New student representatives transition into office

By HELENA PAYNE
Senior Staff Writer

Though it is April Fool's Day, the change of guard that will occur today on the second floor of LaFortune is not a joke.

As outgoing Student Body President Libby Bishop and Vice President Trip Foley end their terms in office, incoming Student Body President Pat Hallahan and Vice President Jeremy Lao are all about business.

"We're very confident we're going to have a successful year, but we realize it's going to take a lot of work on our part," Hallahan said. The new student govern-

ment heads have met with administrators and students to seek out the best ways to serve Notre Dame students.

"Our No. 1 goal for the whole year is to increase the intellectual life on campus," Hallahan said.

To realize that goal, the two plan to provide "better" speakers, publish teacher course evaluations and encourage more dialogue on diversity and other issues.

Hallahan and Lao also plan to address in-hall dances.

The duo said the cure to campus apathy is to prove that students have a voice by giving them what they want. But to find out exactly what that is, Hallahan said he and Lao will have to emerge from their new LaFortune offices.

"I don't think we can just stick to our platform strictly. We need to open up and hear from the whole student body and from there we can move forward," Hallahan said.

Foley, who has helped Hallahan and Lao ease into their new positions, is confident that the two can give students a more powerful voice.

"I think Pat and Jeremy know how to work the system," Foley said.

Foley knows about the challenges of "the system." As a newly elected student body vice president, he and Bishop were caught off guard

see LEADERS/page 4

ASIAN AWARENESS WEEK

By EMILY BRAMMER
News Writer

Some Saint Mary's students with friends and family in the military have strong connections to Operation Iraqi Freedom, which can make communication difficult and leave loved ones in anxiety.

Saint Mary's sophomore Emily Pernotto has a 24-year-old brother who has been stationed outside of Iraq for six weeks. Her brother Luke is a 2nd Lieutenant infantry Marine and graduate of the Virginia Military Institute.

Prior to Luke's departure for Iraq, he was unable to inform his family of his unit's deployment. Pernotto and her family

sensed that Luke would be sent overseas at any time though. A letter from Iraq confirmed their fears.

"The first letter that I received was really hard," said Pernotto. "I had never heard the things that he was saying. Like that they each got 90 rounds of ammunition stepping off the plane. What he was going through suddenly became very real to me."

Pernotto said she has since come to terms with Luke's involvement in the war. His willingness and pride in his unit are comforting, she said.

"Over time, I've become so proud that my brother is over there, and that he has the opportunity to fight for our country," Emily Pernotto said.

The seven-page plan, presented by CCC coordinator Amy O'Connor, outlined a reorganization of the CCC, which oversees all student clubs at Notre Dame. The proposal adds a new performing arts division to the council, expands the growing number of arts-related student clubs. It also adds a vice president position, which will help the council run more smoothly. The vice president will serve as liaison to

the Student Senate, and "will facilitate communication with clubs," O'Connor said.

The plan also calls for more strict enforcement of CCC regulations. Clubs will be required to hold one fundraiser a year, in order to supplement their funding allocation, which comes from student activity fees.

The plan will also require club leaders to send monthly updates regarding their activities to CCC representatives. The idea is to ensure that funds are allocated fairly.

O'Connor added that since club funding can be hard to come by, the CCC is seeking to reward active organizations.

"For every two or three good clubs, you'd see one club who doesn't do anything but take money away from those good

see EXEC CAB/page 4

Executive Council

Exec Cab announces CCC reorganization

By MATT BRAMANTI
News Writer

Executive cabinet members met Monday evening at the Creek House, an off-campus house purchased by the University last year. Members dined on homemade fajitas and learned about the Club Coordination Council's new strategic plan.

The seven-page plan, presented by CCC coordinator Amy O'Connor, outlined a reorganization of the CCC, which oversees all student clubs at Notre Dame. The proposal adds a new performing arts division to the council, expands the growing number of arts-related student clubs. It also adds a vice president position, which will help the council run more smoothly. The vice president will serve as liaison to

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"For every two or three good clubs, you'd see one club who doesn't do anything but take money away from those good

see EXEC CAB/page 4

SMC students' friends, family affected by war in Iraq

By CLAIRE KELLEY
The Observer

Ryan Leung hands out fortune cookies Monday with messages designed to raise Asian awareness and to celebrate Asian Awareness Week.

Pat Hallahan, Libby Bishop, Trip Foley and Jeremy Lao discuss plans for Bishop and Foley to leave their office to Hallahan and Lao.

see EXEC CAB/page 4

Saint Mary's junior Dawn Harris, who also fell in love over the war in Iraq, speaks on the Importance of St. Matthew's College. Harris, a 20-year-old, is a Reserve Officer Training Corps officer in the U.S. Navy, and her ship is currently stationed in the Persian Gulf. She said that since Harris left for the Gulf, her hometown in Maryland has shown great support.

Last month students from Harris' grade school alma mater, Saints Peter and Paul Elementary, participated in the USS Anzio Valentine Project by

see IRAQ/page 4
Go Horns

The Texas Longhorns are my new favorite basketball team, at least until after Monday night. Let me explain myself, the reason is quite simple and many of you out there can relate to my logic. In order to win the NCAA Tournament pool I am in, I need Texas to win the whole thing. If any other team cuts down the nets Monday night, then I am out of the pool. If Texas wins, I win not only a decent chunk of change, but bragging rights over my buddies for an entire year. That definitely means more than the cash.

The NCAA bracket prediction pools are what make the three weeks of "madness" great. People around the country fill out their brackets, watch the games and see their brackets get effectively busted. When their favorite team gets eliminated, they have a team or teams to root on as the Final Four approach.

While watching SportsCenter or that little box in the upper left hand corner of the screen during the games on CBS, fans actually care about who wins the St. Joseph's-Auburn game for reasons other than the fact Matt Carroll's brother plays for St. Joseph's.

Since I started filling out brackets for pools in the eighth grade, I usually went back and forth on my Final Four teams and who would win it all. This year I used a different strategy.

After reading some articles online and talking to others, I finally came to accept that it's not skill that determines who wins the pool. It's luck. The key is to fill out your bracket quickly and not put too much thought into it.

From Selection Sunday up until the first day of the tournament, I was extremely busy with schoolwork and other responsibilities. Therefore, the only time I found to make my predictions was in class. With my high-quality results so far this year, I may keep that policy next year as well.

Many people can't stand people from Texas since Texans are known to think Texas is the greatest place from Texas since Texans are known to think Texas is the greatest place to be. Many of these people are not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matt Lozar at mattlozar@nd.edu.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ND**

- Bookstore Basketball Captain's Meeting 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. at 101 DeBartolo Hall
- Showing of "The Three Caballeros" 7 to 9 p.m. at the Hesburgh Center Auditorium
- Coffee and Conversation for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning Students 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 316 Coleman-Morse
- Lenten Lecture Series 12:15 p.m. at LeMans Hall - Stapleton Lounge
- Contemporary Drama Reading 4:30 p.m. at the Dining Hall - President's Dining Room
- Sophomore Board Class Dinner 4:30 p.m. at Dining Hall - North Wedge Room

**WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SMC**

- Lentsen Lecture Series 12:15 p.m. at LeMans Hall - Stapleton Lounge
- Contemporary Drama Reading 4:30 p.m. at the Dining Hall - President's Dining Room
- Sophomore Board Class Dinner 4:30 p.m. at Dining Hall - North Wedge Room

**WHAT'S COOKING**

**North Dining Hall**

Today's Lunch: Fettuccine withfennel, classique tomato sauce, ai prosciut­to pizza, Betsy Flannigan chicken breast, boulanger potatoes, cherry crisp, orzo with portobello and cream, broccoli quiche, scrambled eggs with cheese, breakfast ham, raisin bread french toast, BBQ beef sandwich. Szechuan beef and vegetables, lone­star rice, chicken and cheese chimichanga

Today's Dinner: Honey-glazed ham, baked beans, whipped potatoes, vegetable­s ratab, couscous, baked potato, French toast sticks, homestyle potatoes, fried potato skins, Oriental shrimp with noodles

**South Dining Hall**

Today's Lunch: Chicken mozzarella, chicken fajita pizza, toasted pretzel sticks, mushroom stroganoff, sauteed zucchini and yellow squash, meatloaf. Mississippi fried catfish, baked glazed ham, whipped potatoes, gyro, fried potato skins, onion rings, sweet and sour pork, chick changos, potato skins. meatloaf. Baked pasta, egg salad, slided prosciut­to, slided smoked turkey, olive hummus, spiced cookies, chocolate brownies, toast­ed barley sour, chicken rice soup, three­bean salad

Saint Mary's Dining Hall

Today's Lunch: Szechuan vegetables with Jasmine rice, herbed pasta, harvest flat bread sandwich, chicken pasta salad, turkey necklace pea stea firy, soup bar with beef bowls, macaroni and cheese. Indian badder, egg salad, slided prosciut­to, slided smoked turkey, olive hummus, spiced cookies, chocolate brownies, toast­ed barley sour, chicken rice soup, three­bean salad

Today's Dinner: Herb pasta, spicy stir­fried tofu, garden burger, grilled yellow squash, chicken and vegetable fajitas, grilled hamburger or chicken, grilled cheese sandwich, fries, twice cooked pork, wild rice, parsley buttered potato, pineapple upside down cake
adidas representative hosts anti-sweatshop forum

By CHRISTINA CAPERO
News Writer

The University’s Task Force on Anti-Sweatshop Initiatives held a public forum Monday featuring Gregg Nebel, the head of Social and Environmental Affairs at adidas Salomon Americas.

