Officials discuss alcohol planning

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Editor

Following a year of protests, petitions, resolutions, dialogues and reports, some student government leaders and the Student Affairs Office continue to differ about what course of action should be taken regarding the alcohol policy introduced last March. Student government leaders and university officials both said they would welcome further discussion and a revision of the policy. This is where they stop agreeing as some student leaders want to see previous revisions in the policy and administrators insist the changes need to be upheld.

"I will be honest: we are not going to revisit the changes," Patrick Poorman, vice president of Student Affairs, said. "We did not decide the policy changes lightly. It was a two-year process where we consulted widely and the changes were unanimously approved by both the university officers and trustees and faculty." Poorman added that the Board of Trustees in February confirmed the new policy and hoped positive steps would be taken by Student Affairs and student government. He said he welcomed the discussions he has had with students and is willing to entertain suggestions for improvements within the framework of the existing policy.

The Board of Trustees' February resolution has already made such modifications, including an instruction that the Student Affairs Office continue funding hall dances. Poorman said his office is happy to provide any residenc hall with additional funding of up to $1,000 for an additional year as a part of the transitional process. The Board also suggested that additional funding for hall dances be provided for dorms that demonstrate fiscal responsibility with their hall tax money. Poorman welcomed these audits, and said that halls must be held accountable for their finances.

Some student government leaders do not find these modifications to be significant enough and are calling for the return of hall dances for a probationary period. In February, the Office of the President and the Student Senate were divided on how Student Body President Libby Bishop should address the alcohol policy in her report to the Board of Trustees. This division also led to the resignation of Bishop's chief of staff, Pat Hallahan. Poorman hoped to inform the trustees of the current social climate and hall dance situation. Though he said he was pleased with the decision, the "Sit in and Hallahan, stu- dent body president-elect, con- curred that further change was necessary.

Hallahan, who campaigned on a platform to bring back in- dollar dances, said he wants to see options and programming that would keep students on campus, and would like to see the return of dances to cam- pus, if only for a probationary period.

"It's good that there is dis- cussion but there needs to be more — there needs to be a very clear focus for the policy and to providing alter- natives to abusive drinking," Hallahan said.

See Also
"Census leaders debate policy"
See page 3
Let's play American comedy.

without these priceless staples of American comedy.

That said, I've still got a whole lot of column left to write, and I can't fill it all whining about what ever it is I usually whine about.

So, has anyone else noticed that there is absolutely no news about anything happening anywhere else in the world than That Place Over There? If you watch CNN, FOX, CBS, NBC, ABC, MSNBC, PBS, or just about any other news channel, you might be led to believe that absolutely nothing is happening worldwide, while every human being on the planet hangs breathlessly on every word of the latest newscaster.

Obviously, this is the height of American arrogance and stupidity — oh, wait, I've been listening to those ultra-liberal eco-hippie protesters too much again. Not to say I think all protesters are this way, just the ultra-liberal eco-hippies I meet. I suspect you have to be one to make any sense out of that sentence, actually.

At any rate, never fear, The Observer is here (at least, one staffer) to remedy that grave error. Recently in Rome, an unlucky "traveling missionary" (a.k.a. spring-break student) decided to ignore the big red circle and dash blaring DO NOT ENTER in 38 different languages, none of which was apparently English, and proceeded to race up an escalator going down.

Atop the escalator, the hapless student was fortunate enough to literally crawl off, hands on the platform and legs madly trying to join the hand rail. Of course, this attracted the attention of a nearby Big Mean Italian Guy, who proceeded to berate the student in 45 different languages, apparently failing to recognize the big red shirt she was wearing saying "I AM AMERICAN!" and so also failing to include Italian. By this time, the poor girl broke down in tears and asked if she couldn't just wear one of those really large hairy animal suits I'm not supposed to talk about. Now, you may ask what the moral of this story is, but really, it's almost slipped — until the conflict logic that must surely be somewhere. Let me know if you find any, since I'm too busy counting my oil company stock shares. But I digress. If I hadn't put all my money down on the NCAA Tournament, I'd bet you no other newspaper in the world carried this story today. So, you're only source for the refreshing news that's otherwise not covered very well and all comment about any and all conflicts that may or may not be going on in the world.

One thing everyone reads the paper at lunch, because those knives may be needed to pry yourself off of a steaming pile of sarcasm. Hey, it sure beats Blutax Sea Nugglets!

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SMC

- "W" Program
  12 noon at 303 Haggerty Center
- Leighton Festival of Music Fleur de lys
  7:30 p.m. at Welsh Parlor, Haggerty Center
- Midnight Madness
  Doors lock at 9:50 p.m. at Angela Athletic Facility

WHAT'S HAPPPENING @ ND

- Last day for course discontinuance All day

- Lecture with Irish author Cathal O Seachra
  3 p.m. at 424 Hanner Hall
- Women's tennis match
  5:30 p.m. at Eck Pavilion/Courtney Courts

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

Student vehicle towed
A student's car was involved in an altered parking pass was towed from Cavanaugh Drive Wednesday. The case is being referred for administrative review.

Student loses wallet
A student reported losing her wallet in South Dining Hall on Wednesday.

Medical condition addressed
Notre Dame Fire Department cared for a sick student in Pasquerilla East residence hall Wednesday.

Pedestrian struck by car
Notre Dame Security and Police Department responded to a traffic accident involving a pedestrian and a vehicle Wednesday. The pedestrian was transported to Memorial Hospital for the treatment of minor injuries.

WHAT'S COOKING

North Dining Hall
Today's Lunch: Fried cheese ravioli, spinach fettuccine, four-cheese pizza, cheese French bread pizza, vegetarian stroganoff, haddock with herbs, cream of wheat, creamy hash browns, salmon and crabmeat burgers, breaded mushrooms, spicy battered shrimp, pickled, crinkle fries, onion rings, vegetable stir-fry. Spanish rice

Today's Dinner: Vegetable lasagna, black olives marinated, mushroom marinara, French bread cheese pizza, tomato pizza, chili macaroni and cheese, cauliflower, baked cod, mushroom stroganoff, fried buffalo shrimp, fishwich, grilled vegetable plate, battered wedge fries, soft pretzel, Oriental shrimp with noodles, mini egg rolls, broccoli quesoadillas

Today's Dinner: Vegetable lasagna, black olives marinated, mushroom marinara, French bread cheese pizza, tomato pizza, chili macaroni and cheese, cauliflower, baked cod, mushroom stroganoff, fried buffalo shrimp, fishwich, grilled vegetable plate, battered wedge fries, soft pretzel, Oriental shrimp with noodles, mini egg rolls, broccoli quesoadillas

South Dining Hall
Today's Lunch: Stuffed shells, mush room marinara, French bread cheese pizza, tomato pizza, chili macaroni and cheese, cauliflower, baked cod, mushroom stroganoff, fried buffalo shrimp, fishwich, grilled vegetable plate, battered wedge fries, soft pretzel, Oriental shrimp with noodles, mini egg rolls, broccoli quesoadillas

Today's Dinner: Vegetable lasagna, black olives marinated, mushroom marinara, French bread cheese pizza, tomato pizza, chili macaroni and cheese, cauliflower, baked cod, mushroom stroganoff, fried buffalo shrimp, fishwich, grilled vegetable plate, battered wedge fries, soft pretzel, Oriental shrimp with noodles, mini egg rolls, broccoli quesoadillas

Sanctuary Dining Hall
Today's Lunch: Garden veggie burger, vegetarian fajitas, roasted vegetables, pasta, marinara, pierogie bar, maple bacon, mushroom barley soup, egg drop soup, Italian pasta salad, Greek salad

Today's Dinner: Tuscan veggie wrap, vegetable fajitas, roasted vegetables, pasta, marinara, pierogie bar, maple BBQ salmon, cornell rice, broccoli cut, eggplant stir-fry, cheese pizza, bread sticks, stuffed veggie casserole, apple spice cake, jelly-0
Campus leaders debate policy

By HELENA PAYNE
Senior Staff Writer

After the March 18, 2002 announcement that the administration had instituted a new alcohol policy, many students derided the decision, charging that it would negatively alter residential life in a drastic way.

Today, current and future resident assistants see the alcohol policy as "just another rule." In Dillon Hall, second-year RA Vogel Andre said he has noticed fewer parties and a general willingness among residents to obey the new rules.

"I thought I was going to have more trouble," Andre said, describing his original thoughts about enforcing the policy, which restricted tailgating, eliminated hard alcohol in the dorms and moved half dances to outside venues. "It has caused us to be more alert, more vigilant and we have enforced it. But has it been hectic? Not really."

Junior Kristin Stockbeck, who will be an RA in Howard Hall next year, said students have found ways to get around the policy.

"I think it has become less of a burning issue but in two ways: some students have just complied and dealt with it, and some students have just decided to ignore it," Stockbeck said. "I know a lot of people who say, 'Let's just stick the bottle of rum in the dresser and not enforce it.'"

Despite some predictions that there would be a mass exodus by students to local apartment complexes, the Office of Residence Life and Housing showed a 1.7 percent increase in housing constant vice president of Residence Life Bill Kirk, "I don't think there's that much cause and effect with the policy. Many students have just decided to ignore it."

As for the roughly 20 percent of students that live off campus, Kirk said the University anticipates that percentage each year.

"We need students to move off campus. We don't have enough housing on campus," Kirk said.

While the reliance of students living off campus each year has been a convenient way for RealLife to accommodate the many students who want to stay on campus, the off-campus scene has allowed some students to take advantage of the less stringent rules.

Junior Drew Donovan, who will be an RA in Knott Hall next year, said he has also noticed fewer parties in his dorm, as many students have opted to socialize off-campus.

"I don't think it's had a drastic change on dorm life," he said. The popularity of off-campus parties has been noticed by South Bend's Memorial Hospital, where patient care assistant Nancy Prange said the majority of alcohol-related emergency room trips for Notre Dame students occur after they are taken from an off-campus party.

Prange, who has worked at Memorial for 15 years, estimates at least two Notre Dame students go to the emergency room each week.

"There's always somebody that's falling or their friends got worried because they drink too much," Prange said.

Yet, more recently, Prange said students have tried to cover up their trips to ER. Instead of RAs or recors bringing intoxicated students from half dances to ER, she said most students come from off-campus locations.

"I think a lot of them are afraid that they are going to get in trouble," she said, adding, "It used to be acceptable to party. ... Now it is worrisome."

The director of Notre Dame Security/Police, Rex Prange, said it is still too early to see the effects of the alcohol policy.

"A lot of students go off campus every year and students make sometimes good choices and sometimes bad ones," he said.

In general, many feel that the alcohol buzz that comes to students is over.

"The public outcry is one thing, but when push comes to shove, [students] make decisions like they should," Kirk said.

RAs like senior Meg Anderson of Howard say that dorm life is about community more than policies.

"We aren't here to enforce rules. We're here to support our residents," she said.

Contact Helena Payne at hayam@nd.edu.

IRAQ

Iraqis surrender as troops advance

By Associated Press

SOUTHERN IRAQ

U.S. troops advanced through the deserts of southern Iraq in armored convoys Friday after launching the "war's ground assault, meeting resistance from Iraqi forces in some areas and soldiers surrendering in others.

As the U.S. Marines and Army drove deeper into southern Iraq, British troops moved on the strategic al-Faw peninsula — Iraq's access point to the Persian Gulf and the site of major oil facilities. British military officials said they hoped to seize the key port of Umm Qasr before the day's end.

Through the night and as the sun rose, artillery barrages targeted Iraqi positions in al-Faw, and witnesses in northern Kuwait side said they could hear thunderous explosions from the Umm Qasr area.

Further west along the border, some 300 Iraqi soldiers surrendered to the U.S. 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit just over an hour after it crossed the border into Iraq from northern Kuwait.

One group of 40 Iraqis marched in formation down a two-lane road toward the Americans and gave up. They were told to face down on the ground and were searched by Marines. At the same time, Marines cleared bunkers, emerging from one with two Iraqis with bound wrists. One had a dark gray uniform, the other was barefoot. Abandoned weapons and mortars were spread over a large area.

Elsewhere, U.S. troops met resistance from Iraqi units. The 7th Marine Infantry's 3rd Battalion apparently had to delay its way into Iraq after — according to military radio — a large number of previously unknown tanks was sighted on the Iraqi side of the border.

The unit took small arms and artillery fire Thursday night, and at one point a U.S. Cobra helicopter accidentally fired a missile at a U.S. M1 Abrams tank, injuring one soldier and forcing abandonment of the不远处的坦克。 Friday morning, the unit opened a massive artillery barrage across the border.

In Iraq, Marines in the 1st Division opened fire with machine guns on an Iraqi I-55 tank and destroyed it with a Javelin, a portable anti-tank missile. Troops from the Army's 3rd Infantry Division came into contact with several Iraqi armored personnel carriers, destroying at least three of them, from line troops report- ed by radio.

There were no reports of U.S. casualties in the engagements. In northern Kuwait, a helicopter crashed Thursday, killing the four American crewmembers and 12 British troops on board.

By taking southern Iraq, the allies would command access to the Gulf and set the stage for the first major conquest on the way to Baghdad — Basra, Iraq's second largest city, just 20 miles from the Kuwait border.

