Sharon's parents meet with investigators, students

By TERESA FRALISH
Assistant News Editor

After arriving at Notre Dame Wednesday evening, Steve and Jane Sharon, the parents of missing freshman Chad Sharon, met with investigators and talked with students Thursday about their only child's disappearance.

Though the Sharons said they feel completely confident in Notre Dame Security Police's handling of the case, they wanted to talk with investigators firsthand and offer students a chance to speak with them personally. "We feel like we're really doing something," said Steve Sharon. "It's one of the biggest things we can do right now."

After meeting with investigators during the day, the Sharons talked with students before and after attending an evening mass celebrated by Father Edward Malloy at Chad Sharon's dorm, Fisher Hall. At the standing-room only mass, Chad's parents were presented with the same Notre Dame medal that is given to all incoming students. Steve and Jane Sharon said the 30 to 40 students that came forward to share their stories about Chad encouraged them. "The students are really great," said Steve Sharon. "They are behind us 100 percent."

The Sharons say they learned nothing new of major significance during the evening, they were very pleased by the concern students showed for their son. "We talked to someone who was at the [Corby Street] party," said Steve Sharon. "Every one of the kids cared very much."

In an attempt to focus increased media attention on their son's case, the Sharons said they would take their story to the national networks. As part of this decision, Steve and Jane Sharon appeared early this morning on Good Morning America to talk about Chad's disappearance.

The Sharons say they see no reason for their son's unexplained absence and feel confident that he will contact them when he is able. "We know that he would not do this to us and that there's something keeping him from us. He's never given us five minutes of trouble in his whole life," said Steve Sharon.

Steve and Jane Sharon (center), the parents of missing Notre Dame student Chad Sharon, attended a Mass on Thursday evening in Fisher Hall, along with many of Chad's classmates, friends and the Fisher Hall community.

Chad's father said his son is a very responsible person and experienced in outdoor activities. Steve and Jane Sharon said their son was an outstanding student and never experienced problems. "Chad was the kind of individual that everyone looked up to," said Steve Sharon.

The Sharons say they kept in close contact with their son, who was attending the University on a full scholarship, during the last semester through phone calls and e-mail.

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Campus reacts to Illinois clemency

By LUKE BUSAM
News Writer

The current population of the Illinois death row is zero. In the days before he left office, Illinois Governor George Ryan, a former death penalty supporter, either pardoned or commuted the sentences of every person on the state's death row.

On Jan. 10, in a speech at DePaul University Law School in Chicago, Ryan pardoned and granted freedom to Madison Hobley, Stanley Howard, Aaron Patterson and Leroy Orange. Those four pardons marked an unprecedented act of clemency for a governor, immediately followed by the even more astounding blanket commutation of every person on the state's death row. Ryan's decision a day later to look at a blanket commutation granted 164 death row inmates life in prison, without the possibility of parole.

The clemency made headlines both in Illinois and across the nation and brought the issue of capital punishment to the foreground even as Illinois residents, politicians and experts alike seriously questioned Ryan's motives. A federal probe that alleges the governor tortured or your lawyer was "a little forced."

The legal process is "unequivocally praised Ryan's decision."

"I don't see how a person with a conscious could do anything else than what he did. I would compare it to a factory that pulls one product that falls half the time," said Dieter. Ryan placed a moratorium on the death penalty in 2000 after DNA evidence exonerated 13 men in the same period of time in which 12 were executed.

The legal process needed review and agreed with the blanket commutations. "You recall the whole system, just not pick out the mistakes. You pull back the whole batch," said Dieter. "He couldn't draw imaginary lines to say you were only a little tortured or your lawyer was only a little terrible, or the confession a little forced."

Notre Dame law school professor Richard Garnett said Ryan's decision might not be entirely good news for opponents of the death penalty. He took a drastic step and you have to be concerned with backlash. On the one hand it will encourage a second look from other state legislatures, but it could also get a lot of backlash," said Garnett.

Whatever Ryan's motive for communting the inmate's sentences, his unprecedented move sparked debates across the nation and could lead to new policies and legislation.
INSIDE COLUMN

America's playground

For the past three years I have opted out of my family's traditional Cape Cod vacation where the primary objective is to listen to the waves roll in, find the best lobster dinner and convince my father to stop into another little antique or craft shop. Instead, I decided to put these vacations on hold and grasp on to every college opportunity. Like studying and working abroad, interning and traveling to see what else this Great Country has to offer.

So, when it was announced that Notre Dame was playing in the Gator Bowl, my parents took this opportunity to get me on a family vacation. They booked the tickets for the game and as an added bonus included some time at Disney World.

I must say that I was all too eager to spend too much time in a theme park, even a world-renowned one where one's dreams come true. But once I arrived and spent some time at the resort, I realized that this park is not just a theme park, but also a representation of the ideals American society holds true.

Walt Disney had the goal of creating a place where parents and children can have fun together. And of course, spend some money. (Most people do, which isn't hard because every attraction ends up in a gift shop.)

Where else do people flock to and pay to be advertised to every hour of the day? Which other park has a huge innovation complex that introduces major corporation's products of the future? Amazingly, Disney does all this, while leaving most with a warm fuzzy feeling.

There is no place like Disney World. Euro Disney does not even compete. A young British couple reported this sentiment to my mother and I in Epcot as we shared a table at the Japanese Restaurant.

And Americans do things big with a large smile on their face and people love it.

Walt Disney was playing in the Gator Bowl, while leaving most with a warm fuzzy feeling. There is no place like Disney World.
Senate
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committee of the Student Senate researched the IB courses of higher and standard level acceptance only the IB higher courses.

Blake said half the universities that Notre Dame considers peer universities follow Notre Dame’s policy of accepting only the IB higher level courses, while the other half accepted a combination of higher and standard level courses.

There are 1,365 IB schools in 112 countries and 434 within the United States.

Contact Meghanne Downes at downes.4@nd.edu

Clemency
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Amanda Byers, a Notre Dame junior from Roseville, Ill, said she was not certain that Ryan’s decision accurately addressed the problematic legal situation. “I am concerned with the way in which Governor Ryan dealt with it,” said Byers.

Byers said she does not consider herself a supporter of Ryan, but felt that there was a need for statewide change. “There is obviously a flaw in the Illinois judicial system, and the cases of all of the death row inmates should certainly have been re-examined,” said Amanda Byers, student.

Sharon
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“I chatted with him the evening he disappeared,” said Jane Sharon.

In addition, the Sharons say Chad was enjoying Notre Dame and involved in several activities, such as Scholastic Magazine and the Irish Dance Club. “It was a privilege for him to be here,” said Steve Sharon.

Chad’s parents say they are willing to talk with anyone and want individuals who believe their information may be insignificant to come forward. “Someone out there knows something,” said Steve Sharon.

The Sharons say they completely focused on finding their son and want students to talk with them if they feel uncomfortable speaking with police. “We just want information,” said Jane Sharon. “We won’t hold anything against them.

Even after they depart campus today, the Sharons say students can contact

The December 25, 2002 Medjugorje message from our Mother, the Queen of Peace!

"Dear children! This is a time of great graces, but also a time of great trials for all those who desire to follow the way of peace. Because of that, little children, again I call you to pray, pray, pray, not with words but with the heart. Live my messages and be converted. Be conscious of this gift that God has permitted me to be with you, especially today when in my arms I have little Jesus - the King of Peace. I desire to give you peace, and that you carry it in your hearts and give it to others until God’s peace begins to rule the world. Thank you for having responded to my call."

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Sharon
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"There is obviously a flaw in the Illinois judicial system, and the cases of all of the death row inmates should certainly have been re-examined."
Amanda Byers, student.

because some guys in the past were found to be not guilty and the system needs to be looked at."

Tori Pambiance, a sophomore from Springfield, Ill., agreed with Brasse and said Ryan’s actions are being misunderstood because many think he set the inmates free or that they are being rewarded.

"There is always some gray area. We ask jurors to dispense with that and decide black or white, live or die. That’s more than humans have the ability to do,” said Dieter.

In his speech Jan. 11 Ryan said that it’s not easy to decide when the inmates name and picture are on your desk and you are the one who has to decide whether he lives or dies.

Contact Luke Basam at basam@nd.edu

NOSP and officials will connect callers with them at their Wisconsin home.

Students who knew Chad Sharon say they are as equally perplexed as his parents and do not understand their friend’s disappearance. Tom Gorman, a sophomore who lives in Chad Sharon’s section in Fisher Hall, said he was very focused on his studies and well-liked by residents in the dorm. “You knew he was a smart kid,” said Gorman. “He has a lot of good friends [and] he is liked by everyone. He was always one to do things for everyone else before himself.”

Gorman said the timing of Chad Sharon’s disappearance was particularly difficult and he was very surprised when Sharon did not return for his final exams. “It was really tough when exams came,” said Gorman. “I think everyone is kind of in disbelief.”

Peter Nebel, a junior who also lives on Sharon’s floor, said it was perfectly normal for him to attend parties after he had finished his studies. “He’d go to parties let’s party here with us,” said Nebel. Nebel said Sharon had just completed a 27-page paper and wanted to relax before beginning to study for his final exams.

Both Nebel and Gorman also clarified the rumor that Sharon had left campus without telling anyone during a previous weekend. According to Nebel and Gorman, Sharon told his roommate he would be out of town for the weekend, but actually remained in Fisher Hall the entire time.

“He was with us all that night,” said Gorman.

Sophomore Danita Altfillisch, who attended high school with Chad Sharon in Wisconsin and kept in touch with him at Notre Dame, said she spent many hours working on student council and National Honor Society projects with him.

“He always went the extra mile,” said Altfillisch. “He was always kind and friend­ly.”

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

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Poll: Bush still needs case for war

Associated Press
WASHINGTON
President Bush has yet to convince Americans that war with Iraq is justified, according to a poll that suggests the White House has much work to do to win public support for military force.

