Students organize Iraq protest in NYC page 4

Autopsy: No foul play in Sharon's death

By TERESE FRALISH Assistant News Editor

After reviewing the results of the autopsy conducted today on Chad Sharon's body, police stated that Sharon died from drowning and that foul play was likely not involved.

"The cause of death is consistent with drowning," said Rex Bakow, director of Notre Dame Security Police. "There was no indication of foul play or other trauma to the body."

Sharon's body was discovered by construction workers yesterday morning just after about two feet of water underneath the Angela bridge. Police made a tentative identification yesterday based on the Notre Dame medal Sharon was wearing and identification found in a wallet on his body.

Sharon was first reported as missing by Fisher Hall staff on Dec. 12 when he did not return from an off-campus party on Corby Street. Sharon had told friends he would return to campus on his own.

A Madison Center employee later reported speaking with Sharon early on the morning of Dec. 13, Madison Center Hospital on Nine Avenue is located further southeast from Notre Dame than the Corby Street party Sharon attended before he disappeared. The Angela bridge where Sharon's body was located is almost directly west of the University and slightly northwest of the campus.

Juniors welcome parents

By JULIA MILLER-LEMON News Writer

Beginning today, the Junior Parents Weekend Executive Committee welcomes the families of the Class of 2004 as they arrive from around the country to share in their children's academic and social lives at Notre Dame.

Carrying the theme "Wherever We Go ... God, Country, Notre Dame," the weekend joins First Year Student Orientation and Commencement as the three times when parents are honored guests on campus and are able to experience the Notre Dame community firsthand.

The weekend will include a number of different activities designed to expose parents to their student's life both inside and outside of the classroom. Possible highlights this weekend will include the "Bright Lights of the Big City" Gala at the Joyce Center, a celebration for juniors and their families that will include music, dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

Saturday begins with academic workshops hosted by the colleges of Arts and Letters, Engineering and Science and the Mendoza College of Business. These workshops will offer an opportunity for parents to learn more about what goes on in the classrooms of Notre Dame.

Following the academic workshops, each hall will be hosting a luncheon for both in-hall residents and those former residents who have since moved off-campus. This is a chance for parents to meet

Students boycott Heartland due to alleged discrimination

By CAITLIN EARLY News Writer

In response to alleged discrimination marked directed at seniorხ რათან თან იზრდება გუმბათი, ნორთი, საჰამერი, რომ სამეფოს სხვა კომპანიაში,

"The boycott against Heartland will continue until an apology is made."

Kristine Rosario senior

The group was able to run signs throughout campus informing students about the boycott at Heartland on Thursdays when the club has its college night.

"I am seeking a formal, public apology from the management at Heartland," said Rosario. "The boycott against Heartland will continue until an apology is made."

The group has also agreed to write an open letter to Heartland outlining their reasons and objectives for the boycott.

While the main thrust of the boycott is to obtain a formal apology from Heartland, the group is also discussing other forms of action. Some of the
Welcome parents

Juniors: Your parents have been paying for your schooling long enough without knowing where their money goes, and by junior year, it's time to show them how their money is spent.

This weekend, a flood of parents will descend upon campus to spend time with their son or daughter for Junior Parents Weekend and experience life at Notre Dame, a tradition that goes back 50 years.

Junior Parents Weekend will give your parents a better insight into the experiences of seniors. To conclude the embracing, head to meet your dorm friends and the hall faculty to give your parents a glimpse as to what your academic life is like. Each college will gear their presentations to show the rigors and advantages of their respective programs.

Also in the afternoon, the residence halls will each host a luncheon. This will be a great opportunity for parents to meet your dorm friends and the hall staff. Later in the evening mass will be held in the Joyce Center, with President University Father Edward Malloy conducting the services. After mass, dinner will be provided in the Joyce Center, so its important you go to church to be near the food. The event will include speeches by Malloy and Junior Class President Meghan O'Donnell. Also, live entertainment will be provided for the occasion.

Unfortunately, your parents will have to leave eventually, so Sunday will have to be spent in a state of continual hugging. To conclude the embracing weekend over to the Joyce Center and enjoy "Home Sweet Home" brunch that will be served. Irish basketball coach Mike Brey will be a special speaker at the event, and after beating Syracuse on Saturday, he'll have an interesting anecdote or two to share with your parents.

Once the brunch ends at 11:30 or so, JPW is officially over, but that doesn't mean your parents have to leave. Head into town and see the College Football Hall of Fame. After you've shown your parents that you can be attentive to them, they will want to leave soon enough and you'll be all alone and hall should be, and if your parents have a good time, hopefully they will continue to pay your tuition.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Justin Krivickas at jkrivick@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4514 so we can correct every error.

WHAT'S INSIDE

CAMPUS NEWS

Seniors face promising long-term job market

Jobs can still be easily procured by graduating seniors in a slumped economy by relying more on networking and by having multiple career goals.

D.C. on high alert and fears of terrorist strikes

The nation's capital has seen a heightened military presence in response to reported al-Qaeda threats.

WORLD & NATION

Auto sales fell in January despite sales increases in other sectors.

BUSINESS NEWS

Reading the Valentine card from Osama bin Laden

Bin Laden is calling for Iraq to use suicide attacks and urban warfare against the U.S. to inflict heavy casualties.

VIEWPOINT

The barnyard comes alive

Twenty dancers at Saint Mary's have been preparing for a semester and now are ready to unveil "Designs for Dance 2003."

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ND

Lecture: "Goldsmith, Ireland and Empire," 3 p.m. in room 424 of Flanner Hall.

Women's Tennis vs. Virginia Tech, 4 p.m. in the Eck Pavilion.

Mass for Peace and Justice, 5 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SMC

RA Interview, 10 a.m. in the Stapleton Lounge.

Designs on Dance Performance, 7:30 p.m. in the O'Laughlin Lobby.

Little Sils Weekend, 3 p.m. in the Bereans Game Room.

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

Wallet lost in DeBartolo

A student reported losing her wallet in DeBartolo Hall on Wednesday.

Thief strikes at Joyce Center

A University employee reported the theft of her purse on Tuesday. There are no suspects.

NDSP transports student

On Tuesday NDSP transported a student from the Joyce Center to the University Health Center for treatment of a sports injury.

Student attacked by Carroll

A student reported being assaulted while walking on the path on the east side of Carroll Hall on Tuesday at about 1:30 a.m. The case is being investigated further.

WHAT'S COOKING

North Dining Hall

Today's Lunch: Buffalo chicken lasagna, meatball with sauce, Hawaiian pizza, pretzel sticks, roast top round, champagne rice pilaf, brown sauce, turkey gravy, whipped potatoes, corn, cherry crisp, baked cajun pollock, cheese and vegetable pie and broccoli.

South Dining Hall

Today's Lunch: Pasta shells primavera, fetuccine, gorgonzola sauce, french bread pizza, collard greens, turkey turnovers, London broll with wine marinade, cheddar-baked pol­lock, shrimp creole, potatoes au gratin, grilled turkey sandwich and fries.

Today's Dinner: Chicken cacciatore, fetuccine, gorgonzola sauce, french bread pizza, roast top round, oven-fried chicken, grilled polish sausage, rotoli with vegetables, pol­ish-style kielo noodles and cabage

South Dining Hall

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LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY TONIGHT SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY

HIGH 33 34 24 29 23 25 35

LOW 15 12 16 16 22 20


The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4514 so we can correct every error.
Friends, dormmates mourn loss of Chad Sharon

Fisher Hall residents gather in memorial Mass

By TERESE FRALISH Assistant News Editor

After learning that someone they knew so well would not be returning to Notre Dame, those who knew Chad Sharon best reflected on his life and time at Notre Dame.

"He was a high achiever but very down to earth. He was just a wonderful person," said Dandi Altfillisch, a Notre Dame sophomore who attended Merrill High School in Wisconsin with Sharon. "He was class president. He was voted most most similar to succeed." Altfillisch, who worked on many student government projects with Sharon, noted that he always went the extra mile in everything he undertook. "He was very selfless. He was willing to help others even if it made his life more difficult." Altfillisch remembered one instance in particular where the state of Wisconsin was considering budget cuts that could affect their high school and she and Sharon worked to prevent those cuts from being approved. "He put together this really ornate Power Point presentation. He put so much time into it." After disappearing Dec. 12, Sharon’s body was discovered Wednesday in the St. Joseph’s River.

Sharon, who attended Notre Dame’s Merril High School scholarship, earned the same Leonard N. Anson Memorial Scholarship that Altfillisch received. "The scholarship recognizes an outstanding student from Merrill High School who chooses to attend Notre Dame," Altfillisch said. After she was named as the scholarship’s recipient, Altfillisch remembers talking with Sharon about how they could keep the state of Wisconsin from making budget cuts. "I remember when he got it," Altfillisch said. "He called me at school.

Altfillisch said she hadn’t yet come to terms with the recent events. "(Chad) was just one of those people that you hate to have these things happen to," she said.

Tom Gorman, a sophomore at the University, lived across the hall from him in Fisher. Gorman and his roommate Peter Nebel were close friends of Sharon’s. "He’s just going to be missed," Gorman said. "He was always smiling."

Gorman said that Sharon placed a high priority on his studies and enjoyed working with computers. Like Altfillisch, Gorman noted that Sharon always thought of his projects months before himself. "He was always looking out for other people," said Gorman. "He’s always smiling."

Gorman said that Sharon placed a high priority on his studies and considered budget cuts that could affect their high school. "He did them so thoroughly," Cannon said. "He was a very thoughtful and sensitive young man."

Cannon noted that Sharon took a very serious attitude toward his studies yet truly enjoyed the opportunity to attend Notre Dame. "(On) the last day of classes he sent me an email to thank me," she said.

Sharon was receiving an A in the theology class, Cannon said, and put dedicated effort into every aspect of her class. "I offered options for extra credit and (Chad) didn’t need them but he did them so thoroughly," Cannon recalled.

Cannon also remembered a Web site that Sharon created for the theology project open on his computer, "He was really a fine student," said Cannon. "He was always looking out for other people." Cannon noted that Sharon took a very serious attitude toward his studies yet truly enjoyed the opportunity to attend Notre Dame. "(On) the last day of classes he sent me an email to thank me," she said.

Though he did not know Sharon personally, Bill Kirk, assistant vice president for student affairs, was closely involved with the effort to offer every support possible to Sharon’s family. Kirk maintained close contact with Steve and Jane Sharon throughout the past two months and talked with the Shorons every day. "They’ve become friends," Kirk said. "They’ve been in my thoughts and prayers an awful lot.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

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"How to Listen to Schumann’s Fantasy for Piano, Op. 17"

A Lecture/Recital by Ethan Haimo

Professor of Music
University of Notre Dame

2:00 pm, Sunday, February 16, 2003
Carey Auditorium, Hesburgh Library

Pre-registration required.

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The Observer remembers Chad Sharon

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At St. Joseph River, Chad Sharon was found Wednesday. His body was found near the river. Friends, dormmates mourn loss of Chad Sharon.
Students plan Iraq war protest in New York City

By KRISTEN KLEIN
News Writer

Students are taking to the streets of New York this Saturday to protest the building tensions between the United States and Iraq. The organization, United for Peace and Justice, organized the Anti-War protest in New York City, which will be held outside the United Nations building.