The move on the area between Basra and the Persian Gulf would be a key to the Gulf and set the stage for the first major conquest on the way to Baghdad.

The start of the advance into Iraq was signaled Thursday night by a thunderous artillery barrage by allied forces in northern Kuwait across the border. Infantrymen on the move, their weeks of waiting at an end, cheered as shells screamed overhead.

The armored vehicles of the 1st Marine Division rolled across the border at around 9 p.m. local time (1 p.m. EST). As they moved through the desert, burning oil wells were visible, spewing black smoke into skies lit by a nearly full moon.
Bust

continued from page 1

Deitchley said that his office would have been liable if it had not responded to the tip about the party and a student was injured.

"If we wouldn't have responded and a student had been hurt, we would have had a responsibility ... it is not our job anywhere to protect a legitimate and legal party. That party was nowhere close to being legal. More people could have gotten hurt," Deitchley said.

Bill Kirk, assistant vice president for Residence Life at the University, said that his office did not contact Excise Police before the party, but would be contacting students arrested and cited at the party and others involved in planning the party.

"When parties come to our attention as obviously and publicly as someone falling off a balcony or a party with 75 kegs, it is appropriate to tell them of the significance and make contact," Kirk said.

Kirk said that when his office hears rumors of such a party, he will take steps to ensure that they are legal. My office is glad to be safely held within the halls due to the ban on hard alcohol and strict dorm rules.

Hallahan suggested that funding be increased for education and opportunities as alternatives to drinking and not just a commitment to changing policy. student government, the Student Union Board and student clubs should work together to rejuvenate the campus social culture.

"We can't just accept the current situation but we must look at it and ask, how can we make it better?" Hallahan said.

Implementing these funding and programming changes could be complicated by the Board of Trustees February budget cut, which decreased the student life budget by 5 percent. Poorman ensured that despite the cuts to his department's budget, the additional half ball dance funding would be provided.

Hallahan said the return of SYR's would boost campus social life and should be offered on a probationary period. He believes that dances could be controlled within the halls due to the ban on hard alcohol and stricter dorm rules.

Poorman maintained that the policy regarding hall dances would not be revised and said the dances could not be safely held within the space constricitions, saying the focus of dances had shifted to drinking. He added that the traditions of the residence halls have not been compromised.

"I think that students who were looking for an alcohol-driven party have been disappointed by the changes in the dances," Poorman said.

"Those who have been looking for a general dance have been encouraged by the changes," Hallahan said. Hallahan said he and Lao want to work through campus channels to bring about their changes, but ultimately will bring their concerns to the Board of Trustees should their concerns not be addressed.

"We aren't going to be overly patient because these problems are real, and in addition, people's safety is important," Hallahan said. "We will make it known to the Board if necessary." Matt Storin, University spokesman, said following the Board of Trustees' February meetings that its resolutions were somewhat unprecedented. Although the Board oversees University operations, allocates funds and appoints officers, the Board entrusts the University officers to handle on-campus affairs. Poorman said a time frame of three to five years would be necessary in order to fully access the changes and to review the policy.

Contact Meghan Downes at mdownes@nd.edu

Alcohol

continued from page 1

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Contact Meghan Downes at mdownes@nd.edu

Notre Dame Law School's
2003 Distinguished Lecture Series
"Legislating Corporate Ethics"

"The Attorney as Gatekeeper: Toward Definition and Implementation of the Securities Lawyer's Role"

by Professor John Coffee
Adolf A. Berle Professor of Law
Columbia University

Friday, March 21, 2003*
2:00 pm
120 Law School
All are invited to attend.

*Please note that Prof. Coffee's visit has been moved up one week from the originally announced date of March 28.
An Associated Press photo shows a Sea Knight helicopter crashed on invasion day, with the help of U.S. marines in this March file photo. As coalition troops stormed into Iraq on April 15 with U.S. and British soldiers on board, photographs of the Iraqis were captured, resulting in the first Allied casualties of the war.

Iraq

U.S. chopper crashes on invasion day, 16 killed

Associated Press

SOUTHERN IRAQ

American and British combat units rumbled across the desert into Kuwait on the south Thursday and bombed limited targets in Baghdad. But military commanders said they had the massive onslaught that would signal the start of U.S. efforts to take the Iraqi regime into giving up. Coalition forces suffered their first casualties in a helicopter crash that left 12 Britons and four Americans dead.

"The days of the Saddam Hussein regime are numbered," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld predicted, although he also said there was "no need for a broader conflict" if Iraqi leaders surrender.

On the second day of Operation Iraqi Freedom, American officials held out the tantalizing possibility that Saddam Hussein had been killed in the initial Wednesday night bombing of Baghdad.

The early-morning television said Saddam survived, and met with his top aides to counter the U.S.-led attack.

"We are resolved to teach the criminal invaders hard lessons and make them taste genuine punishment," declared the Iraqi military.

The onset of war sparked anti-war demonstrations across the country — more than 1,000 were arrested in San Francisco and at U.S. embassies around the world. The State Department warned U.S. citizens abroad of an increased danger of terrorism.

Rumsfeld hinted that talks with Iraqi military elements, including some in the elite Republican Guard, may have been behind a delayed start to a planned massive aerial assault.

"We still hope" the Iraqi leadership can be replaced "without the full force and fury of a war," Rumsfeld said after meeting with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Rep. Robert Andrews, D-N.J., said following a House briefing with Rumsfeld that "the behavior of those that we've not surrendered would suggest that they might." Rumsfeld announced that a "remarkable" number of Iraqis had left their homes and crossed the border into Iran, and that units were soon on their way.

In southern Iraq, white light glowed in the desert sky, and the sound of explosions could be heard from across the Kuwait-Iraq frontier as the 3rd Infantry Division unleashed its artillery barrage. Troops eagerly cheered as the border into Iraq cheered, and units were soon on their way.

Twisters rip through rural Ga., 6 dead

Associated Press

Galvanized by the American attack on Iraq, anti-war activists around the country set off their own barrage of street protests, chaining themselves together, blocking traffic and trying to keep out of classes and parading in mock chemical suits. Hundreds were arrested at protests across the United States.

But the anti-war groundswell brought out thousands of counterdemonstrators. One in Mississippi carried a sign saying, "Support the U.S. or keep your mouth shut."

Thursday was one of the heaviest days of anti-government protests in years. "This is no ordinary day," said Jason Mark, a San Francisco activist. "America is different today. We've just launched an unprovoked, unjust war."

One protestor in a rope and harness committed suicide by throwing himself from Golden Gate Bridge as police tried to coax him to safety. "I am a peace activist," said the San Francisco activist. "We're fighting one of the largest anti-war activity, hoping the mobbing the communitie. Thousands in roving bands temporarily took control of some downtown streets and closed several exits from the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Smaller splinter groups broke windows, heaved debris into streets and occasionally scuffled with police. Some protesters hurled rocks at trains, briefly halting service at a station in nearby Oakland.

Police wearing helmets and carrying nightsticks made more than 500 arrests. "We don't want to alienate people, it's our hope people realize that political murder and murder is a patriotic act, not a statement of religious faith."

In Washington, dozens of activists temporarily shut down inbound lanes of a Potomac River crossing, holding up the morning commute. Outside the White House, about 50 stood in chilly rain and shouted, "No blood for oil!"

About 300 protesters rallied in the evening.

Hundreds arrested in rowdy anti-war demonstrations

World News Brief

Lawmakers condemn “under God” ban

The House voted Thursday to ban a federal appeals court’s rulings that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional because of its reference to God.

The nonbinding resolution, passed 400-7 with 17 members voting present, states that the phrase “one nation under God” in the pledge reflects the religious faith central to the founding of the nation and that its recitation is a patriotic act, not a statement of religious faith.

Former NRA lawyer to testify for NAACP

A former gun lobbyist has agreed to testify for the NAACP in a lawsuit against gun manufacturers and distributors. The lawsuit alleged that the two practices by gun manufacturers and distributors fuels street violence that victimizes minorities. The House voted Thursday to ban a federal appeals court’s rulings that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional because of its reference to God. The nonbinding resolution, passed 400-7 with 17 members voting present, states that the phrase “one nation under God” in the pledge reflects the religious faith central to the founding of the nation and that its recitation is a patriotic act, not a statement of religious faith.

National News Briefs

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"It looked like a big lawmower went through there," said Sheriff Freddie Tompkins of Worth County, where a twister cut a 10-mile-long, 300-foot-wide swath.

Officer recommends no courts-martial

A military hearing officer Thursday recommended against court-martial two U.S. pilots who killed four Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan last year in a friendly-fire bombing one of the men blamed on the "fog of war."

Although Col. Patrick Rosenow said there was enough evidence to court-martial both pilots, he said "non-judicial or administrative punishment" would maintain "the interests of good order and discipline."

Lawmakers condemn “under God” ban

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Demonstration staged at Saint Mary's

By ANNELIESE WOOLFORD
Saint Mary's Editor

In an effort to voice their opposition to the war in Iraq, Saint Mary's Peacemakers held a demonstration outside of the Noble Family Dining Hall Thursday afternoon. Peacemakers members posted signs and cut white T-shirts to make and distribute armbands advocating peace.

"We decided this would be the most visible and effective way to get student attention," said junior Emily Welsh. "It's a sign of solidarity among students. It's a non-confrontational way if people want to participate and they don't know what to do." The group learned of the idea at a student anti-war conference held at the University of Chicago over Valentine's Day weekend. Those involved also attended a meeting at Notre Dame before spring break where the idea was again discussed.

An emergency meeting was called Wednesday night following the U.S. attack on Iraq when members decided to put the demonstration into effect as soon as possible. "The militarization as a whole doesn't agree with Bush's position," said Welsh. "We just don't believe in a unilateral attack on Iraq.

Peacemakers in a social justice organization unaffiliated with any political party. It has existed on Saint Mary's campus for approximately 10 years. "It comes and goes depending on how active students are," said Welsh. Although the group has no future demonstrations or protests yet planned, they will continue to support peace in a number of ways. Nine students from the group participated in Thursday's "Not in Our Names" march through downtown South Bend. The march attracted activists from over thirteen Michiana churches, religious communities and organizations.

There was a huge representation of Saint Mary's students and even faculty and staff," said junior Amy Jensby. "There are only a few classes who agree with the war. The march, organized by community representatives including the Sisters of the Holy Cross, was one of over 100 protests planned in the United States following the initiation of war on Iraq. Protesters sang and prayed as they made their way to locations such as the Morris Performing Arts Center and St. Margaret's House.

"The first time we've been to an after-war march," she said. "It was kind of heartbreaking since we've been fighting against war, it had a different feel. At the same time, it's a reason to celebrate — all of us being out there together." Following the march, members of Peacemakers attended a prayer service held at Saint Mary's Regina Hall chapel.

"Too many people are hiding what they believe in and are afraid to take a stand," Jensby said. "We need support to keep going." Peacemakers meets weekly on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Peace Action Resource Center located in Haggar College Center.

Contact Anneliese Woolford at wooll8338@stmarys.edu

WHAT ARE YOU CALLED TO DO?
CAREERS AS VOCATIONS:
LAW MINISTRY

Sunday, March 23
4 - 6:00 p.m. at the
Center for Social Concerns
Pizza will be served.

A panel presentation with:
Rob Ercole, MA '89, High School Teacher, Pastoral Associate at Little Flower Parish, Spiritual Director, currently with Retreats International

Sheila Provencher, MDiv '01, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Assistant Director of NDVI, currently a writer and activist

Kathy Schneider, '78, MDiv '84, Holy Cross Sisters service program in Brazil, Pastoral Associate in New York parishes, currently Director, St. Margaret's House

Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu

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Pennie Christie, CMT
574-247-0661
E-mail: Touchright@aol.com

Ask about meditation classes & wellness parties.
war's destruction. In other instances, the war's destruction.

The European Central Bank said Thursday it was prepared to intervene to support the euro zone. The bank's ready to act if necessary.

"If financial markets can rely on the provision of sufficient liquidity even under exceptional circumstances, as was demonstrated in the past," the statement said.

Insurers to cancel Mideast policies

As they seek financial shelter from war in Iraq, insurers are expected to cancel their riskiest policies in the Middle East shortly after the bombing begins.

By taking that step, insurers will be able to limit their exposure to losses caused by the war's destruction. In other instances, the cancellations open the door for insurers to offer customers a new policy at a significantly higher price to reflect the perils posed by the war.

"High-risk policies like this have to be individually negotiated," said Craig Berrington, general counsel for the American Insurance Association, a major trade group representing property and casualty carriers.

Oil sabotage fears on the rise

Associated Press

The carrier is known for recording high profits since it was set up 30 years ago — even after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Still, Singapore Airlines canceled flights to the capitals of Belgium and Spain and rerouted flights to London and Istanbul, Turkey, to avoid flying over Iraq. Flights to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates were scaled back earlier.

The international body overseeing aviation prepared to remove commercial flights around Iraq. Flights will be diverted to the north or south depending on the area of conflict, the International Air Transport Association said.

Other airlines, including Air New Zealand and Air Canada, reported passengers were canceling their own flights or asking to postpone them because of the war.