Nebel discussed the process that adidas, a licensing partner of Notre Dame, takes to ensure that its products are manufactured under acceptable labor conditions.

adidas’ labor compliance program officially began in 1997 with two people and has now grown to a 30-person group made up of former factory workers and supervisors, labor lawyers, environmental engineers, chemical engineers and health safety experts.

The Social and Environmental Affairs unit audits over 1,000 factories that adidas contracts to produce all its brands’ footwear and apparel products in 165 countries.

According to Nebel, the audit methodology has four main phases:

● Its internal monitors interview the factory’s managers to determine how its management system works.

● The team conducts a review of the factory’s documentation, including employee guidelines, payroll records, employment contracts and disciplinary policies.

● The monitors talk with the factory’s workers about their experiences and compare them with management’s responses, encouraging communication among them to effect change.

● The team works with local organizations to foster a relationship with workers. The team identifies contradictions among the four phases of action, holds a summary visit with management, develops a remediation plan, and conducts follow-up visits to judge the progress of the factory.

The Social and Environmental Affairs division holds the factories to its standards of engagement, which include nine standards for labor compliance and 16 for health and environmental compliance.

Nebel said, the team also provides its factories with reference manuals that contain international and national legal precedents, case studies and recommendations regarding employee guidelines, health and safety procedures and environmental regulations.

Nebel highlighted his unit’s main challenge by saying, “How do we implement a sustainable process for factories?” Because policing factories is not a sustainable way of ensuring labor compliance, the Social and Environmental Affairs division sought to build capacity in factories through training and educating managers and workers,

Nebel said, “By internalizing, factories build a management system that keeps them in compliance.”

Thus, this business model should make the compliance system sustainable and more efficient in the long term.

Before adidas contracts a factory, it must meet its audit evaluations of product, sourcing, and social and environmental issues, as well as its basic standards of engagement.

adidas’ Social and Environmental Affairs releases tracking worksheets to the public and collaborates with the Fair Labor Association and competitors in working toward labor compliance in its supply chain.

Formerly a factory worker for 25 years, Nebel became the first person dedicated to labor compliance issues at adidas in 1995 as the company was receiving negative publicity about a Pakistan soccer ball factory’s use of child labor, which had been effectively eliminated.

About 40 students, faculty, and staff attended the forum.

Contact Christina Capero at cepero.1@nd.edu

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NBC fires journalist Peter Arnett after interview with Iraqi TV

Associated Press

NEW YORK

NBC fired journalist Peter Arnett on Monday, angered that he had given an unauthorized interview with state-run Iraqi TV saying the American-led war effort initially failed because of Iraq’s resistance.

Arnett apologized for his “misjudgment,” but added, “I said over the weekend what we all know about this war.” Meanwhile, the Pentagon was investigating whether Fox News Channel reporter Geraldine Rivera endangered troops by revealing the plans of a military unit in Baghdad as it was in advance. Rivera denied reports that she had been expelled from the country.

Arnett, who won a Pulitzer Prize reporting in Vietnam for The Associated Press, gained much of his prominence from covering the 1991 Gulf War for CNN. One of the few American television reporters left in Baghdad, his reports were frequently aired on NBC and its cable sister, MSNBC and CNBC.

NBC was angered because Arnett gave the interview Sunday without permission and presented opinion as fact. The network initially backed him, but reversed itself last week after watching a tape of his remarks.

The network said it got “thousands” of e-mails and phone calls protesting Arnett’s remarks — a thousand e-mails to MSNBC President Erik Sorenson alone.

“When I heard he had given an interview to Iraqi TV, I immediately thought it was about as bad as a judgment that a reporter in the field could make,” Sorenson said.

“I held out hope initially that maybe he had given the interview at gunpoint or there was some extenuating circumstance.”

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THE NANOVIC INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

There will be an Informational Meeting on the European Studies Minor

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 4:30-5:30 PM

300 Brownson Hall

(Behind the Basilica, through the wrought iron gate at the Brownson courtyard entrance, and straight back through the courtyard to the far entrance. Go up the stairs to the third floor.)

Information on the minor can also be found at www.nd.edu/~nanovic/programs, or call 631-5253.

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Wednesday, April 2, 2003

8:00 pm, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Free and open to the public

Call (574) 651-6201 for information
**Iraq**

continued from page 1

making more than 1,000 Valentine's for the ship's crew. They also decorated a cloth banner that read, "God Bless USS Anzio." About 25 mothers and fathers of mothers, who all know Harris personally, baked over 1,600 cookies and made a Hershey kiss goodie bag with a personal message included for each member of the crew.

They wanted to support the crew and remind them that the crews are being prayed for and thought of constantly.

"It's hard for me because I know all of his family and friends, and I know what they're going through," said Tuel. "But I'm so proud of him.

Tuel corresponds with Harris by e-mail. She said she's worried about Harris' success, but finds some comfort in knowing that the crewmates offer each other strong support.

"He seems scared and anxious to come home," said Tuel. "And he's definitely tired of being on the ship. But he makes it through because all of his shipmates feel the same way. They're all so close.

Tuel also hopes that Americans will support Harris and our armed forces. She said that the protests are disheartening for those fighting.

"I don't believe that current protests against the war have any positive effect," she said. "People were protesting before the war even started, and it is why it would have been ineffective, we wouldn't be at war right now. We need to reorder our focus on supporting our friends and family over there.

Saint Mary's sophomore Katie Harthen has a boyfriend who is conflict with the war in the year-old Kyle Miller is a Petty Officer aboard the USS Harry S. Truman, presently stationed in the Mediterranean Sea. He works on the boat's nuclear reactors.

Harthen and Miller have been involved in their relationship for almost three years, but his commitment to the Navy has separated them for all but three months. During this time they've been corresponding by e-mail. However, due to newly implemented security measures, Miller can only receive e-mails now. He is no longer allowed to send them.

In his last e-mail to Harthen, Miller wrote, "This is the last e-mail for awhile, so just know that I've been thinking about you all the time. And I can't wait to hear from you again and see you when I get back (whenever that will be). Let's pray that it's going to be on time. Give my love to everyone and take care of yourself.

The dangers that Miller faces worry Harthen. She constantly follows the progression of the war, praying and hoping for his safe return.

"I don't think that I've ever kept up with the news like this before," she said. "I never thought that anything like this would happen while he was in the Navy.

Harthen has mixed feelings about supporting the war, supporting the troops, opposing the war and protesting.

"I feel that people have a right to protest, but we're already at war, and so people should focus on supporting the troops now," she said. "I'm very against the protesters, but I would probably be against the war if I didn't know someone who was fighting in it.

With opinions of the war aside, the Saint Mary's and Notre Dame community can support all of its friends and family involved in the war by praying and letting its troops know that they are thought of constantly.

And all can respond to Luke Pernotto's simple and most frequent request — "Light a candle in the groto for me and the rest of the Marines over here."

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**Leaders**

continued from page 1

by the announcement of a new alcohol policy as then-student body president Brooke Norton and vice president Brian Moscona were phasing out of office.

"At that point, student leaders and student government didn't trust the administration because they felt that their input was not valued," Bishop said. Entering office with a weighty issue before them, Bishop and Foley had difficulty accomplishing their original plan to expand Flex Point meal options.

Another challenge that Bishop and past student body presidents have often faced is the inability to see the instant implementation of their plans.

"Change is slow to happen," Bishop said.

Student government only recently released the under-the-mound calendar Web site, which was an idea from the Norton-Moscona administration.

"I think a lot of the fruits of our labor aren't going to be seen until next year because it takes so long to effect change here," Foley said.

With a project-oriented staff of slightly under 40 and five divisions (academic; diversity; service, spirituality; social concerns; student life; University and alumni relations), Hallahan and Lao want more immediate results.

"As long as we're making headways somewhere, we're making headway in general," Lao said. "We really want to see that student life gets better whether or not we can take credit for it."

Contact Helena Payne at payne.309@nd.edu

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**University of Notre Dame International Study Programs**

**Dublin Summer Program**

June 19 through August 7, 2003

Meeting with Special Guest

Seona MacReamoinn

Irish Summer Studies Director in Ireland

Thursday, April 3

5:00 p.m.

215 DeBartolo

All undergraduates welcome

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**Exec Cab**

continued from page 1

clubs," O'Connor said.

The strategic plan also enhances O'Connor's position to that of president.

Other improvements to the CCC include the use of an online budgeting system, which will reduce paper waste and maintain an electronic record of club's expenses and budget requests, according to the plan.

Clubs will be redistributed among the various divisions, which now include academic, athletic, cultural, performing arts, social justice, special interests divisions. O'Connor said the realignment will allow CCC representatives to foster cooperation among diverse but related student groups.

The cabinet also welcomed Seth O'Donnell as incoming CCC president. O'Donnell said he was optimistic that the new plan will help promote active student organizations.