"I think a little more diplomacy would be in order," said Craig Crippen, an 84-year-old retired Air Force veteran from Deland, Fla.

There is widespread support for removing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, but that support is conditional on proof of a threat from Iraq and on the support of allies, said the poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The poll was released Thursday as the United Nations said it had discovered empty chemical warheads south of Baghdad.

Two-thirds or more in the Pew poll and other recent polls say they favor military action against Iraq — but only under certain circumstances. The Pew poll suggested that support for a war is strong, 76 percent, if United Nations inspectors find nuclear, biological or chemical weapons. The support is evenly split if they find no weapons but determine Iraq has the ability to make these weapons. The public does not buy the administration's argument that Iraq must prove it does not have these weapons.

Almost two-thirds, 63 percent, said that would not be a sufficient reason for a war. More than half, 53 percent, say the president has not yet explained clearly what's at stake to justify the United States using military force to end Saddam's rule, according to the poll. Some 42 percent say he has.

The number who say Bush has clearly explained what's at stake has eroded since his September address to the United Nations, when it was 52-37 saying he had given a clear explanation.

The Pew poll of 1,218 adults was taken Jan. 8-12 and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The Observer+ NEWS
Friday, January 17, 2003
Bush calls for award limits on malpractice lawsuits

Associated Press

SCRANTON, Pa. President Bush said Thursday his proposed nationwide ceilings on medical malpractice awards would drive down health care costs, but critics said he was using 

distorted figures to mislead the public.

Bush said the proposal, which was approved in the House but was never brought for a vote in the Democratic-led Senate, now the Republican Party controls both houses of Congress, and for the second time this week Bush revived a proposal that died last year. The other was welfare reform.

"The problem of those unnecessary costs don't start in the waiting room or the operating room. They're in the courtroom. Everybody's, it seems like. There are too many lawsuits in America, and there are too many lawyers," Bush said.

"The state of Pennsylvania, the state Bush chose for his speech, is important to his re-election, and he has visited the state before, and if he were to win Pennsylvania, he would have eliminated half of all the malpractice payouts in the state—which presumably would reduce insurance rates."

Pennsylvania is also the state with the highest rate in the nation of doctors who repeatedly commit medical malpractice, according to a report this week by a advocacy group based in Washington. Moreover, the proposal showed, half of all medical malpractice cases were paid on behalf of doctors settling three or more complaints.

Public Citizen Counsel Jackson Williams said, "If you stop those doctors, you will have eliminated half of all the malpractice payouts in the state—and presumably would reduce insurance rates."

In Pennsylvania, insurance costs for doctors more than doubled last year for thousands of the state's physicians. An estimated 900 doctors have left the state since 2001 to avoid paying malpractice premiums as high as $200,000 annually, said Dr. Edward Drench, a State College anesthesiologist who serves as president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

There were dual political dimensions to Bush's latest trip to a state he lost to Al Gore in 2000. He wants to win Pennsylvania, the fifth-largest trove of electoral votes, and to avoid paying malpractice premiums as high as $200,000 annually, said Dr. Edward Drench, a State College anesthesiologist who serves as president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. There were dual political dimensions to Bush's latest trip to a state he lost to Al Gore in 2000. He wants to win Pennsylvania, the fifth-largest trove of electoral votes, and to avoid paying malpractice premiums as high as $200,000 annually, said Dr. Edward Drench, a State College anesthesiologist who serves as president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. There were dual political dimensions to Bush's latest trip to a state he lost to Al Gore in 2000. He wants to win Pennsylvania, the fifth-largest trove of electoral votes, and to avoid paying malpractice premiums as high as $200,000 annually, said Dr. Edward Drench, a State College anesthesiologist who serves as president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.
Communication blamed in bombing

Associated Press

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. Two U.S. pilots whose bomb killed four Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan last spring didn't know allied troops were there because of a communication breakdown that also kept their airborne commanders in the dark, defense attorneys argued Thursday.

The Air Force has charged Maj. Harry Schmidt and William Umbach with involuntary manslaughter, saying the pilots should have known the Canadian troops were conducting live-ammunition exercises that night.

The military hearing will determine whether the Illinois National Guard pilots should be court-martialed.

I would assume every pilot who read [the orders] knew that Tarnak Farm was there," he said.

The tape, first shown by [the Air Force lawyers Wednesday, was taken from Schmidt's F-16 and includes the pilot's announcement that he was "rolling in," or dropping sharply to attack the ground troops. A military investigation found Schmidt and Umbach, the mission's commander, should not have attacked until they were certain that no allied troops were in the area. Air Force lawyers say the tape showed Schmidt acting rashly.

The defense has said the Air Force routinely pressures pilots to take amphetamines before missions to prevent fatigue, "go pills" they say can impair judgment. The Air Force said use of the pills is voluntary.

Schmidt is a combat-decorated Navy pilot who transferred to the National Guard in 2000. Umbach is a United Airlines pilot who had served in the Air Force. The pilots face a maximum of 64 years in military prison if convicted of all charges, which include aggravated assault and dereliction of duty.

ATTENTION BUSINESS MAJORS!!

If you found the material presented during Sophomore Ethics Day interesting, and you'd like to continue discussing how to make a positive difference, you can!

Three sections of BA 241: Introduction to Business Ethics are still open at 10:40 and 11:45 MWF and at 12:30 TH. Register through IrisLink or visit one of the undergraduate advisors in MCoB room 101. BA 241 is a 1-credit course lasting five weeks. Sections and Call Numbers:

BA 241 (01) #1223 MWF 10:40-11:30 Hemphill, D. 1/15-2/17
BA 241 (02) #1438 MWF 11:45-12:35 Edwards, M. 1/15-2/17
BA 241 (03) #2869 TH 12:30-1:45 Klein, T. 1/14-2/13

This course is designed to give the student an introduction to the central questions and fundamental character of ethics and morality. The course is focused on a discussion of ethical theories which can help guide the student's problem-solving in ethical situations they will encounter in business. Ethical dilemmas faced by business persons will be integrated into the classroom for purposes of discussion and analysis.

BA 314 and BA 441 are also offered this semester. Both are 1-credit, five-week courses and have no prerequisites. You may register for one or both of these courses even if you carry a full course load. See an advisor in 101 MCoB to add.

BA 341: Topics in Business Ethics
BA 341 (01) #0394 MWF 10:40-11:30 Raiser, W. P. 2/20-3/27
BA 341 (02) #3660 MWF 11:45-12:35 Pskadillo, K. 2/20-3/27
BA 341 (03) #0747 TH 12:30-1:45 Murphy, P. 2/19-3/26

BA 441: Business Ethics: Field Project
BA 441 (01) #1609 H 12:30-4:45 McManus Warnell, J. 3/27-4/30
BA 441 (02) #1405 M 9:30-4:15 McManus Warnell, J. 3/24-4/30
BA 441 (03) #0949 W 3:00-4:15 McManus Warnell, J. 3/26-4/30

The Observer • NATIONAL NEWS
Friday, January 17, 2003
In Brief

Microsoft to declare dividend, split: Microsoft Corp. offered its first dividend to shareholders Thursday and reported a boost in quarterly earnings, but its stock value slumped anyway on its lower revenue estimates for 2003. The Redmond software giant also announced plans for a two-for-one stock split that will be effective Jan. 27. Microsoft long had opposed calls from some shareholders to use some of its cash hoard — now $43 billion in cash to pay a dividend. But Microsoft's board unanimously decided Thursday to pay a dividend of 8 cents per share after the split, chief financial officer John Connors said.

Venezuela freezes dollar auctions: Venezuela's Central Bank suspended its daily dollar auctions Thursday, trying to stop a currency slide as international pressure increased on President Hugo Chavez and the opposition to negotiate an end to a 7-week-old strike. The Central Bank did not give a reason for its decision to suspend the weekly auctions, but traders said it would give the institution more discretion to decide who gets to buy dollars. The opposition is demanding Chavez agree to a plebiscite in February on his presidency. Although the referendum would be nonbinding, strike leaders believe Chavez, who was elected in 1998 and re-elected in 2000, would be so embarrassed by the outcome he would step down.

GM posts record $18 profit, split: General Motors Corp. overcame falling vehicle prices and post fourth-quarter profits that hardly beat year-earlier results as well as Wall Street forecasts. The world's largest automaker said Thursday it earned $1 billion, or $1.71 a share, for the October-December period compared with $2.55 million, or 60 cents a share, a year earlier. Revenue climbed to $48.7 billion, its highest total ever for the period, from $46 billion a year ago.

Parsons named to head AOL


Consumer prices hold, energy up

Associated Press

WASHINGTON Consumer prices barely boded in December and closed out a year in which costs other than energy rose by the smallest amount since 1964. The government's most closely watched inflation gauge, the Consumer Price Index, confirmed what Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan was saying all last year: inflation isn't a problem for the economy. Many companies have limited power to raise prices given the uneven economic recovery, economists said.

Consumer prices rose a meager 0.1 percent in December from the previous month, marking the second month in a row that prices went up by that amount, the Labor Department reported. December's showing marked a better reading on inflation than the 0.2 percent rise economists were forecasting.

But on Wall Street, cautious investors pulled stocks lower. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 25.31 points to close at 8,697.87. For all of 2002, consumer prices rose by 2.4 percent, up from the 1.6 percent increase in 2001.

But most of that pickup came from rising energy costs, including gasoline, which moved higher in October. The Labor Department said gasoline prices rose 0.8 percent in December. The index for all energy costs, including both gasoline and heating oil, increased 0.8 percent, driven by higher energy prices in the Middle East.
**SOUTH KOREA**

South Korea plans for 'worst-case' nuke scenario

Associated Press

SEUL.

South Korea said Thursday it was preparing for a "worst-case scenario" in North Korea's nuclear standoff with the United States, and a top U.S. envoy warned a resolution of the confrontation would be a "very slow process.

The chief U.N. atomic weapons watchdog, meanwhile, attacked the isolated communist country for engaging in "nuclear blackmail.