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The oil industry has buzzed with rumors in recent weeks that Iraqis are rigging their wells with explosives in the hope of slowing a U.S.-led attack and making the country's oil wealth worthless for any new government. Oil from Iraq — home to the world's second-largest oil reserves — could bring in billions of dollars, the International Energy Agency said Thursday.

Oil exports are also a major source of the money that Saddam Hussein has to pay for his reconstruction effort, and the world giant's oil fields quickly to prevent "forces loyal to the Iraqi president from damaging them," said Defense Department spokesman Megan Fox.

"We can confirm reports that Saddam has taken steps to booby trap oil wells by wiring the wells so that one person can blow them up," said Defense Department spokeswoman Megan Fox.

The dollar was trading at 119.88 yen at 5 p.m. (3:00 a.m. EST), up 1.12 yen from 118.76 late Wednesday but below the 119.90 high seen Tuesday.

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English professor publishes first book

By SARAH NESTOR 
Senior Staff Writer


“El Paso del Norte: Stories on the Border” is a collection of short fiction stories about people living in El Paso, Texas, where Yanez grew up.

“It’s a book about place... the real and very imaginative.”

Richard Yanez
Saint Mary’s English professor

Yanez has been writing for ten years and his work was previously published in “Our Working Lives: Short Stories of People and Work” and in the Chicano Chappbook Series edited by Gary Soto. This newest endeavor is Yanez’s first solo publishing project. He said that it took two years to complete and was a “constant act of revision.”

Yanez spent Spring Break in western Texas, visiting schools and bookstores, and introducing his book, which is based on an actual place in El Paso, to the local community. Yanez has not lived in El Paso for the last eight years, but noted how little the community had changed since he last visited. He also said that he writes a lot of a most exclusively about El Paso.

“When I first got here, I remember this overwhelming feeling of everything being about Notre Dame,” Yanez said. “Our women were going across the street, looking for a social life. I was glad Notre Dame was across the street, but I wanted to make life at school about Saint Mary’s. I wanted the women to be excited about Saint Mary’s.”

Kachmarik and the Midnight Madness Committee, comprised of Saint Mary’s students, have been fundraising and planning for the event since the fall semester.

Besides traditional class spirit competitions and winter intramural championship games, several new activities have been planned to involve as many students as possible. There will be a trivia game that requires crowd involvement, several balloon bursts, musical chairs, an obstacle course and a new game called “Steele the Bell.”

Prizes include a digital camera, a television, a car, a four-day trip to anywhere in the continental United States. All event attendees have the chance to win the grand prize trip to Chicago, which includes round-trip transportation, a two-night stay at the Ritz-Carlton, dinner in the John Hancock Signature Room and a $1,000 shopping spree.

Cathi DeCleene, director of Health and Wellness, and Patrick White, interim vice president for Academic Affairs, accepted the job of emceeing the event and keeping the crowd spirited.

“It is really exciting to bring everyone together—not only students but faculty and staff as well,” Kachmarik said. “It will be a great night for Saint Mary’s College and class pride.”

Contact Natalie Bailey at bai407@stmarys.edu

Saint Mary’s holds spirit event

By NATALIE BAILEY 
News Writer

Orange freshmen, red sophomores, purple juniors and blue seniors will congregate in the Angela Athletic Facility tonight from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. for Saint Mary’s fourth annual college-wide “Midnight Madness” spirit event.

Yanez, who worked on the project, said that he was “grateful” to be part of the event.

“Since I first got here, I remember this overwhelming feeling of everything being about Notre Dame.”

Lynn Kachmarik, director of athletics

“Saint Mary’s holds spirit event” is the real and very imaginative.”

Richard Yanez
Saint Mary’s English professor

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LaFortune Student Center
Sorin Room 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saint Mary’s students, have been fundraising and planning for the event since the fall semester.

Besides traditional class spirit competitions and winter intramural championship games, several new activities have been planned to involve as many students as possible. There will be a trivia game that requires crowd involvement, several balloon bursts, musical chairs, an obstacle course and a new game called “Steele the Bell.”

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Contact Natalie Bailey at bai407@stmarys.edu
ALCove holds open house for students

By NICOLA BUNICK
News Writer

The ALCove, the College of Arts and Letters' experimental gathering place for students and faculty in O'Shaughnessy Hall, held an open house Thursday in an attempt to familiarize more students with its services.

The lounge provides space for students to study or meet with a faculty in an informal setting. Assistant Professor of Psychology and Arts and Letters Undergraduate Adviser Kathleen Kolberg, whose office is located in the ALCove, described the facility as "an experiment."

"It's a temporary use of space where students can sit down and do work. There is also space for teaching assistants or professors to hold discussion sections, review sessions and office hours," she said.

The ALCove also provides many resource materials to undergraduates such as GRE, LSAT and MCAT study guides.

"Now there is space for students to actually spread out and look at these materials," Kolberg said. "We also plan to use the ALCove to highlight the Arts and Letters experience."

The center is currently displaying student artwork and posters applauding the achievements of the University’s Pre-Law mock trial team.

The idea of providing a space such as the ALCove was originally suggested by Assistant Dean Jacob Nemecek.

"There is a lack of space on campus for people to just be," Nemecek said.

The rooms of 102 and 105 O'Shaughnessy Hall, where the ALCove is now located, originally housed the college's Office of Undergraduate Studies, which moved to a renovated space early in the semester. Although the ALCove officially opened in January, students have only recently begun to use the facility.

"It has been sparsely used, but in the last few weeks (one) has picked up," said Kolberg. Students who know about the ALCove are generally enthusiastic about the facility. But it appears that many are unaware that it exists.

"Now that I know about it, I would consider using it," freshman Gena Robinson said.

Robinson had seen advertisements for the ALCove, but until Thursday did not realize its purpose.

Thursday's open house was part of the Department of Arts and Letters' attempt to make students more aware that ALCove is there for their use. Both Nemecek and Kolberg said that the department advertised on campus with posters and newspaper ads in hopes that more students and faculty will make use of the new space.

Contact Nicola Bunick at nbunick@nd.edu

Chamber music festival at SMC

By LAUREN O'BRIEN
News Writer

The Department of Music at Saint Mary’s College will host its inaugural Leighton Festival of Chamber Music this weekend, featuring performances by two local and one international chamber ensembles.

The local ensembles, Fleur de Lys and the South Bend Chamber Singers, will join the Cavani String Quartet from the Cleveland Institute of Music to round out the festival schedule.

The world-renowned Quartet, which was awarded the prestigious Naumburg Chamber Music Award in 1989 and has performed at venues such as Carnegie Hall, will be in residence at the College from March 21 through March 25, during which time they will rehearse and present a concert with Saint Mary’s music students.

"This level of exposure to such gifted and experienced performers raises the bar," said Nancy Menk, chair of the College’s Department of Music, in a press release. "It illustrates how far you can go with potential and hard work, and offers a model of professionalism at its best."

Festival organizers said that they hope that the residency of a chamber music ensemble will provide a unique opportunity for students and faculty in Saint Mary’s music department, which traditionally concentrates on the study of piano and voice.

"This is very rare," Jeffrey Jacob, professor of music at the College and festival organizer, said. "Only a handful of schools in the country regularly do something like this..."

Jeffrey Jacob
Saint Mary’s music professor

The festival will open tonight with a performance by Fleur de Lys entitled "Music of Eighteenth Century Italy." The concert will be held in Haggar College Center’s Welsh parlor.

The Cavani String Quartet will perform Saturday at Little Theatre in the Moreau Center for the Arts. Prior to its work at Saint Mary’s, the quartet toured throughout the United States and Europe.

Sunday, the South Bend Chamber Singers will perform "Music for a Sacred Space" in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto Sunday at 7 p.m.

The Leighton Festival will conclude Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Little Theatre with a collaboration concert between the Cavani Quartet and Saint Mary’s music students.

The music department plans to hold the Leighton Festival every other year, focusing on a different genre of music for each festival.

"Saint Mary’s students should really take advantage of such an unusual opportunity," Menk said. "I hope our students will come out to show their support."
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Fr. Edward Malloy, c.s.c., presider
300th execution carried out in Texas

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas

An apologetic killer Thursday became the 300th inmate to die in Texas since the state resumed the death penalty 20 years ago.

Keith Clay, 35, who gunned down a convenience store clerk during a 1994 robbery, prayed softly to himself as he was executed by lethal injection at 12:39 p.m.

Clay asked for forgiveness from three members of his victim's family, who watched through a nearby window. "I know you have suffered a great loss and I am truly, truly sorry," he told the family of Melastheli Tom Varughese.

Clay also asked God to "forgive me of every single solitary sin I have committed."

Turning to his mother, he said, "Let everyone know that I love them. This is not good. I will see you later."

Cynthia Smith smiled and flashed two thumbs up to him.

Clay was the 11th inmate executed this year in Texas, which is on a pace to surpass the record 40 lethal injections it carried out in 2000. Another execution is scheduled for next week.

It took nearly 13 years for Texas to reach 100 executions, four years to get to No. 200 and now over three to reach the 300th.

The state accounts for more than one-third of the 838 executions in the United States since 1976, when the death penalty resumed under a Supreme Court ruling. Virginia is second with 87 executions in the United States this year.

Since 1993, execution dates have been set for 35 of the 300 executed this year in Texas, 30 of them this year. Clay was the 29th inmate executed this year in Texas. Three more executions are scheduled for this year and one is moved from 2004.

Clay was convicted of killing Varughese during a robbery in Baytown, near Houston. Varughese had come to the United States from India a year earlier.

Clay had said he was outside the store in a car when Varughese was killed, but a witness identified Clay as the gunman and evidence showed his gun was one of the two used in the shooting.

"I'm not happy to see someone put to death, but I know that the trial was a fair trial," said Marie Munier, who prosecuted Clay. "I think it's justice."

Prosecutors also linked Clay to the fatal shootings of three people, including two children, on Christmas Eve in 1993. He denied any role in the killings and was not tried, but a companion was sent to death row for the crime.

The Supreme Court refused to review Clay's case last week. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles refused to consider a clemency request because it was filed late.

Cindy Fay

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Security increases nationwide

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Federal agencies increased inspections at borders and food supply, put nuclear plants on heightened alert and stepped up the search for possible Iraqi terrorist "sleepers cells" in advance of war footing Thursday.

As the U.S. assault on Iraq intensified, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge told members of Congress that there had been no incidents in the United States in retaliation.

He said the "code orange" alert status imposed this week would stay in effect. FBI agents, in an attempt to head off possible retaliation for the war, began fan ning out across the country to interview thousands of people born in Iraq, the agency said. The FBI also said it also wanted to try to prevent hate crimes against people of Iraqi heritage.

The FBI's 56 bureaus were put on around-the-clock operation. "We are running down every lead and writing to every threat," Director Robert Mueller told reporters.

Federal meat and poultry inspectors, in their routine inspections, began testing for chemical or biological agents in products it analyzes, agency officials said.

The Food and Drug Administration increased testing for such potential agents in products it analyzes, agency officials said.

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Alcohol policy demands more education

Notre Dame's year-old alcohol policy has undeniably changed campus life. While half staff members have seen fewer alcohol related problems in their dorms this year, the issue of use of alcohol and abuse has not necessarily disappeared from the campus culture. The lack of music blasting from dorm rooms and the steady stream of caras and students leaving campus each weekend show that students have not changed their drinking habits—just their drinking location. Now, instead of partying in a place where help from hall staff is only a minute away, students are drinking off-campus where they may not receive help if they need it.

The new alcohol policy is here to stay—and so is the culture of drinking it was designed to curb. At the one-year mark, the new Viewpoint column, it is clear that the new policy continues to demand changes of and place responsibilities upon both students and administrators.

Administrators can help students by educating them about the dangers they face off-campus. The new policy has punished the rest of students beyond the families of half staff members, making it imperative that the average student now be able to recognize who has had too much to drink and who needs an escort back to the dorms. Administrators should not jeopardize the need to better educate students about common-sense principles like how to avoid the dangerous areas of South Bend and the importance of never traveling off campus or back to campus alone.

Instead of basking in the glory of fewer alcohol problems in the dorms, administrators must realize that Notre Dame's drinking culture remains unchanged. The act to preven more problems in addition to punishing students who get in trouble. Busted of underage students at bars and parties may keep a few students from drinking for a while, but better educating students leaving the protective shad ow of the Dome to party will help keep serious harm from coming to them and leave a more lasting impression. And while the final responsibility to drink safely lies with students, the administration should do everything possible to give students the knowledge they need to act responsibly.

Students must recognize that regardless of University policy, they must make smart decisions when partying off or on campus. If the on campus culture does not meet their social needs, they must take extra precautions and be informed to ensure the personal safety of themselves and their friends. Information the University provides cannot be commingled with students who should not jeopardize the need to better educate students about common-sense principles like what is the best way to ensure that more people enjoy a more exciting social life.

Letter to the Editor

Appreciate the military's sacrifice

I am writing in response to Joe Muto's Wednesday column. As we all know by now, the war in Iraq has begun, and we are in a time of heightened tension both abroad and on our own soil. In his column, Muto states that since the draft is due to be reinstated, he would be "in Windsor than you can say draft dodger."

