Sharon's parents meet with investigators, students

By TERESA FRALISH
Assistant News Editor

Steve and Jane Sharon, the parents of missing freshman Chad Sharon, met with investigators and talked with students Thursday about their only child's disappearance.

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

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

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

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

The Sharons say they see no reason for their son's unexplained absence and feel confident that he will contact them when he is able. "We know that he would not do this to us and that there's something keeping him away from us," said Steve Sharon. "It's one of the biggest things we can do right now."

During the evening mass in Fisher Hall, along with many of Chad's classmates, friends and the Fisher Hall community, Chad's father said his son is a very responsible person and experienced in outdoor activities. Steve and Jane Sharon said their son was an outstanding student and never experienced any discipline problems. "Chad was the kind of individual that everyone looked up to," said Steve Sharon.

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

By LUKE BUSAM
News Writer

The current population of the Illinois death row is zero.

In the days before he left office, Illinois Governor George Ryan, a former death penalty supporter, either pardoned or commuted the sentences of every member of the Illinois death row.

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

The clemency made headlines both in Illinois and across the nation and brought the issue of capital punishment to the forefront even as Illinois residents, politicians and experts alike seriously questioned Ryan's motives. A federal probe that alleges the former governor's political organization, Citizens for Ryan, used state employees to perform political acts on state time marred Ryan's tenure as governor. Critics see Ryan's clemency as a diversion from those allegations. Ryan drew criticism from victims' families and prosecuting attorneys across the state.

While Illinois residents and politicians continue to debate Ryan's decisions and motives, the Notre Dame community and students from Illinois developed thoughts on the controversial announcements.

Richard Dieter, a Notre Dame graduate and Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center, a Washington, D.C.-based research and awareness organization on capital punishment, unequivocally praised Ryan's decision.

"I don't see how a person with a conscious could do anything else than what he did. I would compare it to a factory that puts out a product that falls half the time," said Dieter.

Ryan placed a moratorium on the death penalty in 2000 after DNA evidence exonerated 13 men in the same period of time in which 12 were executed.

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

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

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

America's playground

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

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

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

Walt Disney had the goal of creating a place where parents and children can have fun together. And of course, spend some money. (Most people do, which isn't hard because every attraction exists in a gift shop.) Where else do people flock to and pay to be advertised to every hour of the day? Which other park has a huge international attractions complex that introduces major corporation's products of the future? Amazingly, Disney does all this, while leaving most with a warm fuzzy feeling.

There is no place like Disney World. Euro Disney does not even compete. A young British couple reported this sentiment to my mother and I in Epcot as we shared a table at the Japanese Restaurant. Americans do things big with a large smile on their face and people love it.

This is probably why the Disney Corporation seems to own everything.

Disney's dream was formed from an idea and some swamp land no one wanted in Central Florida. Now it has become one of the greatest business endeavors of our time. This is the ultimate in American ingenuity. One that is found that is hard for me to hate.

Even though I have been able to see other parts of the world nothing compares with the United States from its commercialized attractions to its quiet Cape Cod dunes. But I must say there is no place like home whether you're attracted to the Zipity Do Da of Disney or the rolling waves of the Cape.

I think this summer I might be able to at least spend a week on the beach.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Shannon Nelligan at nell2040@saintmarys.edu.

CORRECTIONS

In yesterday's issue, Trip Foley, Student Body Vice President, was misquoted in the article "Today and forever." Foley did not say, "Although students are the life blood of the University, the fact is often I find that other constituents within the University attend or the University attend to them. The quote should have been, "Although students are the life blood of the University, the fact is often I find that other constituents within the University attend to them."
Senate
continued from page 1
committee of the Student Senate researched the IB program and unanimously voted Wednesday to send a letter to Dean Angie Chambless, from the First Year of Studies, asking that the policy for IB advanced placement credit be reconsidered and expanded. Blake said administrators previously did not consider expanding the IB advanced placement credit policy because they felt it did not affect many students.
Blake said half the universities that Notre Dame considers peer universities follow Notre Dame's policy of accepting only the IB higher level courses, while the other half accepted a combination of higher and standard level courses.
There are 1,365 IB schools in 112 countries and 434 within the United States.
Contact Meghanne Downes at downes.4@nd.edu

Clemency
continued from page 1
Amanda Byers, a Notre Dame junior from Roseville, Ill., said she was not certain that Ryan's decision accurately addressed the problematic legal situation.
"I am concerned with the way in which Governor Ryan dealt with it," said Byers. Byers said she does not consider herself a supporter of Ryan, but felt that there was a need for statewide change.
"There is obviously a flaw in the Illinois judicial system, and the cases of all of the death-row inmates should certainly have been re-examined," said Amanda Byers, student.