Once in New York City the students will attend the rally at noon on Saturday and that evening attend a student rally at Columbia University. They will then stay at Columbia with students from the Columbia University Anti-War Coalition.

Peter Quaranto, freshman, organized the group of approximately 35 Notre Dame students who will take part in the rally. “I heard about this rally, and said that if there is going to be a group of people protesting injustice and killing, Notre Dame should be represented there,” Quaranto said about his reason for organizing the group.

“I think the one thing that unites us is that we have decided that we need to do more than just sit back and preach about our beliefs: we have to act on our beliefs,” said Quaranto.

Quaranto worked with the Center for Social Concerns to organize and fund the trip. The students had to pay a $30 fee for participation with the money going toward van rentals, gas and tolls.

Rachel Tomas Morgan, helped Quaranto plan the trip and said, “Quaranto, and other groups, ‘The Center is happy to help support any student or student group wishing to exercise their faith in service and action for justice that resound with our Catholic social tradition.”

“Ultimately, we feel that we are old enough to have a voice in the way our country and world works,” said Quaranto. “This weekend, we are going to exercise that voice.”

More information about the Anti-War protest can be found at www.unitedforpeace.org.

Contact Kristen Klein at kklein@nd.edu
D.C. on high alert amid fears of terrorist strikes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Police carrying semiautomatic rifles patrolled the grounds of the Capitol on Thursday, and the government warned key industries and utilities to be ready for a "go bag" of supplies, sensitive documents and a laminated list of key contacts. Some officials said they were preparing for a "dirty bomb," a crude, easy-to-make device that would spew radioactive material over a wide area.

There are no plans to raise the threat level, Justice Department officials said. U.S. counterterrorism officials said they are continuing to gather intelligence on specific and unconfirmed information as to targets or methods for a terrorist strike.

A chaotic central D.C. will be seen, they will not be used, they will be seen. Some will never be known, but took place," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "There is not a panic situation here."

"They were worried about attacks involving the Capitol, the White House, a Muslim holy period that ended Thursday, or the beginning of a war rea nuclear issue.

Tension in the capital has risen, underscored by the officers carrying rifles in the Capitol complex and the deployment of antiaircraft missiles around the city.

Other steps were being taken outside public notice. "They will be seen, they will not be known, they will be seen. Some will never be seen."

U.N. nuclear monitors, taking steps to restart frozen nuclear facilities and withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The U.N. nuclear agency's 35-nation board declared North Korea in violation of its obligations under the treaty and other accords. Because the North has expelled U.N. inspectors, the agency "remains unable to verify that there has been no diversion of nuclear material" for weapons.

The board's decision came as U.S. intelligence officials warned Wednesday that Pyongyang has an untested ballistic missile capable of reaching the western United States.

NORTH KOREA

U.S. will not pursue sanctions against North Korea

Associated Press

NEW YORK

The United States said Thursday that it would not call for punishing U.N. sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear program, saying that it would be an act of war. U.S. President Bush's administration wants to pursue a diplomatic solution for the time being.

The board of the International Atomic Energy Agency voted Wednesday to refer the North Korean nuclear issue to the United Nations Security Council, setting in motion a process that could lead to sanctions against the North.

Williamson said the United States was waiting for the IAEA resolution to be referred to the council, which should happen Friday.

"We'll deal with it in a systematic manner, both diplomatically, and we're pleased the IAEA acted, and we look forward to discussing and working the issue diplomatically here as the U.S. has been doing in the region for many weeks now," Williamson said.

Asked whether sanctions were a possibility in the near future, he replied, "It's too early to say."

Williamson said the United States would be discussing with the other 14 council members when to take up the North Korean issue.

China's U.N. Ambassador Wang Yirfan welcomed Williamson's announcement. "I don't see any point to talk about sanctions, even think about sanctions," he told The Associated Press. "It will not work. It will only make the situation worse."

"It could only be settled through direct contact, through dialogue," Wang said. "We hope still, with the efforts of every country we could find so that we can see the start of the dialogue."

The standoff began in October when North Korea announced it had a clandestine nuclear program. Washington suspended fuel shipments, and the North retaliated by expelling U.N. nuclear monitors, taking steps to restart frozen nuclear facilities and withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The U.N. nuclear agency's 35-nation board declared North Korea in violation of its obligations under the treaty and other accords. Because the North has expelled U.N. inspectors, the agency "remains unable to verify that there has been no diversion of nuclear material" for weapons.

The board's decision came as U.S. intelligence officials warned Wednesday that Pyongyang has an untested ballistic missile capable of reaching the western United States.

RELATIVES OF JAILED TEENS MAD AT VERDICT

Relatives of two teenage boys who admitted killing their sleeping father with a baseball bat are angry the man they believe influenced the boys was acquitted of molestation. Ricky Chavis, 41, was found innocent Wednesday of charges he kidnapped and molested the younger brother, Alex King, in the months before the slaying of 4-year-old Terry King. Chavis was convicted of the lesser offense of false imprisonment and was sentenced last Tuesday to the maximum of five years in prison.

AZARIVA LAKE DRIEST IN THREE DECADES:

Lake Powell is at its lowest level in 30 years, the result of scant snow melt and heavy demand from three Western states that look to it for drinking water. Lake Powell, a 252-square-mile artificial lake created by the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam on the Arizona-Utah border, is down 87 feet from its highest level.

END OF THE REPORT...
Sharon

continued from page 1

Madison Center.

Though NDSP, in conjunction with state and local authori­ties, conducted a thorough search of the St. Joseph River in the days following Sharon's Dec. 12 disappearance, Rakow said it was possible that those searches may have missed sec­tions of the river. "My feeling is that he probably was held underneath by debris," Rakow said. "We had those high winds [Tuesday] and I'm think­ing the wind and the water might have freed him."

In their searches of the river and its vicinity, police used search boats, helicopters and dogs and drove by the river daily, Rakow said.

While Rakow believed foul play was not involved, he said several questions remained for police to investigate. "We don't know how he got there," said Rakow. "There could be sever­al scenarios that place him in the river."

Rakow said NDSP, who has had primary jurisdiction in the missing person case so far, will work with the County Metro Homicide police to investigate the remaining details. "County Metro Homicide will be looking at the results and the issue of how he got in the river," said Rakow. "We will assist them. It will be coopera­tive."

Sharon's parents, Steve and Jane Sharon, arrived on cam­pus Thursday to meet with police and expressed their thanks to everyone who knew their son and worked on the missing person investigation.

"I'd like to thank everyone in the Notre Dame community," said Steve Sharon. "Most of all our gratitude goes to Chad's friends in Fisher. The entire Notre Dame family helped us through with their kind words and encouragement," he said.

Though the news of their son's death wasn't what the Sharon family hoped to hear, Steve Sharon said the recent events did bring closure to the uncertainty he and his wife have lived with for the past two months.

Steve Sharon also reflected on his only child's feelings about being a student at Notre Dame. "Chad loved Notre Dame and it will always be a special place. We will be back because Notre Dame means a lot to us." Steve and Jane Sharon returned to their home in Pelican Lake, Wis. late Thursday.

WHAT ARE YOU CALLED TO DO?
CAREERS AS VOCATIONS:
ENGINEERING AND
ARCHITECTURE

Sunday, February 16, 4 - 6:00 p.m. at the Center for Social Concerns
Pizza will be served.

A panel presentation with:

Adam Alessio '98, High school teacher, Graduate student in Electrical Engineering

Maureen Neville '00, Habitat for Humanity in Puerto Rico, Environmental Engineer - CDM

Leroy Troyer '71, President and Founder of the Troyer Group, Architect

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdownes1@nd.edu
Retail sales slide in January

A big drop in automobile sales swamped gains in other categories, causing overall sales at the nation's retailers to fall in January.

While consumers — the main force keeping the economy going — stayed away from car dealers showroom last month, they bit other stores. That made economists hopeful shoppers will keep their pocketbooks and wallets sufficiently open in the months ahead to prevent the economy from falling into a recession.

"If you park auto sales off to the side, retail sales remain on a healthy trend," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at the Hancock Financial Services.

Even as economists expressed such optimism, they were mindful of risks that could upset that scenario. "Worries about a possible war with Iraq and fresh warnings that terrorists could strike the United States again could make consumers clam up, weakening the fragile recovery," said Carl T. Tannenbaum, chief economist at LaSalle Bank.

Retail sales dropped by 0.9 percent in January, a turnaround from the 2 percent gain posted in December and the worst showing in four months, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

But much of January's weakness reflected a sharp 7.5 percent decline in automobile sales, the largest drop since November 2001. Consumers took a breather after a buying binge in December, when auto sales jumped 7.9 percent.

The decline in sales came even though incentives remained generous in January, said Paul Taylor, chief economist at the National Automobile Dealers Association.

"People are making more conservative decisions in the car that they buy," said Taylor. Cold weather in many parts of the country last month also slowed traffic to showrooms, he added.

But excluding automobile sales, which can swing widely from month to month, sales at other retailers actually rose by 1.3 percent in January, the biggest gain since September 2000.

"The solid gain in core sales does suggest that consumers continue to underpin the economy," despite weaker confidence, said Maury Harris, chief economist at UBS Warburg. "Households may be detecting a slightly better job market."

In another report, new claims for unemployment benefits last week dropped by 18,000 to 377,000, a four-week low, the Labor Department said. That suggested the pace of layoffs is stabilizing, welcome news for workers worried about keeping their jobs.

Food and beverage store sales saw rising 2.6 percent last month, following a 1.3 percent decline. At bars and restaurants, sales rose 1.1 percent, down from a 2 percent advance.

Sales at clothing stores edged up 0.3 percent, after a 0.8 percent rise.

Bethlehem buyout to ax 4,000 jobs

Bethlehem Steel Corp. said Thursday as many as 4,000 people will lose their jobs as a result of the International Steel Group's buyout of the company.

Robert S. Miller, Bethlehem's CEO and chairman, told employees Wednesday that 3,000 to 4,000 jobs will be cut. The higher figure amounts to 36 percent of Bethlehem's current work force of 11,000.

Miller made the estimate on an employee hotline designed to update the company's employees on the pending sale, company spokesman Bette Kovach said.

Miller told Bethlehem Steel employees that the bankrupt company would work with ISG and union officials to determine the exact number of jobs to be cut.

It is believed to be the first estimate on job cuts that Miller has given to employees.

Bethlehem Steel's board voted Saturday to accept Cleveland-based International Steel Group's $1.5 billion offer. The Bethlehem, Pa.-based company had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in October 2001.

ISG chairman Wilbur L. Ross — who specializes in buying distressed businesses — has said ISG would set aside $100 million for buyout offers to salaried and hourly employees.

Miller did not indicate how many jobs might be cut at specific plants. Adding Bethlehem Steel's plants would make ISG the largest U.S. steel maker with an annual production capacity of 16 million tons.

The deal would keep Bethlehem Steel's Burns Harbor Division in northwest Indiana, Sparrows Point Division near Baltimore and smaller plants in Lackawanna, N.Y., and Coatesville and Conshohocken, Pa., operating.

