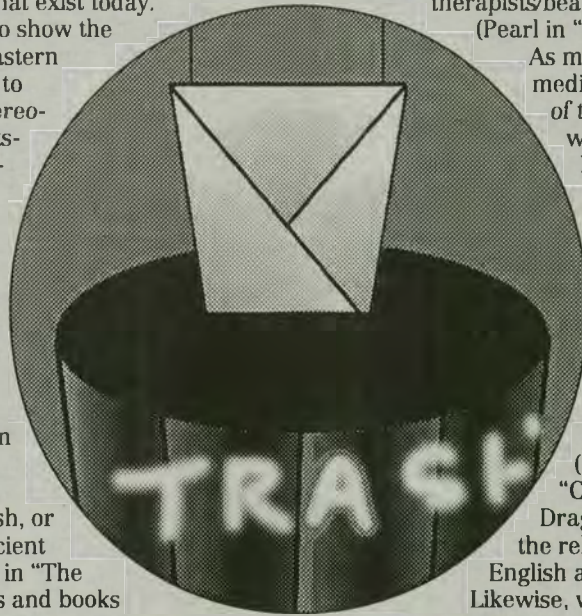
Ryan Leung

freshman

Asian American Association

Knot Hall

April 2



War is only for economic interests

I am disturbed by the April 1 guest column in "You can't be pro-troop and anti-war." In Kiley Winston's critique of the anti-war movement, she advances the argument that the troops are fighting the very right to protest and that we in the anti-war movement should shut up and enjoy the freedoms they fight for.

In using this argument to attempt to put protesters "in the wrong" and de-legitimize opposition to the war, she demonstrated a common fallacy in the American consciousness. That fallacy is the unquestioned belief in the purity of motives on the part of the government. There is a deep-seeded and extremely powerful belief that this nation has a divine mission and guidance that virtually precludes the ability of any United States policy to be in any way morally wrong or even misguided. The government is well aware of this and has deliberately cast this war as "Good versus Evil." Unfortunately, since this belief is rooted so deeply in the American mind, the people will believe such a portrayal, even when the government's policy is both morally bankrupt and terribly misguided.

Winston justifies war in American history as the defense of American freedom and democracy. Unfortunately, an unbiased look at recent history does not support the notion that when America fights, it is always because our freedom and democracy is at stake.

Take, for instance, the invasion of Panama. Were we really fighting to preserve our freedoms? Did we expect that there would be a Panamanian flag over the White House today if we didn't invade?

Concentration camps in the Nevada desert with Panamanian guards torturing Americans? Or was there perhaps a different motive? Dare I say it? An economic motive? Like the fact that the canal was about to revert to Panamanian control and we didn't want Noriega in charge.

The disastrous intervention in Somalia was also not a conflict in which American freedom was at risk of being lost. Nor was Kosovo. For that matter, the original Gulf war was not prompted by an attack on American soil. We fought that war when Iraq invaded Kuwait, which, last time I checked, was not part of America. The twelve years of starvation and bombings that we inflicted on Iraq since then were not even a response to an on-going occupation of Kuwait (since the Iraqis were long gone at that point). Nor is Saddam Hussein a threat to American liberties today.

It is clear that there is another motive entirely to United States policy. It can't help but be tied to oil, and the economic influence that oil gives.

So, Ms. Winston, don't try to convince me that it is my patriotic duty to support this war as necessary to preserve our freedoms. That is not why Bush started this war. This war is about American imperialism and control of resources. And that is why today I am ashamed to be an American.

John Wiens

staff

Robinson Community Learning Center

April 2

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Thursday, April 3, 2003

MOVIE REVIEW

Warning: 'Agent Cody Banks' causes brain damage

By BJ STREW
Scene Movie Critic

Admittedly, even despite the inspired casting decision to place A-list heartthrob Frankie Muniz in the lead role, "Agent Cody Banks" fails in almost every respect. Almost, because there are two things it succeeds at: 1) inflicting permanent dain bramage on anyone who so much as passes by a TV when its trailer is playing; and 2) eternally condemning every soul involved in the production of this tirelessly trite cow flop of a kid's movie.

The Emmy-winning "Malcolm in the Middle" star essentially plays the same exact role in his show as he does here. (Muniz will hereinafter be referred to as "Malcolm" for the remainder of this review.) This has "Disney Channel Movie" written all over it. And scrawled on top of that: "Swallow This, Ian Fleming." Because enough already with the

James Bond parodies. And mixing the James-Bond-parody genre with the kid's movie genre? Bad move. Bad, bad, bad.

Using the term "plot" loosely, it is all but futile to sum up the action in this derivative mess that reeks worse than the unholy void between Reckers and

O'Neill. People of sound mind and body are actually expected to buy Malcolm as a secret agent for the CIA. Then some dumb stuff happens. Repeat, and rinse — with holy water, because the creation of this movie was almost prohibited, until God cut the Undecalogue down to the Decalogue for space reasons. "Agent Cody Banks" is an iniquitous disaster nonetheless.

As a whole, if it's possible to think of the movie as a "whole" — never mind, you can't. It's nonsense layered on top of nonsense. And the movie matches its unwarranted, relentless length with cartoonish, clichéd, wearisome material; its vileness borders

on the surreal. But valiantly, it tries to make up for its sheer lack of cohesion, humor, originality, its second-rate acting, direction, cinematography, editing and its bizarre special effects with one thing: Malcolm's agency mentor, Angie Harmon, prancing around in a half-unzipped cat suit. Oh, and Michael Douglas-Zeta-Jones — in a pointless cameo — playing the crucial role of "man with the wicked-heinous haircut."

And just when its hoodwinked audiences are thinking, "Hold the phone — how come there isn't any racism in

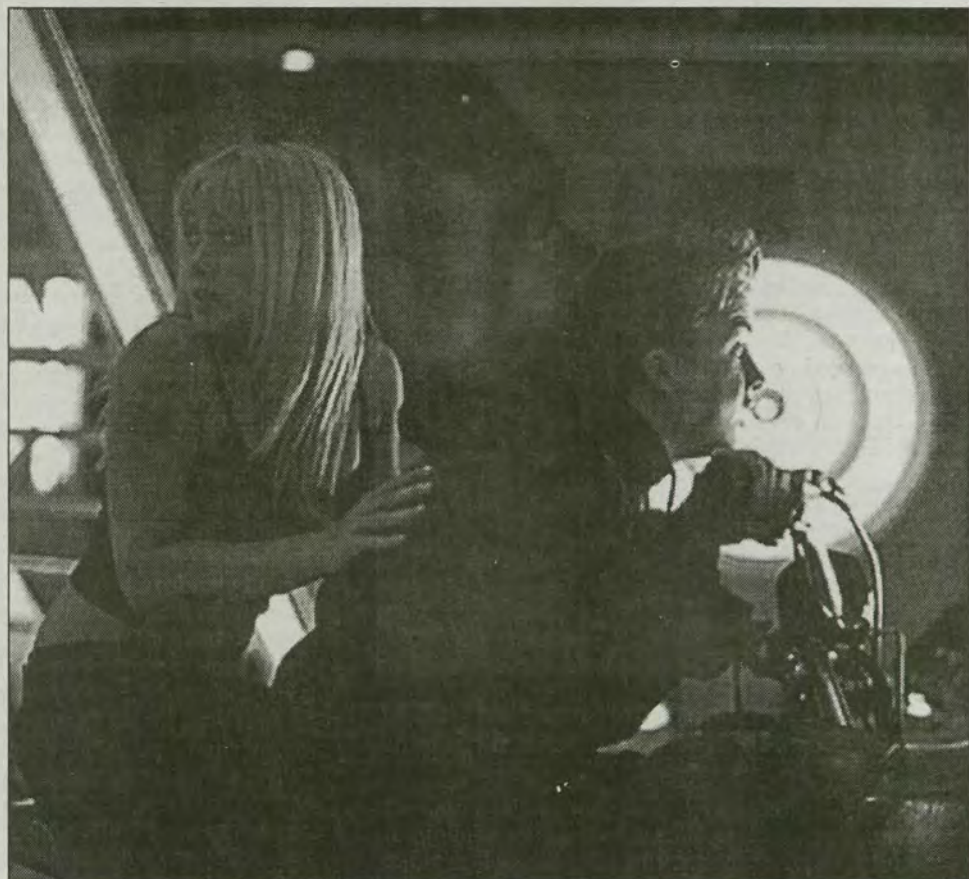
"Agent Cody Banks"**Director:** Harald Zwart**Writers:** Jeffrey Jurgensen, Ashley Miller**Starring:** Frankie Muniz, Hilary Duff, Angie Harmon, Keith David, Cynthia Stevenson

Photo courtesy of www.imdb.com

Cody Banks (Frankie Muniz) is an ordinary teen by day, secret agent for the CIA by night.

this movie?" "Agent Cody Banks" delivers. Bleeding-edge comedy, yes; bigoted caricatures do indeed entail knee-slapping hilarity. Without a doubt, the fourteen or so screenwriters were patting themselves on the back for that doozie. A final warning: turn away when the tender Malcolm-Hilary Duff liaisons commence; ball gags and Disney just cannot be reconciled.

The Danish or Dutch director Harald Zwart, of "Gull og grønne skoger" fame, is the archfiend authorities and history books will hold accountable for profaning the cherished kid's-movie genre. With "Agent Cody Banks" once thought his magnum opus, he is set to dumbfound critics

again in 2004 with a sequel, promising an affecting facsimile of its prequel in all its hackneyed splendor, likely by a militia of starving would-be screenwriters.