Contact Matt Bramanti at mbramanti@nd.edu

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**Verceil**

Joyce Fieldhouse

Show starts at 7

Tickets $20

Available 3/31

Lafun Box Office
At least seven Iraqi civilians killed at checkpoint

Associated Press

According to an account by the Central Command, the van approached the U.S. Army checkpoint Monday afternoon. Soldiers motioned for the driver to stop but were ignored. They then fired warning shots but the vehicle continued moving toward the checkpoint. Troops then shot it into its engine. As a last resort, the military said, soldiers fired into the vehicle and killed the occupants.

Two other civilians were wounded at the checkpoint on a highway near Karbala, according to a Pentagon official and the Central Command. The military is investigating.

"They tried to warn the vehicle to stop, it did not stop," Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace said on PIB-TV's "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer." "And it was unusual that that vehicle would be full of only women and that the driver was a woman. So we need to find out why it was that they were acting the way they did."

The military statement said 13 women and children were in the van. But The Washington Post, which reported the incident is embedded with the 3rd Infantry, said 15 people were in the vehicle and 10 were killed, including five children who appeared to be younger than age 5. One of the wounded was a man not expect- ed to live, the Post reported on its Web site.

Huge series of explosions resonates through Baghdad

Associated Press

BAGHDAD

Six explosions in rapid succession shook central Baghdad late Monday, sending smoke billowing from the Old Palace presidential compound and hundreds of local civilians fleeing to a safe haven. Across the Tigris River, on its east bank, another target was hit in the city center less than a mile from the Palestine Hotel. The foundation of the 18-story hotel, where foreign journalists are staying, shook as if it had been struck by a powerful earthquake.

The blasts were some of the strongest since the U.S.-led air war began March 20, and a steady rumbling of explosions continued south of the capital early Tuesday — likely against Republican Guard positions.

Monday night, Saddam Hussein and his sons Odai and Quasai appeared on Iraqi television, giving a showing video footage of a meeting of top military commanders. There was no way of determining when the video was shot. Saddam decorated commanders and troops of army units in Basra, the Faw peninsula and Nasiriyah for their "heroic" defense of the areas, state television said.

A communique read on Iraqi Satellite Television said members of the 11th Division, which fought in Nasiriyah, would receive medals and their families would immediately receive 2 million dinars — about $670 at the exchange rate on the eve of the war.

Saddam was last shown on Iraqi television on Saturday night. Odai had not been seen on Iraqi TV since the war began according to Al-Arabiya news network.

U.S. attempts to silence Iraqi TV and radio through aerial attacks have failed, with Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahab, authorizing the broadcast of United Nations resolutions on the bombing. Despite repeated bombings of the Iraqi Information Ministry and Iraqi transmitters, the local media operation was "as good as it was before," the attacks, al-Sahab said.

He said he was looking into changing the broadcast. The Aime, he said, had hoped to cut off television and radio transmissions to halt Iraqi propaganda. Iraqi television was off for about three hours Monday morning before broad- casts resumed.
BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

'03-'04 BOG holds first meeting of term

By MEGAN O'NEIL
News Writer

New Board of Governance Officers began their first meeting since taking office by reviewing basic procedures Monday. Items such as co-sponsorship grants, wherein the Board helps sponsor student activities, were explained and discussed.

"It is not an all or nothing situation," said Student Body President Elizabeth Jablonski-Diehl in reference to the grants. "We can give them any amount we wish.

Jablonski-Diehl also reviewed the format for the weekly meetings and outlined such procedures as how to make, and second, a motion.

To increase efficiency and communication, the new Board will implement a few changes.

Officers will now receive financial sponsorship requests a week prior to discussion at Board meetings. Officers hope this will result in better informed decisions.

In Other BOG News

* After much discussion BOG granted $660 to the Saint Mary's Speech Pathology Club. The money will enable six club members to attend the annual three-day Indians Speech and Hearing Associations convention in Indianapolis.

* BOG agreed to provide $325 for materials to build a boat to be entered into the annual Fisher Regatta. While Saint Mary's has always been invited to participate, this will be the first time the College submits an entry.

The effort is being organized by Amanda Garrow, who hopes to make Saint Mary's participation an annual event.

Board members were excited that Saint Mary's students would be represented, although they hoped that fundraising would pay for the costs in the future.

* Student Academic Council has organized a school-wide Mass for Palm Sunday on April 13. Organizers plan to have a palm procession into the Church of Loreto.

* Residence Hall Association is currently in the process of electing new hall councils. Campaigning will begin April 15 and the elections will take place April 24.

Contact Megan O'Neil at oneil9907@smnaitmarys.edu

New SMC feminist group to meet

* Women's Studies links with new student club

By LAUREN O'BRIEN
News Writer

A new feminist student group will meet for the first time at Saint Mary's, according to the College's Women's Studies program and current chair of the Religious Studies Department, first suggested a new and more comprehensive feminist group three years ago.

She proposed the idea to Heather Engstrom, now a senior at Saint Mary's and the Student Academic Council representative for Women's Studies.

"I feel it is very necessary because there is a need to address feminist issues on campus," Engstrom said.

The new group, Feminists United, plans to include committees that concentrate on specific feminist issues. The focus of the group as a whole is student activism.

Currently, Feminists United does not yet have the approval of Saint Mary's. The group is hoping to gain support next year after compiling a member list and filing the necessary paperwork.

"I have had a lot of positive feedback for Feminists United so far," Engstrom said.

Astrid Henry, the coordinator of the Women's Studies program, is the faculty advisor for Feminists United.

She sees the connection between Feminists United and the Women's Studies program as a vital asset because of the continuity that the association will provide.

"One of our goals is just to get women more involved and interested in women's issues on campus in the community and internationally," Henry said.

Feminists United hopes to connect with other groups on campus that address women's issues.

The group's first meeting will be held tonight at 8:45 p.m. in the Women's Center in the basement of LeMars Hall.

Contact Lauren O'Brien at obriell64@smnaitmarians.edu
Airline reaches new agreement

**American Airlines avoids bankruptcy**

Associated Press

**NEW YORK**

American Airlines took a huge step toward preventing bankruptcy Monday by reaching tentative cost-cutting agreements with key unions representing pilots, flight attendants and mechanics.

While the company appeared to secure the $1.8 billion in concessions needed to avert Chapter 11, the agreements still must be voted on by union members. The ratification process will begin Tuesday, union officials said.

The news lifted shares of American by 33 percent as investors considered a bankruptcy filing much less likely.

Company chairman Don Carty praised union leaders, saying they "have enabled us to avoid an immediate filing with the bankruptcy court."

Despite the tentative deals, the carrier is not guaranteed a smooth ride. The industry is still battling its worst downturn ever, precipitated by fears of terrorism, an alr-guing and economic and now the war.

"If the war lasts for many months or if there's another act of terrorism, then even these cost savings could prove insufficient," said Philip Baggaley, Standard & Poor's airline analyst.

Even if employees ratify the agreements, analysts said it will still be critical for parent company AMR Corp. to secure additional financing from lenders as well as savings from debt payments, suppliers and lessors.

Experts said the talks were probably affected by last week's agreement between United Airlines and its pilots' union on $1.1 billion in cuts.

"I think that has helped focus their minds," said Peter Cappelli, a professor of management at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

United, which is restructuring under Chapter 11 protection, has said deep cuts were needed to avoid liquidation. American, meanwhile, had indicated it would file for bankruptcy protection soon unless it reached tentative agreements with its major labor groups Monday.

Other major airlines also are pushing employers to accept wage and benefit cuts as the industry suffers huge losses, and analysts said the momentum at United and American could spread.

After the war in Iraq began, carriers laid off thousands of employees, cut flights and reduced the frequency of others. But even with the new labor contracts, analysts say major carriers still need to cut capacity further, which would likely allow them to raise ticket prices.

During the weekend, American reached tentative agreements with 2,500 ground workers. The company previously reached a tentative deal with 16,300 baggage handlers. However, there were still no deals with the three most important labor groups in its work force of 99,000.

The Allied Pilots Association, the Association Professional Flight Attendants and the Transport Workers Union reached separate deals throughout the day.

AMR has lost nearly $5.3 billion the past two years and has faced increasing competition from low-fare carriers.

Also Monday, Carty, the chairman, said he would cut his base salary by a third, decline a bonus for the third straight year and ask the board of AMR to reduce the compensation of other senior officers. Carty had a base salary of $585,813 in 2001. He took a pay freeze late in 2001 and in 2002.

Shares of American rose 52 cents to $2.10 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Crude oil futures show slight rise

**NEW YORK**

May crude futures broke through key resistance of $31.05 a barrel to trade as high as $31.30 on Monday, but they failed to hold the rally.

While crude prices deflated just before the closing, they still reversed last Friday's losses, BNP Paribas analyst Tom Bentz said.

There was little fresh news on the war front, but the ongoing cutback in Nigerian oil supplies continued to boost crude and May gasoline Monday, analysts said.

At the New York Mercantile Exchange, nearby May crude futures closed at $31.04 a barrel, up 88 cents on the day. The contract fell 21 cents Friday.

At London's International Petroleum Exchange, North Sea Brent blend futures for May delivery rose 83 cents to $27.18 a barrel.

April gasoline futures closed 95 cents lower at $9.44 a barrel, while May gasoline closed 1.35 cents higher to settle at $9.70.

April gasoline and heating oil contracts expired Monday, leading to wide price vacillations in the nearby contract and the heavy liquidation of long positions just before the Nymex closed.

"April heating oil got pounded with positions getting liquidated," Bentz said. "The same thing happened with April gasoline, the longs were just bailing out all day."