MARKET RECAP

Market Watch February 13

Dow Jones
7,749.87 -8.30
NASDAQ
1,277.44 -1.53
S&P 500
817.37 -1.30
AMEX
808.18 +2.33
NISE
4,653.25 +3.54

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS

COMPANY %CHANGE AGAIN PRICE
NASDAQ-100 INDE (QQQ) +0.58 +0.12 23.94
SPDR TRUST SER (SPY) +0.38 +0.25 82.25
INTEL CORP (INTC) +2.53 +0.18 55.13
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO) +0.83 +0.11 13.31
LUENT TECH INC (LU) -2.96 -0.05 16.56

IN BRIEF

Petroleum inventories plummet:
U.S. crude oil stocks have fallen to the lowest level since 1975 — below what the industry considers essential for smooth operation. But government and industry officials say refiners have enough oil, and that if war in Iraq should disrupt the supply, the United States and other industrial countries are ready to draw on government reserves.

While inventories are low, "it doesn't necessarily mean there will be shortages," said Ron Planting, an economist for the American Petroleum Institute, the trade group of the major oil companies.

IMF to send mission to Argentina:
The International Monetary Fund announced Thursday that it was dispatching a joint IMF-World Bank team to Argentina next week to discuss the politically sensitive issue of utility rates. IMF spokesman Thomas Harbinson, who chairs the negotiations. The draft, obtained by The Associated Press, "salaried and hourly employees. Miller did not indicate how many jobs might be cut at specific plants. Adding Bethlehem Steel's plants would make ISG the largest U.S. steel maker with an annual production capacity of 16 million tons.

The deal would keep Bethlehem Steel's Burns Harbor Division in northwest Indiana, Sparrows Point Division near Baltimore and smaller plants in Lackawanna, N.Y., and Coatesville and Conshohocken, Pa., operating.
V-Day to increase awareness of violence against women

By MELANIE BECKER
News Writer

One out of three females will, or has experienced violence in her life, according to the V-Day Web site. Today, Feb. 14 is the official V-Day, "V" standing for victory, valentine and vagina. V-Day is a global movement founded to increase awareness of violence against women and girls and end it.

V-Day was created in 1998 as a reaction from the performance of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," which is composed of the stories of hundreds of women who have experienced violence as a result of their gender. The V-Day organization particularly addresses rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation and sexual slavery.

V-Day, a non-profit organization, promotes the performance of "The Vagina Monologues" on college and university campuses to fundraise and increase awareness of global violence towards women. Its mission is to end violence against women throughout the world and calm Feb. 14 as Victory over Violence Day.

The movement has grown rapidly over the last five years. This year there will be 2,000 celebrations, which are scheduled to take place at over 1,000 places in the world on or around V-Day.

Controversy over performing "The Vagina Monologues" at Saint Mary's began in late January 2001 when the college announced the cancellation of the show, only a year after it had had two sell-out performances in Carroll Auditorium a year before. After receiving disapproval from the Parents Council, alumnae and the Board of Trustees, Marilou Eldred, president of the College, announced that it was not in the best interest of Saint Mary's to have "The Monologues" performed on campus. The student body was informed over e-mail that the show did not fit within the "Catholic character" of the College. Not only was the endorsement of Ensler's performance withdrawn but also the performance of it on campus was banned.

Students demonstrated their anger by passing around a petition, having a sit-in outside of Eldred's office and performing the show in the Regina North Lounge. In response to the performance, the College took disciplinary action on the students involved in the preparation of the performance. In contrast to the events of 2001, a performance of the Monologues was held last year and the college had no response.

The V-Day Web site lists Saint Mary's as a performance site of the Vagina Monologues and senior Susan Almeda as the organizer and contact person. No specific performance date or time is listed and Almeda had no comment for The Observer.

According to Susan Dampeee, assistant to the president, the official stance of the College is that it will not endorse a presentation of "The Vagina Monologues" this year through funding or facilities. The Saint Mary's administration was not aware of any specific performances at Saint Mary's and believed that the V-Day Web site had not been recently updated.

Students, faculty and staff are, however, free to gather together informally for a reading or performance on Saint Mary's campus without repercussions from the College. Students organizing their own performance will have to go through Residence Life if they want to advertise. Information on student performances, in the past two years, has spread by word of mouth.

"Organizers and participants describe the mission of the performance as an effort to raise awareness about sexual offenses against women. Saint Mary's feels that addressing this issue is an important duty of all colleges and universities. Saint Mary's has developed new programs and activities that appear to have been effective," Dampeee said.

Since the spring of 2001, Saint Mary's has acted by bringing self-defense classes to campus, holding security forums, creating a crime map and sponsoring the play "Sex Signals." The administration currently has no intention of bringing "The Vagina Monologues" back to campus as an officially sponsored activity.

"The Monologues" was held at Notre Dame last year and is scheduled to take place on March 4-5 at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Lindsey Horvath is listed on the V-Day site as the organizer.

For further information on the V-Day organization or performances of "The Vagina Monologues," see the organization's Web site at www.vday.org.

Contact Melanie Becker at beck0931@saintmarys.edu.

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The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Friday, February 14, 2003
Graduating seniors face promising long-term job market

By COLLEEN GANEY
News Writer

"Just in time anyway," said Lee Svete, director of the Notre Dame Career Center. "The job market is "sporadic, unpredictable, and late," Svete said. Companies aren't recruiting eight months in advance as they did up until 2000, instead choosing to recruit when immediate help is needed. "There's a wait-and-see attitude (among employers) in a market that was going to be just in time anyway," Svete said.

Svete noted that summer internships before senior year and alumni networking have become more critical. Fortunately, the Career Center is more connected to alumni than ever before, he said. "A Notre Dame education is going to pay off for you, and it used to pay off much earlier in a good economy," Svete said.

Companies lack funds for new hires because top-level executives delayed retirement last year after plummeting stock market prices chopped retirement funds in half. The economy seemed to be recovering last fall from the September 11 terrorist attacks and tech bubble bust, but world crisis with Iraq has delayed a substantial rebound. A swift war with Iraq should boost economic growth, but drawn-out conflict could drive up manufacturing costs and the threat of further war could drive up the price paid for oil. In the meantime, job-searchers simply need to know where to look.

"Jobs are at companies that produce real products like Rubbermaid, Proctor and Gamble, and General Mills," Svete said. "Financial services and consulting services have hit rock bottom." Government jobs are plentiful, because a decades-long recruiting drought left them short 9,000 to 9,600 manpower after Sept. 11. A GPA of 3.5 or more automatically secures a government interview. Pharmaceutical and civil engineering industries are also active recruiting.

Svete said early participation, multiple career paths, competitive GPAs and multiple extra-curricular activities are keys to finding a job. Seniors are also following last year's trends and pursuing advanced degrees in the face of unemployment. Last year's record-breaking graduate school application numbers continue to climb.

"When the economy is bad, applications numbers go up. When the economy is hot, application numbers go down or level off," said John Robinson, associate dean of the Notre Dame Law School. In 2002, law schools applications increased nationwide by 15.4 percent over the previous year, with Notre Dame Law School's numbers climbing from 1,410 to 1,900.

Robinson estimates that the Law School has already received 3,100 applications and expects around 3,500 by Apr. 1. Yet he maintains that growth is unlikely, saying "it's not reasonable to expect an increase again this year." A larger applicant pool should be irrelevant to whether students apply and where they apply," Robinson said.

This year's application increases reflect how people have applied to more schools, not simply that more people are applying, said Terrence Akai, associate dean of admissions at the Notre Dame Graduate School. Because graduate schools attract international students, Akai clarifies that the real issue is the increase in U.S. applicants.

From 2000 to 2002, the number of U.S. applicants to the Graduate School rose by 50 percent from 1,400 to 2,100. This year's numbers are ahead of that pace, and the admissions season is still open. The Graduate School's computer science and engineering have increase by 75 percent, chemistry has doubled and English and history programs have seen dramatic increases.

Service is another viable option after graduation, but that choice is usually made independent of economic conditions. Notre Dame's ACE program received a record high number of applicants during 2001 and 2002, but John Staud, director of ACE, attributes that increase to ACE's new website that allows applicants to apply on-line. ACE now fields applications from 122 different universities and five continents.

"Numbers have gone up a bit this year," Staud said, "but that's not clearly a result from the job market spike." Senior government and theology major Jeannete Valles explains that the poor economy didn't sway her decision to pursue service after graduation. She says it was something she always wanted to do.

Staud is interested to see what seniors will choose when deciding between ACE and job offers. ACE returns acceptances just after spring break and requests confirmations a week later.

"Job offers may be more appealing in a tough economy," Staud said. Jobs may be even more attractive when baby boomers finally retire and leave high-level positions vacant.

"Students graduating after 2000 will become vice presidents and managers earlier in their careers that in past years," Svete said.

This year seniors can rely on new Career Center features like virtual career fairs, alum­ni mentoring, and virtual city tours.

Svete added, "If you gradu­ate after 2000, you should have the chance to be in touch with us and we'll work hard for you all summer long."

If seniors have yet to start job searching, Svete said, "It's never too late, just realize that you need to put some time in to play some catch up."
Election
continued from page 1

Lao luck, adding that he hopes they will remain true to their promises. “What it came down to is their government experience seemingly outweighed our desire to implement our campaign platform,” said Ebersol.

Ebersol intends to meet with Brian Coughlin, director of Student Activities, and Mark Poorman, vice president of Student Affairs in the upcoming week to discuss the feasibility of implementing some of his ideas.

“I hope Pat and Jeremy have the foresight and desire to use TDR because it is my firm belief that SYRs will take years to bring back. Fighting the administration and making Board of Trustees reports will not bring about immediate change and TDR will,” Ebersol said.

Ebersol has not ruled out the possibility of running for student body president next year.

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdownes@nd.edu

JPW
continued from page 1

or daughter’s dorm friends and hall staff. A special mass follows at 5:30 p.m. with an address by University President Father Edward Malloy. Saturday ends with the “Star Spangled” Dinner in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse, an event that will include live entertainment and an address by Malloy, the guest of honor.

The weekend comes to a close on Sunday with the “Home Sweet Dome” Brunch, held in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. Highlights will include a special guest speaker and entertainment provided by members of the Class of 2004 and other University groups. Meghan O’Donnell, junior class president and a featured keynote speaker at Saturday’s “Star Spangled” Dinner, said that she’s “really looking forward to spending time with her friend’s parents and learning more about the environments they came from.”

“It is a wonderful time for juniors to share a bit of their Notre Dame experience with their families,” O’Donnell said.

“Our parents only come to campus a few times, so this is a great opportunity to show them the lives that we’ve built here for ourselves,” she said.

Contact Julia Miller-Lemon at jmiller@nd.edu

Write for Observer News. Call Helena at 631-5323.

“I’ve finally hit the end of the countdown. I’m 21 now!”

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Love, Maura and Beth

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Sat 2/15 8 & 10:30 PM
DBRT 101, $3
House approves stricter rules

WASHINGTON

The House approved a Republican welfare reform bill Thursday that would require more single mothers to work and provide hundreds of millions of dollars to promote marriage.

Nearly identical to a plan put forth by President Bush, the GOP legislation passed by a 230-192 vote, largely along party lines. It would renew a 1996 welfare overhaul that allowed states to impose tough new rules and helped spark a massive reduction in welfare rolls.

Members of both parties declared the 1996 overhaul a success, even as they differed sharply on what steps are needed to further help the poorest Americans.