South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jun told a parliamentary hearing there was a "high" possibility North Korea would target the United States after his top diplomat said North Korea admitted in July last week after the United States pulled out of the U.N. atomic weapons watchdog, it had a "secret nuclear program.

"We are only awaiting a quick-fix solution," Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly said in Beijing on Thursday. "There was no quick-fix solution," Kelly said before leaving Beijing for Singapore. "It's going to be a very slow process to make sure that we achieve this in the right way.""I believe a war on the Korean Peninsula would be inevitable if the North's nuclear issue could not be resolved peacefully and the United States attacks North Korea."

Lee Jun

South Korean defense minister

"I believe a war on the Korean Peninsula would be inevitable if the North's nuclear issue could not be resolved peacefully and the United States attacks North Korea."

"We are only awaiting General Kim Jong Il's order to wipe out the enemies." Central Radio

North Korean state-run station

South Korea's Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun met Maurice Strong, a special adviser to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, KCNA quoted.

"North Korea should understand that this is no way to proceed for a dialogue through nuclear brinkmanship and nuclear blackmail."

Mohammed ElBaradei told a news conference in Moscow. But ElBaradei appeared optimistic about a peaceful end.

"There are elements of a solution to the problem out there," he said.

Elsewhere, diplomatic efforts continued, with U.S., British and French officials meeting in London. They decided on Wednesday that the IAEA's 25-member board of governors should convene as a next step, a U.S. official said.

Two IAEA inspectors were expelled from North Korea last month, leaving the world without an eye into the secretive nation's nuclear program.

On Thursday, North Korea's Foreign Minister Pak Yong Nam met Maurice Strong, a special adviser to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, KCNA quoted.

"North Korea should understand that this is no way to proceed for a dialogue through nuclear brinkmanship and nuclear blackmail."

Mohammed ElBaradei head of the IAEA

Strong traveled to Pyongyang on Tuesday to assess the need for foreign food aid. Meanwhile, South Korea pushed forward its own efforts to defuse the tension by setting up Cabinet-level talks with North Korea in Seoul, beginning Tuesday.
Israeli astronaut blasts off

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. In the most heavily guarded space shot in NASA history, shuttle Columbia thundered into orbit with Israel's first astronaut Thursday on a scientific research mission.

Fighter jets patrolled overhead in the moments before the midmorning liftoff. Aboard the shuttle were six U.S. astronauts and Ilan Ramon, a colonel in Israel's air force and a combat pilot.

"We had deep, beautiful, blue skies and then with this smoke coming in huge bursts, it was very, very moving," said the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Danny Ayalon. "You know, these are our national colors." Ayalon noted that Ramon is the son of a Holocaust survivor and has with him a drawing by a 14-year-old Jewish boy who perished at Auschwitz.

"In two generations, we're moving from the lowest ebb, the darkest point of our history, to a very great moment of excellence and achievement," the ambassador said. It is the first time in three years that a space shuttle is not bound for the International Space Station or the Hubble Space Telescope.

Columbia's 16-day mission features more than 80 experiments from around the world. A pair of Israeli cameras will measure desert dust in the atmosphere. Also on board: spiders, ants, silkworms, mealworms, carpenter bees, fish embryos and rats.

About 100 Israelis traveled to Cape Canaveral for the launch along with a number of American Jews, almost all of whom carried Israeli flags. The astronauts were surrounded by SWAT teams and helicopter patrols as they made their way to the pad.

"Air Force fighter jets patrolled the 35-mile no-fly zone. Boats were ordered to stay away. Many of the security measures had been put in place after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but were augmented because of fears Ramon would be an inviting target to terrorists.

The 46-year-old Ramon was among the Israeli pilots who bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, acting as a senior Israeli government official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The shutdown proved uneventful. NASA spokesman Kyle Herring said he was unaware of any credible threats against the shuttle.

Columbia's flight initially was targeted for 2001 but was repeatedly delayed, most recently by the grounding of the entire space fleet last summer. The shuttle will return to Earth on Feb. 1. NASA said security will be just as heavy for the landing.

Protesters rally against war on Iraq

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Demonstrators are mobilizing in Washington and cities across the country for what they consider their last chance to speak as one great multitude against the gathering clouds of an Iraq war.

The weekend demonstrations coincide with America's military buildup overseas and a time of remembrance for the nonviolent struggle embodied by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Even as sailors ship out, protesters are packing Washington-bound buses and organizing local marches and vigils from Tampa, Fla., to San Francisco.

"We are attacking a poor country that has enough problems," said Al Seltzer, a retrofitted piper drone pilot and World War II veteran who will be raying in Pittsburgh next week. "It is unjust.

The largest crowds are expected in the nation's capital, where President Bush and many in Congress are united on the move toward war and protest leaders hope they can draw tens of thousands, at least, to march in dissent.

"We've been working with protest groups; they've got permits for various locations, including marches, so we'll be ready for it," said Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey. "We don't anticipate any problems, although we do anticipate large crowds."

The organization International Answer planned the national rally Saturday in Washington and one in San Francisco, exhorting war opponents everywhere to "stop the Bush administration from threatening the people of the world who are not our enemy.

The focus was on America's weapons of mass destruction, not the arson inspectors, who are looking for Iraq in a possible prelude to conflict.

In a prelude to the weekend protests, Los Angeles police arrested 17 people Thursday when they refused police orders to stop blocking a sidewalk during a downtown demonstration. Scores of protesters shouted "No blood for oil."

The sense that war is close, perhaps only weeks away, spurred the determination of many activists to get to Washington. This, despite a possible winter storm followed by a weekend of subfreezing temperatures in the capital. Gerald Rudolph, director of a South Carolina group that sent one busload to the last Washington rally in October, said about twice as many people were going forward.

"It's starting to reach visibility," he said of the anti-war movement. "As it reaches for the surface, if I think I'll just explode at that point."

He leads the Carolina Peace Resource Center.

Nearly 500 people from Wisconsin signed up for bus travel to the weekend rally, which had received 60 applications, said Oliver Bateman, who will travel to Washington.

In San Francisco, the Internet-based group MoveOn.org released a TV commercial Thursday that depicts a girl picking petals from a daisy and shows a nuclear mushroom cloud. The ad, being shown in 12 cities, recreates the ominous "Daisy" campaign commercial of 1964 that President Johnson used against Republican opponent Barry Goldwater.

In a lighter but perhaps equally powerful pro- tester in the organization under the arm of the Pentagon that would direct the war. In Pittsburgh, activists are hoping to draw several thousand to Jan. 24-26 protests.

Organizers of the national rally invoked King, particularly his "Beyond Vietnam" speech (April 4, 1967), in the buildup to the long weekend marking the civil rights leader's birthday.

In that speech, King said the war convinced him he could not speak against the violence coming from the ghettos "without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today - my own government."

The national rally begins at 11 a.m. on the National Mall in view of Congress. Protesters will march to the Washington Naval Yard and demand the United States give up its most destructive weapons. Participants were invited to dress as weapons inspectors, although the question of what an inspector looks like was left to their imagination.
It's time to speak up about Sharon's disappearance

It's time to speak up.

Notre Dame freshman Chad Sharon vanished more than five weeks ago, and the ensuing investigation has baffled authorities, the University, the South Bend community and Sharon's own family. The situation is made even more troubling by the clues that haven't surfaced in the past month. And that threatens to send to the backburner the case that had been the University's and the South Bend Police's highest priority.

It's time for anyone with information about Sharon's disappearance to speak up. Sharon was last seen early Dec. 12 at an off-campus party, and within days, campus and city police were cooperating in an investigation. A week into the missing-person case, police found a hospital security guard who said he talked with a man fitting Sharon's description about two hours after witnesses last placed Sharon at the party.

But the trail, so far, has ended here.

In the meantime, authorities continued interviewing Sharon's friends and fellow residents of Fisher Hall, yet uncovered nothing to lead them to the 18-year-old from Notre Dame.

Pelicani Lake, Wis. Two weeks ago, the University announced a $25,000 reward and established an anonymous tip line (574-631-8000), hoping that anyone with information would come forward. But those steps have failed to generate new clues.

This week, with Steve and Jan Sharon on campus for the first time since their only son disappeared, is the time to speak up.

On Thursday, the Sharons talked with investigators and people who know Chad and then attended a special Mass.

Five weeks ago, the Sharons were thrust into a scenario that every parent fears. Their concern for his safety is compounded by endless wondering about what happened to their son and why.

Right now, the Sharons — and police — need answers. They need students to fully recount what they know about Sharon's behavior in the weeks before his disappearance.

And they need others to come forward with information about what ultimately kept him from coming home all those weeks ago.

It's time to speak up.

Blewett

THE OBSERVER

Friday, January 17, 2003

Questioning Bush's record on race

While Michael Derosier in his Jan. 15 letter made some valid arguments about racism being a part of the Democratic Party as well as the Republican Party, he was obviously just trying to turn the issue against the Democrats. I would like to point out that Senators Trent Lott and Strom Thurmond are not the only members of the Republican Party that can be called into question.

Recently President George Bush made his latest round of judicial appointments, including Judge Charles Pickering. Pickering is not only a personal friend of Lott, past seems to reveal many of the same sentiments to which Lott's comments alluded. When he was a law student, he wrote an article describing ways that states could modify their laws banning interracial marriages so that they would remain constitutional.

Perhaps the most disturbing of his actions concerns Daniel Swan, a man convicted of burning a cross on the lawn of an interracial couple in Mississippi. The case went to Pickering for sentencing. According to federal law, Swan's minimum sentence was to be five years. But Pickering attempted to convince the prosecutors to agree on a shorter sentence. When this failed, he made a call to a Justice Department official to further his case.

Finally, he told the prosecutors that he would reverse the judgement in the case and grant Swan a new trial if they did not make an agreement. The prosecutors gave in, and Swan was sentenced to mere 27 months.