If Observer graphic artists allowed it, this movie would get a negative number of shamrocks. And if the Geneva Conventions allowed it, this movie would supply a more effective, though less humane, alternative to the "stress and duress" techniques the real CIA's using down at Guantanamo. No adolescent deserves to surrender 110 minutes of his life to "Agent Cody Banks."

Contact BJ Strew at
wstrew@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of www.imdb.com

Ronica Miles (Angie Harmon) keeps an eye on secret teen agent Cody Banks as his agency mentor.



Photo courtesy of www.imdb.com

Banks is sent to befriend Natalie Connors (Hilary Duff) in order to gain access to her father's scientific creations, despite his lack of skills around girls.

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NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Academy hits and misses

I ought to start this column with an apology, so here it is — I apologize to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. I didn't think you'd give "Spirited Away" an Oscar, and you did. I'm impressed. While the victory for "Spirited Away" was one of the night's more surprising moments, one of its most predictable was what got me thinking. As "Chicago" was announced for Best Picture, several of the people I was watching it with — myself included — expressed something along the lines of "Oh good, they got it right," or "I was afraid 'The Pianist' would win."



Jack Watkins

Notes from the
Underground

This interested me for two reasons — first, because we were acting like "Chicago" was somehow definitively the best movie of the year, and second, because we were implying that the Academy is no good at picking the best picture of the year, and that getting it "right" was the exception.

Reviewing films, and even the more basic task of deciding what's a "good" movie, is a highly subjective process. There's obviously such a thing as good acting, but that's insufficient for a good movie, and I've seen intelligent people with opposite opinions as to whether a given actor was good in a given film. Other "objective" criteria for deciding what makes a movie "good," like the script or the direction, fall victim to similar criticisms. Take at the box office is no evaluator of quality, nor is critical reception — many movies panned by critics when they're released are later seen as works of genius.

Here, however, we've hit on something. What makes a movie "good" or "great" is how it will last, how it will be viewed in several years. I don't just mean how popular it'll be in several years, but some combination of how popular it will be and how it will be viewed critically — otherwise I'd be backed into admitting "Star Wars" as one of the best films ever. When my friends and I agreed that "Chicago" deserved Best Picture, we really meant that we see ourselves — as

adults who consider themselves to be reasonably intelligent film buffs — renting "Chicago" in ten or twenty years, while we couldn't be paid to sit through "The Hours" or "The Pianist" again. And when we look back to years past and say, "That movie didn't deserve to win Best Picture", we mean that said film is seen, in retrospect, as inferior to one of its rivals.

This standard has interesting applications. If we go back ten years, we see that the 1993 Oscars also got it "right", giving the Best Picture to "Unforgiven", which is probably the most-watched of the nominees from that year. Twenty years ago, "Gandhi" won, and, while another 1983 nominee, "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial" will probably be watched forever, few would argue with the significance of the Richard Attenborough masterpiece. Does this mean the initial assumption made by my friends was wrong? Could it be that, against all probability, Academy voters are pretty good at guessing what will become a classic?

Well, not really. They're better than some critics would have you think, but 1983 and 1993 are not exactly representative. Let's say we take a look at 20 years or so of Best Pictures, and to make it fair, we exclude the last five years, because those movies are too recent to have felt the verdict of posterity. So, from 1978 to 1998, can we say that the Academy is accurate in predicting what movies will be remembered as good, important, or significant? The verdict has to be no. Deserving movies that were snubbed for Best Picture in that period include "Apocalypse Now," "Raging Bull," "Goodfellas," "Pulp Fiction," and "Fargo." They lost to "Kramer vs. Kramer," "Ordinary People," "Dances With Wolves," "Forrest Gump," and "The English Patient," respectively — while they're all good movies, these races should have been no contest. The movies I just mentioned are not only popular, but critically acclaimed — meaning that I have not had to rely on "Star Wars" (lost to "Annie Hall") or "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (lost to "Chariots of Fire"), which don't really fit that criterion, despite their immense popularity.

Occasionally, there are years when it's tough to pick a deserving winner by looking at the nominees — years when the Academy just completely blew it in



Photo courtesy of www.imdb.com

"E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial" lives on in the minds of people everywhere, although it failed to win Best Picture in 1983.

the nomination process. In 1990, the nominees consisted of mainly preachy or sappy movies like "Dead Poets Society" and "Driving Miss Daisy", while Woody Allen's brilliant "Crimes and Misdemeanors" wasn't even nominated. But these years are the exception, not the rule, and the Academy usually nominates the right movies.

But if the best criterion for what a "good" movie is whether we'll still be watching it down the road, isn't it a little unfair to criticize the Academy or other award shows? Asking them to be 100 percent accurate seems like asking for the impossible, and criticism in the here-and-now is usually done by small groups of self-righteous, self-appointed film buffs, like, well, myself. And these film buffs seldom really agree among themselves, meaning that the Academy faces

the nearly impossible task of trying to please all of the people all of the time. So, despite our frequent whining that the Academy "always" gets big awards wrong, it does a pretty good job — better than any other award show, except of course the Razzies. Ironically, the worst Oscar mistake of the last 25 years — making "Titanic" the most honored movie of all time — was paralleled by the usually reliable Razzies, when "Titanic" failed to garner a single one of the shameful awards, not even a "Worst Actor in a Supporting Role" for Billy Zane. But that's a column for another day.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Jack Watkins at watkins.25@nd.edu.



Photo courtesy of www.imdb.com

Uma Thurman smolders in Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction." The film was passed over for a Best Picture Award in 1995 in favor of "Forrest Gump."

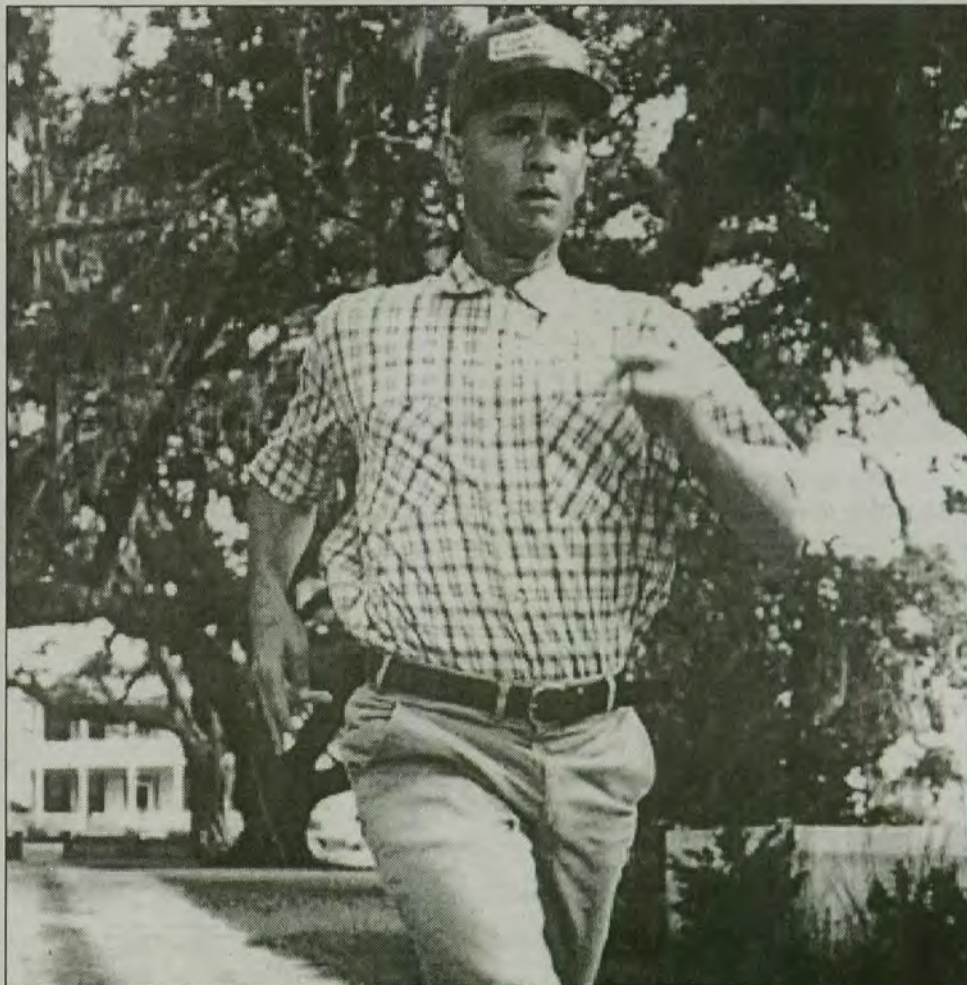


Photo courtesy of www.imdb.com

"Forrest Gump" ran away with a Best Picture Academy Award in 1995, as well as Best Actor (Tom Hanks) and a slew of other awards and nominations.

MLB

A-Rod hits his 300th homer but Rangers fall to Angels

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif.

Alex Rodriguez became the youngest player to hit 300 homers, but the Anaheim Angels beat the Rangers 11-5 Wednesday behind home runs from Troy Glaus, Brad Fullmer and Darin Erstad.

Rodriguez, 27 years, 249 days old, hit a three-run homer in the fifth inning off Ramon Ortiz (1-0), his second of the season. The fastest to 300 had been Hall of Famer Jimmie Foxx at 27 years, 328 days. Foxx finished his career with 534 homers.

Bengie Molina had four RBIs and Ortiz improved to 10-1 against Texas despite giving up four runs and seven hits over five innings. John Thomson (0-1) allowed six runs and 10 hits in 4 1-3 innings in his AL debut.

Yankees 9, Blue Jays 7

Erick Almonte homered and had three RBIs in his first game as Derek Jeter's replacement, and New York finished a three-gamers sweep.