He then goes on to say that he expresses concern for his friends in ROTC and equates going to the ROTC to going to the draft. Personally, I am appalled at his comparisons, even if he meant to take it as a joke. I am currently a senior in ROTC, and if I were to do it all over again, I would sign up without question. In taking my ROTC scholarship, my goal was not merely to get a "free education" as he said, but to attend an outstanding university and then have the privilege of serving my country upon graduation.

The tuition payments and stipend came as an added benefit for me and were not the sole motivating factors, as many think. I joined the military because of my love for my country, a sense of duty to uphold the values on which it was established and so that others who do not want to risk their lives do not have to. Muto will be happy to know that he will probably not have to dodge the draft because there are many people willing to make the supreme sacrifice.

Our volunteer military is strong enough to be able to combat many different circumstances without the need to reinstitute the draft. He might also be pleased to know that if there were a draft, he would probably not be drafted since 18-year-olds are taken before anybody else. I am sure he is sighing in relief upon reading this. Yet while he is getting dollar bills pulled from his open fly, there will be many 18-year-old kids on the frontline.

The conditions in which they live are something he cannot even fathom. Their lives are void of show­ ers and plush accommodations. They have rations that many of us would consider to be far worse than anything we have ever seen in the dining halls, and what they go through on a daily basis, most of us would not do to our household pets. These are kids, some of whom have to live on food stamps because they get paid less and work more than anyone you probably know.

Some of these kids don't even have a high school education; yet they are willing to make the supreme sacrifice in defense of their country and its values. Don't get me wrong — I personally welcome and support all criticisms. The freedom of speech and assembly guarantee that Americans can express their beliefs, and I fully support anyone to do so whatever it may be. However, do not presume, even in jest, to begin to understand what it is like to be in their shoes. As those who have personally never experienced it myself, but many who have served have managed to give students the knowledge they need to act responsibly.

Those brave Iraqi troops Muto talked about are not the knowledge and trust that we need at this moment, and the last sight of the vaunted Iraqi Republican Guard by our troops was when they were running away from American forces in the first Gulf War. Feel free to criticize the decisions to go to war and the way in which leaders conduct the war as it is your right to do, but do not insult those men and women who are currently staring down a situation which you will never even come close to experiencing. The sacrifice they make on a daily basis is more than you may ever make in your life. So when you see your ROTC friends next, tell them that you are praying for them and their families, and give them support that they probably need right now. At this point, I am going to listen to my Commander-in-Chief address the nation. I am prepared to follow the decision that he and the leadership he represents make in regards to my role in the conflict. I ask that you see all pray for everyone involved and pray for a swift conclusion in order to minimize the cost to everyone involved.

John Duex 3rd March 2003

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ND Today/Observer Poll Question

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

[ ] Worse than I expected
[ ] No change
[ ] Improved
[ ] I hope not

Poll appears courtesy of NDTV.com and is based on 162 responses.

Quote of the Day

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Sir Winston Churchill
British prime minister
Diplomacy has had its day, at least for now. As this column is being written in the early hours of the morning, Saddam Hussein is speaking live in response to the United States’ opening strike against him, one of the “targets of opportunity.” What has happened to our diplomatic efforts at the United Nations which have spanned some conservative U.S. congressmen to change the name of French toast and French fries to “French toast and fries”? The globalization of economies and communications may have shrunk the Earth, but the nations of the world are as divergent as the political divide in the United States. Our nation is composed of two ways of life, best evident as the blue and red states depicted during the 2000 presidential election. In general, the east and west coasts, along with several traditionally industrial states believe that diplomacy should continue. The heartland and south believe that the Bush doctrine of preemptive action is one that justifies war with Iraq. Internationally, most of the larger nations of the world, especially those located closer to Iraq, fall in the diplomacy camp. Geopolitics has had its day, at least for now, is he intent on liberating people who have no desire to have my name used in any context? Furthermore, not being able to prove that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction is not proof that it does. No one has attempted to deny that Saddam Hussein is an evil leader, but Bush has yet to make any worthwhile claim as to why it is imperative to overthrow him. The United States has more nuclear weapons than any other country in the world. If one does not have weapons of mass destruction, then one must be able to prove that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction. This is what the Bush Administration has failed to do. The United States has more nuclear weapons than any other country in the world. If one does not have weapons of mass destruction, then one must be able to prove that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction. This is what the Bush Administration has failed to do. The United States has more nuclear weapons than any other country in the world. If one does not have weapons of mass destruction, then one must be able to prove that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction. This is what the Bush Administration has failed to do. The United States has more nuclear weapons than any other country in the world. If one does not have weapons of mass destruction, then one must be able to prove that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction. This is what the Bush Administration has failed to do. The United States has more nuclear weapons than any other country in the world. If one does not have weapons of mass destruction, then one must be able to prove that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction. This is what the Bush Administration has failed to do. The United States has more nuclear weapons than any other country in the world. If one does not have weapons of mass destruction, then one must be able to prove that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction. This is what the Bush Administration has failed to do.

As Operation Persian Gulf War II becomes official, I am becoming increasingly embarrassed by the speed at which those misguided individuals in support of this war are labeling those in protest against it “unpatriotic.” This country was founded on the principles of freedom of expression, opinion and thought. I find shocking the Amendment rights as an American citizen to be decidedly unpatriotic.

The Bush Administration has further destroyed foreign relations by ignoring our allies in the United States. This arrogant and haughty attitude is only going to strengthen the world’s view of the United States as a tyrannical country eager for power—sentiments that played heavily in the tragic attacks on Sept. 11. If I have no desire to have my name used in any context with this battle based upon oil, money and greed and therefore vocally protest it because I want to let it be known that I in no way support this war.

I cried along with every other American citizen on Sept. 11, but I am the nature of terrorism to happen without notice from the United States. Saddam Hussein who has no desire to be wished to be liberated? As bombs rain down on the five million people living in Baghdad, it seems unlikely that the innocent caught in the crossfire are dying praising the United States for its help. No, the people of Iraq are flagging popularly and hiding a struggling economy while finishing off the hunt for oil that George H. W. Bush started a decade ago. It is anticipated to see how Bush will pay the billions of dollars this war will have and already cost, especially in light of his intentions to further cut taxes for all rich friends.

Letters to the Editor
Hope for a fresh start for the Iraqi people

The day has finally arrived that the debate has ended and war in Iraq is upon us. I am not a supporter of war, but at the same time I support decisive action by President George W. Bush. I am not happy what this may do to our international relations, and I do not rejoice in violence. However, since the debate about the war is over, I believe the issue now lies with our responsibility to rebuild this country. Although the clouds of war seem to encompass almost everything at this time, from this war. We must look to the future of what can be done. A people having the second largest oil reserves in the world will be interested in a future that is free from the corruption of Saddam Hussein’s reign and the suffering of the Iraqi people.

War protects U.S. oil interests

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Humor Artists painfully funny

The Notre Dame Humor Artists perform an original play, "Black Beard, For Instance".

By KC KENNEY
Scene Writer

The Humor Artists, or HA, are known for their stand-up comedy and improv. So when they put on a show, you know that you’re going to be leaving with a stomach sore from laughing so hard. An independent play, written by Molly McShane and Mike Davin, is called “Black beard, For Instance,” but Molly is afraid that title could be misleading.

“I worry people will think its about pirates when it’s clearly not,” she says with a huge smile on her face.

It may not be about pirates, but the show is able to take a number of everyday things and add a sense of comedy and craziness to it that just lets you find everything funny.

The show opens as two couples, two guys who are “just friends” prepare at their respective homes to get ready for a dinner party. Immediately the audience is able to pick up on the quirks and foibles that make each character larger than life and drenched in laugh potential. The characters develop almost like a stand-up comedians routine, each presenting themes and ideas, like a mortal wound inflicted by a contact lens. How do you cast a show that implements so many methods of approaching any one problem, but a comedic archetype is, not dwelling on any one episode or problem, but a number of different ones for each character, allowing there to never be a dull moment.

How do you cast a show that implements so many methods of approaching comedy? Simple. Get a couple of the best and brightest performers on campus that are able to boast excellent comedic timing and a sense of character development that makes you wonder if this is how these people act in real life. The comedic archetypes are standard, but developed and displayed with a fresh air that makes the jokes and lines funny and now. As one character comments during the show, “Everyone is a little crazy.” Watching these performers, one has to wonder if they got more than their share. Trish Gilbert and Mike Frederico play a married couple, Jacqueline and Richard, brought together by a mix-up between mistaken pregnancy and gastrointestinal problems. Frederico’s classic style makes him seem like Jerry Seinfeld commenting on a slew of different things that are really funny if you think about them. But this show takes it a step further. Rather than just tell you why these ideas are funny, they blow them up, distort them and put them in the spotlight you can see an up close and personal look at how funny life really is. Truly, this show is able to show a really complete idea of what a classic comedy is, not dwelling on any one episode or problem, but a number of different ones for each character, allowing there to never be a dull moment.

The show is well written, full of the best kind of situational humor and one-liners. When not killing someone’s dog is a compliment, you know that you’re in for something pretty off the wall. Add a cast with comedic timing that rivals Must See TV and you know you’re in for a night of fun and, above all, laughing until it hurts.

The Humor Artists will perform “Black beard, For Instance,” an independent play written by Molly McShane and Mike Davin, Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Tickets are $5 at the door.

Contact KG Kenney at kkenney@nd.edu

The guests at the party imitate ninjas as they attempt to reenact for Stephen, played by Rich Herbst, what happened to the family dog.

Learning about the death of a family pet, Michael Bradt, Mary Beth Asmussen and Tom Conner all react with high emotions of sadness.

Frederico play a married couple, Michael Bradt and Mary Beth Asmussen are also married, though their relationship is not as focused as Frederico and Gilbert. Their parts, Michael and Allison respectively, are much more focused on the whereabouts of their dog and getting some “who-ha.” Michael is a great meathead; with his dim attitude and love of the gym, he adds an element of awkwardness that is entertaining to watch. One of the running gags is the unclear relationship between Tim and Jim, played by Tom Conner and Jeff Eyerman, who don’t seem to know their own sexual orientation better than anyone else. But with physical humor and emotional responses to accusations, they are the perfect odd couple. Cheryl Turski is very emotional as the hostess of the party, but her enthusiasm for her fiancé and putting on a good dinner party gives her lots of opportunity to make the crowd laugh — an opportunity she likes to take advantage of. Rick Herbst, as the fiancé, gives the audience a character to relate to, but when he sinks into the insanity himself later in the show, it is almost disappointing that we didn’t get to see him have the chance to be just as zany before. He holds nothing back and is hilarious to watch.

The show is almost like watching a pirate, for it’s clearly not, but the added insanity of a live ambiguous gay pirate when it’s clearly not."
Musical acts brighten weekend
Ma Xiahui and NEXUS to perform world-renowned compositions

By BJ STREW
Scene Writer

Spring break, along with its shenanigans, is behind us and tense times for the United States lies ahead. Yes, it is high time to bury our heads in books and through what better way than music?

Luckily, this weekend boasts two unique performances: Saturday, world-renowned erhu musician Ma Xiahui and NEXUS will perform at 8 p.m. at the Annenberg Auditorium. Tickets are already available at the LaFortune Box Office, priced between $3 and $10.

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Taildaters under the Dome
NAACP sponsors an interracial dating forum at Notre Dame

By CHRISTIE BOLSEN
Assistant Scene Editor

As magical as Notre Dame is, there are two big thorns in the side of Our Lady. One of them is the prickly problem of diversity, or lack thereof, and how to address the homogenous appearance of campus. The second pervasive issue and source of many students’ lamentations is gender relations, or lack thereof, and how to force healthy relationships on the two sexes.

These issues spark discussion on touchy subjects such as affirmative action, parietals and coed housing, but one look around campus shows that none of these solutions, right or wrong, will solve the two problems.

However, an experiment in interracial dating has fun with what can be touchy subjects such as affirmative action, parietals and coed housing, but one look around campus shows that none of these solutions, right or wrong, will solve the two problems.

"When talking about diversity in the world, it seems like interracial dating is still extremely taboo in some places," Charce Holloway, one of the organizers of the event, said. "We wanted to do something to spark some discussion among students about the issue of interracial dating.

While those behind the event were unsure how much interest would be generated for the forum, the response was excellent. About 80 applicants filled out surveys to participate, and the reaction was very positive.

After people were given dates, they were informed of where they were going. Most of the lucky couples went on classic first dates like dinner or a movie, with the not as conventional addition of a camera capturing their date on film. The participants were taped before, during and after their dates, and it is this footage that will be viewed by the daters and the audience at the Forum.

"Hopefully, we'll have a good audience and we can have a really great discussion about issues related to interracial dating on campus and elsewhere," Holloway said.

Last year's forum focused on a perspective all students identified with—the effects of music on relationships. This year's president, Teresa Wyatt, wanted to keep with the tradition of finding a familiar topic to bring students together, but had an idea for a new twist.

"I wanted to challenge the Notre Dame student body to break out of their comfort zones and scrutinize their own social and familial relationships. My idea is for students to walk away from this event and learn something valuable," Wyatt said.