Undoubtedly, any president will appoint judges who share values similar to his own. But that had to be other potential appointees who shared similar conservative views but who were not blatant racists. I find it absolutely outrageous that Bush would support Pickering by appointing him to such an important judiciary position — he is essentially condoning the actions of Pickering and others like him, as the President of the United States and the main representative of the Republican Party. Bush has a responsibility to uphold the values of our constitution. By appointing Pickering he has failed in that responsibility. Maybe we are just seeing the real Bush now.

Nick Shepard

Freshman

St. Edward's Hall

Jan. 15

NDToday/OBSERVER POLL QUESTION

Has Chad Sharon's disappearance made you re-think going off-campus?

No 80%

Yes 40%

*Poll appears courtesy of NDToday.com and is based on 97 responses.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I have a dream, that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

civil rights activist
Let the presidential debates begin

In today's modern political age, the race for the presidency may be more intense than that which followed the last ballot. Last November's midterm elections saw a political force emerge, which Democratic leaders are in a politically advantageous position similar to that of 1994 when Newt Gingrich and the Republican Party engineered two important strategies.

First, they must be the solid Republican lock on the South, Midwest and Mountain states. Secondly, the Democratic challenger must appear uniquely different than the stereotypical politician. He must be as likable as Bush, appear better qualified than Bush and make voters believe he is Bush's judgment character. Anything less gives Bush the advantage.

Candidate Bush "stole" the 2000 election not in Florida but politically in Virginia, Arkansas and Tennessee. The Bush political advisers, in hopes of pleasing away just enough electoral votes to cause the presidency, boldly attacked states where the Clinton and Gore team had been successful. For a Democrat to win in 2004, half of his strategy must include helping hold in former Bush strongholds.

Of the currently announced Democrats, only Sen. John Edwards can immediately break one of the Republican electoral locks. The White House's unusually strong press release portraying Edwards as inexperienced is an indication that he is the candidate Bush advisors would least want to oppose next year. Edwards has the potential to defeat politicians such as South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham and Lott, through a populist approach.

The second half of a successful strategy is more difficult. The Democrat must emerge as a regular guy but not appear to be a partisian. He must make sense to the American voter while captivating his audience with a unique strength and charm. He must be the John McCain of the Democratic Party by being a party loyalist but standing on principle against the party line. He must be as bold in his campaign as Bush.

Wednesday's edition of the College Tour of Hardball displayed Sen. Joe Biden's strength. In 15 minutes of exposure on Hardball, before a college audience at the University of Delaware, Biden poked fun at himself and confessed that he has made mistakes throughout his career, opposed certain Democratic Party issues and embraced certain Bush policies while differing on major political issues. Most importantly, Biden outlined the blueprint for a successful campaign.

Bush Democrats must understand the various Bush actions to show a pattern and direction that encompasses national security and the war in Iraq.

Biden believes that Bush has tunnel vision when it comes to national security by narrowly defining security that excludes, for example, protecting nuclear power plants and subway systems. He notes that this is the first time in American history during a war situation that a president is calling for tax cuts instead of using money to make Americans feel safer in their local communities.

Although Nixon's announcement was a success in 1972, Bush Democrats must demand that other nations support the United States on what matters to us while withholding support and ignoring issues of importance to those allies.

For Bush to lose in 2004, the next Democratic nominee must do as well as Biden for the next 22 months.

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

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

Playing the race card

Race is a deadly rhetorical weapon in politics, especially lately. In recent weeks, the subject of race and the apparent divide of the two main political parties have been harshly brought to the forefront. Trent Lott's now infamous birthday tribute to Sen. Strom Thurmond, all reactions to Lott's statements revealed the depth to which the issue of race has been abused and continues to be abused for political gain in this country.

Righteous indignation turned into active persecution of Black defendants. Sen. Hillary Clinton went so far as to say all Lott did "was to state publicly what huge numbers of people have said or thought for years." Such wholesale condemnation of the party and its historical record merits examination. Even a cursory check of the historical record and current racial-ity begins immediately after the last ballot. The historical record shows that at least one Republican is as willing to back up that idea than is any Democrat.

The counterarguing literature, however, states that educational equality begins with elementary school, and so on. In 1970, 70 percent of African-Americans were not enrolled in schools, and concerns of students attending academically, environments, are superficial. The historical record would seem to confirm that at least some Republicans are willing to back up that idea too. In 1970, seven Southern states still had segregated school systems.

In March 1973, President Richard Nixon announced his resolution to end an emblem of America's history when the landmark 1954 case promised students into demanding academic environments.

Trent Lott deservedly is politically through. Sen. Robert Byrd's trial record has been as lengthy as his illustrious career, yet he remains a Democratic leader despite being the only former Ku Klux Klan member in the Senate. Byrd voted against the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and took the floor for 14 hours in the filibuster attempting to derail the act. He is the only senator to have voted against both Supreme Court nominees. Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas. Yet he was the majority leader from 1971 until 1989.

In another instance of race being used irresponsibly, oppressing affirmative action has long been a barometer. In some campaigns, racism to lower the college entrance standards for unprepared students into demanding action has long been a barometer, in which many students are willing to back up that idea. In 1970, seven Southern states still had segregated school systems.

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"Win one for the Gipper." We've all heard it. Some of us have said it. But do we really know the story behind Notre Dame's one and only George Gipp?

Gipp played for the Notre Dame Football team from 1917 until his death in 1920. He played under Knute Rockne and also played centerfield for the Notre Dame baseball team and later the Chicago Cubs.

Gipp grew up in Laurium, Mich. Although he never played high school football but was an avid participant in track, hockey, sandlot football and organized baseball. He initially went to Notre Dame to be a baseball player. Rockne discovered Gipp while he was goofing around with his friends, drop-kicking footballs 70 yards. Rockne encouraged Gipp to play football as well as baseball and he grew to be one of Rockne's favorite players.

Gipp had the physique of a star athlete. He was 6-foot-2 and weighed 185 pounds, which Rockne described as "all bone and muscle."

Gipp could run the 100 in 10.2 seconds in full football pads. He ran for 2,341 yards and had 21 touchdowns in his career. He threw for 1,789 yards and eight scores, punted 96 times for 3,690 yards, returned 16 punts for 217 yards, returned 22 kickoffs for 454, picked off five passes and kicked 27 PATs, which finished his career with 156 points. As a defensive back, he never allowed a completed pass.

Legendary sportswriter Grantland Rice said, "His kicking and ball carrying was about as fine as anything I have ever seen on a football field."

Gipp was Notre Dame's first All-American, named by Walter Camp, two weeks before his death and his 2,341 rushing yards lasted as a Notre Dame record until 1978 when Jerome Heavens surpassed it.

To this day, Gipp is considered to be one of the greatest all-around players to ever play college football as a runner, passer, defensive back, punter, kicker and kick returner.

"I felt the thrill that comes to every coach when he knows it is his fate and his responsibility to handle unusual greatness...the perfect performer who comes rarely more than once in a generation," Rockne said. "Gipp was one of the greatest. His kind comes once in every college generation."

Gipp was respected by not only his coach, but his fellow teammates as well. "George Gipp was the greatest athlete I have ever known. He will be forever be remembered as a friend, a student, and a gentleman, for to know him was to love him," said Frank Coughlin, captain of the 1920 Notre Dame football team.

The Irish had a record of 27-2-3 in Gipp's four years and they were 23-2-2 when he played. They went 19-0-1 in his final 20 games. In Gipp's final two years, the Irish were undefeated and declared Champions of the West.

Gipp's season appeared to end when he injured his shoulder in a game versus Indiana in the 1920 season. Rockne planned to withhold him from the game the following weekend on Nov. 20, 1920, against Northwestern, but because he became such a central figure of the Notre Dame team, the fans all cried "We want Gipp! We want Gipp!" throughout the entire game.

"Toward the end of the game Rockne..."
decided to allow Gipp into the game, and Gipp met the hopes and expectations of many by launching a 55-yard pass that resulted in a touchdown.

Gipp was confined to a hospital bed at Saint Joseph Hospital in South Bend. Rockne visited him the night of Dec. 13, 1920, just hours before he died at the age of 25. During that visit, Rockne made Gipp a promise for a future Notre Dame football team that would need his help.

Then Gipp uttered the immortal words that now hang on a plaque in the Irish locker room.

"I've got to go, Rock. It's all right. I'm not afraid. Some time, Rock, when the team is up against it, when things are wrong and the breaks are beating the boys, tell them to go in there with all they've got and win just one for the Gipper. I don't know where I'll be then, Rock. But I'll know about it, and I'll be happy," Gipp told to Rockne.

Rockne did not have use those words until eight years later, against Army. The 1928 team was plagued with injuries and already had two losses under its belt. They had four wins, but Army was undefeated with six straight wins. Rockne felt that if the Irish could prevail against Army, then they may avoid a losing record.

Rockne felt confident that he could rile the boys' emotions with the story of Gipp, and he prayed that their eagerness and passion could prevail.

After the pre game warm-ups, he brought the team into the locker room and began to tell the story of Gipp, the Notre Dame Player who had died during his senior season, eight years ago.

He repeated Gipp's wish to the boys and said, "The day before he died, George Gipp asked me to wait until the situation seemed hopeless, then ask a Notre Dame team to go out and beat Army for him. This is the day and you are the team."

Line coach Ed Healey recalled, "There was no one in the room that wasn't crying. There was a moment of silence, and then all of a sudden those players ran out of the dressing room and almost tore the hinges off the door. There were all ready to kill someone."

Notre Dame fell behind 6-0 in the third period. When Jack Chevigny tied the score at 6-6 with a one yard plunge, he picked himself up in the end zone and shouted "That's one for the Gipper!"

On Notre Dame's next scoring drive, left halfback Butch Niesmiec took the ball, looked downfield and threw a wobbly pass to Johnny O'Brien, a hurdler for the track team. O'Brien caught the pass and ran the ball from the 10-yard line past two tacklers and dove into the end zone for the winning touchdown.

When O'Brien scored, Chevigny yelled "That's one for the Gipper too!"