Almonte, recalled after Jeter dislocated his left shoulder in Monday's opener, went 2-for-5 in his first major league start.

Mike Mussina (1-0), given leads of 7-0 and 9-1, struck out eight and walked none in six innings but allowed four runs and seven hits. Juan Acevedo

pitched the ninth for his first save as the Yankees opened with three straight road wins for the first time since 1942.

Former NBA player Mark Hendrickson allowed seven runs and 10 hits in 1 2-3 innings.

Twins 8, Tigers 1

Jacque Jones hit a two-run homer and had four RBIs, and Joe Mays (1-0) gave up just two hits in five innings, improving to 8-0 in his last 10 starts against the Tigers. Detroit dropped to 0-2 under new manager Alan Trammell.

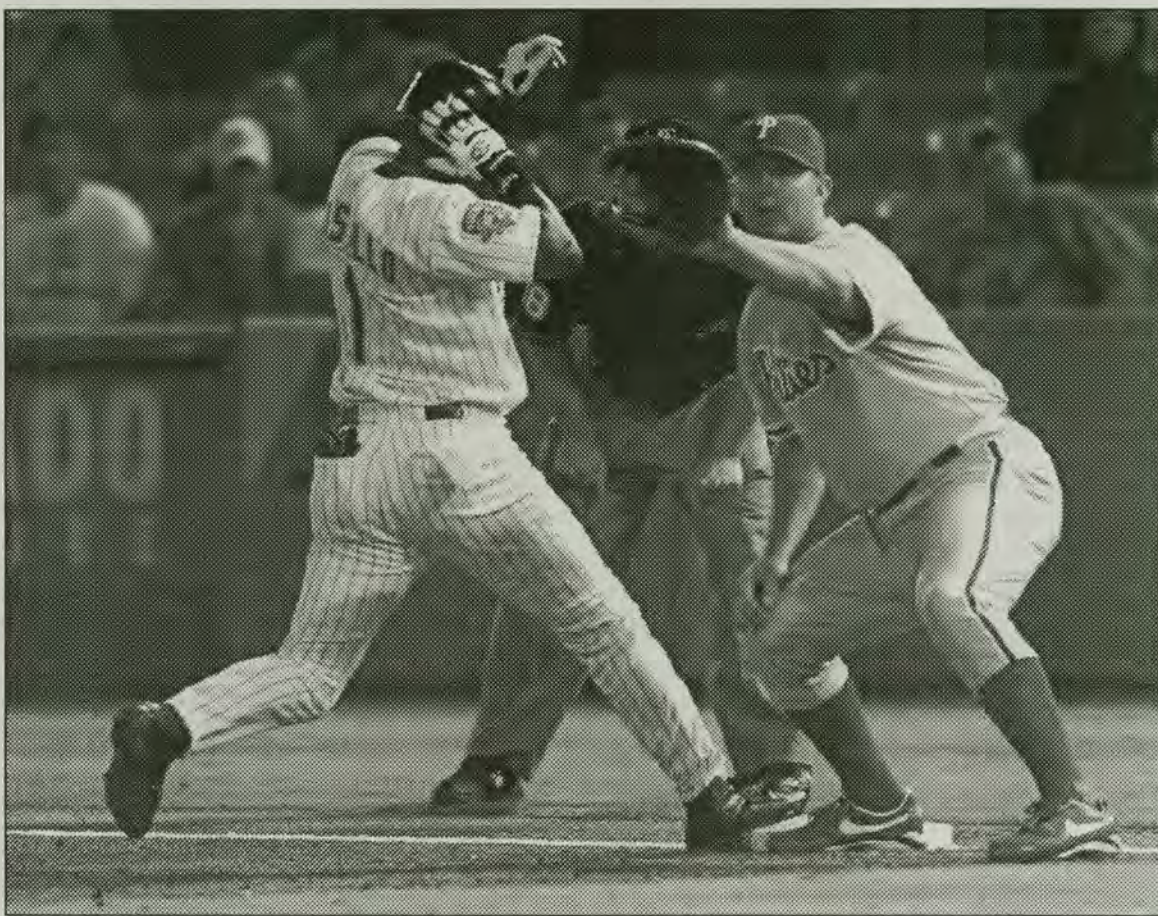
Jeremy Bonderman, a 20-year-old right-hander making his first start above Class A, gave up six runs and nine hits over four innings with five strikeouts and one walk.

Royals 5, White Sox 4

Joe Randa broke a 3-3 tie with a two-run homer in the seventh off Rick White (0-1), and Kansas City improved to 2-0 for the first time in 24 years.

Albie Lopez (1-0) gave up an RBI single in the eighth to Armando Rios, and rookie Mike MacDougal pitched the ninth for his second save.

Raul Ibanez was 3-for-3 with two doubles and two RBIs for the Royals. Bartolo Colon, in his first start for the White Sox, allowed three runs, four hits and three walks in six innings.



Luis Castillo races back into 1st base covering his head as Philadelphia 1st baseman Jim Thome awaits the throw in first inning action at Pro Player Stadium in Miami.

Indians 4, Orioles 2

Cleveland won its first game under new manager Eric Wedge as Ellis Burks drove in two runs.

Rookie Ricardo Rodriguez (1-0) gave up one run and four hits in seven innings in his eighth career start. Omar Daal (0-1) allowed four runs and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings in his Orioles' debut.

Red Sox 7, Devil Rays 5

Jason Varitek hit a three-run homer and Derek Lowe (1-0), who no-hit the Devil Rays last April, shrugged off a shaky start and allowed five runs and six hits in six innings. Tampa Bay wasted a 3-0 lead.

Chad Fox worked the ninth to earn his first save. Jim Parque (0-1) allowed seven runs, seven hits and five walks in five innings.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 0

Kevin Brown, in a performance that bodes well for the Los Angeles Dodgers, shut down the Arizona Diamondbacks on three hits in six-plus innings of a 5-0 victory Wednesday night.

Shawn Green was 4-for-4 with a home run, two doubles and three RBIs as the Dodgers took two of three in the season-opening series between NL West squads.

Both Los Angeles wins were shutouts.

Brian Jordan homered for the

second time in three games.

Elmer Dessens (0-1), in his Arizona debut, allowed four runs on eight hits in five innings.

The 38-year-old Brown (1-0) has been plagued by injuries the past two seasons, but had a strong spring and was in command of the Diamondbacks from the start.

Mets 4, Cubs 1

Sammy Sosa just missed his 500th homer, and Al Leiter threw six sharp innings for New York.

Leiter (1-0) gave the Mets the type of pitching performance they lacked in Tom Glavine's debut, a 15-2 drubbing in Monday's opener. Cliff Floyd and Roger Cedeno homered, giving manager Art Howe his first victory in a New York uniform.

The Mets won minus All-Star catcher Mike Piazza, who began serving his four-game suspension for charging Los Angeles reliever Guillermo Mota and going into the Dodgers' clubhouse looking for him in spring training.

Sosa's long drive to left in the sixth could have tied it for the Cubs, but the wind helped keep the ball in play for a harmless out.

Armando Benitez pitched the ninth for his first save.

Matt Clement (0-1) tied a Cubs record by throwing three wild pitches in one inning.

He was pulled after three innings because of tightness in his left lower back.

Expos 3, Braves 0

Zach Day and three relievers combined on a three-hitter, and Jose Vidro hit a two-run homer to lead Montreal.

The vagabond Expos, who won't play in Montreal until April 22, have outscored the Braves 13-2 in the first two games at Turner Field. Atlanta is 0-2 for the first time in six years.

Vidro hit a two-run shot in the first inning, sending rookie Braves starter Horacio Ramirez (0-1) to a hard-luck loss in his major league debut.

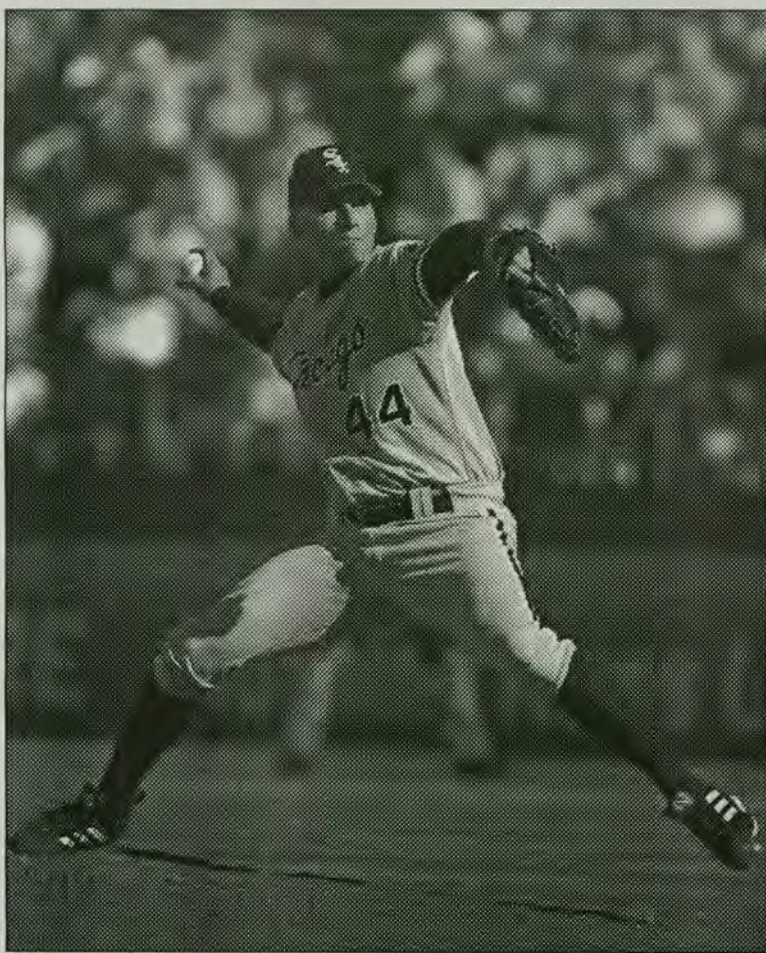
Day (1-0), making just his third big league start, allowed three hits in seven innings. Atlanta got only one runner past second base.