While there are plenty of complaints about gender relations or lack of diversity, as well as speculation on the most appropriate and effective cures for these problems, Wyatt thinks this is a unique approach because it exposes students to an opportunity to actually experience topics of discussion.

"The philosophy of learning which I subscribe to is Haggard's approach. He says learning is a change in behavior as a result of experience. What better way to learn about another race, ethnicity or culture than to share the experience of dating?" Wyatt said.

While those who attend the forum will be entertained in the way that only reality television can entertain, there is a deeper message in this than in "Joe Millionaire" or "The Bachelorette." It is not only fun, but serves a more educational purpose as well.

"I hope that those involved who attend this forum realize that discrimination does not solely harm one group, but inadvertently, it affects all of us," Wyatt said. "Starting with each one of us, a great change can occur on this campus, as well as the world."

Contact Christie Bolen at cbloten@nd.edu
INDIANAPOLIS

Travis Diener was the hero as Marquette’s third scoring spurt of the game wrapped up the final 8.4 seconds of regulation play, giving the second-seeded Golden Eagles a 72-68 win over No. 14 Holy Cross Thursday in the Midwest Regional of the NCAA Tournament.

"I don’t have a fault with that game," said Marquette coach Tom Crean. "I think we handled the pressure well, and we got the stops we needed in the end." The win sends Marquette (25-8) to the Sweet 16, where it will face No. 1 seed Arizona in the second round.

The loss by Holy Cross (22-10) could have been the end of an era for the Crusaders, who were led by 20-year-old senior forward Richard Egan, who scored 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as ninth-seeded Holy Cross beat Marquette 72-68 in the Midwest Regional of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in seven years.

"I got a few looks and I took them," Diener said. "It’s like I was looking to take bad shots. They just came." Holy Cross, seeded 14th, hasn’t won an NCAA game since 1996, but for the third straight year it almost pulled off an upset of a higher-ranked team. The Crusaders lost to Kentucky in 2001 by four points and to Kansas last year by 11.

"Our problem is we can’t get over that first-game hump," Holy Cross coach Ralph Willard said. "I know there could be a dangerous team after the first round."

Third-seeded Marquette (24-5) won an opening-round game for the first time since 1996.

Diener, a 6-foot-1 guard who scored 17 points in the first half, gave Marquette the lead for good with her third 3-pointer with 4:30 remaining.

Diener spent most of the season behind freshman guards Wade and Robert Jackson, who only scored four points. Diener was so undervalued by his split screens, though, it wasn’t noticeable on the floor.

"I had a couple of days of rest and it felt good last night," Diener said. "I think the rest was the best thing for it."

He bested his previous high of 21 and went 6-for-7 from the 3-point line.

California 76, N.C. State 74

When an Englishman makes a bet on the outcome of a soccer game, not the basketball courts of the NCAA Tournament.

Consider California freshman Richard Midgley a hops poineer.

Midgley, who grew up in Burgess Hill, England, switched to hoops when he scored 17 points in the first 3-pointer with 3.9 seconds left in overtime Thursday, sending the Golden Bears to a 76-74 win over North Carolina State in the first round of the East Regional.

The Wolfpack had just taken a 74-72 lead on a Scooter Sherrill’s 3-pointer with 12.8 seconds left when Midgley took a pass from Joe Shipp. With the calm of a soccer forward in a World Cup shootout, Midgley buried the shot in the net.

"Guys used to pick on me [in England] because I played soccer, not soccer," said Midgley, who played two years of high school basketball in California. "But I picked the right sport, I guess.

 Ninth-seeded North Carolina State had a chance to win the game, but Sherrill missed from the top of the key as time expired.

California (22-8), a No. 8 seed, advanced to the second round for the second straight year and will play No. 1 seed Oklahoma Saturday.

Midgley could have been remembered for two potential game-winning layups that were blocked in the final minute of regulation, when he dared the drive late.

"If I’m wide open, I’m confident I’m going to hit my shot," said Midgley, who finished with 11 points. "I wasn’t worried about what happened earlier in the game.

Neither was Shipp, who led California with a game-high 24 points but turned to Midgley when the game was on the line.

Shipp, who scored California’s first four points in overtime, drew two Wolfpack defenders with a move inside before kicking it back out to Midgley.

"He’ll get a lot of attention," coach Ben Braun said. "But no one is going toguard him.

"I tried to create and go to the basket," Shipp said. "I looked up and Richard was wide open and made the play.

Gonzaga 74, Cincinnati 69

Bob Huggins was sent packing, as was his team. Gonzaga, meanwhile, is back to its old tricks at tourney time.

Ronny Turiaf had 22 points, including a school-record-tying 16 of his team’s 21 free throws, and 19 rebounds as ninth-seeded Gonzaga held off late-charging Cincinnati 74-69 Thursday in the West Regional.

"It was a game for the dramatic," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "They made a run at us Wednesday and we hung on."

All Bulldogs like being underdogs at the NCAA’s, even if this time they were playing a team ranked one seed higher.

Gonzaga—which made runs of 11 points in both half and to the round of eight in 1999 and round of 16 in 2000—had one first-round loss in the past five tournaments. That came in 1999, when Gonzaga was seeded sixth and was bounced by No. 11 Virginia.

The Bulldogs face top-seeded Arizona in the second round Saturday.

Huggins, meanwhile, wasn’t at courtside for Thursday’s close finish.

"Coach is everything to us," said T.J. Parker, whose 10 points led the Bearcats. "That’s his team, that’s his stuff, too, because he would have fired us up.

Connecticut 58, BYU 53

BYU was rallying when Emeka Okafor swatted Rafael Araujo’s shot away.

Okafor made sure the Huskies’ last two shots won’t bust any one’s brackets—they’re going home early instead.

Okafor controlled both ends of the court, scoring 20 points and blocking 10 shots as fifth-seeded Connecticut buried Holy Cross’ 6-25 53-26 victory over No. 12 BYU in the first round of the South Regional.

"We outrebounded the Huskies coach Jim Calhoun said. "We’re the best defensive player in the country. He alters games. He alters everything."

The loss by BYU (23-9) avoids a potentially embarrassing upset loss at No. 8 Arizona in the second round of the NCAA tourney.

"I thought we could have had a 3-pointer on the left side of the rim at the buzzer," said BYU coach Dave Rose.

Missouri 72, St. Johns 71

Missouri’s Rickey Wright did the driving during the first round of NCAA action Thursday at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

Wright drove out of bounds after losing a few inches of the rim, but he did, not the way he planned.

Fouling was fouled on the drive and hit one of two free throws with 4.1 seconds left and as the sixth-seeded Tigers survived an upset scare Thursday with a 72-71 victory over Southern Illinois in the Midwest Regional.

Kent Williams’ potential game-winner from the left wing glanced off the rim of the basket at the buzzer.

The 11th-seeded Salukis (24-7) used almost the same script they did a year ago when they reached the round of 16. They stayed close throughout and won for a chance at another upset.

The Salukis tied it 71 on Jermaine Dearman’s layup with 25.2 seconds left. But Dearman was called for a blocking foul on Paulding, who called the Salukis believed questionable.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the: Notre Dame office, 424 South Driving Hall. Deadlines for daily-classifieds are 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $3 per column per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without inquiring.

ADPTION ALTERNATIVE

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during the first round of NCAA action Thursday at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

Wright was a 6-2, 175-pound point guard whose system in basketball. His style was based on defense, his ability to get the ball and hit open shooters with crisp passes—qualities that served him well in the Salukis’ 72-71 upset of the top-seeded Bears Thursday.

The Bears’ 6-10, 245-pound junior center Brian Mooring, who is second on the team in scoring and rebounding, said Wright was "the best player in the country. He can do anything; he does anything."
Roy gets 4th shutout of season as Avs defeat Sharks

Associated Press

DENVER

Even without his usual practice, Patrick Roy was perfect.
Roy made 29 saves in his fourth shutout of the season, and 65th of his career, as the Colorado Avalanche beat the San Jose Sharks 2-0 Thursday night in a game postponed 24 hours because of a heavy snowstorm.

"We didn't skate (Wednesday) and then nothing this morning," Roy said. "I just wanted to have a good warmup and make sure I was ready for the start of the game. Making a few good saves at the beginning of the game put me in a groove."

Bates Battaglini and Adam Foote scored for the Avalanche, who snapped a two-game losing streak — their longest since mid-January.

"It was just two points for us," Foote said: "Having this delay, we were kind of worried how it would start. We hung in there, and Patty made some big saves for us."

Avalanche coach Tony Granato said his team "lost a couple of games over the weekend, and we wanted to go back on the ice as fast as we could to get back in the win column. The bottom line is our goals played well for us like he has night after night, and we were able to capitalize on the power play and find a way to get two points."

The game was postponed from Wednesday because of a 30-inch snowstorm that paralyzed the Denver area and much of Colorado.

The Sharks agreed to the postponement even though it meant they'll play three games in three nights. They have home games Friday and Saturday against Boston and Anaheim.

Mikka Kiprusoff, starting in goal, got the best of Avalanche left wing Robert Svehla before being replaced by Vesa Toskala late in the game.

Sharks coach Ron Wilson said Kiprusoff "sprained his right knee at some point in the third period, and he couldn't stand. Nabokov practiced this morning and is ready to come back. We'll play all three goalies in the three games."

Blue Jackets 4, Maple Leafs 3

Tyler Wright will not win a hockey skills competition, nor will he ever win style points for his play on the ice. About all he does is get things done.

Wright scored his third goal of the game off a give-and-go from Ray Whitney with 43.8 seconds left in overtime as the Columbus Blue Jackets beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-3 on Thursday night.

"There's nothing really pretty to my game," Wright said after his third career hat trick and second of the season. "I just go to the net and shoot the puck."

Wright, who hadn't scored in 14 games, has a career-high 18 goals this season. Rick Nash also scored for Columbus.

MatteoSELLIN, Owen Nolan and Aki Berg had goals for Toronto, which is 2-0-2-2 in its last six.

Much of the Maple Leafs' problems stemmed from their own blue line.

"We had a two-goal lead tonight and we gave it up because of penalty situations. We can't continue to have that happen," Toronto coach Pat Quinn said.

Presssed on what he thought caused the decline, Glaciangrowed angry.

"I'm just getting in trouble if I answer the way I feel. I don't intend to pay a fine again," he said.

Wright carried the puck over the blue line until defenseman Robert Szulc confronted him. Wright dropped a pass for Whitney, who split two defenders and fed Wright who was swooping in from the left corner. Wright used his skate to steady the puck and then beat Trevor Kidd to the glove side inside the far post.

"How good was Tyler Wright tonight?" Columbus interim coach Doug MacLean said. "If Tyler wouldn't have scored a goal, he still would have had a great game. He battled and made tremendous plays."

The Leafs forced overtime when Nolan tipped Sundin's shot with 1:12 left in regulation. Nolan, acquired from San Jose on March 5, has scored six goals and has two assists in six games with the Leafs.

Toronto was making its first appearance ever in Columbus.

Islanders 6, Canadiens 3

Alexei Yashin's biggest game of the season followed up the New York Islanders' drive to the playoffs — and all but ended Montreal's.

Yashin scored twice and tied a career high with five assists for a season-high nine points in his previous 22 games. Yashin set up goals by Arron Asham and Oleg Kvasha before scoring his 17th and 18th goals of the season in the second. He set up Dave Scatchard's scoring his 17th and 18th goals of the season in the second. He set up Dave Scatchard's winner with 2:22 left in the game.

The Leafs forced overtime when Nolan tipped Sundin's shot with 1:12 left in regulation. Nolan, acquired from San Jose on March 5, has scored six goals and has two assists in six games with the Leafs.

Toronto was making its first appearance ever in Columbus.

Jason Blake also scored and Garth Snow made 32 saves for New York, which got its 75th point to tie Boston for seventh in the East.

Donald Audette, Andreas Dackell and Jason Ward scored for Montreal, which lost its third straight and is winless in its last seven home games.

The Canadiens recognized that their playoff hopes all but disappeared with the loss as they fell eight points behind the Islanders with seven games — one less than New York — left. "It's not impossible, but in a way it is," Canadians captain Sakko Koivu said.

A significant portion of the sold-out Bell Centre crowd of 21,273 boomed throughout the singing of the Star Spangled Banner before the game.

"I'm sure there are a lot of people against the war, but some things people can't control," the 25-year-old Yashin said. "They were probably showing what they feel about it.

His American teammates had a much more emotional reaction to the anti-war display.

"Obviously, it's rather upsetting," said forward Mark Parrish, a native of Bloomington, Minn. "I came to the game pretty pumped up but once I heard that, that really got me going so I guess I can maybe thank them a little bit for getting me pumped up."

Flyers 4, Penguins 2

John LeClair scored twice, including the go-ahead goal in the third period, as the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-2 on Thursday night and moved into a first-place tie in the Atlantic Division.

Eric Desjardins and Tony Amonite also scored and Mark Recchi had three assists for Philadelphia, which is tied with New Jersey with 93 points.

Mathias Johannson had a goal and an assist and Rico Fata also scored for the Penguins, who blew a 2-0 lead and fell to 0-13-1 in their last 14. It is Pittsburgh's longest winless streak since its franchise-record 0-17-1 slump in the 1982-83 season.