April heating oil futures fell 40 cents to 79.24 cents a gallon, as market participants rolled their positions into May. May heating oil closed up 1.38 cents at 77.08 cents a gallon.

While April gasoline took a hit on rollovers to May, the new front month contract posted solid gains.

Bullish factors for the contract include the effect of Monday's contract rollovers, the drop in Nigerian oil and the summer driving season ahead.

Natural gas for May delivery fell 8.6 cents to settle at $5.060.
We live in a forever changing world. Things that I never thought would happen have already occurred this year. The economy that thrived in my adolescence is struggling. My generation is at a crossroads in our lives. Things that I never thought would happen have already occurred. This year, my boyfriend, it’s okay to be shocked, everyone else thought I was a lesbian. I hadn’t been very lucky in love here at Notre Dame, because well, no one wanted me. My wit and charm worked great for awhile, but when the guy sensed that it was all a mask for my self-loathing, he always had to things. An unexpected trip to China. However, I have been pretty good at attracting nerdy guys, which is to be expected if you’ve ever read my column before. Maybe my standards are way too high for what I have to offer, but these guys always were just too dorky for me. Apparently, if I were an unusual Ja ident, a class would be cross-listed with Dungeons and Dragons studies. These guys were sweet and everything, but I just wasn’t all about the Princess Leia hair. Well, I don’t know what happened, but I really decided to accept my latest dorky suitor. I’m pretty sure it’s because he has a car. Having a boyfriend and being a girlfriend are definitely not things I’m used to; my relationships have been few and far between. Honestly, I rather enjoyed the single life. I could go where I wanted when I wanted, hang out with my friends all the time and get hit on by the caliber of guys who fit on me. (okay, I don’t want to talk about Amy Hand ever, much less at Corby’s... go away).

This column first appeared in the March 27 issue of The Observer. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Amy Schill
Dazed and Amused

You can’t be pro-troop and anti-war

I have been the daughter of an Army officer for 21 years, and I know about the reality of war. My father was injured in a past war, and many of our friends and neighbors have now been put in harm’s way for the sole purpose of defending you, our country, our rights and our freedoms.

We should never be grateful for war, although because of this, I have the freedom to stand on the side of the street and protest. The purpose for wars is to protect our rights and the rights of others. Our soldiers go to war when it is necessary, when all other means of compromise have been exhausted. You say that you are not “anti-soldier” or “anti-America,” but I think that sounds like a lame justification. Our soldiers are overseas because they believe in democracy. They believe in our freedom, and they train for war to protect our country, and the right to choose. I say that you are just anti-war; in my opinion it is all the same.

You are definitely not supporting our troops when you stand in the street with your anti-war signs. How would you like to be in Iraq right now, putting your life on the line for a bunch of guys who were putting my life on the line for a bunch of you. Do you think that the incoming student body presidents will be able to fulfill their campaign promises?

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.

Kiley Winston

The Crimson White

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sexuality is primarily a means of communicating with other people, a way of talking to express your feelings about ourselves and them."

Robert C. Solomon
U.S. philosopher, educator
‘Catholic’ education has failed Catholicism

OutreachND could provide more with club status

This Saturday there is going to be a dance. It is one of the most important dances of the year for over 40 Notre Dame students; and yet you probably won’t hear about it anywhere. The dance, known as April Foiles, is put on by a gay and lesbian student organization called OutreachND:

OutreachND: The dance is a commissioned event of the year celebration and social support gathering for all members of the gay and lesbian community, their friends and their allies. It is just like any other student organization’s end of the year events, but it is also different in many ways due to the differences between the gay and lesbian population. In addition to being a time of celebration, April Foiles is the transition time for the board members. Five students who have given up countless hours working to support and improve the conditions of gay and lesbian students will hand over their positions to new board members who will do the same next year. And, while being a board member for any club is a time consuming task, it is even more so for a club that is not recognized by the University. In addition to all of the normal issues that a club leadership role encompasses, the executive board of OutreachND also has to deal with being part of a University that refuses to recognize it or its significance.

For the past several years, OutreachND has been trying to get itself recognized by the Office of Student Affairs as an official club. Three times now, the board has gone to the necessary meetings, filled out the necessary forms and turned them in on the regular days. Three times they have received a denial of official status. It is yet another expense that the club has had to bear because of its denial and has been vague and unsatisfactory.

For several years, OutreachND, this dance has been a continuous offense. Their weekly meetings offer support and social activities for students who are not currently in a gay or lesbian relationship. They have spoken out against homophobia and prejudice, and offered some insight into the lives and experiences of gay and lesbian students. They have often been ignored and not taken seriously. Gay and lesbian students need Campus Ministry provides a good location for faith-based questions, and the Counseling Center. Other counseling professionals or suggestions at rfriedma@nd.edu.

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

Richard Friedman

A Skewed Perspective

Richard Friedman is a senior double majoring in architecture and psychology. His column normally runs every other Tuesday. He can be reached at Rice10@nd.edu.
ALBUM REVIEW

Deana Carter, more than a girl

By CHRISTIE BOLSEN
Assistant Scene Editor

With the release of I'm Just a Girl, Deana Carter proves she can indeed sparkle in her native Nashville that is already full of female country stars with immense talent. Her honeyed vocals, infused with a charming dose of Southern sincerity, have caught hearts in 1996 when she sold 4 million copies of her debut album, Did I Shave My Legs For This?

Unfortunately, Carter has been missing on the scene after a relatively disappointing sophomore album and conflicts with her former record label, Capitol Records. But after being released from her Capitol contract and finding a new label in Arista Records, Carter's new single, "There's No Limit," is already climbing the Billboard charts. While the song is radio-friendly with its sing-along lyrics and catchy acoustic refrain played by Carter herself, it pales somewhat compared to the more original tracks offered. She has more to offer her fans than ordinary tunes, and while her voice is less powerful than Martina McBride or Faith Hill, she has just as much ability to convey genuine emotions in her singing, whether with poignant ballads or buoyant tunes.

One of the best songs on the album is the gentle and sweet "You and Tequila." Just like on her best-known single, "Strawberry Wine," her innocent and youthful voice glides longingly over flowing guitar waves to make her heartbreak believable. "You and tequila make me crazy / You run like poison in my blood / One more night might kill me, baby / One is too many, and one more is never enough."

Amazingly, she sings her yearning melodies without sounding spiteful or angry. On her wonderful duet with Dwight Yoakam, "Waiting," the acoustic twang and shuffle drums soar behind the two singers. Carter's lovely voice is complemented both by the addition of Yoakam and the simpleness of the lyrics. "Waiting for the thought to cross your mind that two hearts might / Be inclined to commit an act that's bold / Or even just be looking for a chance to take advantage of / One glance and live inside it one more time."

Carter doesn't spend all her time wishing and hoping though; she cuts loose like a slightly wild Southern belle on several of the fun tracks. On "Eddie," even the steel guitar sounds carefree. Bouncing along the highway of heartbeat, "Liar" provides therapy with its release of former K-mart employees/musicians the world has ever seen. It was out of the ashes of his A-ha cover band and good because, thanks to the white knight of pop, mediocrity is here to stay - the myth is sealed.

But Chris Yanek cares little for fate and, God bless him, less for mediocrity. It was out of the ashes of his A-ha cover band from whence this matchless artist coiled together perhaps the most brilliant assemblage of former K-Mart employees/musicians the world has ever seen. It was allegedly on a pep-hype-driven "spirit quest" that Yanek and ex-member Jay Mohr decided on the name "The Blouse Puppies," an allusion to a camp, John Tesh R-side.

From their refreshingly post-feminist moniker to their curious, esoteric instrumentation to their beautiful Thin Lizzy-meets-Phill Collins sound, it is clear the Blouse Puppies have staked their claim as rock's newest standard-bearers. Some have described the Blouse Puppies sound as the Beadles, Jesus and Dolly Parton all rolled into one, so skilled they are in the nuances of music theory, in technique, in Celtic folklore, in groundwater hydrology and so on. Clearly, few have yet successfully described the band's unique sound.

The band's official debut album, Derelicte My What, Capitán?, with its release delayed by Apple Corps Records until March 31 after Internet bootlegging, features most of the Blouse Puppies' founding members: ex-Mercury Prankster Bones Walker on the stand-up bass, Ben Ferguson blowing a mean squint flute, Nick Martin on electric piano and the incomparable Vocals of lead guitarist and vocalist Yanek. Veteran persuasionist Lund Driftwood pounds sweet thunder with the meticulous authority of Art Blakey.

Taking a page from techno group Prorgligy's playbook, the Blouse Puppies feature the solo salsa dancer, Jason Caretella, tumbling and frolicking in front of the group like some Chihuahua on PCP. And the world ought to thank producer Mike Fanzica. Because then, after everyone thought the band had peaked, the bigwig SBDU producer, in due course, had the whole band rocking those dirty-blondie perms. Maybe a little over-the-top, perhaps a bit too retro, but believe me - the gleaming, coiled 'dos are heartrending in concert, as those 23 high-schoolers lucky enough to witness the Blouse Puppies last week in the basement of a Motel 6 in Minster, Ohio can confirm.