Sharon
continued from page 1
"I chatted with him the evening he disappeared," said Jane Sharon. In addition, the Sharons say Chad was enjoying Notre Dame and involved in several activities, such as Scholastic Magazine and the Irish Dance Club. "It was a privilege for him to be here," said Steve Sharon.
Chad's parents say they are willing to talk with anyone and want individuals who believe their information may be insufficient to come forward. "Someone out there knows something," said Steve Sharon.
The Sharons say they completely focused on finding their son and want students to talk with them if they feel uncomfortable speaking with police. "We just want information," said Jane Sharon. "We won't hold anything against them."
Even after they departed campus today, the Sharons say students can contact NSF and officials will connect callers with them at their Wisconsin home. Students who knew Chad Sharon say he was as equally perplexed as his parents and do not understand their friend's disappearance. Tom Gorman, a sophomore who lives in Chad Sharon's section in Fisher Hall, said he was very focused on his studies and well-liked by residents in the dorm. "You knew he was a smart kid," said Gorman. "He has a lot of good friends [and] he is liked by everyone. He was always one to do things for everyone else before himself.
"Gorman said the timing of Chad Sharon's disappearance was particularly difficult and he was very surprised when Sharon did not return for his final exams.
"It was really tough when exams came," said Gorman. "I think everyone is kind of in disbelief."
Peter Nebel, a junior who also lives on Sharon's floor, said it was perfectly normal for him to attend parties after he had finished his studies. "He'd go to parties [and] he'd party here with us," said Nebel.
Nebel said Sharon had just completed a 27-page paper and wanted to relax before beginning to study for his final exams.
Both Nebel and Gorman also clarified the rumor that Sharon had left campus without telling anyone during a previous weekend. According to Nebel and Gorman, Sharon told his roommate he would be out of town for the weekend but actually remained in Fisher Hall the entire time.
"He was with us all that night," said Gorman.
Sophomore Danita Alfttliow, who attended high school with Chad Sharon in Wisconsin and kept in touch with him at Notre Dame, said she spent many hours working on student council and National Honor Society projects with him.
"He always went the extra mile," said Alftfliow. "He was always kind and friendly."

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

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The December 25, 2002 Medjugorje message from our Mother, the Queen of Peace!
"Dear children! This is a time of great graces, but also a time of great trials for all those who desire to follow the way of peace. Because of that, little children, again I call you to pray, pray, pray, not with words but with the heart. Live my messages and be converted. Be conscious of this gift that God has permitted me to be with you, especially today when in my arms I have little Jesus - the King of Peace. I desire to give you peace, and that you carry it in your hearts and give it to others until God's peace begins to rule the world. Thank you for having responded to my call."

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ARE YOU READY?
Poll: Bush still needs case for war

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

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

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

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

Two-thirds or more in the Pew poll and other recent polls say they favor military action against Iraq — but only under certain circumstances. For example, the Pew poll suggested that support for war is strong, 76 percent, if United Nations inspectors find nuclear, biological or chemical weapons. The support is even split if they find no weapons but determine Iraq has the ability to make these weapons.

The public does not buy the administration's argument that Iraq must prove it does not have these weapons. Almost two-thirds, 63 percent, said that would not be a sufficient reason for war. More than half, 53 percent, say the president has not yet explained clearly what's at stake to justify the United States using military force to end Saddam's rule, according to the poll. Some 42 percent say he has.

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

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

U.N. inspectors find chemical warheads in Iraq

Associated Press

BAGHDAD An inspection team searching bunkers in southern Iraq on Thursday found 11 empty chemical warheads that Iraq officials had reported to the United Nations last month. A U.N. spokesman said, Iraq insisted that it had reported the rockets, which it said were old and never used for chemical weapons.

A 12th warhead was also found that needed further evaluation, and samples were taken for chemical testing, said Hiro Ueki, the inspectors' spokesman in Baghdad.