LeClair scored a 2-2 tie at 7:36 of the third period when he fought off a check and one-timed the puck past Sebastien Caron. Amonite made it 4-2 when he scored on a deflection with 2:40 left.

Fata scored on the Penguins' first shot, 13 seconds in, when he beat Robert Esche with a wrist shot. Esche survived a shaky start to make 21 saves.

Johannson, who assisted on Fata's goal, made 27 saves. He scored on a power play in a wild scramble in front of the net.

Desjardins got the Flyers back to within one goal at 9:43 of the period with a one-timer from the right circle after Recchi threaded a pass from the back boards.

LeClair tied it at 12:01 of the second when he came from the side that slid through the legs of Caron, who faced 32 shots.
**MLB**

Washington, Portland attempt to lure Expos

*Associated Press*

PHOENIX

Washington offered to pay between 50 and 80 percent of the cost as a ballpark for the Montreal Expos, and Portland said government financing would cover $300 million for a stadium if the team moved to the Pacific Northwest.

The District of Columbia and Portland made their presentations Thursday to baseball's committee on the future of the Expos, who were bought before the 2002 season by the other 29 clubs.

Anthony Williams and legislation to fund a ballpark what it would future on the Expos. The funding, which would include a tax on the salaries of players.

All of the top government officials originally scheduled to attend canceled their travel plans, citing the war in Iraq. But Washington Mayor Tony Williams and D.C. Council chairman Linda Cropp addressed the committee by video teleconference.

Bob DuPuy, baseball's No. 2 official, said the committee kept to its schedule to "get it done as rapidly as we can." DuPuy declined to discuss details of the presentations citing the arrival of the Northern Virginia delegation Friday.

"Both groups were thorough and very well prepared," DuPuy said, adding that the committee will review the presentations and consult with baseball commissioner Bud Selig.

Eric Price, Washington's deputy mayor for economic development, and City Councilman Harold Brazil led their delegation at Bank One Ballpark. Price said legislators would attempt to enact legislation to fund a ballpark by July, baseball's target for making a decision on the future on the Expos. The District also would need Congressional approval for funding, which would include a tax on the salaries of players.

"We walked through a legislative process for them," Price said. "They did ask about that and we told them what it would be.

Washington officials presented research that a team in the nation's capital would not hurt the Baltimore Orioles, who play at Camden Yards, about 40 miles away. They also discussed potential attendance and sales, and they stressed the draw of the city's cultural and nightlife, and its extensive transportation system.

"We think we showed there is a minimum impact on the Orioles, both from a fan base and a corporate base," Price said.

Bobby Goldwater, chairman of the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission, said after the 2 1/2-hour presentations that Washington officials hoped the committee would tour five potential sites for the ballpark Washington hopes to build a 450 million stadium, and two of the potential sites are within blocks of the U.S.

Capitol.

Portland's David Kahn, leader of the Oregon Stadium Campaign, said his group presented details of about seven ballpark sites and discussed financing.

"I think we all understand they have to be somewhat noncommittal about it," Kahn said.

David Logsdon, Portland's spectator facilities manager, presented a draft financing plan for a $350 million ballpark that would be built with $150 million from the state and $150 million from the city, which would raise its money through a hotel and ticket tax and a charter seat program.

"No public votes would be required," Logsdon said.

**FENCING**

Opinions on delays differ

*By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.

It turned out the first opponent for Notre Dame wasn't defending national champion Penn State or regional rival Ohio State, but Old Man Winter.

When the Irish did get to Colorado Springs, Colo., Wednesday, they found the 2003 NCAA Championships pushed back by the weekend.

And that could be a good thing, or a bad thing, depending on whom you ask.

"I think it's a good thing because the coaches believe it will relieve some stress for the girls," senior foil captain Oren Debic said. "It will take some pressure off them to wrap it up after the first two days."

"I'm not happy with it at all," junior saber Maggie Jordan said. "After this year we would have competed on Thursday and Friday, we would have known where we stood. Now we will just be in a gray area all day and it could throw off some girls."

"It will add pressure because you don't know how hard you have to fence." The original schedule called for the mens competition to take place Thursday and Friday with the women to follow Saturday and Sunday. With the rescheduling, the competition has been squeezed into two days.

The first four rounds of both the mens and womens bouts will be Saturday with the last three rounds, individual championships and crowning of the national champion Sunday.

A blizzard, called the worst to hit the area since 1913, dumped up to five feet of snow on the area Monday and Tuesday and shut down the Air Force Academy and Denver Airport.

The mens team left South Bend Tuesday afternoon and flew into St. Louis. Their flight into Colorado Springs was cancelled, forcing the Irish to spend the night in the Gateway City. To get into Colorado Springs, the Irish flew to Dallas Wednesday to get a connecting flight.

Meanwhile, the womens team left Wednesday, flew into St. Louis and had no problems flying into Colorado Springs.

Notre Dame and Ohio State are the only schools to qualify 12 fencers for the NCAA Championships. Defending champion Penn State qualified 11.

If the Irish win the title, it will be their first championship since 1994.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

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**MEET YOUR MAJOR MEETING**

on MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2003

4:00 TO 5:00 P.M.

204 O'SHAUGHNESSY

Are you considering majoring in Political Science?

Then don't miss the

**FENCING**

Opinions on delays differ
MENS LACROSSE

No. 11 Irish hit the road

Special to The Observer

The men's lacrosse team will look to snap a two-game losing streak with two games this weekend in Hempstead, N.Y. The Irish, currently 3-2 on the season, are ranked 11th in both the USILA and Warrior/Inside Lacrosse polls this week.

Notre Dame will be facing its sixth straight ranked opponent when the Irish meet the Pride Friday. Notre Dame has played one of the nation's toughest schedules as the Irish have played five ranked opponents to date. Hofstra enters Friday's contest with a 2-2 record and is ranked, while Hartford is 2-1. Both the Pride and Hawks are members of the America East Conference.

After starting the season 3-0, Notre Dame has dropped its last two contests. Notre Dame's most recent setback was a 9-8 loss at home to Loyola. Notre Dame has posted two road wins this season — at Penn State 10-9 and at North Carolina 13-10.

The Irish are led in scoring by senior Patrick Walsh who has scored 11 goals. Another rookie, Matt Karweck is also among the team's scoring leaders with six goals and one assist.

Notre Dame's defensive unit has been solid this season with a 9.00 goals against average. The Irish boast great experience with two-year starter Eric Simon and Mickey Blum.

Another rookie, Matt Karweck is also the ball. He played in just three games last season because of an injury. He has played all but two of a possible 300 minutes and owns a 9.00 goals against average and .669 save percentage.

Hofstra opens up the season with a 10-4 loss against Loyola in the season opener and then came back to post wins over Binghamton 15-5 and Cornell 13-5.

Hartford owns a 2-1 record following a 18-5 loss to Princeton. The Pride is tied for 15th in this week's USILA poll and is ranked 14th in the Warrior/Inside Lacrosse ranking. Hofstra opened up the season with a 10-4 loss against Loyola in the season opener and then came back to post wins over Binghamton 15-5 and Cornell 13-5.

Hartford owns a 2-1 record following its most recent outing as it posted a 15-9 victory over Holy Cross. The Hawks earned a 6-5 win against Marist in their season opener and dropped a 9-3 decision on the road at Harvard.

The Irish will face off against the Pride Friday at 7:30 p.m. and then will meet the Hartford Hawks on Sunday at noon.

This Weekend in the Department of Music
Thursday/Friday March 20-21: Notre Dame Glee Club Daniel Stowe, director 8:00 pm, Washington Hall Thursday's concert free, Friday's concert $3
Saturday, March 22, 2003 A Student Recital Mary Catherine Lev, organ 8:00 pm, Basilica of the Sacred Heart Free and open to the public
Sunday, March 23, 2003 NEXUS Percussion Ensemble 2:00 pm, Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum of Art Tickets (53-10) available LaFortune Box Office, 1-8128
Monday, March 24, 2003 A Graduate Degree Recital Ivana Sabanovlova 8:00 pm, Basilica of the Sacred Heart Free and Open to the Public
Call 631-6201 or visit www.nd.edu/~congoers for more info!

Women's Swimming and Diving

Irish send competitors to NCAA Championships

Special to The Observer

The Notre Dame women's swimming and diving team began competition at the 2003 NCAA Championship meet in Auburn, Ala., Thursday afternoon.

Competing in preliminary races were juniors Lisa Garcia and Marie Labosky in the 200 individual medley and junior Danielle Hulick in the 50-meter freestyle.

Garcia and Labosky were competing for the second year in a row in the NCAA Championships in the 200-meter individual medley.

Garcia bested her finish in last year's meet of a time of 2:02.21, finishing in a time of 2:01.58 and placing 22nd. Labosky finished in a time of 2:03.23 and finished in 39th place.

Hulick, finished 40th in the 50-meter freestyle and finished in a time of 23.35.

Friday, Labosky will hit the pool again in the 400-meter individual medley, while Garcia will compete in the 100-meter butterfly.

In addition, Friday will also see Hulick swim in the 100-meter backstroke and junior Meghan Perry-Eaton on the three-meter board.

On the last day of competition, Saturday, Hulick and Labosky will swim in the 200-meter backstroke and Garcia will compete in the 200-meter butterfly.

Interested in writing Bookstore Basketball for The Observer? Call Joe at 1-4543.

Bruno's Pizza North

New menu items:

- Hot Wings
- Poppers
- Cheese Sticks
- Chicken Fingers
- BBQ Chicken Pizza

Pizza Special!

18" Cheese Pizza for $10.00 + tax ($1 each additional topping) if there is an NCAA tournament game on television.
**NBA**

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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**NFL**

Curtis Conway is presented with a Jets jersey by quarterback Chad Pennington and coach Herman Edwards at a press conference Thursday at the Jets facility at Hofstra. The wide receiver was signed to a three-year deal.

N.Y. Jets replace Coles with Conway

The New York Jets want Curtis Conway simply to be himself. He doesn't have to replace Lavarranues Coles.

"I like tough guys," Jets coach Herman Edwards said as he introduced the wide receiver Thursday. "You can't be a sissy. You've got to be a tough guy to do the things we require our receivers to do. He'll do a lot of good things for us."

The timing of the signing made it difficult not to view Conway as the Jets' replacement for Coles. It came a day after the team announced it would not match the $13 million signing bonus and $35 million contract Coles got from the Washington Redskins. Conway came considerably cheaper, a three-year deal that could pay as much as $7.5 million with a signing bonus of $1.2 million.

"I'm going to be me," Conway said. "I came in to do my job. I'm going to give you 100 percent of Curtis Conway. We all know this is a business. I'm blessed to be here in a great situation with a play-off team."

Pennington becomes the ninth quarterback for Conway in 11 seasons. He spent seven years with Chicago after being the Bears' No. 1 draft choice in 1993. Then he moved to the Chargers for three years.

"It's routine," Conway said. "I never had the luxury of the quarterback twice. Over the years, I'm used to it. You've still got to go out and make plays. It doesn't matter who's throwing the football."

That revolving door figures to end with the Jets, who are committed to Pennington as their long term quarterback.

---

**College Basketball**

Opening Round NCAA Tournament

Kentucky vs. IUPUI 12:30 p.m., CBS
LSU vs. Purdue 2:30 p.m., CBS
MSU vs. Colorado 7:10 p.m., CBS
Indiana vs. Alabama 9:30 p.m., CBS

**NBA**

Timberwolves at Spurs 8 p.m., ESPN
Wizards at Suns 10:30 p.m., ESPN

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**IN BRIEF**

Artest suspended again for flagrant foul

Another flagrant foul, another suspension for Ron Artest.

The Indiana Pacers' swingman was banned for two games Thursday, raising the total of games he's been suspended this season to 10.

This time, the league upheld a flagrant foul by Artest on Justise Winslow of Miami after a loss in New York.

As in the case of his suspension earlier this season, the league cited Artest for exceeding the five-point limit on flagrant-foul points.

Artest has been out on bail since pleading not guilty to a charge of simple assault on a police officer for smacking a framed picture of himself.

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Defendants sentenced in betting scandal

The mastermind behind the betting scam that nearly produced a $3 million payoff at the Breeders' Cup ended up with the least amount of jail time possible — a year and a day.

Computer programmer Chris Harn, who worked for a company that processes horse racing bets, could have received more than seven years in prison if he had not helped authorities, Judge Charles Brrient said.

Co-defendant Glen DaSilva was sentenced to two years in prison and Derrick Davis received three years.

The former fraternity brothers tried to pull off the Pick Six betting coup during the Breeders' Cup last October. The three men, all 29, have received more than seven years in prison if he had not helped authorities, Judge Charles Brrient said.

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Ann Arbor lake conditions move races to South Bend

Women’s Rowing

The Notre Dame women’s rowing team will continue the spring season Saturday at home against Western Michigan. The races will take place in South Bend on the St. Joseph’s River instead of at the University of Michigan as originally scheduled due to poor lake conditions in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Irish head coach Martin Stone is still working on his crews for Saturday as they will be race-time decisions.

Notre Dame is looking to build upon its success during the 2002 season in which the varsity eight qualified for the NCAA Championships, hoping the whole team will be invited to the 2003 regatta.