The title track opens with Yanek ululating like a Moroccan widower, accompanied by Bones' novel harmonics and Driftwood's sonorous rumbling, questioning the existence of God, but of bad easy-listening. Many of the songs, such as "Prince Albert's Revenge" and "But It Ain't Grey Poupon," have a bouncy bass line firmly undergirding the minor-chord melodies. The album ends with "The Rack," a tribute to Janet Reno and her contributions not only to the country, but to country music.

An avant-garde confluence of country (Appalachian, not Nashville), free jazz, Brazilian tropicalia, klezmer and of course classic rock, their influences range from Greette Coleman to Bob Dylan to John Tesh. Vicous parody? Maybe. Genius? Undoubtedly. The lyrics' content span a variety of topics, including Yanek's Icelandic byhood, the pitfalls of sobriety, Dadaism and whole liberation. It is difficult to say where the irony ends and the earnestness begins, so uncanny Yanek evokes into Yanek's voice. What is easy to say, on the other hand, is that no one would have predicted it would take a mixture of square flutes and golden perm to unspool the Lester Bangs Whooplauss and finally have a shot at redeeming a music world in decline.

Contact Christie Bolen at bolsen.l@nd.edu

Masterful debut from Blouse Puppies

By BJ STREW
Scene Music Critic

Lester Bangs said rock is dead. Dick Rotty said philosophy is dead. Harvard's Walt Gilbert said molecular biology is dead. Others have sounded the death knell of neoclassical economics, of tragedy and soap, maybe, morality. And that's all well and good because, thanks to the white knight of pop, mediocrity is here to stay - the myth is sealed.

But Chris Yanek cares little for fate and, God bless him, less for mediocrity. It was out of the ashes of his A-ha cover band from whence this matchless artist coiled together perhaps the most brilliant assemblage of former K-Mart employees/musicians the world has ever seen. It was allegedly on a pep-hype-driven "spirit quest" that Yanek and ex-member Jay Mohr decided on the name "The Blouse Puppies," an allusion to a camp, John Tesh R-side.

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Contact BJ Streew at streew.1@nd.edu
Bush ousts ND Administration

President declares du Lac 'oppressive, harsh'

By KEITH MYATH
Heavy School Dragon

President George W. Bush forcefully removed University Vice President Sara Yourcan from his perch atop the Office of Student Affairs Monday in an effort to rid the campus of what he described as the "voice of campus pus." The president, who corroborated in order to Peace groups hold pro-war protesters hostage in tunnels of promoters of the war in Iraq, added that the students are excessively oppressive and harsh.

The resolution was passed unanimously after Bush did away with the Campus Life Council, the Student Senate, and all other lawmaking bodies within the University.

"I don't like bodies that vote," the president said. "Did anyone ever consider moving the Golden Dome to Florida? I'll call Jeb.

The president's presence on campus was met with mixed reaction by the administration and students. "It's awesome to have 'W' around," junior Hue Jettier said. "Now we can drink on campus and visit girls' dorms after midnight in my book, that's 'Touchdown Browns!"

Members of the College Democrats have loudly voiced their opposition to the president. "Yourcan's rules sucked, but at least he's not from Texas," said Aaron Vanfluft, a member of the College Democrats.

When reached for comment early Friday evening, Notre Dame Security Police called the lakovian's "huge mistake which will have serious repercussions for the University, the entire Notre Dame community and surrounding areas."

In a related story, the charred remains of the Security building are being tested for bomb-making materials after a mysterious explosion leveled the facility early Monday morning.

Miraclously, there were no injuries reported, NDP spokesperson Haiman E. Blot said, primarily because the entire force was occupied with "a disturbance involving multiple illegally-parked cars in the DZ North parking lot.

However, multiple student witnesses place members of the campus police force outside Finnegan's at the time of the explosion.

"They were carrying directories and checking ID's," senior Ami Hest-Noway said. "It was a really intimidating situation until they get back on their bikes and ride to campus."

Upon securing the Dome, Bush celebrated his military victory with a trip to Mojër. The president of last seen smoking "yahoo" while riding the penny pony.

Contact Keith Myath at yourmom@college.edu

Econ votes to divide Socially Awkward, Poor Dressers

By A. R. REJECT
Secondly, I Can't Get Hired Anywhere

In a move likely to send shock waves through the academic community, the Department of Economics has formally announced its split into two departments: the Department of Socially Awkward and the Department of Poor Dressers.

"The Department was in chaos," said department head Dieter Kowalszewski. "How can you effectively teach a made-up subject with Socially Awkward professors sharing offices with the Poor Dressers?"

Kowalszewski, known widely in the Economics world for his total and utter lack of social skills, will likely head the Department of Socially Awkward. He and fellow professors are planning a fall symposium, "Starting, Conversational Distance, and Personal Space: How to Totally Freak Out People When You Talk To Them."

The Poor Dressers were equally elated when news of the split was announced.

"I pinch-rolled my tightest acid-washed jeans when I heard the news," said Andrew Teasdale, a Poor Dresser. "Finally — a place for serious scholarship, efficient decision-making, and God-willing, monocolor walking shoes as far as the eye can see."

Calls to the Ugly Sweater Factory were not returned, but many industry insiders have hinted that having a separate department for Poor Dressers will likely double demand for functional, multicolored, striped burlap outerwear.

Too dull and unattractive to hang out with the popular majors in the Mendoza College of Business, the Department of Economics has long been relegated to the College of Arts and Letters, though many hope Students are largely unaware that the Economics was even offered as a major at Notre Dame.

"We look out on this campus and see a gold mine of socially awkward bad dressers," said department head Dieter Kowalszewski (left) and Andrew Teasdale (right) are expected to head the Department of Socially Awkward and the Department of Poor Dressers, respectively.

Peace groups hold pro-war protesters hostages in tunnels

* Pro-peace groups attempt to muzzle pro-war voice on campus

By JONAH BIRKENSTOCK
Official Campus Liberal

Five thousand pro-war protesters were found lurking in the underground tunnels of the Notre Dame campus during the Class of 2003's tour of the passageways.

In an effort to rid the campus of promoters of the war in Iraq, several peace groups on campus collaborated in order to squelch the voice of campus hawks.

The protesters were discovered by senior Katie McDougall, who overheard them and went to investigate.

"I smelled chalk. I recognized the scent because I used to eat chalk in kindergarten," McDougall said. "This was the pro-war voice on campus was really getting too vocal. They had to be stopped."

Shaun Richards, member of the pro-war voice, was kidnapped by university officials.

"Richards was initially uncooperative, yelling, 'How can you arrest me for breaking the law when three of you cops are breaking du Lac by being women in a male dorm?'" said Officer Sara Romero.

Since the arrest of Richards, the pro-war voice has been more vocal on campus, calling for the nation to unite in a time of military conflict.

"Now, I can truly say that I know what it feels like to suffer for my country," said Nick Benny, one of the rescued pro-war students. "I love the U.S.A.

More than 5,000 pro-war Notre Dame students were found in the tunnels beneath campus this week. Professors have complained of diminished class attendance, but University officials blamed students' laziness, and neglected to investigate the matter further.
Jigga what?

As if anyone really cared what Observer staffers thought about life.

President Lippy Pushup told Senate Tuesday she was frickin' tired of people saying they saw her at Boat Club.

U.S President George W Bush decided to boost the morale of troops in Iraq by choosing a popular song as the American national anthem.

The local bar, The Library, only made $15 off of underagers drinking on Thursday when the football team was away.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact no one reads this at noone.com

CORRECTIONS

Yesterday's photograph of Saint Mary's Vice President of student affairs Linda Timm was mislabeled as Snoop Dog.

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.
How to Lose a Guy in 10 seconds

The moment every girl dreams of: You're filling up your solo cup with the finest beer $40 can buy and you look across the room and see the man of your dreams. You lock eyes and he walks toward you, tells you he's pre-med and the starting toward you, tells you're

Drunk on the squinty-eyed sophomore who fell out forward on the floor. Half of the keg's content's running even good looking. He's a pasty, dream. He's the handsome- and basketball team. He's

Then, reality sets in. You realize that no, this guy is not pre-med, on the basketball team or even good looking. He's a pasty, squinty-eyed sophomore who fell out forward on the floor. Half of the keg's content's running even good looking. He's a pasty, dream. He's the handsome- and basketball team. He's

Do you that you fell from heaven, left no, this guy is not pre-med, on the basketball team or even good looking. He's a pasty, squinty-eyed sophomore who fell out forward on the floor. Half of the keg's content's running even good looking. He's a pasty, dream. He's the handsome- and basketball team. He's

As he sloppily puts his arm around you and Drake a little while he's telling you that you fell from heaven, you're left wondering: What's a girl to do?

6. Tell him you love him
5. Tell him you love him and that you think he's the one.
3. Find the closest better-looking guy and begin to make out with him. This will divert the former guy's attention to a) another girl b) the keg or c) the fact that there is drool running down his face.
2. Tell him about your dreams.
1. Just walk away. Quickly, quietly and preferably to another party.

What follows are the six surefire ways to lose a guy, not in 10 days, but in a mere 10 seconds. Read on.

1. Just walk away. Quickly, quietly and preferably to another party.
2. Tell him about your dreams.
3. Find the closest better-looking guy and begin to make out with him. This will divert the former guy's attention to a) another girl b) the keg or c) the fact that there is drool running down his face.
5. Tell him you love him and that you think he's the one.
6. Tell him you love him and that you think he's the one.

There's no better way to get a guy to

run like he's training for the 100 meter dash than uttering these three little words of weaponry.