After scoring the two touchdowns the Irish then held off a last-chance drive by the Cadets.

Quarterback Frank Carideo said of Rockne, "You could see a great, big smile on his face. He was happy when things created during the week were used to perfection in the ballgame."

"Notre Dame beat Army that day in Yankee Stadium 12-6. Gipp was not only an inspiration to his teammates, but he impacted the Notre Dame teams in years to follow. He was a vision that Rockne used to create in his players minds about the true meaning of an exceptional player."

"He was a natural athlete. And he possessed the three most important qualities needed to attain greatness: the qualities of the body, mind and spirit. He had what no coach or system can teach: football intuition," Rockne said of Gipp. Ronald Reagan portrayed Gipp in the 1940 movie "Knute Rockne-All American" which opened in South Bend. He was also inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1951.

Although there are no recorded interviews with Gipp directly, and very few photographs or films exist, he has left his mark on both Notre Dame and all those who have heard his story.

The story is heartwarming and will last forever, and whenever people are in need of inspiration, they will always be told to "Go out and win one for the Gipper!"
NBA
Jordan scores 20 in 1st period to lead Wizards victory

Associated Press
WASHINGTON
Michael Jordan provided the spectacular start. A trio of young teammates did the rest.
Jordan scored 28 of his 32 points in the first half, and the Washington Wizards pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat the Orlando Magic 106-93.
The Wizards beat the Magic for the first time in three meetings this season in a game between two .500 teams expected to battle for the Orlando Magic's playoff spot. Jordan scored 20 points on 7-for-11 shooting in the first quarter, capping the period with a pair of free throws after stealing the ball from Darrell Armstrong.
The Wizards committed only one turnover in the period and led 38-22 on 62 percent shooting.
The Magic started to come back while Jordan rested at the start of the second quarter, with McGrady leading a 11-2 run.

NHL
Islanders avenge loss to Blues with 3-2 overtime win

Associated Press
ST. LOUIS
Oleg Kvasha scored on a backhander with 3:01 to go in overtime, and the New York Islanders got their first shutout of the season with a 3-2 overtime win over the St. Louis Blues.
Kvasha scored on a wrist shot from the slot with 4:09 left to make it 3-1, and Chris Therien scored an empty-net goal with 1:58 to go to give the Islanders a two-goal lead they never relinquished.
The Islanders had lost twice in overtime in their previous four games. Kvasha broke in on Brent Johnson on the winner, converting New York's only shot of the extra period for his fifth goal and second in three games.

Washington Wizards guard Michael Jordan attempts to drive the lane against Tracy McGrady of the Toronto Raptors. Jordan scored 28 of his 32 points in the first half.
around the dial

FRIDAY NBA BASKETBALL
Bucks at Sixers 7 p.m., ESPN
Bulls at Hornets 8:30 p.m., Fox
Lakers at Rockets 9:30 p.m., ESPN

SATURDAY COLLEGE BASEBALL
NOTRE DAME at Kentucky 2 p.m., CBS
Illinois (Chicago) at Detroit 12 p.m., ESPN2
Syracuse at Pittsburgh 12 p.m., ESPN

SUNDAY NFL PLAYOFFS
Bucs at Eagles 2 p.m., Fox
Titans at Raiders 6:30 p.m., CBS

IN BRIEF
Six international players voted to NBA rookie game
Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets and Pau Gasol of the Memphis Grizzlies head a list of 18 players selected to play in the NBA Rookie Challenge game.

Yao, the No. 1 pick in June's NBA draft, might have to pass up the game. He is the leading vote-getter in the latest All-Star balloting, and he's a candidate to make the decision. "No question Pete is a great ambassador to the game of baseball with what he accomplished on the field," Carter said Thursday. "His 4,256 hits will forever be in the Hall of Fame. The issue of reinstatement — I'm glad I don't have to be a part of it. To me, Pete is a Hall of Famer because of the great career he had. End of story."

At a news conference introducing baseball's newest Hall of Famers, Murray also tried to stay away from the issue. "He's not forgotten," Murray said. "I'm glad I'm not."

Murray, Carter want decision on Rose

Associated Press

NEW YORK
Baseball's newest Hall of Famers are content to let Bud Selig make the call on Pete Rose's reinstatement. The commissioner is waiting to schedule a meeting with the 60 living Hall of Famers to discuss whether Rose should be allowed back into the game following his ban for gambling.

Both Eddie Murray and Gary Carter expressed admiration for baseball's career hits leader — but they don't want to be the ones to make the decision. "No question Pete is a great ambassador to the game of baseball with what he accomplished on the field," Carter said Thursday. "His 4,256 hits will forever be in the Hall of Fame. The issue of reinstatement — I'm glad I don't have to be a part of it. To me, Pete is a Hall of Famer because of the great career he had. End of story."

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Selig had planned to meet with the members of the Hall on Friday but postponed it last month. He would not give a timetable for the rescheduled meeting, and it appears increasingly unlikely it will happen before the start of spring training in mid-February.

"I asked them to put that off for a little bit," he said from the owners' meetings in Scottsdale, Ariz. "We will have that meeting at some appropriate point."

Hall president Dale Petroskey, who was briefed by Selig on the negotiations last month, hasn't heard anything new.

"It's between the commissioner and Pete," he said. "I really don't have an opinion on it. We don't put people on the eligible list. We don't elect people. We induct and enshrine them."

Rose agreed to a permanent ban from baseball in August 1989 after an investigation of his gambling. Because of the ban, he cannot appear on the Hall of Fame ballot.

After years of saying he saw no reason to change the ban, Selig allowed chief operating office Bob DuPuy to negotiate with Rose's agent.

Pete Rose played for the Cincinnati Reds, the Philadelphia Phillies and the Montreal Expos during his 24-year career. He was banned from baseball in August 1989 for gambling.

Murray, Carter want decision on Rose
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Owners unanimously approve All-Star game change

+ Winner now gets World Series home-field advantage

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Baseball owners unanimously approved commissioner Bud Selig's proposal to have the league that wins the All-Star Game get home-field advantage in the World Series.

Selig came up with the plan following last year's All-Star Game, which ended in a 7-7, 11-inning tie when both leagues ran out of pitchers. "This energizes it. This gives them something to really play for," Selig said. "People pay a lot of money to see that game. They deserve to see the same intensity they see all year long." Management lawyers will now ask the players' association to approve the change. Union head Donald Fehr said before Thursday's 30-0 vote that players were not yet sure of their stance.

In recent years, as the differences between the American and National leagues lessened because of increased player mobility and interleague play, many players have treated the All-Star Game as a show rather than a game.

Since the start of the World Series in 1903, home field has alternated between the leagues. The change is strongly backed by Fox, which holds baseball's national television rights. It also needs approval of the players' association.

"We've been discussing it with players," Fehr said Wednesday. "If people are interested in it, and we'll get back to them." Some veteran players are against it, including New York Mets pitcher Tom Glavine, the NL player representative. "It's not something I'm in favor of," he told The New York Times. "I would find it hard to believe that most players would want the outcome of the All-Star Game to determine home-field advantage for the World Series." A management official who had spoken with the union said that while the change was likely to become an issue between the sides, the union told management it was still unclear what position it would adopt.

As the two-day meeting began Wednesday, the committee on the future of the Montreal Expos met. Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos, who is not on the committee, said he remains opposed to a move to the Washington area.

Downtown Washington and Northern Virginia are among the areas that have groups ready to bid for the Expos, who were bought last year by the other 29 major league teams.

NFL

Jags hire Del Rio as their new head coach

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars hired Carolina Panthers defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio as their head coach.

Jaguars spokesman Dan Edwards confirmed the job had been offered and accepted. However, contract details haven't been fully worked out.

Del Rio, 39, is a former NFL linebacker. He will be introduced at a news conference Friday.

Sports Illustrated's Don Banks reports Phil Savage, Baltimore's college scouting director, is scheduled to fly to Jacksonville on Thursday afternoon for an evening interview with Weaver for the Jaguars' personnel executive opening. He first interviewed with Weaver earlier this week.

Del Rio and Savage worked together in Baltimore until last season. Del Rio was the Ravens' linebackers coach from 1999-2001, during which time Baltimore's defense led the way to the team's Super Bowl season of 2000.

In Del Rio's single season as coordinator for the Panthers, he helped them improve from 31st in the league to second in defense.

His signature moment came on opening day, when he ran onto the field and got in the middle of a celebratory pileup with the players during their 10-7 victory against Baltimore.
MENS SWIMMING

Busy weekend ahead for Irish

Carroll travels the beginning of January. Were in sunny Acapulco, swimming and diving team chance to gain renewed enthu­

By LISA REIJULA

Mens

continued from page 24

By LISA REIJULA

Sports Writer

While many students are struggling to readjust to the cold temperatures in South Bend, Notre Dame’s mens swimming and diving team might be having a harder time than most. The Irish swimmers were in sunny Acapulco, Mexico, for a training camp in the beginning of January.

The trip provided the Irish a chance to gain renewed enthusi­asm and focus while training in a different environment.

It was nice to get away for a while,” freshman Tyler Grenda said. “We had a lot of fun and had the chance to really work together as a team.”

The Irish (3-0) have com­peted since their Dec. 7 victory in the Notre Dame Invitational. The team will be back in action and on the road this weekend.

The first stop for Notre Dame will be the University of Pennsylvania (1-3) on Friday. The Irish face the Quakers in Philadelphia, where the home team won their first meet Jan. 11 against Army.

The Irish will stay in Philadelphia and compete against Big East rivals Villanova and Pittsburgh Saturday at Villanova. Like Notre Dame, Villanova is coming off its own 10-day training camp in Puerto Rico.

The 19th-ranked Panthers, last year’s conference champion, looks to be the toughest challenge for the Irish in the upcoming weekend.

The Panthers are 3-0 on the season, with losses to No. 14 Purdue, No. 17 Harvard, and previously ranked Washington. They won their Big East open­er, easily defeating West Virginia 185-56.