The bill puts strict limits on the amount of time most welfare recipients can spend in education and training programs, requires states to put more of its welfare recipients to work and requires that each person work more hours.

"It limits people to five years of benefits over their lifetimes and continues to ban legal immigrants from aid programs. It provides $16.5 billion a year for states to run their programs and offers a modest increase in child care spending," said Rep. Deborah Pryce, R-Ohio.

Studies find that most people who have left welfare are working, earning more than they got from the government but not enough to escape poverty.

Democrats said simply getting someone off welfare is not enough and argued that education, training and access to child care are key to helping people earn a decent wage.

"Too many people are drowning in a sea of poverty," said Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y. "Welfare-to-work should not merely toss the poorest Americans a life preserver to help them float through the next few years on the rise, the portion of poor children with working parents fell in 2001.

The GOP bill was nearly identical to the welfare bill approved by the House last year. The Senate failed to pass a welfare bill last year.

The matter now moves to the Senate. Even though Democrats no longer control the chamber, rules there give them more power than the House minority enjoys, and the Senate welfare bill is expected to differ in significant ways.

The 1996 law expired last fall and has been extended several times to give Congress more time to act.

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1997-2001

NASA: Shuttle's cover breached

WASHINGTON

The space shuttle Columbia almost certainly suffered a devastating breach of its skin, allowing superheated air inside the left wing and possibly the left compartment during its fiery descent, investigators said Thursday.

In its first significant determination, the accident investigation board announced that heat damage from a missing tile would not be sufficient to cause the unusual temperature increases detected inside Columbia minutes before it disintegrated. Sensors noticed an unusual heat buildup of about 30 degrees inside the wheel well before the accident.

Instead, the board determined those increases were caused by the presence inside Columbia of plasma, or superheated air with temperatures of roughly 2,000 degrees, it said. Investigators were studying where a breach might have occurred to allow plasma to seep inside the wheel compartment or elsewhere in Columbia's left wing.

The board did not specify whether such a breach could be the result of a structural tear in Columbia's aluminum frame or a hole from debris striking the spacecraft. The board also did not indicate when the breach occurred during the shuttle's 16-day mission.

Officials have previously focused on an unusually large chunk of foam that broke off Columbia's external fuel tank on liftoff. Video footage showed it struck part of the shuttle's left wing, including its toughened leading edge, which is made of thermal tiles covering the landing gear.

The announcement focused renewed attention on possible catastrophic failures inside the wheel compartment that may have contributed to the Feb. 1 breakup that killed seven astronauts.

Officials are not sure where a breach might have opened in Columbia's skin. NASA spokesman James Hartfield said. But he said the leading edge on the left wing, the fuselage or the left wing or landing door were prime candidates.

"Any of those could be potential causes for the temperature change we saw," Hartfield said. "They do not and have not pinpointed any general location as to where that plasma flow would have to originate."

In an unusual plea for assistance, NASA urged Americans on Thursday to share with the agency photographs or videotapes of Columbia's descent from California to eastern Texas. Some members of the public have already handed over images, "but more material will help the investigation of how Columbia's accident occurred," the agency said.

The board's announcement didn't surprise those experts who have long believed that a breach occurred in one of several places inside Columbia's left wing. Indicated that super-hot plasma had penetrated the shuttle.
We'll never forget Chad

In the worst-case scenario, Notre Dame is the best place to be. Just ask Chad Sharon's family. Sharon's body was found Wednesday in the St. Joseph river, two months after his death.

The discovery put to rest the Notre Dame and South Bend community's longstanding question of why Sharon would return to the family, friends and school that he loved.

Word of the freshman's passing was upsetting news — for Notre Dame students, for Sharon's former Fisher Hall dorm mates but most of all for his parents, Jane and Steve Sharon.

Still, in the midst of heartbreaking news of their son's death, the Sharons spoke to the University's unique ability to comfort its own when tragedy strikes. The dis­traught parents praised students, faculty and administra­tors for their support over the 63 days that 18-year-old Sharon was missing.

"They'll never know how much we appreciate it," Steve Sharon said in an emotional interview with The Observer Wednesday night, hours after officials identified the body pulled from the river as the Sharons' only son.

"Everyone really cared," he said.

From the beginning, Notre Dame has cared. School leaders have stayed in daily contact with the Sharons since their son disappeared. During the investigation, friends and Fisher Hall residents cooperated with police to remember any details about Sharon on the night he vanished. And the University offered a $25,000 reward — that later doubled to $50,000 — to bring to light any information that might have led to Sharon's safe return.

Now, with a painful end to the months-long mystery, Notre Dame will keep on caring.

We'll celebrate Sharon's life and memory in our faith­ based community. We'll search for answers to why and how he made his way from the party Dec. 12 into shallow water under the Angela Boulevard bridge two awful days later. And we'll keep Sharon's friends and family in our thoughts and prayers.

Just where they've been since one of our own dis­ appeared into the night.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Economics plan sacrifices department's vision

Thomas Gresik's Feb. 11 letter about the Economics Department seri­ously mischaracterizes what attracts students to Notre Dame. As a sec­ond-generation donor, I am confident that students do not come to Notre Dame for mediocrity. Mediocri­ty, however, is exactly the target of the current plans to "improve" the Department of Economics.

I agree with Gresik that our department needs more and better neo­classical economic theorists and econometricians. The department also needs to make its unique contributions better heard in mainstream eco­nomics dialogues and model a larger impact on the important issues of public policy, which, as Gresik observes, the economics profession often addresses.

The plan the provost's office is currently pursuing, however, will be a step backward and is a terrible way to make the department both be and be perceived as an excellent department of economics. I have reason to believe that several Nobel-prize-winning mainstream economists would agree with this statement.

The goal of the plan is to make the Department of Economics more mainstream. This means that the targets for which we are aiming is the middle of the pack. If everything goes as hoped, we will become just like everyone else. If we stand out in any way, it will be in spite of, and not because of, these reforms.

The Department of Economics does need improvement. In many cir­cles, it is not currently perceived as great. It is, however, perceived as both distinct and having a vision. That alone does not constitute greatness, but it is a prerequisite for greatness. A plan to systematically remove any distinctness, anything that would make our department stand out from the mainstream, can never lead to more than becoming like the middle of the pack and usually leads to falling well behind it.

So, what attracted you to Notre Dame? Striving for mediocrity? Or tak­ ing the chance, the courage and the hopefulness it requires to return to glory? We need to continue the process of building the department we have, not split it and try to stamp out anything that differs from the middle of the pack.

Daniel Lawson
graduate student in economics

Feb. 12

Voice opposition to 'Monologues'

"The Vagina Monologues" are coming back March 3-4. All members of the Notre Dame family do not agree that the University should sponsor "The Vagina Monologues." Even Bishop John D'Arcy of the the Fort-Wayne-South Bend diocese is "strongly against the performance of this play."

Our Lady's image stands atop the Dome, and she needs us to be her advocates. Please join us by writing to Father Edward Malloy voicing your concerns and by writing to the Bishop asking him to publicly proclaim this play unsuitable for any Catholic institution. For instructions, visit www.MarysAdvocates.com.

Terry McMannus
Feb. 10

WAT IN IRAQ

What's your viewpoint? To contribute to the "Viewpoint: Iraq" series, contact viewpoint.1@nd.edu

"A soldier firm and sound of heart."

William Shakespeare
English playwright
Reading the Valentine card from Osama bin Laden

Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

This week a new audio recording attributed to Osama bin Laden popped up as unexpectedly as a Valentine’s Day card from the terrorist. The message is a major source of concern for President Bush and the American public since the voice on the tape instructs bin Laden’s followers to help Saddam Hussein stand strong. It asks followers to lure American troops into traps, to form small teams to inflict “big casualties.” The resurgence of bin Laden at this time further weakens the president’s standing with those who presently oppose Bush throughout the nation and world.

While many of the specific elements of the post-conflict military plans are still classified, the final decision on what role the U.S. military will play in the region after Saddam Hussein is out of power will be critical to the success of the U.S. mission.

Editor’s Note: The following is the first of a two-part piece considering the role the U.S. military will play in a post-Iraq war. The conclusion will appear on Monday.


Maj. Gary Masapollo

After Saddam is gone, what’s next for Iraq?

One of the biggest problems facing U.S. military planners in the postwar period will be the management of the over 150 Iraqi tribal groups. While fictional tribes played a major part of the U.S. military success in Afghanistan, most of the Iraqi tribes have been directly supported by the Hussein in the past and could remain loyal to him and form into insurgent forces.

Another problem facing U.S. military planners is the prospect that the various tribal groups will form into factional armies and begin fighting each other, similar to what occurred between rival groups in postwar Afghanistan. Such an unstable and fragmented environment will create a particular security concern that the post-conflict Iraqi is unprepared for, any reconstruction and international relief presence as it has in Afghanistan.

One respondent said, "Your country, who do you think you are? This is the United States, we are people from around the world who have come to try and make a better life for themselves and their families.

We are naive if we believe that merely exposing Iraq to the free world of life will convert them to loving allies indebted to our U.S. liberators. If France, a true democracy that has been the lair of a nasty rhetorical barrage from supporters of the president, cannot stand unconditional with the United States, how can we expect our liberal allies in Europe, which has only known the last thirty years of Saddam Hussein’s dictatorship, to willingly follow? Occasionally the president has pointed too simplistic a picture of the matter at hand while simultaneously embellishing our actions and intentions.

Imminently following the September attacks, he pledged to find bin Laden and eliminate all terrorists. Initially, the president vowed to act alone to remove Saddam. However, after a span of time to assess any risks to the American public since 2001, our nation could potentially fall apart or lose its identity to the post-Hussein period occurs. The immediate aftermath will find American troops trying to stabilize a post-Hussein environment that could lead to civil war.

The message in each area contained similar to what occurred between rival groups in postwar Afghanistan. Such an unstable and fragmented environment will create a particular security concern that the post-conflict Iraqi is unprepared for, any reconstruction and international relief presence as it has in Afghanistan.

The messages in each area contained similar to what occurred between rival groups in postwar Afghanistan. Such an unstable and fragmented environment will create a particular security concern that the post-conflict Iraqi is unprepared for, any reconstruction and international relief presence as it has in Afghanistan.

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

Major Gary Masapollo is a current member of the Notre Dame Military Science Department (ROTC) faculty and is a Captain in the Army Reserve. Prior to being assigned to Notre Dame in 2000, he participated in U.S. Army civil military operations in Kosovo.

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

The author’s Note: On behalf of the Army, Air Force, and Navy, the following would like to personally acknowledge the personal sacrifice and selfless dedication of those families, friends, student employees and workers who have contributed to our ongoing support of our soldiers in the Persian Gulf War and the war on terrorism.
By CHRISTINE ROCHEL
Scene Writer

This weekend Saint Mary's presents "Designs of Dance 2003." The first act intermingles a recitation of Elizabeth Winthrop's children's book "Dumpy La Rue" with ballet dancing sheep, a break dancing pig and a salsa-dancing mule. The first act entitled "The Barnyard Ballet of Dumpy La Rue" takes a trip into the playful imagination of a child's mind. The second act is an interesting compilation of classical ballet and various styles of modern dance.