Rocky Biddle worked the ninth for his second career save.

Phillies 8, Marlins 2

Randy Wolf (1-0) took a one-hitter into the seventh inning. Jim Thome had two more hits and Mike Lieberthal added a bases-loaded triple for Philadelphia.

It was pretty similar to Monday's opener, when Kevin Millwood took a shutout into the sixth, Thome had three hits and David Bell added two singles and scored three times in Philadelphia's 8-5 victory.



Chicago White Sox RHP Billy Koch entered the game in the eighth inning Wednesday in Kansas City. The Royals won, 5-4.

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NHL

Lemieux leaves Pittsburgh with game-winning assist

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH

Mario Lemieux may have said goodbye the same way he said hello.

Lemieux set up Eric Meloche's game-winning goal with 10.1 seconds left in possibly his final NHL game, and the Pittsburgh Penguins rallied for two goals in the closing minutes to beat the Carolina Hurricanes 3-2 on Wednesday night.

Lemieux has said for weeks he may not play again next season, especially with the Penguins locked into a multi-year rebuilding mode. He said Wednesday he won't play in Pittsburgh's season finale in Washington on Saturday night.

"If this was my last game, I wanted to finish here, in front of the fans here who have supported me," Lemieux said. "This [season] hasn't been much fun ... for the franchise or myself. It's been difficult."

Lemieux owns the Penguins and, even though another retirement would hurt them at the turnstiles, he said he won't decide until this summer if he will return for a fourth season

since coming out of retirement in December 2000.

"I'll sit down with the right people and see where we want to go with the franchise," he said.

Asked if he went into the game thinking it may be the last of a Hall of Fame career that began in 1984, Lemieux said, "Oh, yeah, I've been thinking about it for a while."

That's why he said, "The timing was perfect," in reference to Meloche's goal, which may have come on Lemieux's final NHL shift. He scored in Boston on his very first shot in 1984, and he had an assist on the first shift of his comeback game against Toronto in 2000, when he ended a 44-month retirement.

However, he may have ended his career with the longest streak without a goal in his career: nine games — or since a March 8 goal against Ottawa. His previous longest streak was eight in 1996-97, his final season before his retirement.

Lemieux had plenty of scoring chances Wednesday, including one on a short breakaway when he couldn't dis-

tance himself enough from defenseman Bret Hedican to get off an uncontested shot against Arturs Irbe.

It initially appeared as if Lemieux may have scored the game's first goal as he nearly got his stick on Meloche's shot seven minutes in, but Meloche was credited with the first of his two goals.

In a matchup of the NHL's two worst teams, the Hurricanes — 0-7-2 in their last nine games — assured themselves of finishing with the NHL's worst record. They have 61 points with two games remaining, while the Penguins have 65 with one to play, and Pittsburgh owns the tiebreaker.

"It's not like we were in 17th place and then wound up here in 30th," Carolina coach Paul Maurice said. "We've been battling at the bottom for a long time."

The Penguins, 2-16-2 in their last 20 games, won for the first time in 11 home games to avoid tying a franchise record for longest home winless streak set in 1983.

Michael Zigomanis, with only one point in 16 previous NHL games, scored once and assisted on another goal in a two-minute span of the second period, but the Hurricanes couldn't hold the 2-1 lead.

Lemieux briefly left the ice late in the second after Brad DeFauw's stick caught him flush in the face along the boards. But Lemieux was back on the ice for the power play resulting from the high-sticking penalty.

The near-sellout crowd of

15,718 clearly wanted to see Lemieux get a goal in the third period, cheering whenever he touched the puck and chanting, "Let's Go, Penguins" and "One More Year."

But it was defenseman Richard Lintner who tied it with 3:01 remaining, sweeping in a rebound of Martin Straka's backhand. Zigomanis had put Carolina ahead 2-1 with his second career goal and his first career assist, on Craig MacDonald's first goal of the season, in a span of 1:52 midway through the second.

MacDonald hadn't scored a goal since April 12, 2002, and it was only his second goal in 56 games.

Meloche's second goal came with Ryan Bayda off for a four-minute high-sticking penalty that came shortly after Lintner's tying goal.

"He put the puck right on my stick," Meloche said.

Coyotes 3, Canucks 3

Teppo Numminen scored with 2:01 remaining as the Phoenix Coyotes rallied from a two-goal deficit in the third period and tied the Vancouver Canucks 3-3 on Wednesday night.

Numminen tied it after he gained control of the puck at the top left side of the crease and slipped a soft wrist shot past Dan Cloutier.

Markus Naslund scored his league-leading 48th goal, and Trevor Linden and Sami Salo also scored for the Canucks, who moved three points in front of Colorado for the Northwest Division lead.

The Canucks, 3-0-1 in four games against the Coyotes, are 4-2-1 in their last even games and also raised their franchise-best road record to 23-10-7-1.

Danny Markov scored his first goal since Dec. 11 and Paul Mara had a goal for the Coyotes, who are 0-5-1-1 in their last seven.

Mara pulled Phoenix within 3-2 with 11:28 to go when he one-timed a rebound off the left post into the low slot past Cloutier.

Naslund's goal, Vancouver's third straight after trailing 1-0 early, came seconds after the Coyotes had killed a two-minute, two-man advantage.

Jan Hrdina, playing his second game for Phoenix, fired wide on a short-handed breakaway. The puck bounced to Todd Bertuzzi, who skated the length of the ice as the dual penalties expired and fed a cross-ice pass to Naslund for the goal.

Naslund leads the NHL with 104 points, while Bertuzzi's 51st assist raised his points total to 97, fourth-best in the league.

Markov gave Phoenix a 1-0 lead at 10:45 of the first period, bouncing a hard, knuckling shot from the right point off the crossbar.

Linden tied it at the 15-minute mark of the period when he beat Brian Boucher from the right faceoff circle for his 19th goal.

Salo fired a sharp wrister from the right faceoff circle over Boucher's right shoulder at 3:51 of the second to put the Canucks ahead 2-1.

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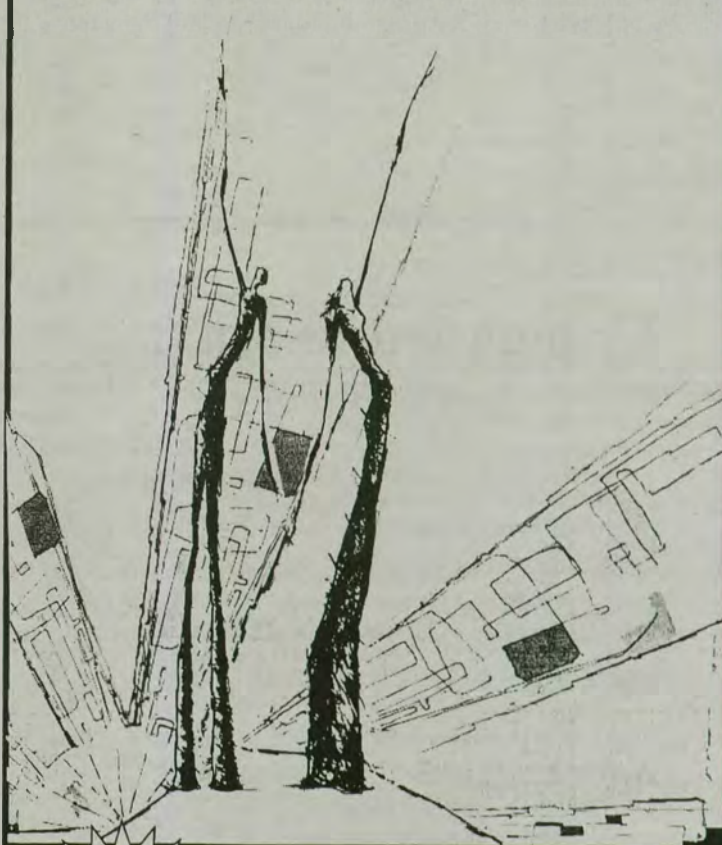


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NBA

As peanut flies at official, Hornets clinch playoff berth

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS

The Hornets did something in their first year in New Orleans that the Jazz didn't do for the city in five years: make the playoffs.

The Hornets, who moved to New Orleans from Charlotte after last season, locked up their fourth straight playoff berth Wednesday night with an assist from the Sacramento Kings.

Jamal Mashburn scored 24 points, Baron Davis and George Lynch each added 19 as the Hornets beat the New Jersey Nets 106-97. The victory, along with Sacramento's 105-99 win against the Washington Wizards, advanced the Hornets to the playoffs.

"This was a key win tonight," Hornets coach Paul Silas said. "Not just because we clinched a playoff berth, but because we might meet this team in the playoffs."

The Jazz, which played in New Orleans from 1974-79, never made the playoffs while in the city.

The victory might have been costly, however. Davis, who returned to the lineup March 11 after missing 20 games following surgery on his left knee, twisted the knee and left the game late in the third quarter. Silas said after the game it was too early to know how bad Davis' injury was.

Mashburn, who had just two points in the first quarter, and Lynch, who had only seven points in the first half, picked up the slack.

"We've still got a long way to go as far as seeding is concerned," Mashburn said.

Jamaal Magloire scored 17 for the Hornets and grabbed 16 rebounds, and reserve Robert Pack added 10.