It was not clear if the discovery constituted a "material breach" of the U.N. resolution requiring Iraq to itemize its weapons of mass destruction and their components, while White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the Bush administration was "aware of the report." The inspectors' statement added, "We are not declaring that this represents a material breach." McClellan said the inspectors had provided a "bit" of information on the discovery.

"We were talking, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the discovery may not amount to a "smoking gun" unless some sort of chemical agent is also detected. Key questions about the find are whether any chemical weapons were ever loaded into the ordnance, and, if so, when. Officials said serial numbers on the rockets should tell inspectors where and when they were made.

The United States, which has been a heavy military buildup in the Persian Gulf, has threatened war on Iraq if it is found to be hiding banned weapons programs. The Iraqi government says it no longer has any chemical, biological or nuclear weapons and submitted a 12,000-page declaration to the United Nations last month that it said proved its case.

The 12th warhead was found in bunkers built in the late 1990s at the Ukhaidar Ammunition Storage Area, 75 miles south of Baghdad, Ueki said in a statement. The team examined one of the warheads with X-ray equipment and took away samples for chemical testing, the statement added.

Ueki told The Associated Press that the rockets were not accounted for in Iraq's declaration, "It was a discovery. They were not declared," he said.

But Lt. Gen. Hossam al-Saadi, the Iraqi liaison officer to the inspection teams, said they were found during the phase inspection started in 1988 and mentioned in Iraq's report. He expressed satisfaction over what he called "no more than a storm in a teacup." Amid said the inspectors found the munitions in a sealed box that had never been opened.

Bush calls for award limits on malpractice lawsuits

Associated Press

SCRANTON, Pa. President Bush said Thursday he proposed nationwide ceilings on medical malpractice awards would drive down health care costs, but critics said he was trying to cut "one more to the credit of the uninsured and the sick.

Bush pitched his idea during a town hall meeting in Scranton, Pa. That's a fact," he said.

But critics believe the concept is "middle class welfare reform," as the president's own office of management and budget said Thursday.

"This is a problem, a problem that we've got to deal with," Bush said, "and that's why I'm working hard to try to make sure doctors don't get away with malpractice.

"It was not clear if the discov­

...
Communication blamed in bombing

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

Col. Lawrence Stutzriem court-martial witness

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

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

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

ATTENTION BUSINESS MAJORS!

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

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

BA 241 (01) 61223 MWF 10:40-11:50 Hemphill, D. 1/15-2/17

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BA 241 (03) 28669 TH 12:30-1:45 Klein, T. 1/14-2/13

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

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

Table 1-5323. Write for The Observer.

Communication blamed in bombing

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Table 1-5323. Write for The Observer.
Parsons named to head AOL

**NEW YORK** AOL Time Warner Inc. chief executive Dick Parsons was tapped to be the media conglomerate's new chairman Thursday, giving him broadened authority as he tries to turn around a megamerger gone sour.

The board's unanimous decision to have Parsons replace Steve Case, the America Online Inc. founder who announced last week he was stepping down as chairman, completes a shake-up begun a year ago. It caps a heady rise in power for the quiet-spoken Parsons, who formally took over as CEO just eight months ago, and for the victory of old media over new media in the company's refashioning.

"This is the final acknowledgment that the AOL-Time Warner combination was a poorly orchestrated merger and now the entire new management team that's been put in place over last 12 months can move ahead," said Mark May, media analyst at Kaufman Bros. "This has been a wholesale shift from AOL people back to Time Warner people."

Parsons' appointment will take effect May 16 at the annual shareholders meeting, the same date Case had indicated he would leave the company. Case announced plans for his departure on Sunday, saying that he felt his presence would be a distraction as the company tries to recover from what has been a terrible run since the merger. He will remain on the company's board.

The board's decision to

AOL chief executive and incoming chairman Dick Parsons is pictured here in October. AOL's board announced Parsons' appointment Thursday.


give Parsons both jobs came despite speculation that the two positions would be kept separate to ensure sufficient oversight of the company. But the company indicated Thursday that it remains confident its corporate governance measures are adequate.

"It's a company that needs some healing and they needed somebody who plays well with others, and Dick has shown that he does that. He's a peacemaker, he's the kind of guy that brings people together and this is a company that really needs a group hug," said Jonathan Gaw, a research manager at IDC Inc., a technology market research firm.