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<th>POLL QUOTE OF THE DAY</th>
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<td>&quot;Your mom is hot.&quot;</td>
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Bridget O'Flanagan sophomore
SMC BasketBall

Belle ballers win championship

The best-ranked Midwestern Liberal Arts All-female Institution Located Along Rt. 31 defeats field trip-depleted Albion Middle School squad

By FAT HOSER
Sports Editor

MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, Mich. Using a combination of strong defense, pinpoint shooting accuracy, and a game-long 5-on-3 advantage, the Saint Mary's basketball team defeated Albion Middle School Saturday, 8-7, to win the NCAA championship.

"Despite our inability to score many points, I was still very pleased with the team's performance today," head coach Susan Blahblah said.

The Belles took advantage of an Albion squad depleted due to a class game for Albion were not at Notre Dame this weekend.

In addition, two players who were able to make the journey to the game for Albion were not at 100 percent, according to Albion head coach Petey "P" Przyzkowski. "Jenny (Duffy) had the sniffles and Anne (Addison) had a boo-box," Przyzkowski said.

The game was a back-and-forth affair, with each team holding a one-point advantage for very long stretches of time. A free throw by Albion put the Belles behind 1-0 with 8:30 to go in the first half.

However, the Belles exploded for two straight points on a layup by sophomore Katie Bobatie and a game-long 5-on-3 advantage, including two by junior forward Kateie McKatie, to put the game out of reach for very long. The Belles a commanding 2-1 lead with three minutes left in the game.

"It was really hard to drive to the hoop today," Robatie-Bobatie said. "Their three defenders just stood there with their arms in the air, and I couldn't see the basket. It was frustrating."

But the Belles responded, hitting an astonishing three straight shots, including two by junior forward Kateie McKatie, to put the game away for the Belles.

A school-record two Belles fans camput out for tickets to the game. One of those fans was Katie's mom.

Don't even bother contacting Fat Hoser.

IRISH GUARD REPLACED

After Fr. Park Youcan suspended the Irish guard after their conduct at the Pittsburgh game, a group of Vikings took the field at halftime of the Notre Dame game against Stanford Saturday. The Irish beat the Cardinal, 23-17, before a sparse crowd.

In BRIEF

Fencing
An Irish team finally won a national championship. Unfortunately, students were unaware that Notre Dame had a fencing team, or worse.

"What is fencing?" one student asked upon hearing the news.

Willingham santed
In junior high, high school and college combined.

"I was as surprised as anyone else that I got the ball after Tom took it down the lane," Diller said. Meanwhile, fans in attendance rooted to gape and pointed fingers to confirm the pass.

"I turned to the guy standing next to me and asked him, 'Did I see what I think I saw?' and he was like, 'Yep.'"

Mike Sweeneywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywertywetry
Guster blows away the Windy City

By RYAN RAFFERTY
Scene Music Critic

Guster stumbled onto the music scene in 1994 when members Ryan Miller, Adam Gardner and Brian Rosenworcel met at Tufts University and recorded their first album, Parachute. Over the next several years Guster became increasingly popular through relentless touring. Then in late 2001 they “entered a cave,” as percussionist Brian Rosenworcel said in a recent interview with The Observer.

When they emerged earlier this year they brought with them a brand new album and a surprise spring tour before the album’s release in June. Always known for their fun and exciting live shows, Guster did not disappoint Saturday night at the Riviera Theater in Chicago. Playing to a sold-out crowd in a show that was recorded for a local radio station did not phase Guster at all — they still played their hearts out.

Guster took the stage after opening act Blue Merle’s surprisingly outstanding performance and opened up with a revamped version of “I Spy” which displayed their fresher sound perfectly. Commenting on the band’s new sound, Rosenworcel said, “We’re much more mature after recording the new album.”

The main change in Guster’s sound is the switch Rosenworcel makes from playing a conga set with his hands, to playing a conventional drum kit with sticks. “I look forward to playing the drum kit live because it gives my hands a break. I really look forward to playing the new songs live,” Rosenworcel said.

On Saturday night, Rosenworcel came out from behind his circle of congas and bongos to play five songs on the drum kit. One in particular, “Mora Lisa,” has always been played with congas before, but Rosenworcel’s drum kit gave the old classic a fresher sound. Several other songs have been revamped to sound a little different. “I Spy,” for instance, added a completely new outro that was played so beautifully it sent chills up the audience’s back. “Hippie” also has an entirely new intro in which guitarists Ryan Miller and Adam Gardner’s guitars sound like sitars.

Rosenworcel isn’t the only member of Guster to take up a new instrument. Miller played bass on several new songs Saturday and the band was joined by guest guitarist Joe Pina. Miller’s bass is very melodic and carries the melody in several new songs like “Homecoming King” and “Amsterdam.” Adam Gardner also stayed from his guitar when he played piano during a cover of Ben Fold’s “Not the Same,” that rivaled the actual version.

Guster has always been known for doing different and outrageous things during their live shows, and Saturday night was no different. Other than the fact that the entire show was recorded for a special concert on a local Chicago radio station, nothing seemed out of the ordinary.

That all changed when Miller invited the violin player from opening act Blue Merle on the stage to play a song. A screen then lowered from the ceiling as Miller read an e-mail from a fan wondering if they could show the fabled video the band recorded on Navy Pier for their song “Window.”

Without hesitation, Guster began to play along with the 8-year-old video playing above them. The greatest surprise of the night came during the encore, however, when percussionist Rosenworcel stepped out front to sing Simon and Garfunkel’s “Bridge Over Troubled Water.”

The rest of the concert was filled with Guster classics like “Airport Song,” in which Rosenworcel played an amazing conga solo while strobe lights flashed behind him. The band never missed a step playing crowd favorites like “Barrel of a Gun,” “All the Way Up To Heaven,” “Parachute” and “FaFa.” Some of the best songs were a powerful rendition of “Two Points For Honesty” and “دنوسن,” in which the band sandwiched a cover of Cake’s “Joining.” New songs like “Keep It Together,” “Ramona” and “Homecoming King” were perfect additions to an already amazing concert.

During his interview with The Observer, Rosenworcel talked about Guster’s newest album, which will be released in June. Amidst talk about Virtua Tennis, Bonnie Raitt dreams and UPS drivers, he did find time to comment on the new sound of their album, Keep It Together.

“It’s definitely a departure for us,” he said. “We’ve changed formats. We’re much more interested in the musical side now.” When asked about his departure from playing drums with his hands, Rosenworcel said, “I’m getting old. It’s kinda like how I used to be able to dunk, but now I can barely do a layup. I enjoy playing with my hands, but it’s a nice break to play with sticks. I’ve got into a wall with so many songs, it’s refreshing to play the new songs on drum kit.”

Rosenworcel still remembered their concert at Notre Dame in the fall of 2000. “Notre Dame was our biggest surprise,” he said of the show. “When the band played at the Stepan Center. We didn’t expect such a great crowd there. That was a great show. I mean playing inside a golf ball is always exciting.”

Guster’s show in Chicago on Saturday was filled with surprises and the crowd was very energetic. The show was filled with some of Guster’s most well-known and accessible songs but with a slightly fresher sound. Every song Guster played Saturday night was filled with energy and the crowd sang along all night. The addition of the new songs gave fans the opportunity to hear the slightly newer sound of Guster.

Let’s just hope they decide to make another stop at the big golf ball in the near future.

Contact Ryan Rafferty at rafferty.3@nd.edu
Chicago Cub Greg Maddux pitched a three-hitter against the Arizona Diamondbacks on Sunday night in his first opening-day loss, beating the Arizona Diamondbacks.

"You couldn't have scripted a better opening day for us," said the Dodgers' Paul La Duca, who had a two-run single against Johnson in the seventh inning. "We played very, very well. We got Pentagon, timing, timing. We played great defense. If we can just repeat that the next 161 games, we'll be fine."

He was joking a little with that last line, but there's no doubt the Dodgers, injury-free at last, are loaded with confidence.

"For the first time in the past three seasons, we're starting out with a full deck," manager Jim Tracy said. "We have all our pieces in place."

Jordan improved his career average against Johnson to .333.

"He's one of those guys you get up for," said Jordan, who hit .347 with 30 RBIs last September. "He's such a challenge, such a great pitcher, a Hall of Famer. You know you've got to be ready for him all the way."

Nomo, 14-1 in his last 26 starts last season, struck out seven and walked one in his eight career starter's shutout, his first since 2001.

"I made a couple of bad pitches, but I don't think the story is on this side of the field," Johnson said. "I think it's over on the other side. Hideo Nomo pitched extremely well. He's pitched well against us in the past, so that shouldn't come as any surprise. He picked up where he left off at the end of last year."

Jordan, 20 pounds simmer than last year and coming off knee surgery, had a two-out RBI single off Johnson in the first inning, and a two-run homer on his first pitch from the Big Unit in the sixth.

He led off with another slider, which he did the previous two at bats," Jordan said, "so I was looking for it."
American League

Royals beat Sox with first ever opening-day shutout

Associated Press

Kansas City's youth movement got off to a solid start.

Buntyys Hernandez second hit in six innings and rookie Angel Iberroa drove in the go-ahead run as the Royals beat the Chicago White Sox — Kansas City's first opening-day win in five years.

Hernandez combined with two relievers on a three-hitter — and the first opening-day shutout in Royals' history.