"It takes some pressure off us," Lynch said. "But we can't look at it like that. We've got to try to improve each game now."

Richard Jefferson led the Nets with 24 points, Kerry Kittles added 19, Jason Kidd had 17 points and 13 assists, Rodney Rogers 16 points and Jason Collins 10.

New Orleans, which led by as much as 22, saw the Nets cut the lead to nine on a jumper by Kittles with 2:45 remaining.

Jefferson's layup with 1:57 left pulled New Jersey within 98-91. The Nets did not score again until Collins hit a free throw with 38 seconds left.

"We were just trying to fight to get back in it," Jefferson said. "We were without Kenyon Martin, who is our best rebounder. The guys were a little fatigued."

In the third quarter, tempers flared. An elderly couple was tossed out of the game after the woman threw a peanut at an official who called a foul on Lynch. A few minutes later, a shoving match under the Nets' basket between Magloire and Brian Scalabrine drew both teams and both coaches onto the floor before officials restored order.

Kings 105, Wizards 99

For three quarters, the Sacramento Kings looked play-off-ready.

That's all they needed to beat the Washington Wizards, who took another step toward the NBA lottery.

Chris Webber torched his old team again for 28 points, nine rebounds and six assists as the Kings took control in the second quarter and held on for a 105-99 victory Wednesday night.

Sacramento, four games into a six-game road trip, nearly blew a 19-point fourth-quarter lead. The victory reduced its magic number to one to win the Pacific Division.

"We got a bit tired," coach Rick Adelman said. "Four games in five nights. It's another good lesson. They got really aggressive and physical, and we have to respond to that."

Jerry Stackhouse scored 27 points for Washington. Michael Jordan, playing almost nonstop in his bid to get to the playoffs one last time, scored 17 points and played 33 of the game's first 34 minutes and 42 minutes in all. The Wizards, back from going 2-4 on a two-week West Coast road trip, sank to a sea-

son-low six games under .500.

Washington fell two games behind Milwaukee, which beat Houston 106-99, in the race for the eighth Eastern Conference playoff spot. The Wizards play at Atlanta on Thursday.

"We've got to go to Atlanta and win," coach Doug Collins said. "Nothing else matters."

The Kings, playing their third game in four days, were up by 22 in the third quarter before letting up in the fourth. The Wizards cut the lead to five on Jordan's tough baseline jumper with 2:20 to play, and they twice pulled within four.

But Webber quieted the crowd with a 20-foot jumper, and the Wizards didn't have enough time left to catch up — especially after Kwame Brown missed three of four free throws in the final 70 seconds. The Kings went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line in the final minute.

"They're tough to beat," Stackhouse said. "But we did have a valiant effort."

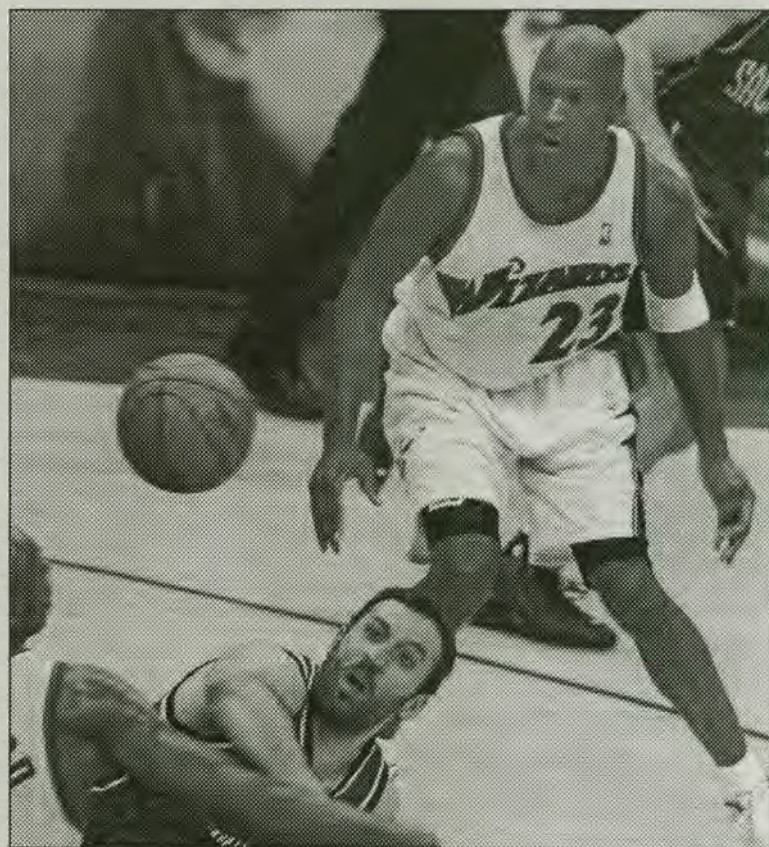
Spurs 105, Grizzlies 87

As if the Memphis Grizzlies weren't already aware of it, Tim Duncan showed them why he is one of the NBA's best players.

Duncan scored 33 points and grabbed 19 rebounds Wednesday night, leading an inside dominance by San Antonio as the Spurs defeated the Grizzlies 105-87.

"They just whipped us and dominated the boards," said Memphis coach Hubie Brown. "Then their key guy gave you an MVP game."

Duncan connected on 13 of 16 shots from the field as the Spurs



REUTERS

Sacramento Kings' Vlade Divac battles for a loose ball with Washington Wizards' Michael Jordan during NBA action at the MCI Center in Washington April 2.

won their seventh straight game. Memphis, meanwhile, is in a tailspin, losing seven of its last eight.

The Grizzlies seemed to have little answer for Duncan inside, and when point guard Tony Parker added 10 of his 16 points in the third period, San Antonio continued to build the lead.

Six minutes into the final period, the Spurs led by 20 and eventually would hold a 21-point advantage twice down the

stretch.

Reserve Malik Rose added 18 points for San Antonio.

Lorenzen Wright led Memphis with 24 points, but the rest of the frontline had little punch. Leading scorer Pau Gasol scored five points and had five rebounds before fouling out, and Mike Miller, still suffering from back spasms, had seven. The Grizzlies were outscored 50-38 in the paint and out rebounded 49-35.

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AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, April 3, 2003

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pts	last 10
New Jersey	45-20-8-6	104	6-1-2-1
Philadelphia	43-20-13-4	103	6-2-2-0
NY Islanders	34-32-11-2	81	4-4-2-0
NY Rangers	32-34-10-4	78	4-3-1-2
Pittsburgh	26-43-6-5	63	1-7-2-0

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	pts	last 10
Ottawa	50-21-8-1	109	6-3-1-0
Toronto	43-27-7-3	96	5-1-2-2
Boston	35-31-10-4	84	4-4-2-0
Montreal	29-34-8-9	75	4-5-0-1
Buffalo	26-36-9-8	69	5-4-0-1

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pts	last 10
Tampa Bay	35-23-16-5	91	5-0-5-0
Washington	38-28-8-6	90	6-3-0-1
Atlanta	29-38-7-5	70	6-2-1-1
Florida	23-35-13-9	68	1-8-1-0
Carolina	22-40-11-6	61	2-6-2-0

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	pts	last 10
Detroit	47-20-9-3	106	8-2-0-0
St. Louis	41-22-10-6	98	5-3-2-0
Chicago	28-33-12-6	74	3-4-2-1
Nashville	27-33-13-7	74	0-6-2-2
Columbus	28-41-7-3	66	4-6-0-0

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pts	last 10
Vancouver	45-22-12-1	103	5-4-1-0
Colorado	40-18-13-8	101	6-2-1-1
Minnesota	41-27-10-1	93	6-3-1-0
Edmonton	36-25-10-9	91	6-1-2-1
Calgary	27-36-12-4	70	4-4-2-0

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pts	last 10
Dallas	44-17-15-4	107	5-3-0-2
Anaheim	40-26-9-5	94	7-1-1-1
Los Angeles	31-36-6-6	74	2-4-2-2
Phoenix	30-35-9-5	74	3-6-0-1
San Jose	28-37-6-8	70	3-4-0-3

Mens College Baseball

Big East Conference

team	W	L	Pct.
Connecticut	5	0	1.000
St. John's	3	0	1.000
NOTRE DAME	5	1	.833
Virginia Tech	2	1	.667
Boston College	2	1	.667
West Virginia	1	1	.500
Rutgers	1	1	.500
Pittsburgh	2	4	.333
Seton Hall	2	4	.333
Villanova	1	4	.200
Georgetown	1	8	.111

NBA



Braves GM John Schuerholz, left, Thrashers GM Don Waddell, center, and Pete Babcock, right, at a press conference in Atlanta. Babcock was fired by the Hawks Wednesday after 13 years as the team's general manager.

Pete Babcock removed as Hawks' GM

Associated Press

ATLANTA
Pete Babcock knew his days were numbered as the Atlanta Hawks staggered toward their fourth straight losing season.

Babcock was fired by the Hawks on Wednesday, ending the fourth-longest tenure of any general manager in the NBA.

"It's not like this is a shock," Babcock said. "There's no gray area in this business. It's all about wins and losses."

Babcock had been with the Hawks since February 1990. The only GMs who have longer tenures with

the same team are Chicago's Jerry Krause, Indiana's Donnie Walsh and Elgin Baylor of the Los Angeles Clippers.

"I really feel fortunate to be here that long," Babcock said. "Usually, you get about four or five years in this job."

Babcock outlasted four coaches (Mike Fratello, Bob Weiss, Lenny Wilkens and Lon Kruger) but couldn't survive an ill-fated attempt to build a younger, faster team after the Hawks were swept by the New York Knicks in the 1999 playoffs.