Pittsburgh finds its greatest strength in the relay events, particularly the 200 freestyle. Like their counterparts, the Irish relay teams have also been performing well all sea­son, which could result in some very competitive races.

“I’m a strong team, and it will be a good taste of what we have to do to get ready [for the Big East championships],” Grenda said. “We’re ready to race again and swim hard two days in a row.”

Contact Lisa Reijula at lreijula@nd.edu

BELLES

continued from page 24

(122-118) but lost to Alma (145­93). Coach Bob Detwiler says he feels cautions of the two squads while realizing the men’s importance.

“This weekend, we may see some good teams,” Petcoff said. “We want to swim well. We are expecting to swim well. And we need to swim well.”

This will be the final home meet for Herrington and Smith. The two have been co-captains for two years, leading their teammate both in and out of the water. Herrington was chosen as co-captain despite being out of the country at the time of balloting.

“When Lane was traveling abroad, the team still voted her captain,” Petcoff said. “I think that’s the reason I think about her.”

Herrington is the only current swimmer to have competed for her entire four years at Saint Mary’s. Having found the experi­ence enjoyable, she is ready to move on but will miss Herrington.

“It’s been a really long but fun four years. It’s been a good experience overall, but I’m just ready to finish,” Smith said. “I’ll miss [Lane] a lot. I love swim­ming with her. She’s great. I couldn’t ask for a better co-cap­tain.”

Petcoff is sad to see his cap­tains on the verge of leaving.

“They leave huge, huge holes to fill,” Petcoff said. “It will be tough to set foot on the deck next year and not see them.”

Contact Erik Powers at epowers@nd.edu

Cauppus Bible Study (CBS)

Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
114 Coleman-Morse Conference Room
All students are invited to attend Bible Study
every Tuesday through the semester beginning January 21, 2003.
All sessions last one hour.

Bring your own Bible and a friend.

For further information contact:
Fr. Al D’Alfonso
631-4616
or
Campus Ministry
631-7800.
HOCKEY

Irish look to muzzle Bulldogs in Chicago

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Writer

Even though Notre Dame only plays one game of this week-end's series against Yale at the Joyce Center, both games should have a home ice feel for the Irish.

Following a matchup Friday night at home, the Irish travel to Chicago's Allstate Arena to play the second of a two-game series against the Bulldogs.

Coach Dave Poulin believes that the atmosphere at that game will be an advantage for the Irish.

"You're playing in a big building, and it's a huge alumni center for us," he said. "(Chicago) has become a really good recruiting area for our team."

This year's roster has five players who are from the Chicago area. Senior team captain and defenseman Evan Nielsen, senior goaltender Tony Zasowski, senior forward Michael Chin, junior defenseman Brett Lebda and sophomore defenseman Joe Zurenko will all be playing in front of friends and family at Saturday's game.

The Irish connection to Chicago doesn't stop there, however. Junior defenseman T.J. Mathieson, sophomore forward Cory McLean and freshman goalie Travis Caskey all played junior hockey in Chicago.

Notre Dame (9-9-4, 7-8-1 in the CCHA) is coming off of an emotional 4-3 overtime win against CCHA leader Ferris State last Saturday and will be looking to continue that effort against non-conference foe Yale (8-8-0).

The Irish last met the Bulldogs during the 2000-01 season, with Notre Dame visiting New Haven and coming away with a 4-3 win. That win was the first ever for the Irish against Yale, who hold a 3-1-0 record in the all-time series.

This year's Bulldogs have an explosive offense that averages over four goals a game and are led by a trio of talented forwards in Evan Wax, Ryan Steeves and Christopher Higgins.

Sophomore Peter Cohen usually mans the net for the Bulldogs. Through 14 games, he owns a 3.78 goals against average and a .865 save percentage.

With an offense that scores about four goals a game and a goalie that gives up about four, it's no surprise that Yale sports a .500 winning percentage. Even so, Poulin believes the Bulldogs are better than their mediocre record.

"We're looking to play a team with a lot of skill and looking for a win to be the engine that drives us through the final stretch [of the season]," he said. "We want to play well because it sets a precedent."

Following the Yale series, the Irish play out the remainder of their schedule with twelve games.

A winning record is naturally changing for some and a chance at the memory of a crushing 61-40 loss at Albion last season.

The Belles (5-9, 1-2 in the MIAA) will travel to Michigan State to face the Britons (9-5, 2-1) of Albion College. The matchup will be a game for same and a chance at revenge for others.

Veteran members of Saint Mary's basketball still have the Belles were defeated in nearly every aspect of the game. They were out-rebounded 40-27 and that is also a weakness of this year's team as well.

"We've worked a lot on rebonding in practice this week," guard Bridget Boyce said. "A trouble point for us has been getting to the shooter and applying the pressure and we're working to fix that."

The Belles may have had trouble on the road last season but pulled out a 53-44 victory over the Britons at home that same year. Despite the ulti-

Want to give children who have a parent with cancer a week of fun & smiles?

Volunteer to be a counselor at Camp Kesem

Camp Kesem is a camp for children who have or have had a parent with cancer, located at Camp Lutherhaven in Goshen, TN.

Camp Kesem is organized entirely by fellow Notre Dame students.

Counselor applications are due January 24, 2003

**Applications are available on the website:**

www.campkesem-nd.org

Questions? Contact Erin Mulvaney, emulvane@nd.edu, 4-0850
Irish squads open season at Central Michigan

3 All-American sprinters to pace 2003 women's team

to The Observer

The 2003 track and field season begins for the Notre Dame women's team at the Central Michigan Opener. The Irish are ready to begin the quest for the 2003 Big East indoor championship, set for March 14-15 at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, N.Y.

One area of concern for the Irish this year will be replacing former All-American Liz Grow on the highly-improved sprinting team. Three sprinters who could fill the void left by Grow's departure are seniors Kymia Love and Ayesha Boyd. All three runners were members of the Irish All-American 1600-meter relay team which finished fifth at last year's NCAA Outdoor Championships, completing the circuit in a school-record time of 3 minutes, 32.12 seconds. The trio also made up the core of Notre Dame's 4x100-meter relay unit which has won the last two Big East indoor titles and placed 15th at the 2002 NCAA outdoor meet.

The evolution of the Notre Dame distance runners continued in 2001-02, and it should continue well into this season. The Irish have their top nine distance runners back in the fold, paced by sophomore Lauren King.

King put together a stellar rookie campaign for Notre Dame, capped by her sixth-place finish and All-America selection in the 1,500 meters at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. She also set a school record in the 1,500 at nationals, posting a time of 4:16.51 for the event.

The most potential for Notre Dame's distance unit lies in its freshman class. Four newcomers could provide a major spark this season and give the Irish some additional depth in their sprint and middle distance events.

The distance runners need help for the Irish to succeed, and Piane expects it to come from a number of different sources, including the middle distance events.

"Marc Striowski returns for a fifth year," Piane says. "That's got to help. Todd Mobley was an NCAA qualifier in the 10,000 meters. Vinnie Ambrico is coming in as a freshman running roughly a 4:11 mile and his classmate, Thomas Chamney, is running 1:51.40 in the half mile. We are pretty solid in the middle distance area."

The Irish will count on sophomore Selim Nurudeen in hurdles, the 110-meter hurdles champion at the 2002 Big East outdoor meet. Nurudeen, who came in with high expectations last year, hopes to reach an even higher level this season under the instruction of sprints, hurdles, and speed coach John Miller.

"Selim won the Big East last year, so he should be formidable," Piane said.

The Irish also expect to have a solid 1600-meter relay team this season.

"John Boots, Trevor McClain-Dyer, and a fresh­man, Ryan Postel — they can all help us in the 200 and 400 area," said Miller. "My focus is that I would like to get a competitive 1600-meter relay out of that group that can run a good time. I think we have a group of guys that are capable of running fast."

The Irish also have two jumpers that they expect to perform well. Senior Tom Gilbert is the team's long jump specialist while junior Godwin Mbagwu will compete again in the triple jump.

"We are looking for good things from Gilbert as one of our team captains," Irish jumps and throws coach Scott Winor said. "He needs to step up, perform well and show what he can do. He is going to have to become a leader and end his career on a high note."

Winor also expects sophomores Ryan Mineburg and Chris Staron to be solid in the high jump.

Chip Roberts and Juan Alba look to replace all-Big East selection Derek Dyer in the throws.

Winor is also counting on Mike Madigan and Derek Goguen in the javelin and Joe Yanoff in the pole vault.

The makeup of this year's Irish team is very similar to that of past years, although NCAA Champion Ryan Shay will be hard to replace.

"We want to be deeper, as does he, so we could," Piane said. "But our goals as always are to do well at the Big East Championships and get people qualified at the NCAA."
Campus Ministry

Friday Retreat #17
MBA Retreat
Friday thru Saturday
Sacred Heart Parish Center

Saturday 1-18
The Plunge - Phase 2:
The Reunion
1:00-5:00 p.m.
CoMo Student Lounge

Sunday 1-19
RCIA Session
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
CoMo Student Lounge
Confirmation
Rite of Welcome
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Sankofa Academy
Open Discussion Group
2:00-3:00 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse Center
Learning to Talk About Race Retreat #24
Pre-Retreat Plunge
5:00-6:30 p.m.
CoMo Student Lounge

Monday 1-20
Welcome Back Mass for those Returning from Abroad
5:15 p.m.
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Dinner follows at CoMo

Tuesday 1-21
Campus Bible Study
7:00-8:00 p.m.
114 Coleman-Morse Center
Confirmation Session #8
7:00-8:45 p.m.
Siegfried Hall Chapel
Weekly Spanish Mass
10:30 p.m.
St. Edward’s Hall

Wednesday 1-22
Interfaith Christian Night Prayer
10:00-11:00 p.m.
Morrissey Hall Chapel
Graduate Student Christian Fellowship
8:00 p.m.
Wilton Commons

Mark Your Calendar
A Run-down of Spring Semester Retreats
Freshman Retreats
#45 Jan. 24-25
#46 Feb. 28-Mar. 1
#47 Apr. 4-5, 2002
Sign-up thru Jan. 20
Sign-up: Jan. 27-Feb. 24
Sign-up: March 3-31
Learning to Talk About Race
Jan. 24-25
Feb. 7-8
Notre Dame Encounter with Christ (NDE)
#74 Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2003
#75 Feb. 28-Mar. 2, 2003
#76 April 11-13, 2003
Sign-up: Jan. 27-31
Sign-up: March 3-7
Senior Retreat
#8 Jan. 31-Feb. 1
Sign-up thru Jan. 27
Sophomore Road Trip - Destination: Emmaus
Be on the look out for details, coming soon....