The workshop opens with a surprising tribute to childhood. As a country mother recites a children's book to her daughter, dancers act out the scenes. The dancers vividly depict barn animals through their movements and attire. Keep an eye out for the talented ballet dancing sister pig. This first act mixes various forms of dance with dancers of varied levels of technique. The childlike appeal of the first act has left some dancers with mixed sentiments such as Therese Cullen who comments "sometimes I feel like we should be performing to three year olds." The originality of this ballet is noteworthy; for the music, lighting, and costumes have all been specifically designed for the piece.

After two auditions and a semester of practice, the backstage atmosphere is filled with various emotions. The choreographer of one of the two student pieces, junior Caitlin Gillen, commented on her extreme nervousness and then stated that this is "a great opportunity, and I wish we could do it more often." Gillen's piece, honoring the choreographer Bob Fosse, adds an interesting splash of jazz to the dominantly modern dance of the second act. This jazz piece also contains the only two Notre Dame student dancers who are also the only two male dancers in the workshop. In addition the second act features a classical ballet, a Japanese dance interpretation, and numerous slower modern dances. Contrasting with the lighthearted tone of the first act is the mellow, artistic tone of the second act.

The dance workshop held in the O'Laughlin Auditorium runs about an hour and a half and has a total of eight dances. The performances are scheduled for tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and for Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door. The cost for students is $4.50 and proceeds will go to Saint Mary's general budget. The workshop has been under the direction of Indi Dieckgrafe since she came to the college in 1985. Saint Mary's does not offer a dance major for any of the Saint Mary's students performing in this show. Another dance teacher at Saint Mary's, Laurie Lowry, has enthusiastic reviews about the progress of their dance program. The school has currently added the major Student Design in Movement Studies for students interested in pursuing dance mixed with mathematics. The team backstage is working diligently to fix any glitches before the workshop opens in two days. With dancers of diverse backgrounds, choreographer Lowry comments "the struggle is to make them all cohesive." Since the 20 dancers in the show come from individual dancing backgrounds, many of them could benefit from some more dance technique training. While dance preparations are being finalized, the lighting and sound crew headed by Thomas H. Boelman has been fixing some minor microphone problems and adjusting the lighting sequence. Remarking on the show's progress Nicole Pliske, with eagerness for the upcoming performance, said, "I think there is a great variety. It will give the audience an array of dance style." Visit the Moreau Center for the Arts this weekend to be entertained by tap dancing rats and to view an engaging dance workshop.

Emily Ford as Dumpy and Lisa Walton as the goose pose during the show to reveal the artistic side of the show.

Contact Christine Rochel at crochel@nd.edu
The event is called Blak Koffeehouse, but that's just a catchy name to describe the ambiance. There's rarely ever coffee, although "there's will be hot chocolate and snacks," according to Veronica Berger, president of the Black Cultural Arts Council, which is sponsoring the event tonight at 7 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom.

This year, the BCAC is offering something arguably even better than a beverage. It wishes to share "A Taste of the Soul." The event chairman, Jourdan Sorrell, said the theme pays homage to the African-American artists of the Harlem Renaissance. During the 1920s and 1930s, writers such as James Baldwin, Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston, as well as musical artists such as Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday were part of the burgeoning African-American artistic and intellectual movement that dominated the social scene of the predominantly black Harlem borough of New York City. These artists inspired many to discover their own talents.

"We [African-Americans] have been characterized as a very soulful people," Sorrell said. As the signature event of Black History Month, Sorrell said Blak Koffeehouse allows members of the Notre Dame community to see an updated version of the Harlem Renaissance's soul legacy.

"African-American fine arts have influenced American culture in very profound ways and at the University of Notre Dame we continue to highlight its importance in American society by producing an artistic event that incorporates music, poetry and style," said Chandra Johnson, assistant to the president of the University.

Blak Koffeehouse began in 1993 when a graduate student in peace studies, Karsonia Wise, saw a need for an upscale artistic event that displayed the talents of students with an emphasis on the African-American culture. Since then, Blak Koffeehouse has been every Friday on Junior Parents Weekend. It's often standing-room only.

As part of the many events of JPW, Blak Koffeehouse turns the LaFortune Ballroom into an intimate café. Students of BCAC — in conjunction with other campus groups — speak to the audience through verse and rhythm. In past years, the event has had two co-hosts, but this year, sophomore Jelani McEwen-Torrence will be the sole host.

"He has the ability to carry a whole audience for a night," Sorrell said. McEwen-Torrence has been active in the Notre Dame literary community as a member of the Sophomore Literary Festival committee. During the festival, he hosted the talk of poet activist Nikki Giovanni and co-hosted an open-mic poetry night, where he read some of his own works.

"Poetry, for me, has always been what I've been into. It just comes naturally and I want to share that with people," McEwen-Torrence said. Arts in the show include performances by Voices of Faith gospel choir, singing quartet Mahogany Soul and Shades of Ebyon, a women's group that promotes the empowerment of African-American.

Shades of Ebyon, which is performing the Maya Angelou poem "Phenomenal Woman," plans to illustrate the diversity of the African-American women.

"You're going to see a mother, a business woman, a neo-soul woman ... The black woman is so complex," said sophomore Shawtina Ferguson, president of Shades of Ebyon. In addition to womanhood, poems will focus on racial identity, love and other topics.

Contact Helena Payne at payne.30@nd.edu
When We Speak

Students’ Poems from the Blak Koffee House

Shanida Sharp

I am womyn
Hear me roar.
I will stand aside no more.
Men watch out
You will see
A girl who has
The power to live her dream.

I am womyn
Hear me shout
As I proclaim
What it’s all about.
World watch out
You will see me
March on the path to equality.

I am womyn
Hear me scream
Don’t stand
In the way of my dream.
All watch out and
You will see
A person who is born to lead.

I am womyn
Hear me exclaim.
Look into my eyes and see my pain.
Men watch out
Just wait and see
The day when women
Can be what they want to be.

Jemar Tisby

I am
I am black
I am not a problem
I am not a project
I am not an issue
I am not a number
I am so much more
I am a Christian
I am a Son
I am a brother
I am a leader
I am a roommate
I am a friend
I am a fighter
I am a scholar
I am a poet
I am a person
I am and always be
ME.

Excerpts taken from When We Speak: Voices from an Afrocentric Perspective

How Notre Dame professors met their spouses and fell in love

We met in the fall of 1984 at the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies (“Stanford Center”) in Taipei, Taiwan. Lionel was a PhD candidate from the University of California, Berkeley, and Susan was finishing an M.A. at the University of Michigan.

A romance of heart and mind and of rare intensity was made, over long walks, big rides, lavish hotel brunches, elegant Japanese meals, and the best of Chinese food. The two sides of them ran on about life in general, China, academics, love and many other things, blissfully mindless of the imperatives of time. We knew we were meant for each other, still it took us several years to work out the details of how to be in the same place, but we were married in Detroit in June 1988 and moved to Stillwater, Okla., where we taught at Oklahoma State University.

Since then we have had two children, Hannah and Elana, finished two PhDs, written or edited six books (one of them together, China Off Center: Mapping the Margins of the Middle Kingdom, published in October 2002), taught at the University of Oklahoma, University of Colorado at Denver, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Denver, and the University of Pennsylvania. We moved to Notre Dame in 2000, and are pleased to stop moving.

Our children are now in elementary school and junior high. We continue to share our passions for China and the life of the mind, along with love of family, friends, and good food. It’s been a long and sometimes bumpy road, but our love and respect have allowed us to face the challenges and keep laughing together.

Lionel M. Jensen and Susan Blum

Here’s how “it all really happened…”

My wife and I always joke that we had an arranged marriage. That’s because our mothers met long before we did, during a shopping trip at Best and Company (back in our hometown of Cleveland, Ohio), at the scotting department, and each had a great first impression of the other.

However, their meeting occurred when we were 12 and 10 respectively, and we didn’t actually meet each other until several years later, in the front hall of Eileen’s junior high school. I was attending the Spring glee club concert with friends, and she was singing in the “Beauty Shop Quartet” The rest, as they say, is history.

Harvey and Eileen Bender

Shortly after arriving at Notre Dame, I was invited to a luncheon for new faculty hosted by the Provost’s office. While there, I caught sight, as a distance, of another new professor, and something about him attracted my attention. However, the luncheon ended before I had a chance to meet him.

Immediately after the luncheon, I walked over to the O’Shaughnessy Library, and, as luck would have it, there he was standing in line. Not one to let an opportunity slip by, I introduced myself by saying, “Weren’t you just at the lunch for new faculty? So was I?”

“We soon learned that we shared a common passion: we were both Philadelphia Phillies fans. I had just moved from Philadelphia, but he just happened to have lived there at that critical moment of a boy’s life when he becomes interested in baseball and had since moved away. Such affinity to an historically mediocre team could be taken as evidence of insanity, but struck me as a reassuring plan in a potential spouse. We were married that May and will celebrate our 20th anniversary this year.”

JoAnn DellaNeva and Thomas Flint
Lalime stops 24 for 2nd consecutive shutout

JOEY JONES/Staff photographer

Edmonton Oilers goalie Tommy Salo makes a save off Ottawa senator Martin Havlat in the second period. Despite Salo's efforts, the Oilers lost 2-0.
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Cone returns with minor league contract

Associated Press

NEW YORK

David Cone decided to give it one more try.

Out of baseball last year, the 40-year-old pitcher will attempt a comeback with the New York Mets, signing a minor league contract.

The right-hander last pitched in 2001, going 9-7 with a 4.31 ERA in 25 starts for Boston. Cone worked as an analyst for the New York Yankees' YES network last season and had been expected to do so again.

"My gut feeling is that I'll probably retire at this point," Cone said in late January while visiting the Yankees' minor league complex in Tampa, Fla.

But after a lot of lobbying from Mets lefty Al Leiter — and the possibility of winning a spot as the No. 5 starter — Cone chose to give it a shot.

Cone, who rose to prominence with the Mets in the late 1980s, was expected to join pitchers and catchers Friday at spring training in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

"When you talk to a guy who's pitched as long as David and talk about getting hitters out, competing and working on a major league mound, you certainly saw his enthusiasm for wanting to give it another shot," Leiter said.

"I just told him the same thing I told him last year. I told him it would be a good thing and that a lot of his success was here," he said.

"He's good, he's a good clubhouse guy, he's smart, a veteran player who knows how to win. Absolutely he can help.

"The right-hander last pitched in 2001, going 9-7 with a 4.31 ERA in 25 starts for Boston. Cone worked as an analyst for the New York Yankees' YES network last season and had been expected to do so again."

Neuheisel confirms rumors

Associated Press

SEATTLE

Washington Huskies head coach Rick Neuheisel has acknowledged that he was interviewed for the San Francisco 49ers coaching job, saying his initial denial was based on a promise of confidentiality.

Neuheisel told The Seattle Post-Intelligencer and The Seattle Times on Wednesday night he decided to give the real story out of concern for his credibility.

"My knee-jerk reaction was to protect an agreement of confidentiality I had with the 49ers," Neuheisel told The Times, "but the life of the story that has followed has raised the question about who I am. It has questioned something more important, my credibility, and that isn't worth it."

"I want to correct the situation and apologize for not being more candid. I will work hard at repairing those relationships I have damaged."