Since then, Atlanta hasn't won more than 33

games in a season. The Hawks are 29-45 this season, virtually eliminated from the Eastern Conference playoff race with eight games remaining.

"It's been four years now that we've been out of the playoffs and it's just not acceptable for us," team president Stan Kasten said. "It's time now to turn the reins over to someone else to begin a new plan, to try something else."

The Hawks made the playoffs in eight of Babcock's first nine full seasons, reaching 50 victories three times and winning the Central

Division championship in 1994.

But Babcock's teams never got past the second round of the playoffs, and he was criticized for failing to improve the team through the draft. The first-round flops included Doug Edwards, Ed Gray and Priest Lauderdale.

Babcock said his biggest mistake was the 1999 trade that sent Steve Smith to Portland for Isaiah Rider and Jim Jackson. Rider didn't even make it through one season with the Hawks, who released him for repeatedly showing up late for games and practices.

IN BRIEF

Trial begins for Kirby Puckett

A jury began deliberations Wednesday in the trial of Kirby Puckett, accused of dragging a woman into a restaurant bathroom and assaulting her.

Jurors deliberated for about 5 1/2 hours without reaching a verdict. Hennepin County District Judge Stephen Swanson sequestered them at a hotel for the night, and they were scheduled to reconvene Thursday morning.

Puckett's attorney told the jury Wednesday that the state failed to prove the charges against the Hall of Famer and former Minnesota Twins slugger.

"What happened was real simple — she wanted to go into the restroom. He took her into the restroom. It might not have been the wisest choice, but it was real simple," attorney Todd Jones said.

But prosecutor Alan Harris told jurors that the woman's story is supported by testimony from others and physical evidence, which should lead them to conclude that Puckett is guilty.

Puckett, 43, is charged with felony false imprisonment and criminal sexual conduct and assault, both misdemeanors.

Phillies' manager Bowa suspended one game

Philadelphia manager Larry Bowa was suspended for one game and fined Wednesday for inciting the benches to clear during a spring training game against Toronto.

Bob Watson, baseball's vice president of discipline, announced the penalty before the Phillies played Florida on Wednesday night. Bowa is to miss Thursday's series finale.

Angry that Toronto's Roy Halladay hit Jim Thome in the

third inning of the game in Clearwater, Fla., on March 26, Bowa yelled at the pitcher an inning later and was ejected.

Both benches emptied, but no punches were thrown. Bowa had to be restrained by several people.

Pacers center misses game with ankle injury

Indiana Pacers center Jermaine O'Neal missed Wednesday night's game against the Cleveland Cavaliers with a sprained right ankle.

O'Neal, the Pacers' leading scorer, rebounder and shot blocker, has been playing on a sore ankle since spraining it early last month on a West Coast trip.

"It's kind of been dragging on for a while," coach Isiah Thomas said. "If he could play, he would play. It's not him saying that he needs a break."

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NIT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Georgetown vs. St. John's 8 p.m., ESPN2

NBA

Wizards at Hawks 7 p.m., TNT

Lakers at Mavericks 9:30 p.m., TNT

MLB

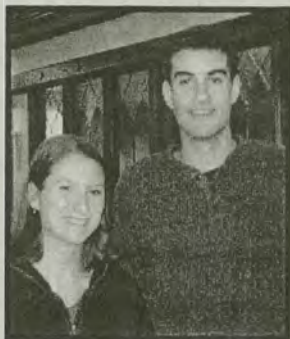
Cubs at Mets 1 p.m., ESPN

White Sox at Royals 2 p.m., Fox Sports

WELCOME

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SMC SOFTBALL

Hornets fail to sting Belles

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's softball team did not blow out Kalamazoo — both games went extra innings in a pair of pitching duels. Nevertheless, the Belles got it done on the road to open their MIAA schedule, winning two close games in nine innings by scores of 5-1 and 2-1, respectively. Saint Mary's (12-6-1, 2-0 MIAA) did not make the statement head coach Anna Welsh had anticipated, but the Belles still got out of Wednesday with two wins that easily could have been two losses.

"It was good to get our first games in conference under our belt, to see what the conference will be like," Welsh said. "And we haven't played for a week and a half. So it was good to come off with two victories."

Welsh definitely was not disappointed with the pitching. In the first game, junior Libby Wilhelmy started and threw six scoreless innings for the Belles. After Saint Mary's scored a run in the sixth, Welsh inserted freshman Kate Sajewich to close it out, but the Hornets scored a run in the seventh — and what would have been the final — inning to send it to the eighth.

Welsh said the Belles held it together in extra innings due to clutch defense.

"We did not play as well as we would have liked to," she said. "We got some clutch defense out there. But, then again, if you score more runs, then you don't need clutch defense in the seventh [inning]."

Saint Mary's also got key hits when they needed them, even if they came late. Freshmen Bridget Grall and Jackie Zurcher each recorded two hits. Senior

catcher Susan Kutz knocked two doubles.

Four runs in the top of the ninth sealed the win for the Belles. Sajewich received a win in relief.

In the second game, the Belles struggled at the plate. Still, that was more than Kalamazoo could do. Grall pitched a no-hitter through six innings, before giving up one run in the seventh, which ended a tremendous performance by the freshman.

"They're hitters simply came around," Welsh said. "Bridget pitched a great game."

The score remained at 1-1 until the Belles batted in the bottom of the ninth inning, because doubleheader rules state that the home team bats in the top of the innings in the second game. Junior Marnie Walsh singled to lead off the bottom of the ninth. After stealing second base, Walsh reached third base on a fielder's choice. That brought up freshman Meghan Marenkovic. The third baseman grounded hard to third, but Walsh scored her second run of the game on a fielder's choice, ending the game in favor of the Belles. Marenkovic had both RBI's.

Libby Wilhelmy pitched the rest of the way after Grall went out and got the win.

"The way these games happened, we learned so much today," Welsh said. "We made a few mistakes. You learn a lot from losses, but you learn from wins as well. In conference play you step it up to a different level. I'm not sure how well we did that today, but we're definitely happy with two wins."

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NCAA BASKETBALL

UCLA hires Pitt's Howland

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Ben Howland, a Southern California native who led Pittsburgh to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament for the second straight year, was hired as UCLA's coach late Wednesday night.

Howland will be formally introduced on campus Thursday, athletic director Dan Guerrero said.

"Ben Howland is an outstanding basketball coach, one of the best in the entire country, and he is the man we want to run our program," Guerrero said in a statement. "He has built winning programs throughout his career and we expect that he will return UCLA basketball to the nation's elite."

Howland, 45, becomes the eighth coach at UCLA since John Wooden retired in 1975 after leading the Bruins to 10 national championships in a 12-year span.

Howland replaces Steve Lavin, who was fired March 17 after the Bruins went 10-19 for their first losing season in 55 years.

Howland led Pitt from Big East dormat to national championship contender after his hiring in 1999. He has a 168-99 record in nine years as a head coach — five at Northern Arizona and the last four at Pitt.

The Panthers went 28-5 this season, and they finished No. 4 in the final Associated Press poll that came out before the NCAA tournament.

Howland said the UCLA job is the only one that could have convinced him to leave his current one.

"Having grown up in Southern California as a Bruin fan, watching the

televised replays of the games was special for me," Howland said in a statement. "To now be the head coach of this program is something I dreamed about but never thought possible. I have an appreciation for what these four letters mean in the world of college basketball."

The day Lavin was fired, Howland said he had no plans to leave Pitt, but everything changed once the Panthers were eliminated by Marquette 77-74 in the third round of the NCAA tournament.

"I want to make it clear how hard it was for me to leave the University of Pittsburgh," Howland said. "I can't imagine myself leaving Pittsburgh for anywhere except UCLA."

Howland met with Guerrero and associate athletic director Betsy Stephenson on Sunday in Santa Barbara. Howland's parents live there, 100 miles from Los Angeles.

Howland was an assistant at UC Santa Barbara for 11 seasons before taking the Northern Arizona job in 1994.

Howland just completed the first year of a seven-year, \$5.9 million contract at Pittsburgh that included incentives and a buyout of about \$750,000.

Lavin, who had five years remaining on his contract, will receive a buyout of one year at his full salary of \$578,000, and four years at the base salary of \$153,000.

Lavin's firing had been anticipated for months by everyone, including the 38-year-old coach.

He went 145-78 in seven years and took the Bruins to the round of 16 of the NCAA tournament five times in six years, a feat matched only by Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Lavin's teams won at least 20 games every season except this one.

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BASEBALL

Irish getting offensive as Big East looms

The Irish offense has scored a lot of runs lately.

How many different ways can it be said?

After a slow start, Notre Dame's offense is back. And not only are they back, they're dominating.

It's not that hard to notice, either. With its home-opening seven-game set completed, one look at the statistics can tell you that.

In the seven games, the Irish batted .371, hit 26 extra-base hits, scored 75 runs, stole 11 bases and totaled 89 hits overall.

On the flipside of this, the Notre Dame pitching staff finished with a 7-0 record and a 2.80 earned run average, holding its opponents to a .223 batting average, striking out 70 while walking only 24.

They are a more complete team than the one that took the field against Dayton on Feb. 21, and the results prove it: after starting the season 3-4, the Irish currently stand at 18-6, and more importantly, 5-1 in the Big East.

They are a fluke game-winning single by Villanova on March 23 away from being 19-5 and 6-0.

Fluke losses notwithstanding, the Irish are a team to be reckoned with.

"I really think we've gotten better in every phase of the game," Notre Dame coach Paul Mainieri said after Wednesday's victory. "Baseball I think is the kind of sport that you just need to play a lot in order to get the timing down and get the confidence, because the confidence comes from being comfortable and your experiences. You're seeing the ball better; your reactions are better on the bases. Every aspect of the game, the more you play, the better you get."