What’s Happening This Week @ CM

Welcome Back Mass for Students Returning from Abroad
5:15 p.m.
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Dinner follows at CoMo

Welcome Back
You’re Not 8 Years Old Anymore
by Darrell Paulsen
Assistant Director, Campus Ministry

Welcome Back! On behalf of all of us here in Campus Ministry, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our students as you return from semester break. In a special way we would like to welcome back those students who were abroad last semester. Perhaps you have heard or even spoken those words yourself, “Oh, that is what they do, but it’s really not my style,” or “They already have all the students they need; to get involved, you have to be on the inside.” I would like to challenge these assumptions. At Campus Ministry, we’re here to serve the needs of all Notre Dame students to the best of our ability. We are always interested in discussing new ideas and challenging questions. How can we create the opportunities you are looking for if you do not present and work on those creative ideas with us?

We offer retreats of all shapes and sizes. We offer opportunities through our Emmaus program to get together in small Christian communities and share your own experience of faith and spirituality. Every Wednesday night we offer Interfaith Christian Night Prayer as a place to gather with students from all Christian denominations to encounter a fresh way to pray and express your faith. And because we are a community that has much to be thankful for, we are also a Eucharistic community that gathers, in hall chapels and in the Basilica throughout the week, around the table of the Lord as the source and summit of our faith tradition.

College is a time of great transition. Four years of asking questions you never thought you would ask yourself. College is a time of trading in a child-like faith for a mature belief system that integrates faith, values, relationships, and vocation. Often students say, “I’ve always prayed these prayers before bed, but now they don’t seem to ‘work’ for me.” The challenge here is to see that we are no longer eight and that maybe what worked during childhood needs to change as we have changed. When we recognize that our relationship with God has changed, so too must our expression of that faith. God is there for us. We sometimes have to change the direction we are looking.

What I realized in college was that I needed to speak with someone else about what God was doing in my life so I could find my bearings. And because we are a community that gathers, in hall chapels and in the Basilica throughout the week, around the table of the Lord as the source and summit of our faith tradition.

Welcome Back Mass
for Students Returning from Abroad
5:15 p.m.
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Dinner follows at CoMo

Our Community
Our community is a place where we are all family and friends. When we recognize that our relationship with God has changed, so too must our expression of that faith. God is there for us. We are always interested in discussing new ideas and challenging questions.

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For students abroad last semester, Campus life was not the same without you and we are glad you are back among us. Past students returning to campus from overseas sometimes found it a hard re-entry. We would like to encourage you to share your experience with those you meet so that our campus community may share in your great cultural experience. Some of you who were abroad also had the opportunity to work with our campus ministry in Europe, Michael Downs, and had the opportunity to partake in retreats, service and faith-sharing groups. We hope you will seek out similar opportunities while here on campus.

If it appears as if we are only interested in the students who have gotten on board early in their college experience, that is a false perception. Each semester there are numerous opportunities for students to get involved in our programs on a one-time only or long-term basis.

Campus Ministry is about reaching all students where they are and helping to build communities of faith that will help us become people of faith for a lifetime.

Visit the CM Welcome Center in 115 CoMo
Sunday - Thursday, 4pm to midnight
Team hopes to avoid letdown after victory

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's swimming team will travel this weekend without a group of its key swimmers in the hopes of keeping them healthy for later competition.

Coming off a 129-69 victory over Kansas in Acapulco, Mexico, the 4-1-1 Irish travel to Champaign, Ill., for a two-day meet against Illinois.

Freshmen Christel Bournon, Kara Santelli and Kat Walker, sophomore Katie Eckholt and diver Kristina Kennedy will stay in South Bend for the weekend to rest. Cold weather and wear and tear are among the reasons for their absence.

"We would like the entire team to be healthy for our next meet against Bowling Green," coach Saxey Weathers said.

Illinois will compete with both Notre Dame and Michigan, but Notre Dame and Michigan will not score against each other at the meet. The Irish are scheduled to swim against Michigan, who is ranked right behind Notre Dame, on Feb. 1. Neither team's coach sees it as necessary to be nervous.

So Notre Dame focuses on Illinois, an unranked team, but nonetheless an obstacle in the way of the stricking Irish swimming team.

"Their best events are the backstroke and the breaststroke, but we're real strong in those events," Weathers said. "They have a couple European kids who have helped them, but I think our girls will be real competitive against them."

Although the Irish will be missing Hourigan, who swims freestyle and butterfly, and others, the team will still bring solid performers like Laurie Mongare, who took the 100 breaststroke in 1 minute, 14.07 seconds against Kansas, and Danielle Iulic, winner of the 100-meter backstroke in 57.30 against Pittsburgh, to combat Illinois' strengths.

In addition, Weathers points out, it is important for his girls to get used to the format of the meet.

"The order of events (against Illinois) is done the same as it will be in the Big East and NCAA championships," he said. The Irish usually compete with Iowa in this mix, as well. Regardless, Weathers is pleased with his team's refusal to let down over the break between Champaign and Kansas meets.

"We had a really good training camp pretty much with everybody," Weathers said. "But, I don't know, I think the kids were. Everybody did a great job after Christmas in practice (and against Kansas) as a team."

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Irish Verbal Commitments

Nick Borsot
Joe Brockington
John Carlson
Isaiah Gardner
Ryan Harris
Trevor LaVall
David Marrero
Ashley McConnell
Chinedum Ndukwe
Greg Olsen
Fred Parrish
Brady Quinn
Jeff Samardzija
Travis Thomas
Tommy Zbikowski

Continued from page 24

native amassed 87 tackles during his senior season. "Guilford is an underized free safety, but he can really hit," Lemming said.

Guilford could join the likes of Glen Earl and Vonter Duff in the secondary and help, along with Zbikowski, replace graduating seniors Shane Walton and Gerome Sapp.

The Irish were looking to improve their Linebacker core by landing Maryland linebacker Wesley Jefferson, named The Washington Post's defensive player of the year in the area. But Jefferson may decide to cancel his visit to South Bend, according to Lemming, because he seems to be leaning toward Florida or Miami.

Jefferson's commitment to the talent they secure this coming weekend, the Irish hope to convince a formidable job landing highly-rated athletes from around the nation.

Notre Dame's gem is quarterback Brady Quinn, who at foot-4, 210 pounds, comes physically prepared for a West Coast offense in which he should be comfortable.

"He has the potential to be a difference maker," Lemming said. "He is a better fit for the West Coast attack than Holiday. If he plays to his full potential at the end of four years he could be a Heisman Trophy winner. Give him a chance to play for Carson Palmer type." Lemming's comments flatten the Ohio quarterback.

"Anytime someone says something like that, I mean it's hard to respond to commitments like that. But I definitely have to say the West Coast offense is a good fit," Quinn said. "Hopefully I can reach up to the ranks of Carson Palmer. But Carlyle Holiday is a great athlete and quarterback, and none of that is to be seen till it all gets up there."

Quinn was named to the Division I All-Iowa first team after finishing with 1,973 yards passing his senior season. Quinn could very well end up competing for a starting job next season if he learns the offense quickly.

"Basically it's going to be something that will be answered by the coaches," Quinn said of his chances of starting at quarterback next season. "I'm going to go up early in the summer to get started, and hopefully everything will work itself out for me." If Quinn should eventually start for Notre Dame, he may line up under USA Today first-team All-America selection center Gerome Sapp, who committed to the Irish on Nov. 7.

Quinn was named to the Division I All-Illinois first team after finishing with 2,920 yards passing his senior season. Quinn's teammate Teven. 5428, 210 pounds, come physically prepared for a West Coast offense in which he should be comfortable.

"He's got a future feature back in most defensive recruiting services like that," Lemming said. "I think they've done a great job convincing recruits to come to South Bend." The Irish recruiting staff is doing a good job convincing recruits to come to South Bend. The Irish recruiting staff is doing a good job convincing recruits to come to South Bend. The Irish recruiting staff is doing a good job convincing recruits to come to South Bend. The Irish recruiting staff is doing a good job convincing recruits to come to South Bend. The Irish recruiting staff is doing a good job convincing recruits to come to South Bend. The Irish recruiting staff is doing a good job convincing recruits to come to South Bend.

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Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

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Chinedum Ndukwe have already made verbal commitments to catch passes for the Irish. Lemming ranks Samardzija as the No. 1 wide receiver in the country and Quinn has nothing but praise but his favorite target from Dublin, Ohio.

"(Ndukwe) is a great athlete. He has great size, great speed, great hands, and great speed. And the best thing about him is his personality," Quinn said. "He's my best friend, and I couldn't imagine going away without my best friend."

The recruits remaining uncommitted are players such as Baltimore defensive end Victor Ahani and offensive lineman Mike Jones, who want to make all of their visits to campuses before finalizing their decision.

"Ahani is the top defensive end in the country," Lemming said. The ESPN expert said Notre Dame has been leading in recruiting Ahani most of the year, but now it comes down to the ability of Irish head coach Willingham and competing coach, Maryland's Ralph Friedgen, to come out on top.

"I think they've done a great job recruiting. Quinn said. "And I think we will continue to do so in years to come."