Neuheisel, 33-16 in four years at Washington and 66-30 in seven years as a college head coach, would not say whether he was interested in or had been offered the 49ers job, which went to Oregon State coach Dennis Erickson.

P-I columnist John Levesque overheard Neuheisel on Sunday at the San Francisco airport while the coach was talking by telephone with his parents about the 49ers job.

"I just told him the same thing I told him last year. I told him it would be a good thing and that a lot of his success was here," he said.

"He's good, he's a good clubhouse guy, he's smart, a veteran player who knows how to win. Absolutely he can help.

"Leiter, Tom Glavine, Pedro Astacio and Steve Trachsel hold down the first four spots in the rotation. Cone will compete with Mike Bacsik, Jason Middlebrook and Aaron Heilman for the fifth slot."

"It's hard to know what David has left," Mets general manager Steve Phillips said. "There's no risk. It gives us a free look."

"We're not looking at David exclusively as a starting pitcher," he added.

Cone is 193-123 lifetime with a 3.44 ERA. A five-time All-Star, Cone ranks 17th in major league history with 2,650 strikeouts.


He won the 1994 Cy Young Award with Kansas City and threw a perfect game in 1999 for the Yankees. He won four World Series championship rings with the Yankees, and also won one with Toronto in 1992.

Cone has enjoyed his relationship with the Yankees, and wanted to make sure his deal with the Mets wouldn't cause any hard feelings.

Cone told Yankees manager Joe Torre on Wednesday he intended to sign with the Mets. Torre wished him luck for the night after Valentine's Day.

Gail Motter from Wolf Park in Battle Ground, IN will present slides on the park's activities involving the study of wolf behavior

Time: 2:00pm on Saturday, Feb 15th
Place: Galvin Auditorium

Everyone is welcome!

Sponsored by the Pre-Vet Club

Got any plans for the night after Valentine's Day? If not, come on over to the 24 hour space of the La Fortune Basement for some live music! Free of charge!

JOHN RUSH

He is a live guitar player and singer who plays a wide variety of music at request.

Date: Saturday, February 15
Time: starts at 10pm
Place: LaFortune 24 Hour Lounge in the Basement

Juniors, feel free to bring your parents along!

Questions? Call Geremy at 4-1582

Check FlipsideEvents on your IM for details on the weekend's events
MENS BASKETBALL

Squeezing the Orange

Irish travel to No. 17 Syracuse for a matchup of Big East West Division leaders

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

After beating No. 4 Pittsburgh 66-64 last Sunday, the road should only get easier for the Irish.

But only a week after one of the biggest victories in the history of its program, No. 10 Notre Dame (15-4, 7-2 in the Big East) must travel to No. 17 Syracuse Saturday for a matchup with the only other Big East team to beat the Fighting Irish this year.

"It's tough, but this is the Big East, and that's how the schedule is," said Notre Dame guard Matt Carroll, who leads the Irish in scoring this season with 20.6 points a game. "But we're looking forward to it. It's crunch time of the year, and we're excited to go take on a big challenge up in the Carrier Dome."

With the trip to Syracuse, the Irish will have to prove they can handle the hostile environment of something they have struggled with this season. While undefeated at home, Notre Dame is 2-3 in opponents' arenas, with losses coming at Pittsburgh, Kentucky and Seton Hall.

Following the physically and mentally testing win over Pittsburgh last week, the Irish have had the benefit this week of not having to play a mid-week game. The break came at a good time for players to get a rest from game action before the tough trip to Syracuse.

"[The break] really helps the legs get back into it," Carroll said. "A couple of days off let us refresh a little bit, especially this time of year, and we should be fresh for the game on Saturday."

The long week also gives the Irish extra time to prepare for a talent filled in the Orange. The Irish forward Jordan Cornette said, "With such a talented team with so many weapons like Syracuse, it's good to have a full week of practice to kind of focus in on specific things that make them tick and make them go, and kind of shut that down when we get there on Saturday."

Even with the tough back-to-back matchups, several Irish players see the game as a chance to prove themselves as leaders in the conference.

"I think it's always good to have a week off in terms of getting in the practice facilities and working on some things to kind of tune up for your next game," Irish forward Jordan Cornette said. "It's a good run for this team. I think it's going to test us."

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

FENCING

Irish claim top spot in poll

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Editor

Light up Grace Hall, there's a new No. 1 team at Notre Dame.

After defeating No. 4 Ohio State 16-11 Jan. 25, former No. 6 Stanford 19-8 last weekend, the Irish were in line for the top spot in the country. When the national rankings compiled by the United States Coaches Fencing Association were published Thursday, that claim came true.

"We are very happy. We worked hard during the whole year so we are satisfied," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said. "It doesn't warrant anything more than fame at the moment. It is good to have it, but we will continue to work hard.

During the past two seasons, the men's team has ascended to the top spot in the country heading into the national championships in March. Each year, the Irish have failed to win the national title, finishing third each year.

"We know we are fencing very well and at our best, it makes our position even harder. It is different than throughout the year," Bednarski said. "At nationals, teams go to less fencers. It makes it harder and less predictable and more results. This position is getting us extra motivation to work harder and keep fighting."

With a 19-0 record this season, the Notre Dame mens team has won 78 consecutive matches dating back to its last loss on Jan. 23, 2000. Notre Dame's streak is third-longest in school history behind the 98 match streak set from 1984-88 and the school-record 122-match streak set from 1975-1980.

The women's team dropped from second to third in the latest poll after losing dual matches to No. 1 Penn State and No. 4 Ohio State.

Both the mens and womens team close out the regular season at next weekend's Midwest State duals.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

ND WOMENS BASKETBALL

Irish hope for win on road before break

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

Notre Dame has a reward awaiting them after their road game against Providence-Sunday — a week off from any games.

"We really could use a break and I think a couple days off is really what we need right now," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "We'll take some time off at the beginning of the week and maybe put some new wrinkles in. We don't have any time between our last game and the Big East tournament so this will be a great time for us to make some changes."

But for Notre Dame to truly enjoy their game-free week, the Irish need to gain an important road win against the Friars. Providence is 9-13 on the season and 3-8 in Big East play.

Sophomore guard Michal Epstein, who averages 15.3 points and 3.4 rebounds per game, leads the Friars. She hasn't gotten much help though, as no one else on Providence's team averages double figures in scoring. The Friars also use a four-guard offensive set, which could potentially cause problems for a bigger, but slower Notre Dame team.

McGraw wants her team more focused on playing well, then trying to stop Providence.

"We really need to play our game," said McGraw. "We're not going to figure our way in, we need to play our best game in order to win."

The Irish travel to No. 17 Syracuse Saturday.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

SMC SWIMMING
Saint Mary's at USF Tournament
Friday, all day

SMC BASKETBALL
Calvin at Saint Mary's
Saturday, 1 p.m.

HOCKEY
Notre Dame at Bowling Green
Friday, 7 p.m.

HICKEY
Virginia Tech at Hiere Dame
Friday, 4 p.m.

ND WOMENS TENNIS
Notre Dame at South Florida
Saturday, noon

ND SOFTBALL
Notre Dame at USF/Wilson Tournament
Friday, 4 p.m.

NCAA BASKETBALL
Wake Forest 94, Duke 80

The Demon Deacons break a 14-game losing streak to Duke with their victory Thursday night.
SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to play through injuries

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Although it is impossible for Saint Mary's (5-17, 1-10 in the MIAA) to win the MIAA conference title, pride is still at stake for the Belles coming into Saturday's home contest.

Saint Mary's进入者。guard Tricia Dyk (9.2 points per game) and sophomore guard Kristen McDonald (9 points, 2.1 assists, 2.7 steals per game) have learned that it is tough to win in a ten game losing streak that dates back to Jan. 8, the Belles are ready for a win. Saturday's game is the perfect opportunity for the Belles to salvage their season, as the Knights are a beatable team. Despite the fact that they are tied for fifth in the MIAA, they come off an 88-72 loss to Hope, extending their losing streak to two games.

The Belles are eager to play Saturday, as they are ready for a win. "We just need to keep shooting and looking inside," Boyce said. "We will be fine." Saint Mary's and Calvin square off at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Angela Athletic Facility.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvangoer@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Belles in last after 1st day

By ERIK POWERS
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's began the first of three grueling days and nights of heats, trials and finals at the MIAA Championships from which a champion will virtually be crowned.

But this year's incarnation of the Belles is off to a more challenging start. The squad is stuck in last place after the first day of competition. The Belles have 47 points and are in a deep hole behind first place Calvin (181) and Hope (174). While moving all the way up will be difficult, Saint Mary's has a chance to overtake Kalamazoo (90), Alma (75) and Albion (70). Junior Megan Ramsey and freshman Kelly Nells finished third and sixth respectively in the 500-meter freestyle yesterday.

Entering the tournament, host Hope (6-0) and Calvin (5-1) were the favorites to win the conference championship. The Belles were looking to pull the upset after losing to Hope by only 16 points earlier this season.

In their favor, the Belles had some momentum heading into the championships coming off a split finish versus Alma and Albion Jan. 18, a meet where Saint Mary's fought back from a deficit in order to pull out a late victory.

The Belles also have had tournament success this year, taking second at the Palm Beach Winter College Classic. Saint Mary entered the meet behind the majority of the conference, hoping to duplicate the success of last year's squad. Those Belles began the championships 3-4 in conference, yet were in contention for third place for most of the meet before a late slide to fifth place.

Saint Mary's is led by experience, most notably by juniors Ramsey and Maureen Palchak and senior captains Lauren Smith and Lane Herrington.

The Belles must ensure that they have added endurance for longer distances and will be able to partlay their success in their butterfly and short-distance freestyle events to victory.

The Belles also should benefit from the upcoming tournament schedule, which emphasizes their strengths: the butterfly and individual medley.

Competition continues today and Saturday with the preliminaries starting at 10 a.m. and the finals at 6 p.m.

Contact Erik Powers at epowers@nd.edu
HOCKEY

Irish look to break slide 1 game at a time

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Writer

For the Irish to get back on the winning track, two things will have to happen this weekend in Bowling Green.
They have to win Friday.
They have to win Saturday.
"It's a very similar scenario to last year," Notre Dame coach Dave Poulin said. "We have to look after business Friday and then use that to get going on a confident roll."

Last season, the Irish went on a tear in the months of February and March, going 5-3-0 and using that momentum to engineer a first-round upset of Nebraska-Omaha in the CCHA playoffs.

A key to last season's finish was the stellar play of then-freshman goaltender Morgan Cey in net. The Irish netminder has been in a bit of a sophomore slump lately, going 1-5-4 in his last 10 starts.

To be fair, Cey hasn't been given much support, with the Irish offense scoring just 26 goals in those 10 contests.
"The break couldn't have come at a better time," Poulin said about his team's recent off weekend. "It helped us to work on some things."

The Falcons (7-17-2, 4-14-2 in the CCHA) should be the kind of opponent the Irish (9-13-6, 7-10-3) can use to start a winning streak, but the team isn't taking anything for granted right now.

Despite dominating Bowling Green twice at home in early December by scores of 6-3 and 5-2, the Irish can't afford to look past the Falcons, who are a .500 team in their home arena.

Bowling Green is led offensively by forward Mark Wires, with 11 goals and 10 assists. Forward Steve Brutuzewski and defenseman Kevin Bietska keep pace with 19 points each.