Before becoming chief executive in May, Parsons had already been president of AOL Time Warner's co-chief operating officer. He had been named president of Time Warner in 1995, after joining the board of directors in 1991. Previously, he was chairman and chief executive officer of Dime Bancorp.

Thursday's appointment makes him among the most prominent African-American executives in the country.

"I am highly gratified that the board shares my determination to maximize AOL Time Warner's tremendous potential," Parsons said. "As we address the challenges facing our Company and the industries in which we operate, I will work together with the extraor-

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**Consortium prices hold, energy up**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON Consumer prices barely budged in December and closed out a year in which costs other than energy rose by the smallest amount since 1964.

The generally tame inflation climate in 2002 offered some shoppers — especially those buying cars, clothes, computers and airline tickets — some good deals because prices fell for those items.

But people paying energy, medical and education expenses, including tuition and books, took a hit in the wallet as those prices rose sharply. Energy prices, which can fluctuate wildly from year to year, rose by 10.7 percent in 2002, a turnaround from the 13 percent drop registered in 2001.

Still, Thursday's report on the Consumer Price Index, the government's most closely watched inflation gauge, merely confirmed what Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan was saying all year: inflation isn't a problem for the economy.

Many companies have limited power to raise prices given the uneven economic recovery, economists said.

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

But on Wall Street, cautious investors pulled stocks lower. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 25.31 points to close at 8,697.87.

For all of 2002, consumer prices rose by 2.4 percent, up from the 1.6 percent increase in 2001.

But most of that pickup came from rising energy costs, including gasoline, which moved higher on tensions in the Middle East and worries about supply disruptions if the United States went to war with Iraq.
South Korea plans for 'worst-case' nuke scenario

Associated Press

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

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

South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jun told a parliamentary hearing there was a "high" possibility North Korea would target South Korea if it builds a nuclear bomb. U.S. officials believe the communist regime already has one or two nuclear bombs.

"I believe a war on the Korean Peninsula would be inevitable if the North's nuclear issue could not be resolved peacefully and the United States attacks North Korea," he said. South Korea's defense chief tends to use hard-line rhetoric to emphasize his military's readiness and his comments Thursday did not indicate Seoul expects the standoff to lead to war.

Traveling in Asia to seek support in getting North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program, Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly said in Beijing on Thursday there was no quick-fix solution.

Kelly said the international community backs the need for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, but it might take a while to achieve that.

"And we're going to have to talk and work together and communicate with other people including with North Korea very, very clearly," Kelly said before leaving Beijing for Singapore. "It's going to be a very slow process to make sure that we achieve this in the right way.

Washington has taken a more conciliatory stance toward the North in recent days, offering to consider energy, agricultural and other aid to North Korea if the country gives up its nuclear ambitions.

Inspectors, however, have not satisfied Pyongyang, which is pushing for a multimillion-dollar peace pact with the United States and appears to be after more ironclad guarantees of aid.

The state-run news agency KCNA quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying late Wednesday that the U.S. offers were "landminded" and "pie in the sky."

"We are only awaiting General Kim Jong Il's order to wipe out the enemies," Central Radio North Korean state-run station.

North Korea lashed out again Thursday in a broadcast by its state-run Central Radio.

"Our military and people are determined to wage a life-or-death fight against U.S. imperialists," South Korea's Yonhap news agency quoted Central Radio as saying.

"We are only awaiting General Kim Jong Il's order to wipe out the enemies," it said.

Meanwhile, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency criticized North Korea for leveraging atomic weapons in an attempt to resolve its security and energy concerns.

"North Korea should understand that this is no way to proceed for a dialogue through nuclear brinkmanship and nuclear blackmail," Mohammed ElBaradei, head of the IAEA.

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

Associated Press

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

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

"We had deep, beautiful, blue skies and then with this smoke coming in huge bursts, it was very, very moving," said the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Danny Ayalon. "You know, these are our national colors."

Ayalon noted that Ramon is the son of a Holocaust survivor and has with him a drawing by a 14-year-old Jewish boy who perished at Auschwitz.

"In two generations, we're moving from the darkest point of our history, to a very great moment of excellence and achievement," the ambassador said.

It is the first time in three years that a space shuttle is not bound for the international space station or the Hubble Space Telescope.

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

About 300 Israelis traveled to Cape Canaveral for the launch along with a number of American Jews, almost all of whom carried Israeli flags.