None of the verbal commitments from the high school seniors are binding contracts. The official signing day is Feb. 4.
ND WOMENS BASKETBALL

Full game necessary for Irish to be successful

By KATIE McVOY

A basketball game is 40 minutes. The Irish know that. Now they have to play like they know it.

In their last two home outings, the Irish have struggled and faced two very frustrating losses. On Saturday, as they take on Rutgers at home, it's time to stop the frustration and play 40 minutes of basketball.

"In those two home losses we played a good 15 minutes out of 40," forward Jackie Batteast said. "We can't do that against tough teams. We know we're going to have to compete for 40 minutes and that's not what we've been doing."

The Irish have had as much of a hand in their recent home losses as their opponents have. Against Purdue and Miami, the Irish reached upwards of 25 turnovers and struggled on the boards. But what has plagued Notre Dame most is lack of confidence.

"I just have to get not frustrated with myself if I miss a shot or if I go 0-for-8," Batteast said. "I can't get down on myself and take myself out of the game."

Notre Dame's game against Rutgers on Saturday starts off a long stretch of difficult games including NCAA Tournament teams Connecticut, Villanova and Boston College. They have to improve their play if they hope to take any victories against their Big East opponents.

"We haven't been playing well right now but we have a lot of opportunities in the next four games to play some quality opponents," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "Hopefully we'll start to get a little bit better by playing them."

Notre Dame showed some of its capability against St. John's. McGraw is hoping that her team's Tuesday night victory against St. John's is enough to give the Irish the confidence to turn things around at home.

"I think we really need to take care of the homecourt," McGraw said. "It's going to be tough to win on the road so you just made it harder on yourself if you can't take care of things at home."

Taking care of the home court on Saturday will mean taking care of Cappie Pondexter. McGraw has credited the Scarlet Knight point guard with being the springboard for Rutgers' turnaround. The 8-4 Scarlet Knights have relied on Pondexter to provide a majority of their scoring.

"I think Cappie has really turned the program around," McGraw said. "She's scoring a lot points for them, she's leading the team. She's doing everything she needs to do."

In addition to controlling Pondexter, the Irish are also going to have to watch out for Rutgers team speed and athleticism. The Scarlet Knights have beaten their opponents by moving the ball more quickly.

"They're very athletic and we're not," McGraw said. "So they have a huge advantage in team quickness and team speed."

But when it comes to Saturday's game, Notre Dame's real opponent will be itself. The Irish will have to control their own turnovers, work under the boards and play solid basketball for 40 minutes.

"We know that only 50 percent isn't going to cut it in these games," guard LeTania Severe said.

Contact Katie McVoy at mcvo509@saintmarys.edu

OPENING NIGHT BASEBALL DINNER

FEATURING CHIAGO CUBS GM JIM HENDRY

TUESDAY, FEB. 4TH

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

David Carraro, Larry Fortensky, Betty White, John Carpenter, James Earl Jones

Happy Birthday! You will work toward stabilizing your life this year. The up house ends and new beginnings. Your creative talent will be at its full force. You will discover the inspiration you are looking for. Your numbers are 2, 7, 13, 19, 44.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Keep your semen to yourself today. Your reputation may be raised if you have been involved in something that you are not proud of. You'll have to do damage control.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) You'll look good in the eyes of others today. Take a powerful stance when it comes to your beliefs. Social activities and romance decide this.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Not everyone will be happy with the things you choose to do. Avoid discord by including others in your activities. You will pick up information today that will enable you to advance professionally.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Love interests are present, however, the team you are experiencing is all-consuming. Pull yourself away from the stress and spend time enjoying yourself.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Travel and communication should be on your agenda. Take a break from your regular routine. You don't have to be the center of attention.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Make your move and speak your mind. If someone interests you, tell THEM. You will get the response you are looking for. This is a decision year.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Find your own little space, free from the disarray that surrounds you. You have the ability to look at all angles of a situation and, given the right setting, you will find a solution to whatever is bothering you. Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Be prepared to deal with people who are judgmental. If you are prepared to deal with yourself, no one who opposes you will make a difference. Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your help will be valued, so offer assistance to someone who is in dire need. Don't feel limited if you can't physically travel.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your help will be valued, so offer assistance to someone who is in dire need. Don't feel limited if you can't physically travel.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Deception is in the picture, so don't believe everything that you are told. Read between the lines and ask pertinent questions. Don't neglect to thank the fabric of the world today.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your creative ideas will rise to the surface. The new friends you make today will be important to your future direction and gains.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) The changes you make to yourself, your home or your life in general will lead to increased self-esteem.

Visit The Observer on the web at http://observer.nd.edu/
Looking into the future

With national signing day less than a month away, Notre Dame has 15 verbal commitments from high school recruits

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham and the Irish do not have an opportunity to blink as they transition from a disappointing bowl loss against North Carolina State to a focus on a rigorous recruiting process.

Since Thursday, when highly touted recruits Greg Olsen and Tom Zbikowski verbally committed to the Irish, Notre Dame has secured 15 verbal commitments.

The six-foot-six, 245-pound Olsen, the nation's top tight end recruit according to several recruiting publications, took his official visit to Notre Dame Dec. 13.

ESPN.com expert Tom Lemming believed the Irish had an excellent chance of landing Olsen, partly because his older brother Chris is currently a quarterback at Dame.

"I'd be shocked if he doesn't wind up at Notre Dame," Lemming said. "I think with Chris' verbal commitment, Notre Dame it would be easier for his parents to see both of them play at the same place."

Olsen, one of three finalists for the Gatorade National Player of the Year award, proved Lemming accurate in choosing Notre Dame Thursday. Lemming says verbal commitment tight end John Carlson could play defensive end if Olsen gets the call at tight end. Zbikowski, who would likely play defensive back for the Irish, decided South Bend was the place for him after an in-home visit from Notre Dame coaches Wednesday night. He passed on offers from Iowa and Nebraska.

As a quarterback in high school, Zbikowski ran for 1,287 yards and 25 touchdowns and passed for 1,382 yards and 11 touchdowns. Voted to the USA Today first-team All-America, the Woodlands Hills, Ill., native also made 41 tackles and two interceptions as a safety.

Now, with two high priorities secured, Notre Dame can shift the focus to recruits such as wide receiver Mark Bradford, scheduled to visit campus this weekend.

Bradford has made Notre Dame his final visit before he decides between LSU, Oregon, Washington State, Washington and Notre Dame. "Bradford is the most important one of the players visiting this weekend," Lemming said. "The Irish need a receiver. Bradford will need more work to become a great receiver, but he is definitely a playmaker, similar to (graduating senior) Arnaz Battle."

With only one returning starting offensive lineman, the Irish also place high priority on visiting center/guard John Sullivan.

Lemming said the Greenwich, Conn., native and USA Today second-team All-America selection will likely choose Notre Dame.

On the defensive side of the ball, safety Isa-Bell Guillford, who also played running back in high school and carried the ball for 2,268 yards and 29 touchdowns, visits campus this weekend and said he will decide between Ohio State and Notre Dame.

The Hoboken, N.J., native apparently might take a fifth visit, although he visited the South Bend campus Dec. 17. Notre Dame has been hard to identify a go-to player in its offense, but Lemming said the Greenwich, Conn., native and USA Today second-team All-America selection will likely choose Notre Dame.

Irish guard Matt Carroll looks to pass the ball around a DePaul defender in a game earlier this year.

MENS BASKETBALL
Irish hope to make Wildcats blue

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Matt Carroll vividly remembers the last time the Irish traveled to Kentucky's Rupp Arena. Fireworks exploded. Blue-clad fans galvanized the home team into a frenzy. The visitors got rattled — a lot.

"It is probably one of the biggest spectacles in college basketball," Carroll said.

But when No. 9 Notre Dame (14-2) travels to play No. 6 Kentucky (12-3) Saturday for the teams' third meeting in as many years, Carroll believes the Irish won't repeat their disastrous performance of two years ago.

Then, as a wide-eyed role-playing sophomore, Carroll played on a Notre Dame basketball team that had yet to appear in an NCAA Tournament and was quickly fading out of the top 25. They lost 82-71.

This year's team is completely different.

"Notre Dame is on the map," he said. "I consider us one of the elite programs in the country," said Carroll, averaging a team-high 20.1 points per game. "We've been in the top 25 for a while, we've beat some of the best teams in the country this year which I don't think we've done in the past."

Notre Dame's success has a great deal to do with Carroll's consistency. Since Big East play started, the senior guard has averaged 25 points per game and played virtually every minute.

More importantly, Carroll gives the Irish a calming presence on the court. Although it's hard to identify a go-to player in Notre Dame's team-oriented offense, Carroll best fits the mold.

"I don't think it's an out-there phenomenon to say that nobody is playing better in college basketball right now. A top 10 team, your most consistent guy," Brey said. "It's rewarding for me to see a senior playing well."

To look for the point where Carroll's season truly took off, one should turn back the clock 10 months. That's when Carroll, in the Big East Tournament and the NCAA Tournament, lit up opposing defenses by scoring 20 points in each of Notre Dame's final four games.

The spectacular end to his season propelled him into a summer leadership role, where he organized team workouts while Brey was off-campus.

Irish guard Matt Carroll looks to pass the ball around a DePaul defender in a game earlier this year.

SUNY track
START TRACKS SATURDAY

By ERIK POWERS
Sports Writer

Saturday marks the end of a season and an era for Saint Mary's. The Belles host Alma in their regular season finale, marking the final home meet at the Belles' Rolfs Aquatic Center for senior co-captains Lane Herrington and Lauren Smith.

With the conference tournament only a month away, Saint Mary's (1-3) desperately desires a strong performance in order to build postseason momentum.

Thanks to a few extra days of rest, the Belles will be fresher than their last meet against Kalamazoo. A split or pair of victories versus Albion (2-2) and Alma (0-3) would be invigorating.

"This is pretty big," Smith said. "We'll have a little more rest and it's our last chance for a good seed at conference."

Saint Mary's won a narrow victory versus Albion last year.