In goal, the Falcons are led by sophomore Jordan Sigalet, who holds an impressive .910 save percentage despite anchoring one of the worst defenses in the CCHA and facing whopping 39.3 shots a game.

The Irish have eight conference games remaining, all against teams who are on the lower end of the CCHA standings. They have a chance to improve upon their current standing of 10th place and perhaps make a late-season run at achieving home ice for the first round of the playoffs.
"This schedule is very favorable right now," Poulin said. "We just have to win our games. Our standing is a little misleading, but you have to look at it one way and that's to go up."

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

Irish wing Rob Globke readies for a faceoff in a match against Boston College. With eight regular season games remaining, Notre Dame is looking to make a run into the post-season.
Friars continued from page 28

making great strides. We want to continue working on fundamentals at practice and work on rebounding and passing and defense. Then if you do those things well, it doesn't matter so much what they do.

"If you're taking care of your business, and doing what you're supposed to do, then you don't need to worry as much."

The Irish improved in all those areas. Wednesday night during their 76-48 victory over St. John's, Notre Dame out-rebounded St. John's 33-29 and held the Red Storm under 35 percent shooting for the game. That marked the fifth time in their six games the Irish have accomplished such a feat. Notre Dame also kept an opponent below the 60-point barrier for the fourth time in their last six contests.

The defensive improvement can be attributed to a new scheme. McGraw changed the defensive set from a 2-3 to a 1-3-1. McGraw said the team saw the change as a new challenge and they've quickly adapted to running it in games.

"I think the 1-3-1 is just something different," McGraw said. "When you go through the whole year, you just get tired of the same old thing, so I think it was good for them because it was a new challenge. For our opponents, it was something they hadn't seen before so it was a little tougher for them. Then we had success with it and that led to confidence."

After the Providence game, Notre Dame won't play again until Feb. 23, when they face No. 1 Connecticut. The Huskies won their 62nd straight game Wednesday night and beat the Irish at the Joyce Center on Jan. 20, 72-53.

Sunday's tipoff is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhetter@nd.edu

Orange continued from page 28

A lot so we can see what we've made of really," Cornette said. "It gives us the chance to prove to the Big East that the beginning of the year wasn't a fluke and that we're here for real.

As many previous Big East games have done this year, Saturday's matchup with the Orange is the first chance for the Orange to provide another test for the Notre Dame interior players such as Cornette, TorinFrancisand Tom Timmerman. Syracuse is led in scoring and rebounding by a pair of 6-foot-8 forwards in Carmelo Anthony and Hakim Warrick, who have combined for over 37 points and 18 rebounds a game this year.

"If we want to win this game, whoever wins this game is going to be in first place," Carroll said. "It's between us, Syracuse and Pitt. We got Pitt and now we've got to get Syracuse, or they're going to move ahead of us. So this is a big game for both of us."

Syracuse handed Pittsburgh its only other conference loss on Feb. 1 in the Carrier Dome, but the Orange are coming off a defeat from 75-61 loss on the road against North Carolina. Carroll said the Irish are more confident they can beat the Orange this year, which is why they were the choice to win the Big East.

"To be a special team, you've got to win special games," Carroll said. "You go to win the big ones. To put together a week of beating Pitt and then go to Syracuse and beating them at their place would be nice for this team."

Contact Chris Federico at cfederico@nd.edu

ND WOMENS TENNIS

Irish battle Big East teams

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sports Writer

After a 12-day layoff, the Irish will face two opponents at home this weekend. Notre Dame (2-2) will face Virginia Tech today and Boston College Sunday. Both the Hokies and the Eagles are undefeated.

The No. 21 Irish have had over a week to assess their previous two matches, each of which resulted in a loss to a top-20 team.

The losses to rivals North Carolina and Northwestern were naturally disappointing for Notre Dame, but the team is young and seems to have much potential.

Thanks to a strong lineup that secured the doubles point, the Irish nearly upset the Tar Heels Feb. 1. In the end, the Irish, having won 7-0 two days earlier to the Wildcats, were defeated 5-2. While the Hokies have not yet lost this spring in nine matches, they have yet to play either a match on the road or a ranked team. Friday will be a day of firsts for Virginia Tech in which matches, they have yet to play either a match on the road or a ranked team. Friday will be a day of firsts for Virginia Tech in which matches, they have yet to play either a match on the road or a ranked team. Friday will be a day of firsts for Virginia Tech in which matches, they have yet to play either a match on the road or a ranked team. Friday will be a day of firsts for Virginia Tech in which matches, they have yet to play either a match on the road or a ranked team.

The Irish have easily defeated Boston College for the fourth time in five years past for the Irish.

Contact Joe Lindsley at jlindsley@nd.edu

Look who's 21

Happy Birthday

Love,
Mom, Dad, Shana, Aaron

INTERNATIONAL WORKING OPPORTUNITY

OBC ENGLISH CONVERSATION SCHOOL is seeking university graduates for a one year teaching position in Japan. Attractive salary, benefits and travel opportunities.

RECRUITING DATES: February 20 & 21, 2003 at Career and Placement Services. JAPANESE LANGUAGE SKILLS NOT REQUIRED. Open to all majors. SIGN UPS NOW OPEN

Living the Spirit Between Two Worlds

6:30pm Fri. February 21 to 8:00pm Sat. February 22

Building Community. Making Friends.
Finding our place within the Notre Dame Family and the Church; a retreat for gay, lesbian, and bisexual undergraduate students and their friends and supporters.

Applications available at the Retreat Office 114 CoMo - across main hall from the popcorn room. Cost: $20

Signup Deadline Wed. February 19

University of Notre Dame
ND SOFTBALL

No. 17 Irish open season in temperate Tampa

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Editor

Coach Deanna Gumpf just wants to see her team play on dirt. In this weekend's USF/Wilson season opening tournament, the 17th-ranked Irish will get a chance to play games on dirt - outside.

"I just want experience on dirt. We want grassy, air and to be outside," Gumpf said. "Just to get the experience of being outside and playing in a real game. We are going to find out our weaknesses real quick. Once we find out our weaknesses, we can work on fixing them."

One place Gumpf doesn't expect any weaknesses is on the infield. With third baseman Andrea Loman, shortstop Andria Bledsoe and second baseman Alexis Madrid returning for their fourth year as starters for the Irish, consistency should not be a problem.

"It has been a huge difference this year with the five seniors, because those are our captains," Gumpf said. "The leadership they have added this year is a huge bonus. They are strong leaders and are very passionate."

Loman, who earned third-team All-American status last season, led the Irish with a .377 batting average. As one of the top third basemen in the country, Loman plays solid defense and ranks in the top five of the country's history for fielding percentage.

Bledsoe hit .315 last year and tagged a career-best seven home runs. Madrid didn't have her best season at bat this year, hitting just .225, but she was 10-of-12 in steal attempts.

First baseman Lisa Mattison rounds out the infield for the Irish. The senior from Granger, Ind., hit .325 last year and drove in 27.

On the mound, Gumpf can breathe a little easier this season with sophomore Steffany Stenglein and Carrie Wisen having a year of experience under their belts.

"I think it is crucial to have that. They were thrown into the fire this year," Gumpf said. "They responded very well and did a great job last year. They know what to expect."

Stenglein finished the 2002 season with a 27-12 record and a 1.93 ERA. Wisen was used primarily in relief and had 116 strikeouts to go along with a 2.00 ERA. Senior Jessica Myers was an All-American and Big East Player of the Year while Kriech led off the Irish this year.

"Every year is a brand new year, you never know what to expect," Gumpf said. "You have to prepare the team the best you can and roll with the punches."

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Irish pitcher Steffany Stenglein pitches in a game last year against Connecticut. The Irish begin their season Saturday.

Big East regular season and postseason titles and being one step away from the College World Series, Gumpf is taking a fresh outlook into her second year at the helm of the Irish.

"Every year I can't replace anybody we lose," Gumpf said. "I'm hoping their leadership carries on and we get better leaders. Both were All-Americans and aren't replaceable."

In the outfield, Gumpf will work on finding the right combination of her four outfielders. Sophomore Megan Golliv moves up to bat leadoff for the Irish after hitting .345 in the second spot in the lineup last year.

Golliv will be one of the starting outfielders playing with a combination of junior Nicole deFau, sophomore Liz Hartmann and freshman Kellie Middleton.

Hartmann hit seven home runs for the Irish in 2002, a rookie record, and batted .274 with 10-of-12 in steal attempts.

Junior Chantal DeAlcuaz and freshman Mallorie Lenn will catch for the Irish this year.

"They did a great job last year. They know what to expect," Gumpf said. "I'm hoping their leadership carries on and we get better leaders. Both were All-Americans and aren't replaceable."

On offense, the Irish should not be a problem.

"We have a lot of power in the lineup last year," Gumpf said. "We want to use that this year. deFau was used primarily in relief and had 116 strikeouts to go along with a 2.00 ERA. Senior Jessica Myers was an All-American and Big East Player of the Year while Kriech led off the Irish and batted .235.

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This weekend, the Irish will play South Florida, Kent State, Jacksonville, Hofstra and Rhode Island.

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First baseman Lisa Mattison rounds out the infield for the Irish. The senior from Granger, Ind., hit .325 last year and drove in 27.

On the mound, Gumpf can breathe a little easier this season with sophomore Steffany Stenglein and Carrie Wisen having a year of experience under their belts.

"I think it is crucial to have that. They were thrown into the fire this year," Gumpf said. "They responded very well and did a great job last year. They know what to expect."

Stenglein finished the 2002 season with a 27-12 record and a 1.93 ERA. Wisen was used primarily in relief and had 116 strikeouts to go along with a 2.00 ERA. Senior Jessica Myers was an All-American and Big East Player of the Year while Kriech led off the Irish and batted .235.

"Every year I can't replace anybody we lose," Gumpf said. "I'm hoping their leadership carries on and we get better leaders. Both were All-Americans and aren't replaceable."

In the outfield, Gumpf will work on finding the right combination of her four outfielders. Sophomore Megan Golliv moves up to bat leadoff for the Irish after hitting .345 in the second spot in the lineup last year.

Golliv will be one of the starting outfielders playing with a combination of junior Nicole deFau, sophomore Liz Hartmann and freshman Kellie Middleton.

Hartmann hit seven home runs for the Irish in 2002, a rookie record, and batted .274 with 10-of-12 in steal attempts.

Junior Chantal DeAlcuaz and freshman Mallorie Lenn will catch for the Irish this year.

"They did a great job last year. They know what to expect," Gumpf said. "I'm hoping their leadership carries on and we get better leaders. Both were All-Americans and aren't replaceable."

On offense, the Irish should not be a problem.

"We have a lot of power in the lineup last year," Gumpf said. "We want to use that this year. deFau was used primarily in relief and had 116 strikeouts to go along with a 2.00 ERA. Senior Jessica Myers was an All-American and Big East Player of the Year while Kriech led off the Irish and batted .235.

"Every year I can't replace anybody we lose," Gumpf said. "I'm hoping their leadership carries on and we get better leaders. Both were All-Americans and aren't replaceable."

This weekend, the Irish will play South Florida, Kent State, Jacksonville, Hofstra and Rhode Island.