The astronauts were surrounded by SWAT teams and helicopter patrols as they made their way to the pad. Air Force fighter jets patrolled the 35-mile no-fly zone. Boats were ordered to stay away.

Many of the security measures had been put in place after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but were augmented because of fears Ramon would be an inviting target to terrorists.

The 46-year-old Ramon was among the Israeli pilots who bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, according to a senior Israeli government official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The countdown proved unusual. NASA spokesman Kyle Herring said he was unsure of any credible threats against the shuttle. Columbia's flight initially was targeted for 2001 but was repeatedly delayed, most recently by the discovery of the entire space shuttle fleet last summer.

The shuttle will return to Earth on Feb. 1. NASA said security will be just as heavy for the landing.

Protesters rally against war on Iraq

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

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

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

"We are attacking a poor country that has enough problems," said Al Sylvester, a retired pile driver and World War II veteran who will be marching in Pittsburgh next week. "It is unjust in the true post-9/11 world."

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

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

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

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

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

The sense that war is close, perhaps only weeks away, spurred the determination of many activists to get to Washington. This, despite a possible winter storm followed by a weekend of subfreezing temperatures in the capital.

Gerald Rudolph, director of a South Carolina group that sent one busload to the last large Washington rally, in October, said about twice as many people were going from his area.

"It's starting to reach visibility," he said of the anti-war movement. "Should we go to war, I think it'll just explode across the country."

Nearly 500 people from Wisconsin signed up for buses to Washington, according to a website. And on Thursday, several hundred from upstate New York boarded. Also on board: the Carolina Peace Resource Center.

Ambitious weekend rallies are planned in Phoenix, in Portland, Ore., and in Tampa, where protesters plan to gather outside the headquarters of Central Command, the arm of the Pentagon that would direct the Iraq war. In Pittsburgh, activists are hoping to draw some 1,500 to 2,000 to a protest on the downtown Market Street.

They specialize in naked protests, having demonstrated in various remote locations and forming to spell "peace" and "no war" and to depict the peace symbol.

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

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

The national rally begins at 11 a.m. on the National Mall in view of Congress, and there will march to the Washington Naval Yard and demand the United States give up its most destructive weapons.

Participants were invited to dress as weapons inspectors, although the question of what an inspector looks like was left to their imagination.
It’s time to speak up about Sharon

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

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

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

Finally, he told the prosecutors that he would reverse the judgement in the case and grant Swain a new trial if they did not make an agreement. The prosecutors gave in, and Swain was sentenced to a mere 27 months. Understandably, anyone president will appoint judges who share values similar to his own. But there had to be other potential appointees who shared similar conservative views but who were not blatant racists. I find it absolutely outrageous that Bush would support Pickering by appointing him to such an important judiciary position — he is essentially condoning the actions of Pickering and others like him. As the President of the United States and the main representative of the Republican Party, Bush has a responsibility to uphold the values of our constitution. By appointing Pickering, he has failed in that responsibility. Maybe we are just seeing the real Bush now.

Nick Shepard
Freshman
St. Edward’s Hall
Jan. 15
In today's modern political age, the race for the presidency begins immediately after the last ballot is counted in the November midterm elections. This month, a half-dozen Democrats have announced that they are challenging the president in 2004. This week, the president has begun to stir the pot with tax-cut themes to woo in on issues that charge his political base of support. Both political parties realize the importance of officially jumping into the fray at this early date.

Despite the president's popularity, ratings hovering at around 58 percent, Democrats believe that the support is mostly a rallying call and that they can wrestle the White House away from Bush. In politics, two is an eternity during which support can be strong, wane and return by election day. With about two years remaining before the 2004 presidential election, candidates have more than an eternity to convince the American public to elect them; they have the political equivalent of the age of God.

The Democratic Party is not in the state of chaos portrayed by the so-called liberal media. In the last election, only 51 percent of votes were cast for Republican candidates, amounting to a GOP gain of just two Senate seats.

Enduring either house of Congress or the White House, Democrats are in a politically advanta­geous position similar to that of 1994 when Newt Gingrich and the Republican Party engineered reasons to vote against the status quo. A year and a half later, Republicans must have revived the economy, stabilized tensions throughout the world, prevented further attacks on U.S. soil, and that they have greatly reduced terror organizations that threaten Americans throughout the world. Democrats have an advantage on these issues but cannot expect to be favored by default at the ballot box.