Kansas City's rotation began the season with 21 major league wins, and Hernandez beat out Jeremy Affeldt in a coin flip that determined who started the opener.

Hernandez struck out five and walked one, getting the win.

Jason Grimsley relieved to start the seventh. Rookie Mike MacDougal pitched the ninth for his first career save.

A solid built of 40.302 was at Kaufman Stadium, and the temperature was 73 at gametime.

A stealth bomber flew over the stadium after the national anthem.

Mark Buehrle, 19-12 last year, became the first left-hander to make consecutive opening-day starts for the White Sox since Wilbur Wood from 1972 to 1976. Buehrle gave up two runs and six hits in seven innings.

Chicago, expected to contend for the AL Central title, opened on the road for the 13th consecutive season.

Kansas City, coming off a 62-100 season, went ahead in the third. Brandon Berger, gets the start in right field because half his eight career homers have come off Buehrle, walked and took third on a double by rookie Ken Harvey.

Berrroa singled and Brent Mayne followed with an RBI double — with Berrroa out at the plate on a strong relay throw from second baseman D'Angelo Jimenez.

Mike Sweeney doubled in the sixth, third on a passed ball and scoring on Tom Gordon's wild pitch.

Three runners were thrown out at the plate, two of them Royals. Harvey was cut down in the sixth by third baseman Joe Crede. Chicago's Frank Thomas was out in the seventh on a throw by third baseman Joe Randa.

Twins 3, Tigers 1

Bustamante used to hate ComERICA Park.

Now, he loves it.

Mohr hit a two-run homer over the ballpark's shortened left-field fence as the Minnesota Twins beat Brad Radke shut down the Tigers in Alan Trammell's debut as Detroit's manager.

"That's the fifth or sixth ball I've hit out there, and the first time I've gotten a homer out of it," Mohr said.

"When I hit it, I thought it was going to happen again, so I just started running as fast as I could. I didn't slow down until I saw the umpire giving the signal."

During spring training, Trammell said he would keep his first lineup card as a keepsake.

He changed his mind.

"I'm going to keep it when we win," said the former star shortstop, who led the Tigers in 1984 World Series and 1987 AL East titles.

"I hope I forget about this one real quick."

Radke got 19 consecutive outs after Gene Kingsley's leadoff single. Radke got the win, striking out three and walking one over 6 2-3 innings in his fifth consecutive opening-day start, his seventh overall for Minnesota. Dean Palmer chased Radke with a two-out RBI single.

It was the third straight opening win for the Twins, who survived baseball's attempt to fold them after the 2001 season and won the AL Central last year.

While the Twins went to the playoffs last year for the first time since 1991, lining to World Series champion Anaheim in the AL championship series, Detroit tied Tampa Bay for the worst record in baseball at 55-106. The Tigers, who lost their third straight opener, are baseball’s longest team over the past decade and haven’t had a winning season since 1993.

Maroth gave up two runs and five hits in seven innings with no walks and three strikeouts.

A.J. Pierzynski homered off Jamie Walker in the eighth.

Detroit scored in the seventh.

With runners at first and second, Palmer beat a throw from third baseman Denny Hocking on a soft grounder, and Infante came around. Palmer’s previous hit was on June 24, 2001, against the Twins. He was limited to just 12 at-bats last season due to neck and shoulder injuries.

J.C. Romero allowed one hit in 1 1/3 innings, and Eddie Guardado pitched a perfect ninth for the save, completing the four-hitter.

Orioles 6, Indians 5

It was a strange opening day at Camden Yards, even before the fly ball hit by Ellis Burks vanished up the third-base line off loser Jake Westbrook that soared over the head of Milton Bradley, who appeared to misjudge the ball.

Winner B.J. Ryan worked the 13th for the Orioles, who trailed 4-1 in the sixth before coming back.

Garcia, a former Oriole, added a solo homer in the sixth for the rebuilt Indians, who have a new manager, 35-year-old Eric Wedge, and only eight players remaining from the team that started the 2002 season.

Both teams scored once in the 12th. Omar Vizquel hit an RBI single for the Indians, and Ilalmisimo tied it when Matthew hit a leadoff single and scored on a passed ball by Josh Bard.

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Irish legend dies

Special to The Observer

Former Notre Dame football great George Connor — a two-time consensus All-American tackle and 1946 recipient of the Outland Trophy — died today at the age of 78. Details of his death, including memorial and funeral information, will be forthcoming.

Connor enjoyed arguably the most combined success on the college and professional level of any player in Notre Dame's storied history (he was a Hall of Fame inductee on both levels), after continuing as a two-way star and five-time all-NFL selection with his hometown Chicago Bears.

Notre Dame fans recently had the chance to pay tribute to Connor during the 2000 season opener versus Texas A&M. A special ceremony that day included Connor being presented with an Outland Trophy — emblematic of the nation's top interior lineman — in recognition of an award that he had received 54 years earlier. Permanent trophies were not presented to the Outland winners until 1989, with a series of trophy presentations to former winners then beginning in 1999.

A 1963 inductee into the College Football Hall of Fame, Connor helped Notre Dame post undefeated national champion seasons in 1946 (8-0-1) and 1947 (9-0-0), the start of a four-year span that many recognize as one of the most dominating stretches in college football history.

WHEN: TUESDAY APRIL 1ST (TODAY)
TIME: 5:30 PM
WHERE: ROOM 101 DBRT

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around the dial

WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT
Conference USA vs. Purdue 7 p.m., ESPN
LSU vs. Texas 9 p.m., ESPN

NIT SEMIFINALS
Minnesota vs. Georgetown
7 p.m., ESPN2

Texas Tech vs. St. John's
9:30 p.m. ESPN2

AROUND THE NATION

Baseball America Poll

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NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

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Major League Baseball

Bush throws out first pitch in Cincy

Former President George Bush hugs Cincinnati Reds shortstop Barry Larkin after Bush threw out the first pitch at the first regular season game at Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park.

Associated Press

Former President George Bush threw the ceremonial first pitch — a strike that left him delighted — as the Cincinnati Reds designated their new ballpark to a patriotic theme.

The Reds invited current President Bush to open Great American Ball Park, but he declined without explanation, allowing his father to fill in.

The pregame ceremonies were wrapped in a patriotic theme. Reds owner Carl Lindner began by paying tribute to U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf, and fans waved 6-by-9-inch flags placed on each of the 42,263 seats.

A trainer from the Cincinnati Zoo brought a bald Eagle onto the field before Daniel Rodriguez — a small-town baseball player from an Ohio university — sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." Dozens of red, white, and blue streamers flew overhead before the crowd chanted "U-S-A! U-S-A! U-S-A!"

Bush then walked to a microphone behind home plate and told the crowd it was an honor "to be off the bench substituting for another guy you know, the president of the United States of America."

"As vice president, Bush threw a ceremonial pitch before the All-Star game at Riverfront Stadium in Cincinnati in 1988. He planned to throw a pitch before Game 2 of the 1990 World Series in Cincinnati, when troops were preparing for the first Gulf War, but backed out and was replaced by first lady Barbara Bush.

The ballpark mood quickly changed when Reggie Sanders, Kenny Lofton and Jason Kendall all homered for Pittsburgh in the second inning, putting the Pirates up 6-0.

Cincinnati's Ken Griffey Jr. got the first hit in the ballpark, a first-inning double.

IN BRIEF

Monfort new Rockies owner

Charles Monfort became chairman and chief executive officer of the Colorado Rockies on Monday, replacing Jerry McMorris as the team's controlling owner.

Newly elected, 42, served as its vice chairman since 1992, a year before the team started play. McMorris became chairman in 1992, a year before the team started play.

"I admire the work that has been accomplished in our first decade as a franchise and look forward to taking on the numerous challenges and responsibilities in which Jerry has served so effectively and with such diligence," Charles Monfort said.


No minor league baseball stadium in Evansville

The mayor of Evansville, Ind., dropped plans for a downtown minor league baseball stadium, saying he was worried about possible cost overruns and funding difficulties.

Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr. decided that the 6,000-seat stadium could not be built for the budgeted $25.5 million and said he did not want to use property tax money to make up the difference.

The plan, however, had attracted much public opposition, and state legislators had taken no action on an effort to finance half the stadium's cost with a new tax on rental cars in Vanderburgh County.

Lloyd said he could not justify moving ahead with the stadium project with the budget restrictions on the city and the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corp. seeking a special tax increase.

"As a community, we have these other and important priorities to address," he said. "At this time, a downtown baseball stadium is not one of them. The project is dead."

Evansville native Don Mattingly and Cal Ripken Jr. announced in January that they would be part of an ownership group that expected to move a Class A-minor-league team from Albany, Ga., into the stadium in 2004.

Williams says she needs to get it shape

Now that Serena Williams is off to a 17-0 start this year, she has decided to buck up and shape up.

A victory over Jennifer Capriati in the final of the Nasdaq-100 Open made it three titles in as many tournaments this year for Williams. She won down Capriati in a two-hour shootout.

"I haven't been to the gym in about four weeks," Williams confessed with a sheepish laugh. "I think my trainer's upset about that. And I had a Snickers the other day. I don't know how I stay so fit."
Pregnancy doesn’t stop Curry from coaching

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Purdue coach Kristy Curry sometimes feels nauseous watching the Boilermakers play. She starts pacing and gets fidgety. Sitting. Standing. Watching the Boilermakers play.