This resurgence is personified in sophomore shortstop Matt Macri. Heading into the homestand, Macri was batting a dismal .207 (13-for-61). But because he is getting experience in a real setting against regional (i.e. not as good) opponents, he has improved his average to .271 heading into this weekend.

"I get the sense that Matt Macri is really starting to come around these last few days," Mainieri said Wednesday night. "He's looking more and more confident at the plate. The more he plays, I feel like the better he's hitting. Tonight I thought



Bryan Kronk

Senior Staff
Writer



SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

Freshman Steve Andres launches a three-run home run in the bottom of the second inning of Notre Dame's 13-4 victory over Valparaiso Wednesday. The much-improved Irish offense will be tested this weekend at Boston College and St. John's.

he hit the ball really hard, and if he could really get it going, it would be a real shot in the arm to make us that much better."

According to Mainieri's theory, Macri and the rest of the Irish have made huge strides since that 10-9 win over the Flyers in Arizona 41 days ago.

We will see exactly how huge those strides were when the Irish take on Big East powerhouses Boston College and St. John's on the road this weekend.

Mainieri feels they're up for the challenge, and with the results produced over the past 8 days, who can argue with him?

"Only time will tell [how the Irish bat-

ters will fare against Big East pitching on the road]," Mainieri said. "We'll have to see when they're in there against the Big East pitchers. I feel really confident that they're going to be able to handle it. These kids are getting better; I don't care who we're facing. They've got 24 games under their belts. After you've been out there for a while, their confidence grows. We have the talent, so time will tell."

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Bryan Kronk at bkronk@nd.edu.

Valpo

continued from page 24

out, launched a three-run home run — Notre Dame's first in 13 games — in the bottom of the second to put the Irish ahead for good at 3-1.

"I felt pretty confident we weren't going to go the whole year at home and not hit a home run," Mainieri said. "I knew sooner or later we'd hit one."

Run-scoring singles by Greg Lopez and Matt Edwards increased that lead to 5-1 to close out the scoring in the second.

The Irish notched two more runs on the board in the fourth, when Steve Sollmann knocked in Craig Cooper, who reached third after a leadoff triple. After Sollmann was caught stealing second, Edwards fired a shot to left, which cleared the fences and gave the Irish a 7-1 lead.

Notre Dame put up another five runs in the fifth inning. Matt Macri's double knocked in Javi Sanchez, knocking Valparaiso's starting pitcher out of the game.

The onslaught continued, however, as Andres knocked in another run with a single and Sollmann drove in two runs with a towering triple to right-center. A groundout by Lopez knocked Sollmann in to put the Irish ahead 12-1.

A sacrifice fly by Cody Rizzo drove in Notre Dame's 13th run, and the relief pitchers held the Crusaders to three runs (two in the seventh off Wilkins and one in the ninth off Gagne) to close out a perfect home stand.

Now the Irish travel to the east coast for a four-game weekend series against Boston College and St. John's, marking a key Big East road trip against some tough competition.

"This coming weekend, the level of competition is upgraded," Mainieri said. "... Not only are the teams good, but we're playing them on the road. With Big East conference games, our history of our program is that our Irish teams have always accepted those kinds of challenges on the road and come through in the clutch. So that's the challenge we have ahead of us."

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SMC TENNIS

Belles' winning streak snapped in 5-4 loss to Hornets

By LISA REIJULA
Sports Writer

The Saint Mary's tennis team's impressive winning streak came to an end Wednesday against Kalamazoo College in a hard-fought 5-4 loss.

Before Wednesday's defeat, the Belles had won nine straight matches. The lone blemish on their record was a 6-3 loss in the spring season opener to St. Cloud State on March 10.

"When you're winning a lot, sometimes you forget what it feels like to lose," said junior co-captain Kaitlin Cutler. "I think this will be motivation for us."

At No. 1 singles, Saint Mary's

Jeannie Knish faced a tough opponent in Kalamazoo's Meaghan Clark, the 21st-ranked player in the nation in Division III women's tennis. Clark won the match by a 6-3, 6-1 score.

The Hornets also won at the No. 2 flight, as Kara Hoorn beat Belles freshman Kristen Palombo 6-2, 6-3. Cutler notched the first win for Saint Mary's with a 6-2, 6-3 defeat of Caitlin Kelly at No. 3 singles.

The Belles won two more singles matches for the afternoon. Kris Spriggle downed Kalamazoo's Elizabeth Davis 6-2, 6-1 at the No. 4 match up. With the victory, Spriggle brought her singles record to a perfect 10-0. At the No. 5 spot,

senior Elisa Ryan also won for the Belles, beating Jessamyn Margoni 6-1, 6-3.

The No. 6 singles match was a tight, evenly-matched contest. Kalamazoo's Kristin Hirth edged out Saint Mary's Angela Sandner, winning 7-5, 7-5.

In doubles play, the Hornets took two out of three matches from the Belles. At the No. 1 slot, Kalamazoo's team of Kelly and Clark defeated Knish and Palombo 6-1, 3-6, 6-2. The Belles won at No. 2 doubles, as

the Cutler/Ryan duo dispatched Hoorn and Davis 6-1, 6-3.

However, the Hornets prevailed in the No. 3 doubles match. Margoni and Catharine Smith won over Saint Mary's Spriggle and freshman Lindsay Cook in a close 7-6 (4), 7-5 match.

"All the matches were really close," said Cutler. "The girls who lost feel like it could have gone either way. We play them again in conference and we

believe we can beat them."

With the loss, the Belles now hold a record of 9-2 on the season. They fell to .500 in the MIAA conference with a 1-1 record. The match against Kalamazoo was the first loss for the Belles in the conference in two years.

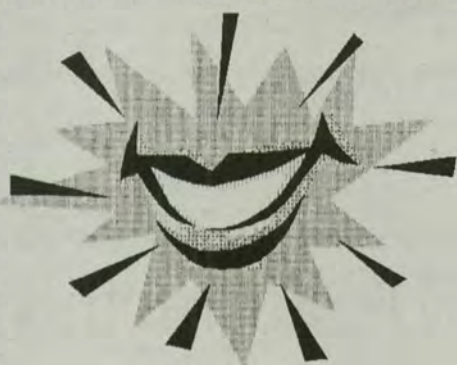
"It's only our second conference match," said Cutler. "We'll get back on track after the loss. It could be a good thing for us."

The Saint Mary's team will look to rebound against Adrian College on the road in another MIAA conference match Saturday.

Contact Lisa Reijula at
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Tennis

continued from page 24

and Eva Choe 8-4.

Then Sarah Jane Connelly and freshman Kristina Stastny, playing for only the third time together, won their third straight doubles match as they topped Eklov and Knue 8-4.

The Irish wrap up what has been a busy two-week period of play today when they head to

Indiana University to contend with the unranked Hoosiers. After today's contest, the Irish will have some time to prepare for their last regular-season competition — a road bout with No. 19 Miami.

"I think everyone is really looking forward to ending this road trip on a good note."

Katie Cunha
senior

"Everyone's a little bit tired, but we only have one more match before time off," Cunha said. "I think everyone is really looking forward to ending this road trip on a good note."

Contact Joe Lindsley at
jlindsle@nd.edu

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ND SOFTBALL

Loyola comes to Ivy as Irish look for home victories

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

After dropping a doubleheader to Northwestern in the home opener March 26, Notre Dame looks to win its first home game this year in hosting Loyola Chicago in a doubleheader this afternoon.

"We just had our games against Purdue [Tuesday]. Those were great," second baseman Alexis Madrid said. "It has been tough with the weather [and then to play] Purdue, those two games were a good push for us."

The Irish (12-11) got back on the plus side of .500 in sweeping a doubleheader at Purdue Tuesday. A combination of 18 hits and three home runs in the two games ignited the Irish offense for seven runs in each game. That offensive production, along with just being able to play, gives the team confidence heading into today's games against the Ramblers.

"It helped us a lot, especially a lot with the Big East games cancelled," Madrid said. "Purdue is a great team, and for us to go in there and have all three aspects of the game work well together was great."

With inclement weather canceling or postponing nine games thus far this season, including the opening of the Big East sea-

son last weekend, being able to establish a flow to the season has been challenging so far for the Irish.

"It has been difficult, even with games in warmer climates," Madrid said. "We know coming to Notre Dame, that is something that goes along with the sport. For us knowing that, we are mentally prepared for that. We have to take advantage of when we can play."

Entering Wednesday's game against Wisconsin Green-Bay, Loyola stood at 15-9 on the season and winners of five of its past six. The only common opponent on Notre Dame's and Loyola's schedules is Purdue.

While the Irish swept the Boilermakers in a doubleheader Tuesday, the Ramblers were run-ruled 8-0 in a six-inning game March 22.

Just like they have done in every game, the Irish are concentrating on playing a complete game against the Ramblers.

"Loyola is a great team and we need to take the same approach we have in other games," Madrid said. "[Our approach has been] putting hits together — which we have been doing in the last couple games — our pitchers knowing the batters, and then the defense, which has been solid."

Contact Matt Lozar at
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"For us to go in there and have all three aspects of the game work well together was great."

Alexis Madrid
second baseman



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Irish leftfielder Liz Hartmann throws the ball during Notre Dame's Mar. 26 loss to Northwestern at Ivy Field.