Notre Dame took advantage of the fall season by trying some new boating combinations and getting the younger rowers some experience in preparation for the spring season.

The Irish opened the fall season by taking two of the top four positions in the varsity eight race at the Milwaukee River Challenge in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Notre Dame then returned home for a two-day regatta versus Kansas where the Irish took 1-2-3 in the varsity eight race. The Irish continued their successful fall season at the Head of the Ohio as they won two races, including the open four and the club four. The Irish also were fourth in the open eight and took third through sixth places in the varsity four race.

The Irish varsity team closed out its fall season by taking third, fifth and seventh in the open eight race, while the fours were first and third at the Head of the Rock Regatta in Rockford, Ill.

The next week Notre Dame’s varsity four and varsity pair placing third, while the novice four was fourth at the Head of the Grand in East Lansing, Mich.

Irish enter second half of season, prepare for Big East

*Western Michigan hosts Notre Dame in doubleheader*

Special to The Observer

The Irish softball team returns to the Midwest this weekend to begin the second part of its season. The Irish have completed their preseason tournament schedule with an 8-9 record and will now focus on regional matchups and the Big East Conference schedule. Notre Dame will take on Western Michigan for a twin bill Sunday starting at noon at Western Michigan in Kalamazoo with a doubleheader at noon and 2 p.m.

Notre Dame and Western Michigan will be meeting for the 15th and 17th time on Sunday. The Irish lead the all-time series 11-4 and have won four in a row over the Broncos. The last meeting occurred in 2001, an 8-0 victory by the Irish at Ivy Field.

Western Michigan is also 8-9 this season and boasts wins over Illinois and Virginia Tech. The Broncos are hitting .302, as a team, led by Kelly Barnett’s .413 average and Mario McCarthy’s .320 average and 13 RBIs. The Broncos’ pitching staff is led by Leah Seffernick who owns a 6-2 record and 2.58 ERA, but five different pitchers have seen action this season.

The Irish are hoping to follow the pattern of play established last season. Notre Dame returned from Spring Break last year with an 8-12 record, but rebounded to win 36 of its final 41 games and finish one game away from the Women’s College World Series.

The Irish also won 14 games in a row after coming back to the Midwest after break in 2002. This season, Notre Dame brings an 8-9 record into the second part of its season.

The Irish begin Big East Conference competition on Saturday, March 29, against Pittsburgh.

Not only did the weather play havoc with last weekend’s Klassic, cancelling the last two days of competition, but the team was struck by a strep throat virus last week as well.

At one time, six Irish players were affected by the illness, forcing first-team all-Big East honorees Andrea Leman, Steffany Stenglein and Megan Ciolli out of the line up at different times.

The cancellation of the Klassic tournament games allowed the team to get back early from the West Coast and get in a full week of rest before taking on Western Michigan this Sunday.

The Irish square off with the Broncos for a twin bill Sunday starting at noon at Western Michigan’s Fran Elder Field in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Irish sophomore Megan Ciolli takes a swing during a game last season at Ivy Field. Notre Dame (8-9) will face Western Michigan (8-9) in a doubleheader Sunday.
Campus Ministry and the Center for Social Concerns, in conjunction with the Residence Halls, encourage all to join us in a traveling Rosary for Peace

Beginning Monday in the Sorin Hall chapel at 9:00 p.m.

to be continued around campus each weeknight @ 9:00 p.m.
until the end of the war in Iraq.

Next Week's schedule:
Tuesday: Walsh Hall
Wednesday: Badin Hall
Thursday: Howard Hall
Friday: Morrissey Hall

For more info or to help with the Rosary for Peace, contact Kelly Rich @ 1-3390.
ND WOMENS TENNIS

Irish commence 4-match homestand as season nears end

FILE Observer
Irish senior Katie Cunha and junior Alicia Salas play doubles together during a match last fall at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. No. 27 Notre Dame hosts unranked Iowa today.

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sports Writer

With the end of the regular season approaching, the Irish begin a four-match homestand today that is full of tough competition.

Today's match against Iowa will likely be the easiest of the next four for the Irish, but Notre Dame, 5-2, will then host No. 13 William & Mary Sunday, No. 28 Michigan Tuesday and No. 54 Purdue Wednesday.

After their spring break loss to No. 7 Arizona State in their first outdoor match of the season, the Irish dropped from 15th to 27th in the rankings. The Irish began the week with a 4-3 win over No. 49 Brigham Young.

Notre Dame is the next stop on a tough schedule for Iowa. The Hawkeyes have already seen a good amount of tough competition — competition that it has not been able to handle.

Currently 3-7 on the season and 1-2 in the Big Ten, the Hawkeyes have seen defeat at the hands of No. 11 Vanderbilt, No. 15 South Alabama, No. 19 Illinois and No. 26 Georgia Tech.

Iowa's three wins have come against non-ranked teams Purdue, Marquette and most recently, New Orleans last Sunday.

Sunday's competition is likely to be more formidable for the Irish as they face William & Mary. Each of William & Mary's losses came to teams ranked among the top eight nationally: No. 2 Stanford, No. 3 California, No. 7 Arizona State and No. 8 North Carolina.

Contact Joe Lindsley at jlindsle@nd.edu

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Happy 21st Birthday, Justin!

Love,

Dad, Mom & Rachel
Irish
continued from page 28
team," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "A few things happened that didn’t go our way, but we stepped up and made big plays.

Irish center Torin Francis had a phe­ nomenal game by scoring a career-high 23 points on 9-of-14 shooting and pull­ ing down 14 rebounds. He also hit 9-of­10 free throws for the Irish.

But it was Thomas, who played high school at Pike in Indianapolis that made the biggest plays. "I needed it the most. The 6-foot-1 guard became the floor general for the Irish against the Panthers, especially after Carroll went down with a turned ankle.

"Fortunately, for us I had a good game and I made some good plays down there near the end and put us in a position to win," Thomas said. "I felt that the leadership needed to be picked up, and I was out there talking to guys, and that’s what it took for us to win the game.

After the game, Brey was very pleased with his point guard’s play, especially his aggressiveness.

"That was a great example, in the second half, of riding a streak," Brey said. "If you take away his dangerousness and his aggressiveness, we’re not as good of a basketball team.

The Irish win was plagued by turnovers and foul trouble. But the Irish had 20 turnovers against the Panther’s press, and the teams also combined for 44 fouls in the game.

The Panthers jumped out to a 12-7 lead before halftime at 12:17 and 9.26 mark of the first half. Notre Dame, began to dig themselves out of Wisconsin-Milwaukee by taking a 29-22 lead on a Thomas jumper with 1:00 remaining in the half.

But the Panthers’ tied the game at half when they jumped. "I thought they were key, and we did not do a

"When you do that without your star," Thomas said, "it says a lot about who you are, and your team." As everyone else on Notre Dame’s team played, the Irish wouldn’t be playing Saturday were not for the efforts of Torin Francis.

Normally, freshmen enter their first NCAA Tournament game with a deer-in-the-headlights look. But that wasn’t the rest of the Irish who appeared to waver early under the glare of a tournament spotlight, while the freshman took early.

So Francis started the game by scoring his team’s first five points. He finished it by ripping the ball out of Cornell’s hands for an86-84 game-winning layup with 12.9 seconds left.

"I didn’t do it inten­tionally, I was just going after the ball!" the soft-spoken freshman grinned. "But it’s something just happened. I just wanted to win.

In between his first three baskets and his season-saving final one, Francis played 37 minutes, grabbed 14 rebounds, made 9-of-10 free throws and had two blocks.

But that doesn’t mean we couldn’t win if everything was new, "We were doing," Thomas said. "But since we got away from the Big East, we have a new mindset. It’s a new game. Guys had the desire and will to win the game.

Then again, maybe the signs of Notre Dame’s success were obvious when the team walked on the court. The players had dressed, they wore brand-new jerseys, and the gold uniforms for the first time all season.

"We weren’t stereotypical win," Jones said. "I’m not going to argue and break it down because we won the game. Guys had the desire and will to win the game.

Then again, maybe the signs of Notre Dame’s success were obvious when the team walked on the court. The players had dressed, they wore brand-new jerseys, and the gold uniforms for the first time all season.

The opinions of this column are those of the author and not necessarily The Observer.

The Irish simply lack the depth they’ve had in previous seasons, but that doesn’t mean they don’t have options. Jones and Quinn have been reliable all season long, and the Irish will badly need them come Saturday.

One of the deepest teams the Irish have had all year, the Illini have 10 people who started at one time or the other during the season. They can generate points, too.

The Irish start two freshmen, two sophomores, but the Illini have a cast of reliable veterans off the bench. And if the Illini live up to the national indication, Illinois might have more fans than the Irish.

On paper, the Illini appear to have an advantage over the Irish.

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On paper, the Illini appear to have an advantage over the Irish.
By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

They won their first four games before getting blown out by DePaul. They rolled off three more victories until Tennessee drilled them by 16.

Then there was the month of January where they lost all four games, the Irish have had their share of highs and lows. But that's exactly why the Irish may be a dangerous team in the NCAA Tournament. When games get tough, the Irish struggle, but she felt a struggle, things changed. Scoring, so it wasn't something get Alicia more

Ratay talked about it. All that matters is that mid-season, she felt a struggle, things changed. Scoring, so it wasn't something get Alicia more

McGraw said. "Everybody's been in that situation. We've been in some tough environs in big games, I think we're battle-tested, and don't expect us to play any differently in this situation."

Muffet McGraw
Irish head coach

Arizona's First Opponent Isn't a Perennial Tournament Team

That's why the Irish enter this year's tournament in a different position than they're used to. They're not expected to get past the first round, let alone win a national title. They're not feared by opponents like they were a couple years ago.

But Notre Dame is actually in good shape for this tournament. Nothing's going to jitters. They're the underdog and they've got nothing to lose.

The experiences of an up-and-down season should help the Irish at just the right time.

Contact Joe Hettler at
jhattler@nd.edu

Arizona is supposed to win and could be looking ahead. It's a big game for both Arizona and the Wildcats could be named to a matchup with Kansas State in the second round. The Irish are battle-tested from a difficult regular season.

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19th-ranked Irish travel to Villanova for Big East opener

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

After a spring break trip to Florida that saw the Irish win six out of seven games over an eight-day period, the Irish hope to carry over that momentum to their Big East Conference opener this weekend at Villanova.

"We're primed and ready to get the Big East season off and running," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "These first 14 games of the season I think we've learned an awful lot about our team, and I feel really good about our ball club right now."

The 19th-ranked Irish (9-5) got in a bit of a groove in Florida with the opportunity to play nearly every day over break, and they hope to use that confidence in their three-game series with the Wildcats (4-8), starting with a doubleheader Saturday and ending with the third game on Sunday.

"Baseball is the kind of sport that you need to be playing a lot in order to get your timing down and your instincts and reactions," Mainieri said. "When you play seven games in eight days like we did, it really gives you a chance to learn how to play the game, and it gives you a chance for confidence because you realize that every day you have a chance to win. There will be another opportunity coming up just around the corner."

After a sluggish start in which the Irish went 3-4 against teams like No. 3 Arizona State, No. 13 Wake Forest and No. 15 Nebraska, the Irish played to a 6-1 record over break. Mainieri noticed his team's improvement throughout the week.

"I just felt that our team got a lot better as the week went on," Mainieri said. "By the time we played Navy the second time [last Friday], I thought that was our best game of the year. We pitched well, we played good defense, we swung the bat well, we hit with two strikes and we executed some things. Then we followed that up on Saturday against Creighton with another solid game."

Several Irish hitters were able to use the long span of games — at one point during the break the Irish played on six consecutive days — to find a groove at the plate.

Notre Dame's top hitter, second baseman Steve Sollmann, improved his season average to .249 by going 11-for-23 over the seven game span with six RBIs and seven runs scored.

Other Irish hitters that had a solid week at the plate were senior outfielder Kris Billmeyer who also went 11-for-23 to improve his average on the season to .361, sophomore infielder Matt Edwards who improved to .429 by going 11-for-23 over the seven game span with six RBIs and seven runs scored.

As a team, the Irish batted an impressive .307, while the Notre Dame pitching staff held opponents to a .185 average and posted a 2.37 staff ERA.

The main threat at the plate for the Wildcats will be centerfielder Chris Graziano. The senior is batting .382 on the season and was named Big East Player of the Week this week along with Notre Dame's Sollmann.

The leading hitter for Villanova so far for this season is junior infielder Danny Poydenis, who has started all 12 games for the Wildcats and is batting .405 for the season.

The three-game series between Notre Dame and Villanova begins at noon Saturday.

Contact Chris Federico at cfederic@nd.edu
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WHY IS IT THAT ON THE DAY YOU
WEAR THE PERFECT OUTFIT AND SPEND
TWO HOURS GETTING READY, THE
GIRLFRIENDS ARE NOT LISTENING.

CLARE O'BRIEN

HAPPY TOWN

SCHOOL

HAPPY TOWN

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SPORTS

Friday, March 21, 2003

MENS BASKETBALL

Staying alive, hanging tough

+ Thomas takes team on shoulders as Irish eek out first-round win

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

With senior guard Matt Carroll on the bench for most of the game with a sore ankle and foul trouble, Irish head coach Chris Thomas carried Notre Dame on his shoulders and made key plays all game against Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

A little luck didn’t hurt him or the Irish, either.