"We are going to find out our weaknesses real quick. Once we find out our weaknesses, we can work on fixing them," Gumpf said. "The leadership they have added this year is a huge bonus. They are strong leaders and are very passionate."

Loman, who earned third-team All-American status last season, led the Irish with a .377 batting average. As one of the top third basemen in the country, Loman plays solid defense and ranks in the top five of the country's history for fielding percentage.
The Lakers’ Kobe Bryant drives by Nuggets forward Juwan Howard in a Los Angeles victory Tuesday night. Bryant says he is interested in playing for the 2004 USA Olympic mens team but has not yet signed a contract.

Bryant yet to commit to Olympic team

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS Ray Allen, Tim Duncan, Jason Kidd and Tracy McGrady were the first four players chosen Thursday for the 2004 U.S. Olympic men’s basketball team, with Kobe Bryant conspicuously absent — for now.

The long-awaited announcement was made in Colorado Springs, Colo., by USA Basketball, which said Bryant could be added to the team at a later date once a contractual issue is cleared up.

Bryant is “very interested” in playing on the team, the national team organizing committee said. The committee added that he has been asked to play on the team but has yet to sign the organization’s standard player contract.

"USA Basketball remains hopeful that he will be added to the roster at a future date," the statement said.

Bryant said last month he plans to play on the team, which will compete in the Americas zone qualifying tournament in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in late August.

If the Americans finish among the top three at the qualifier, they will earn a trip to Athens for the 2004 Olympics. The NBA players are looking to atone for their sixth-place showing at last summer’s world championships in Indianapolis.

Allen, of the Milwaukee Bucks, and Kidd, of the New Jersey Nets, were members of the Olympic gold medal team in 2000. Duncan was last season’s MVP with the San Antonio Spurs, and McGrady of the Orlando Magic is this season’s leading scorer.

They will be joined by four or five other NBA players when the remainder of the qualifying team roster is announced in the spring. The remainder of American team is expected to include two or three players currently playing overseas or collegiately.

Larry Brown of the Philadelphia 76ers will be the coach.

"It is great for our country, USA Basketball and our league that these four players have made the commitment to play," Brown said. "We’re fortunate to have them on this team, as representatives of our country and the NBA. It will be an honor to coach them."
WNSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Vytaus Danielsius scored 20 points and matched a career high with 14 rebounds as Wake Forest (No. 17 ESPN/USA Today, No. 15 AP) snapped a 14-game losing streak to Duke with a 94-80 win in double overtime.

The victory kept the Demon Deacons (17-3, 7-2) in first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference, a half-game ahead of Maryland.

The eighth-ranked Blue Devils (16-4, 6-4) lost their conference opener for the first time since 1996, shooting 31.5 percent.

Danielsius scored all five of Wake Forest’s points in the first overtime and four in the second extra session to help the Demon Deacons beat Duke for the first time since January 1997 — when Tim Duncan was a senior.

Eight players fouled out in a game that saw 64 fouls called. Trent Strickland, one of the freshest players left on the court, scored 10 points in the second overtime, while Jamaal Levy added 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Chris Duhon led Duke with a career-high 23 points, but the point guard missed his first six shots of the second overtime as Wake Forest outscored the Blue Devils 20-0.

Duhntay Jones, Duke’s leading scorer, was 0-for-12 from the field and finished with 10 points in 45 minutes. The Blue Devils only had four assists. Neither team led by more than three over the final 8:38 of regulation — and each club had a shot to win it in the final seconds.

Duhon missed a 3-pointer with 12.6 seconds left and Justin Gray, who scored 18 points in his first game back from a broken jaw, also missed a shot behind the arc seven seconds later as the game went into overtime tied at 69.

Wake Forest failed to close out Duke in the first extra period despite three chances in the final 4.8 seconds. Strickland missed his shot in the lane and a follow, and Levy’s final follow with 0.8 seconds left fell off the rim.

But after Jones’ free throw gave Duke its only lead in the second overtime, Strickland put Wake Forest up for good with a shot in the lane. Levy then added a follow, Danielsius two free throws and Taron Downey a fast-break layup for an 82-75 lead.

The ACC’s best-free-throw shooting team closed it out at the line, making eight straight down the stretch.

Duke, which had five players foul out, made just five baskets over the final 23 minutes and was outrebounded 50-37.

Duke combined 1-of-11 shooting in the opening minutes of its first 20 shots to fall into a 10-point hole 11 minutes in.

Gray, out since breaking his right hand 11 minutes in, didn’t seem to bother him as Gray sank his first two shots from the field, but it didn’t seem to bother him as Gray sank his first two shots from the field, and finished the half with eight points.

Jones and Duhon — Duke’s two leaders — were a combined 1-of-10 in the opening 20 minutes, with Duhon making two of his first 14 shots from a broken jaw, also missed a shot behind the arc seven seconds later as the game went into overtime tied at 69.

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NCAA

Esherick receiving blame for Hoyas’ woes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

The once mighty Georgetown Hoyas are a last-place team, in danger of not even making their own conference tournament.

They’ve lost six straight and have developed an uncanny knack of falling apart at the end of close games. Some fans are chanting for the coach to be fired, and they are easily heard at an arena that is usually less than half full.

The athletic director is under fire for saying it’s “unreasonable” to expect to be in the NCAA Tournament every year. The starting center has taken a mysterious leave of absence.

In other words, the season has turned into a bad soap opera at a school once synonymous with basketball excellence.

“But for the fact this is how I feed my family, it would be funny,” coach Craig Esherick said. “But it’s not. It’s not funny.”

Monday night’s 66-59 loss to Rutgers, a game that was tied with less than three minutes to play, left the Hoyas at 10-10 overall and 2-7 in the Big East’s West Division. The last-place team in each division doesn’t go to the Big East tournament, an embarrassment hardly befitting a team that started 7-0 and flirted with the Top 25 in late December.

“We have a pretty good team,” said forward and All-American candidate Mike Sweetney, whose own outstanding season — 22 points and 10 rebounds per game — is rapidly going to waste. “We don’t know what we have to do, but we have to stop this.”

How did it come to this? Although Esherick catches much of the flak, the decline actually began in the final seasons of Hall of Fame coach John Thompson’s 27-year career.

Thompson made 17 NCAA Tournaments in 18 seasons and won the 1984 title, but a series of early departures, transfers and underperforming recruits left the Hoyas on an NIT level when he suddenly resigned for personal reasons on Jan. 8, 1999. Thompson’s record in his last 135 games (87-48) isn’t much better than Esherick’s current mark (81-54).

Esherick appeared to have the program going in the right direction with a 25-8 record and Sweet 16 appearance two years ago, but that has been his only trip to the NCAAAs. He turned down an NIT bid last year because the Hoyas were going to have to play their games on the road, ending a streak of 27 consecutive postseason appearances.

This season, Georgetown seemed a surefire NCAA team, with a solid frontcourt of Sweetney, Gerald Riley and Wesley Wilson. They’ve instead generated attention for all the wrong reasons.

Esherick unleashed a trembling tirade against officials for their season-long treatment of Sweetney following an overtime victory over West Virginia. The coach escaped suspension from the Big East because it was his first offense, but his team is 1-8 since.

Also last month, athletic director Joe Lang shocked many at the school by telling The Washington Post that a yearly NCAA trip was an “unreasonable expectation.” He cleared up the matter only slightly in a meeting with campus newspapers, explaining that there was a difference between “expectations” and “goals.”

Meanwhile, the school hasn’t explained what happened to Wilson, who suddenly disappeared two games ago. The official line is that he has taken “a leave of absence from the university,” with no word on when or if he’ll return.

Then there are all the close losses, with endings that leave Esherick’s strategies under question. The Hoyas failed to get off a shot after a timeout with 15 seconds remaining against Notre Dame.

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Jeter responds to Steinbrenner’s comments

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — No matter where he traveled, Derek Jeter couldn’t avoid the question.

"I went out to the Super Bowl — I got people on the street asking me the same thing: ‘What’s the deal with the Boss and the Boss’ comments?’" the star shortstop said at the Yankees’ minor league complex.

No matter where he traveled, "I went out to the Super Bowl — I got people on the street asking me the same thing: ‘What’s the deal with the Boss and the Boss’ comments?’" the star shortstop said at the Yankees’ minor league complex.

"This story is not just New York. This story has developed into a national story," he said. George Steinbrenner questioned the focus of the five-time All-Star in December, and the owner’s comments have fostered like an open wound on Jeter over the past 7 1/2 weeks. The Yankees were still talking about it as they took the field for the first time since October’s first-round failure against Anaheim.

Jeter is bothered by the Yankees attract international attention these days, and with no games to play, any hint of controversy sparks blaring headlines, such as the "PARTY ON" blared on the back page of the Daily News in New York when Jeter said he didn’t intend to change.

"We’ll talk," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "Obviously, there have been things going on, and you want to make sure his head is in the right place."

Jeter, of course, wasn’t Steinbrenner’s only target following the 3-1 loss to the Angels, which ended a run of four straight AL pennants. The owner said Torre and his staff must do better, too.

"At least I’m not going down myself," Jeter joked.

"In my eighth year — not bad," Jeter said.

General manager Brian Cashman called Jeter’s focus "excellent."

And while Torre has many others to consider, Jeter, of course, wasn’t Steinbrenner’s only target.

"It’s tough to handle," Jackson said. "It’s not easy when you’re a target. This guy is a big guy, Jeter, a big target. He’s in a class of the great athletes of our day — Ronaldo, A-Rod, Jordan, Tiger."

"This guy is pretty conscientious. He’s basically the unnamed captain, the voice of the club. If you want to target someone for not having a good season last year, and this is what you want to do, then he’s the guy."

Michigan to undergo hearing before NCAA

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — What started with a rollover accident on Feb. 17, 1996, has led the University of Michigan to a hearing with the NCAA committee on infractions.

"We’re looking forward to putting this behind us," Marvin Kralov, the university’s general counsel, said Thursday while aboard a plane headed for the hearing in Florida.

The school will appear before the eight-member NCAA committee on Friday in Coral Gables. It will take six-to-eight weeks for the NCAA to announce whether Michigan’s self-imposed sanctions were enough.

Michigan also returned to the Fab Five days of the 1990s. But in November, it endured the firing of two basketball coaches (Steve Fisher and Brian Ellerbe), two internal investigations that didn’t reveal much and the hiring of a new athletic director. Martin finally shed light on the scandal in May when he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to launder money.

Martin told the federal government he took gambling money, combined it with other funds, and lent $541,000 to Chris Webber, Robert Taylors, Louis Bullock and Taylor. The Wolverines became one of college basketball’s most successful programs during the Fab Five days of the 1990s. But in November, it endured the firing of two basketball coaches (Steve Fisher and Brian Ellerbe), two internal investigations that didn’t reveal much and the hiring of a new athletic director. Martin finally shed light on the scandal in May when he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to launder money.

Maurice Taylor’s car crashed during Mateen Cleaves’ official recruiting visit while they were returning from a party in Detroit. When Michigan learned the recruiting visit included a visit to Ed Martin’s house, the school began to investigate his ties to the basketball program.

After the firing of two basketball coaches (Steve Fisher and Brian Ellerbe), two internal investigations that didn’t reveal much and the hiring of a new athletic director, Martin finally shed light on the scandal in May when he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to launder money.

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