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Thursday, April 3

11:00-4:00pm, Sorin Room 1st Floor, LaFortune Student Center
Cultural Displays and Demonstrations

3:30-5:00pm, University Village Community Center. **Children's Day:** Children's crafts, songs games and refreshments from around the world

6:00-8:00pm, Hesburgh Center for International Studies Auditorium. **African Dance Troupe and Cultural Displays.** The African Student Association presents an evening of entertainment and insights

8:00pm, Center for Social Concerns Cafe. **French Coffee House,** Acoustic French with Fabien Feron, Cyril LeSage and friends

Friday, April 4

11:00-4:00pm, Sorin Room 1st Floor, LaFortune Student Center
Cultural Displays and Demonstrations

2:00-4:00pm, University Village Community Center. **Children's Day:** Children's crafts, songs games and refreshments from around the world

4:00-5:00pm, Montgomery Theatre, 1st Floor, LaFortune Student Center
World Literature Readings II, International students and scholars reading poetry, lyrics and other literary selections in their native language

5:00pm, Rolf's Sport Center. **International Sports Tournament,** Sign-up throughout the week to participate with a team or individual play for soccer, badminton and table tennis. Stop by the ISSA or write Rodrigo Medrano, Medrano.1@nd.edu

Saturday, April 5

6:00-9:00pm, South Dining Hall. **Festival Finale: Tranquility Fest,** Cultural displays and hands-on demonstrations that promote peace, calm and understanding!
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International Student Services & Activities. 631-3825. 204 LaFortune Center. For more info, please refer to: www.nd.edu/~ISSA/international_Festival_calendar.html

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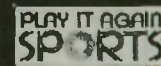
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HENRI ARNOLD
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SPORTS

Thursday, April 3, 2003

WOMENS TENNIS

Winning streak continues in Urbana

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sports Writer

The Irish womens tennis team scored a sizeable upset and continued their Big Ten domination as they surmounted 24th-ranked Illinois 6-1 Wednesday in Urbana.

Notre Dame, 12-7, has now defeated three top-35 teams in the past eight days.

"It was a great match," senior Katie Cunha said.

Part of what made the match great was Notre Dame's ability to play well even in the midst of a challenging two-week period laden with matches. The Irish have had seven matches in the past thirteen days, but during that same period the team has had some of its greatest successes.

The Irish defeated an Illini squad that also has a similar reputation for fighting — Illinois enjoyed a program-high ranking of 17 last week.

The Irish were ranked 48th last week — the lowest ranking since the Intercollegiate Tennis Association first began ranking teams in 1993. With the numerous matches — and numerous successes — the Irish enjoyed last week, they have now moved up to 27th in the nation.

The Irish began Wednesday's match with what has become a critical element to the team's success this season — winning

the doubles point.

Notre Dame has now claimed this initial point in each of its past six matches.

After the Irish doubles squads put the team ahead 1-0, junior Caylan Leslie and freshman Lauren Connelly each won their singles matches to put the Irish within a point of victory. Meanwhile Tiffany Eklov, ranked 106th, gave the Illini their only point of the day and kept her team in contention for the win as she topped Cunha.

With three remaining matches on the court, the Illini still had an opportunity for a rally.

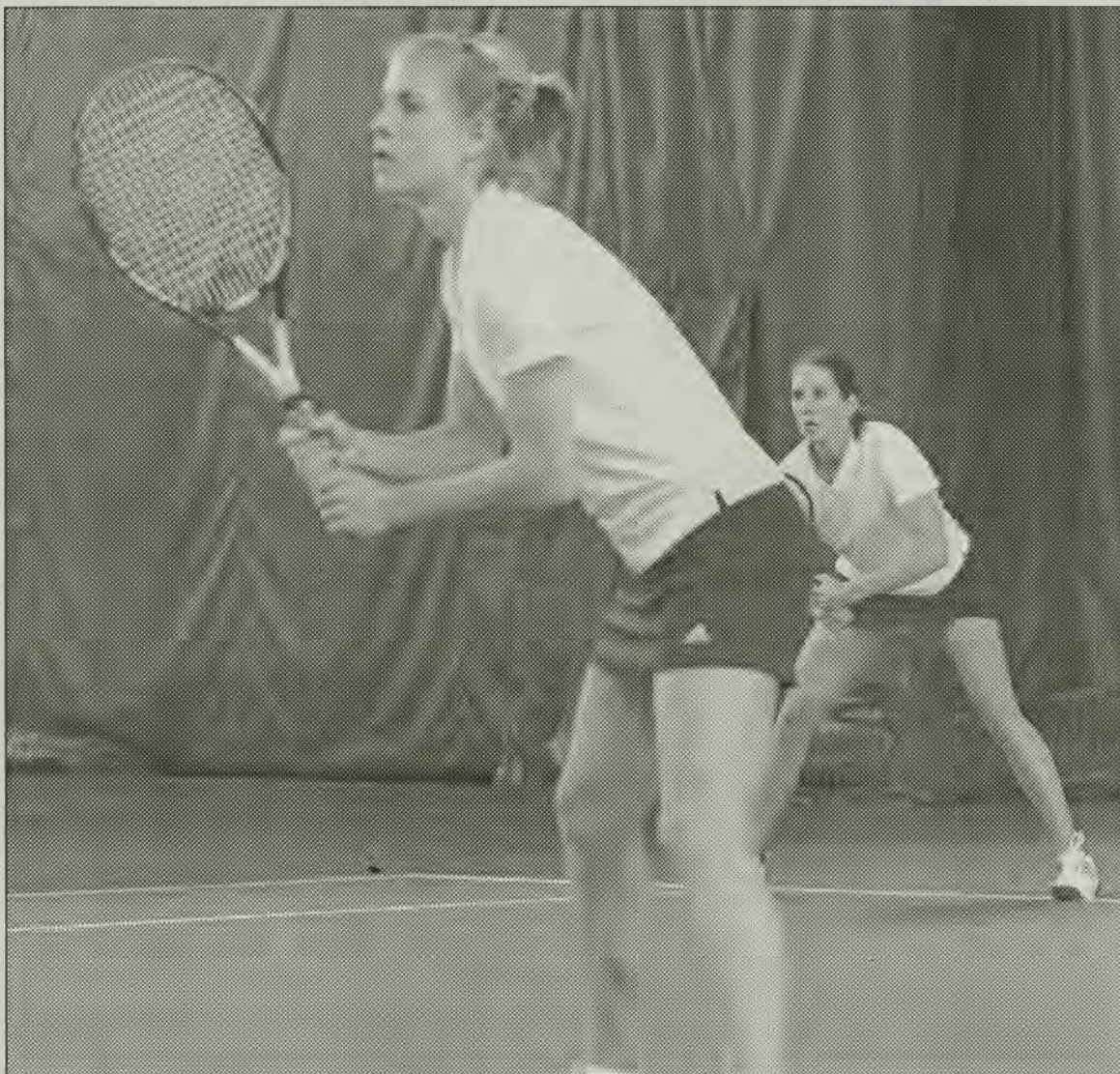
All three of those matches went into three sets, and, in the end, Notre Dame claimed each of them, though they only needed one for the upset victory.

Sophomore Sarah Jane Connelly clinched the Irish win when she defeated Brianna Knue 1-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3.

Of late, Sarah Jane Connelly has had much experience with coming from behind to win a match. She has lost the first set in six of her last ten matches, but came back to secure a win in each of the matches in which she was behind.

In doubles play, the Irish claimed wins at the No. 2 and No. 3 positions. The successful pair of junior Alicia Salas and Lauren Connelly won for the ninth time in the past 10 contests, defeating Eldina Falzic

see TENNIS/page 21



ADAM MIGLORE/The Observer

The doubles team of Kristina Stastny, left, and Katie Cunha prepares to return in the March 21 match against Iowa. The Irish knocked off Illinois Wednesday, 6-1.

BASEBALL

Homestand ends perfectly with 13-4 blowout



SOPIA BALLON/The Observer

Martin Vergara fires a pitch in Wednesday's match against Valparaiso. The Irish beat the Crusaders 13-4.

By BRYAN KRONK
Senior Staff Writer

Different opponent, same result.

Once again, the Irish baseball team knocked its opponent around offensively and held them at bay defensively, and Notre Dame rolled to its ninth straight victory — its seventh straight home triumph — with a 13-4 win over Valparaiso Wednesday at Eck Stadium.

"I'm about as happy with the team as I possibly could be at this time," Notre Dame head coach Paul Mainieri said. "I feel like we got better over the home stand. There's not a phase of

the team really that I'm displeased with."

Right from the opening pitch, the game seemed to mirror Tuesday's match against Detroit, as Valparaiso opened with a run in the top of the first from an RBI double off Irish starter Martin Vergara.

However, the Irish scored the next 13 runs over the following five innings, while Vergara and a host of relievers — Tyler Jones, Cody Wilkins, Matt Laird and J.P. Gagne — held the Crusaders to only three more runs, giving Vergara his first

win of the season.

"I thought Martin did a good job," Mainieri said. "He walked the first guy and gave up that double, but I thought after that he pitched well. He threw strikes, and our defense worked for him. I thought he did a very solid job for us tonight."

For the second straight night, the weather also worked in favor of both offenses, and the Irish took advantage early, when freshman designated hitter Steve Andres, with the wind blowing

see VALPO/page 20

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

SMC SOFTBALL

Saint Mary's 5, 2
Kalamazoo 1, 1

In a doubleheader that did not feature much offense, the Belles swept the Hornets in two extra-inning affairs.

page 19

SMC TENNIS

Kalamazoo 5
Saint Mary's 4

Kalamazoo ended the Belles' nine-game winning streak in a nailbiter. Saint Mary's is now 10-2 on the season.

page 21

ND SOFTBALL

Loyola at Notre Dame
Today, 4 p.m.

The Irish are looking to build on Tuesday's sweep of Purdue with a doubleheader against the Ramblers at Ivy Field today.

page 22