It isn’t the Boilermakers making Curry restless, though. It’s the baby kicking inside.

Curry is expecting her second child, a girl, in early June with husband and assistant coach, Kelly. The Currys already have a daughter, Kaya, who turned two in August.

Handling the grueling demands of coaching is tough. So is a normal pregnancy. Together, they’ve turned Curry, 36, into one worn out mother as she tries to deliver a child and a national championship.

Purdue (29-5) beat Notre Dame 66-47 Sunday in the East Regional semifinals. The Boilermakers face defending champion and top-seeded Connecticut (34-1) for a spot in the Final Four on Tuesday night.

At times, Curry said, she feels like she’s been “run over by a truck.” Thanks to various volunteers, it’s more like a ball pickup than a Mack.

Besides her husband, and a team of babysitters, the Boilermakers consider themselves part of the family. Kelsey, a blonde bundle of energy, is a fixture at games and practices, and has recently started cheering her older “sisters” from the sideline.

“Her big thing now is, 'I want to go to the office and see the big girls.' She says that all the time,” Curry said. “I think she gets older it will be a little easier.”

The Boilermakers, though, have their limits with the little one.

“Shoot hoops? Sure. Scoop poop? No way. It’s just too involved until it’s time to change diapers or she becomes tired,” Kelly Curry said.

“She’s good at both,” Kelly Curry said. “Even at 100 percent, without a child, the season wears on you. Fatigue’s an issue. The stress, the tension, gets to you.”

She’s worn out more after long trips.

A day after winning the Big Ten title in Indianapolis, she was off to Utah and then Texas recruiting future Boilermakers.

“Nothing’s really changed,” she said. “I try to do everything the same way.”

“Maybe too much, according to her players, who have had some fun at the expense of their basketball-buffed coach.

“She’s still not trying to wear the clothes we wear,” forward Shereka Wright said with a laugh. “We’re trying to tell her she has to dress appropriately to be a mother.”

Curry warned Wright not to laugh too much.

“You’re going to call me up one day and say, ‘I hate maternity wear,’” Curry said. “I just went up a size or two.”

Guard Erika Valek said Curry’s mood swings have been more noticeable.

“Sometimes the baby kicks a little hard and that’s when you hear the voice change a little bit,” she said. “We’re ready, like I’m sure she is, to have the baby come out.”

The reluctance to drop the clothes fit for her normally petite frame have made her physical changes more noticeable.

“I had someone call me and leave me a message that they thought I needed Jenny Craig until they found out I was preg­nant,” Curry said. “It really doesn’t bother me. We’ll get back to our old selves.”

To prepare for the season, Curry talked to coaches with similar experiences, such as Arizona State’s Charli Turner Thorne, who two years ago coached an NCAA tournament game day after giving birth.

“Even when it was just one child, she battled it,” Kelly Curry said.

Curry’s managed just fine. She hasn’t missed a game or practice, nor has she cut back on any of her responsibilities — as a mother or a coach.

“I’ve tried to continue to do my job the best I could,” Curry said. “I just want to be good at both.”

Curry was told to stay off her feet for about six weeks following the early June birth, though that’s not likely. Curry said she’ll be ready for her summer basketball camps later this month.

“I wouldn’t trade it for any­thing,” Kelly Curry said. “I wouldn’t take away the opportunity to coach and be a mother is the best experience in the world.”

ECDC Registration

The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) is currently registering kindergarten age children for the 2003-04 School Year.

2003 Summer Day Camp registration for children ages 2.5-10 will occur in early March, 2003-04 School Year registration of preschool age children will take place in early April. For more information and ECDC Parent Meeting & Tour dates, please call one of the numbers below.

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SOFTBALL

Weather-plagued Irish face Boilers

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Writer

The Irish are hoping for a bit of help from the weather when they face intrastate rival Purdue in a double header in West Lafayette, Tuesday.

The Irish (10-11) were scheduled to play a double-header in Pittsburgh on Saturday to open Big East play, but those games were rained out.

Notre Dame was then scheduled to travel to Blacksburg to face conference foe Virginia Tech in a Sunday afternoon double-header, but a strong snow-storm moved into the area that resulted in the postponed match up as well.

So far this season, the Irish have lost a total of seven games to rain or snow.

"It's difficult because you don't get those extra games under your belt," said Irish sophomore pitcher Steffany Stenglein. "Most teams have more games played than we do, but we can't let that affect us."

On Feb. 22, in the championship game of the NFCA Leadoff Classic in Columbus, Ga., the Irish held a 12-0 lead over Rhode Island in the fourth inning, but that game was cancelled due to a downpour of rain and time constraints. An almost certain Irish victory was wiped off the books.

Two games were also lost at the Kia Classic in Pullerton, Calif., due to heavy rain on March 15.

Finally, the loss of the two doubleheaders the past weekend has resulted in an Irish team that simply has not been on the field in game situations as much as they would like.

Luckily for the Irish, they are not the only team being washed out. Their opponent in Tuesday's doubleheader, Purdue, was rained out of their two-game series against Ohio State on Sunday.

"Most teams have more games played than we do, but we can't let that affect us."

Steffany Stenglein
Irish pitcher

The Boilermakers (22-13) are led offensive­ly by a pair of big bats in sophomore Andrea Hillsey and freshman Tricia Lilley. Hillsey leads all starters with a .473 batting average, while Lilley leads the team in home runs with eight.

Starting pitchers Diana LaRiva and Leighann Burke have nearly identical stats, with ERAs of 2.19 and 2.20, respectively. As a team, the Boilermakers hold their opponents to just a .233 batting average.

Purdue's last game against Penn State, a 6-5 loss for the Boilermakers, broke a then-12-game winning streak. The all-time series between Purdue and Notre Dame is tied at 6-6, but the Irish have a four-game winning streak against their intrastate rivals.

"They're a pretty good team," Stenglein said. "They've played and beaten some good teams. We need to go in there and get those wins to help out our season."

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu
The Observer ● TODAY

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SPORTS
Tuesday, April 1, 2003

FOOTBALL
Irish greet season with confidence

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

Darrell Campbell flashed a big smile after Notre Dame's first spring practice Monday. After seeing the returning defensive starters out on the field for the first time since Janu­ary and Mainieri knows the success past games are said.

playing in Frank Eck Stadium... and the Irish look back and look at our record in the

Sonior Staff Writor

This year, the Irish have

main­ing

Irish greet season with confidence

By BRYAN

Steve

FOOTBALL
Eck Stadium provides winning atmosphere

- Irish look to win 6th straight home game

By BRYAN KRONK
Senior Staff Writer

Notre Dame coach Paul Mainieri knows the success past Irish baseball squads have had playing in the confines of Frank Eck Stadium.

"We just feel so confident playing in Frank Eck Stadium through the years," Mainieri said. "It's been one of those things that's passed down. If you go back and look at our record in this stadium through the years, it's phenomenal.

This year, the Irish have opened their home schedule with five straight victories, and will look to make it six with a game against the Titans of the University of Detroit at 5 p.m. today.

"We have a lot of confidence playing at home," Mainieri said. "We're looking forward to [last week]." Returning to the schizophrenic weather of South Bend seems to have been at least part of the cure for whatever was ailing the Irish at the beginning of the season. After starting out with a 3-4 record after the first two weekend ends of play, the Irish now stand at 16-6 overall and 5-1 in the Big East, just behind undefeated Connecticut (5-0) and St. John's (2-0).

On the flipside of this game, however, the Titans enter on the losing side of the battle with Mother Nature, having had five of its last nine games postponed due to weather. The Titans are 3-11 on the season.

At this early stage in the season, the Irish and Titans already have a common opponent in Purdue. The Irish defeated the Boilermakers last Wednesday, 8-5, while the Titans got crushed in their meeting with the Big Ten opponent, 14-3, March 1.

The key for the Irish in today's match will be the effort put forth by starting pitcher Tom Thornton, who will be pitching in a limited role in today's game in preparation for the upcoming weekend series at Boston College and St. John's.

On a roster already depleted with injuries, the team needs some solid innings from the core of its pitching staff.

"We're a little thin right now with our bullpen, and once you start playing these mid-week games, and then have the weekend series, coupled with the loss of Grant Johnson for the year and Pete Ogilvie's sore shoulder... it's really thinned out our staff," Mainieri said.

Another important factor in the match will be the return of the hitting of junior captain Steve Sollmann and sophomore Matt Edwards, the leadoff and third hitters in the Irish lineup. After getting off to a slow start this season, both Sollmann and Edwards had breakout weekends against Georgetown, with the two combining for 13 of the team's 31 RBIs in the two-game series. Sollmann also raised his team-leading batting average to .396, while Edwards improved to .341.

"I think Edwards is a legitimate Division 1 middle of the order hitter," Mainieri said. "He struggled a little bit with Villanova and earlier in the year, but that boy is going to hit for us. With Sollmann in the one and Edwards in the three, I feel like we solidified two very key spots that were vacated by [Steve] Stanley and [Brian] Stavisky.

Contact Bryan Kronk at bkronk@nd.edu

BASEBALL
Eck Stadium provides winning atmosphere

FOOTBALL
Weather-plagued Notre Dame gets ready to face Purdue after having to reschedule its last four games due to inclimate weather. The Irish have lost a total of seven games to rain or snow this season. Purdue also had games rained out last week.

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