Playing in his hometown for the first time in his college career, Thomas scored 27 points, grabbed eight rebounds and added three assists.

With the game on the line, Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s Dylan Page missed a layup with two seconds remaining to help the Irish go on to a 70-69 victory in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Thursday night.

The fifth-seeded Irish face four seed Illinois in the second round earlier in the day.

“We’re thrilled to come away with a heart-dirt win over a very good team. I’m proud of our team on first-round win on the bench for most of the game with a sore ankle and foul Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

INDIANAPOLIS

Sports Writer

Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s Dylan Thomas takes the ball to the hoop against Notre Dame.

Freshman Torin Francis finishes a slam dunk during Notre Dame’s 70-69 victory over Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Thursday.

ND WOMENS BASKETBALL

Quiet Ratay lets her shooting do the talking

By KATIE McVOY
Senior Staff Writer

A basketball makes very little sound as it is released into the air. It makes almost no noise as it swishes through the net.

But any athlete can tell you the importance that nearly noiseless ball can make if it hits its mark. It can spell victory or it can spell defeat.

That kind of silence is not only heard on a basketball court.

Sometimes it’s found in the players.

One of Notre Dame’s most potent weapons makes very little noise when she steps on the court. She has little use for words before or after the game.

But on the basketball court, Notre Dame guard Alicia Ratay’s shot does all the talking for her.

“She’s just the best shooter in the country,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “She’s the best pure shooter out there, and she’s somebody teams have to focus on.”

Ratay, who leads the Irish in 3-point shots and is in the top five all-time scorers at Notre Dame, has one final chance to make those silent statements on the court.

“If [I’m] really excited,” Ratay said. “We think of the NCAA Tournament as a new season — a time to make a fresh start — and we want to come out strong and with a lot of confidence.”

The end of Ratay’s final regular season should give her the confidence she needs to make a mark in the final games of her college career.

With Notre Dame’s newly instituted triangle offense, Ratay didn’t get as many looks as she had in years past this season. The focus on getting the ball inside the paint to the post players did not highlight Ratay’s strength — the trey — and she struggled early on in the season.

“We had some young guards and we just weren’t as good getting her the ball,” McGraw said. “I think it was a combination of a lot of things, but we see RATAY/page 25 Irish senior Alicia Ratay shoots during the Pittsburgh game on Feb. 26 at the Joyce Center.

ND WOMENS BBALL

Notre Dame at Villanova
Saturday, noon

The 19th-ranked Irish begin Big East play against the Wildcats.

page 26

ND WOMENS ROWING

Michigan at Notre Dame
Saturday, all day

Michigan opens its spring season against the Irish.

page 21

ND SOFTBALL

Notre Dame at Western Michigan
Sunday, noon

The Irish return to the Midwest for a doubleheader with the Bronchos.

page 21

WOMENS BASEBALL

Notre Dame at Chicago State
Saturday, noon

The Irish open the Mid-American Conference slate.

page 16

FENCING

Notre Dame at NCAA Championships
Saturday, all day

Competition was pushed back until the weekend due to snow storms in Colorado.
IRISH INSIDER
Friday, March 21, 2003

DIFFERENT STYLES
SIMILAR RESULTS

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE HARKINS
and SHAWNA MONSON
The numbers are in:
The Irish are one of two teams to qualify the most fencers.
The biggest challenge will come from defending champ Penn State.

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

The numbers say the race for the national title should be between Notre Dame and Ohio State, but the Irish know who their real competitors are:

"I don't think Ohio State is going to be a problem. They are not as strong as all around," senior epeeist Green Debic said.

"Penn State has 11 top guys. It will be an advantage for us, but we need to do well." At this weekend's NCAA Fencing Championships, Notre Dame and Ohio State are the only schools in the country to qualify the maximum 12 fencers. Defending national champion Penn State qualified one less with 11. From past experience, however, it's the quality and not necessarily the quantity that matters.

"It is definitely an advantage, but Penn State has a solid group of 11. All of their 11 fencers are going to win a good number of bouts," senior epee captain Jan Viviani said. "They always manage to over-achieve, that is something we are going to achieve. They are stronger all-around. Having the 12 doesn't mean anything if the 12 aren't strong." It's helpful mentally, but they do have 11 fencers. Usually the weakest link can break down meaning with 12 fencers on the field, only 11 are giving points," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski added. "There are four teams who will compete for the gold medal from the beginning."

The four teams Bednarski feels will contend for the national title with Notre Dame are Penn State, Ohio State and St. John's.

"St. John's has a lot of stars. They qualified only 10, so it will be really hard for them to make it, but they have excellent fencers," Bednarski said. "Penn State is the (defending) national champion with many names including the bronze medalist Alex Weber in sabre. Ohio State is very strong since they qualified 12." At last year's NCAA Championships, Penn State reclaimed the title from St. John's after winning the title from 1995 to 2000. The Red Storm has had previous success fencing with fewer people. They took second place last year by losing only one of 12 fencers while the Irish finished third with 12.

With last year's Notre Dame team having six first-time participants, inexperience was an issue. However, this year's team, despite having three different members, has zero first-time fencers. That experience factor can do nothing but help.

"In my opinion, it helps when you have competed already. This is a very unusual competition — two days, 24 bouts, huge round-robin," Bednarski said. "It is fencing 10 hours, so your mental side under a huge stress. Sometimes, excellent fencers can't fence well for a long time."

"It is so emotional, it is hard to compete."

Along with the leadership of the five seniors, the talent level of the underclassmen gives the Irish a good combination.

"I think we have a really good makeup of quality and experience," Debic said. "Everything goes right, and we stay healthy, then we should be ready. Everybody is ready to win it.

A key to having a shot at the title is taking control early. Last year's Irish had the lead after the women's competition, but the mens team wasn't able to take advantage, and the Irish finished third. Coming in with 12 fencers, grabbing the first day lead and taking control of the competition is a key to battling Penn State for the title.

"If we are going to have a chance to win, we need to be controlling things the entire time from the beginning to the end," Viviani said. "The first day, they have more bouts than the second day, so it is harder to make things up the second day." Some things Bednarski is hoping to build this year is a greater sense of team chemistry. From the team huddle prior to the dual match against then-No. 1 Penn State to the team meeting Monday afternoon, Bednarski is trying to bring his team together in such an individual sport.

"The team is working more as a group this year than last year," Debic said. "I think Janusz has been trying to get some camaraderie going from the first day of practice. It is much better than last year.

"I think he has done a good job of trying to get us working hard the whole year and keeping us focused on our final goal," Viviani said.

Penn State's personal honors at stake this year include Viviani and Debic's attempts to become four-time All-Americans. More fencers like Alika Kryczalo and Andrea Ament goals of repeating their top two finishes from last year and junior epeeist Kerry Crompton are working more as a group this year than last year, Debic said. "I think Janusz has been trying to get some camaraderie going from the first day of practice. It is much better than last year.

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In their favor

maximum 12 fencers but know their champion Penn State who qualified 11.

Walton effort to defend her national title.
Notre Dame's seniors, who finished second one and third twice in their college careers, are determined to go out on top.
"I think every year is a little different. For a lot of seniors, we have learned something about this competition every year," Viviani said. "It's a little easier to go into this with a better attitude, with a 'we need to win' attitude. This is your last chance to win." Bednarski has his troops motivated to win its first national title since 1994 and sixth overall.
"We are strong. We will make a charge. We will fight as strong as they will," Bednarski said. "If we have good housing, good luck, good intelligence, then we will have good results. We are going to fight." The men and women fencing competition will begin Saturday and continue to Sunday when the national championship will be crowned.

Notre Dame's Returning All-Americans

Epee
Michal Sobieraj (2002)
Meagan Call (2000-2001)
Kerry Walton (2002)

Foil
Alicia Kryczalo (2002)
Andrea Ament (2002)
Derek Snyder (2002)

Sabre

National Champions
Kerry Walton (Epee, 2002)
Alicja Kryczalo (Foil, 2002)
Gabor Szelle (Sabre, 2000)

Championships Teams

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mens Epee</th>
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<th>Womens Foil</th>
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Notre Dame

Call
Walton

Ohio State

Gearhart
Shklar

Penn State

Burke
Trzopek

Notre Dame

Epee

Walton won the national title last year in her first NCAA Championships. She knows how to improve her fencing when the competition is tough. Call surprisingly earned the second berth by winning the regional title. She didn't compete at nationals last year but finished fifth as a sophomore.

Gearhart and Shklar finished fourth and fifth at the regionals. Shklar was eighth last year at the national championships and seems able to defeat the lesser-skilled fencers but has a problem with world-class fencers like Walton. Gearhart is a freshman from San Antonio.

Burke finished a disappointing fifth after winning the national title as a freshman. She will be on a mission to reclaim her title after 2002's performance. Trzopek is a freshman but won the 2001 World Cup at the junior level. Her international experience may have her ready for the national championships.

The "A-Team" dominated the competition at last year's NCAA Championships in winning every bout possible. Kryczalo didn't lose to anybody and defeated Ament in the championship match 15-6. Last year's results will be extremely difficult to repeat with the top eight fencers returning.

As a freshman, Chin finished 12th after winning the 2002 regional title. This year, Chin was fourth to sabre in a time of need. Burke finished a disappointing fifth after winning the national title as a freshman. She will be on a mission to reclaim her title after 2002's performance. Trzopek is a freshman but won the 2001 World Cup at the junior level. Her international experience may have her ready for the national championships.

Bednarski admits this weapon is his "biggest area of concern." Milo has not fenced well in her previous two appearances, finishing 17th and 18th. Jordan used to fence foil and competed at the national championships at that weapon as a freshman. She made the transition to sabre in a time of need. Bond-Williams won the national title as a freshman and will probably dominate the competition. The England native won the conference and regional titles as well this year. Plekhanov is a freshman and is another one of those fencers the Irish feel has qualified, but really won't be a major contributor.

Last year, Brosnan finished as a second-team All-American for the second straight year. She really doesn't have a lot of international experience and has fenced mainly out of her club in Oregon. O'Neill was redshirted last year with her only All-American coming as a sophomore.

Foil

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The talented Thompson twins took home All-American honors as freshmen. Hannah lost to Kryczalo in the semifinals, 15-5, while Meita finished fifth. Both are ranked in the top 10 in the U.S. junior rankings and give Ohio State's its best weapon on the women's side.

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Hoping fourth time’s a charm

Senior captains Ozren Debic and Jan Viviani strive to become four-time All-Americans even as they search for their first national title

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

On the strip, seniors Ozren Debic and Jan Viviani fence in different styles.

Debic is likely to charge his opponent and try to score a point, while jumping in the air to surprise his opponent or reaching behind his head for the strike with a counterattack.

Viviani patiently waits for an opening, bouncing on his calves and conventionally attacking with a straight-on strike.

But what drives these third-year captains and three-time All-Americans is something very basic — winning.

Getting it done

Since Debic and Viviani fence different weapons — foil and epee — naturally, their styles will vary. Despite the differences in style and weapon, the results are similar.

“They are different and they are very similar,” Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said. “The similarity is their ambition to win. They aren’t happy when they are losing.”

The way Debic and Viviani win is different as well. The difference in the style, Jan needs to think. He wants to win from the beginning and not create the danger and win immediately.”

At the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships, Viviani found himself in such a dangerous position. Facing Wojciech Dudek of Wayne State in the individual epee championships, Viviani was down 11-9 with one minute remaining.

Viviani got within one with 42 seconds left. As time was about to expire, Viviani patiently waited for his opening. He kept pressing Dudek and forced him off the strip, which resulted in a point for Viviani.

Seven seconds remained when Viviani tied the match.

“I think one of the reasons for that, is that you run into those situations, you don’t have a choice, but you have to be aggressive,” Viviani said. “It forces me to be more aggressive and that helps me be successful.”

Meanwhile, Debic doesn’t have a flair for the dramatic, but a flair for liveliness. He’s like poetry. He performs better when he isn’t satisfied with their decision.

“Both are excellent technically. It is a pleasure from someone who can observe them,” Bednarski said. “Their actions are technical, correct and quick. Both are very talented.”

Viviani and Debic have placed in the top five at the NCAA Championships in each of their first three seasons. However, the one thing neither of them has been able to do is win a national title — either individually or as a team.

Unfinished business

At the NCAA Championships, the team with the most points claims the overall title. A school each point from a win by individual fencers. In essence, a fencer is alone on the strip but is really competing for the team.

“It’s something you need to experience and go through to learn how to approach it. It’s kind of hard when you aren’t fencing well, and then everyone’s like, ‘You gotta do it for the team.’ Then you lose again, you think, ‘I [let down] the team, I [let down] everybody,’” Debic said. “It’s a very stressful tournament because your performance is the team’s results.”

“That’s the reason why, and I bet everyone agrees, this is one of the most stressful competitions they have competed in,” Viviani said. “We have all competed in world events, but this is different.”

Around the world in other competitions, fencers generally go for individual awards first and team results second.

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