A Democrat can win the White House if he employs two important strategies.

First, he must break the solid Republican lock on the South, Midwest and Mountain states. Second, the Democratic challenger must appear uniquely different from the stereotypical politician. He must be as likable as Bush, appear better qualified than Bush and make voters feel better about his party's past and character. Anything less gives Bush the advantage.

Candidate Bush "stole" the 2000 election not in Florida during the counting process but politically in West Virginia, Arkansas and Tennessee. The Bush political advisors, in hopes of poking away just enough electoral votes to capture the presidency, boldly attacked states in which the Clinton and Gore team had been successful. For a Democrat to win in 2004, half of his strategy must include being as bold in former Bush strongholds.

Of the currently announced Democrats, only Sen. John Edwards can immediately break one of the Republican electoral locks.

The White House's unusually strong press relations portray Edwards as inexperienced is an indication that he is the candidate Bush advisors would least want to oppose next year. Edwards has the potential not of slipping North Carolina away from the Bush column, but can easily, with a well-coordinated campaign, win Bush states such as Florida, Arkansas, Tennessee and West Virginia.

With a great campaign and a running mate like Hispanic governor of Nevada Bill Richardson, Edwards could win Nevada, Arizona and force a close contest in Texas, similar to Tennessee in 2000.

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

Wednesday's edition of the College Tour of Hardball displayed Sen. Joe Biden as one such Democrat. In 15 minutes of exposure on Hardball, before a college audience at the University of Delaware, Biden poked fun at himself and confessed that he had been fighting the renomination of his career, opposed certain Democratic Party issues and embraced certain Bush poli­cies while differing on methods to achieve goals.

Most importantly, Biden outlined the blueprint for a successful run against Bush. Bush must convince the American public that he is unlikeable, appear better qualified than Bush and make voters feel better about the party's past.

In American history during a war situation that a president is calling for tax cuts instead of using money to make Americans feel safer in their local communities. Biden says that too many times Bush demands that other nations and States on what matters to us while withholding support and ignoring issues of importance to his allies.

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

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
"Win one for the Gipper." We've all heard it. Some of us have said it. But do we really know the story behind Notre Dame's one and only George Gipp?

George Gipp, one of the best players to grace the college football field.

By EMILY HOWALD
Assistant Scene Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Few people realize that in 1935, Gipp's hometown of Laurium, Mich., located in the Upper Peninsula dedicated an impressive 15 foot by a park in George's memory.

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

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

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

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

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

Toward the end of the game Rockne
the Gipper!

football field, still remains in the heart of Notre Dame fans.

1920, just hours before he died at the age of 25. During that visit, Rockne made Gipp a promise for a future Notre Dame football team that would need his help. Then Gipp uttered the immortal words that now hang on a plaque in the Irish locker room.

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

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

Rockne felt confident that he could rile the boys' emotions with the story of Gipp, and he prayed that their eagerness and passion could prevail. After the pre game warm-ups, he brought the team into the locker room and began to tell the story of Gipp, the Notre Dame Player who had died during his senior season, eight years ago. He repeated Gipp's wish to the boys and said, "The day before he died, George Gipp asked me to wait until the situation seemed hopeless, then ask a Notre Dame team to go out and beat Army for him. This is the day and you are the team."

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

Notre Dame fell behind 6-0 in the third period. When Jack Chevigny tied the score at 6-6 with a one yard plunge, he picked himself up in the end zone and shouted "That's one for the Gipper!" On Notre Dame's next scoring drive, left halfback Butch Niesluec took the ball, looked downfield and threw a wobbly pass to Johnny O'Brien, a hurdler for the track team. O'Brien caught the pass and ran the ball from the 10-yard line past two tacklers and dove into the end zone for the winning touchdown.

When O'Brien scored, Chevigny yelled "That's one for the Gipper too!" After scoring the two touchdowns the Irish then held off a last-chance drive by the Cadets.

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

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

"He was a natural athlete. And he possessed the three most important qualities needed to attain greatness: the qualities of the body, mind and spirit. He had what no coach or system can teach: football intuition," Rockne said of Gipp. Ronald Reagan portrayed Gipp in the 1940 movie "Knute Rockne-All American" which opened in South Bend. He was also inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1951. Although there are no recorded interviews with Gipp directly, and very few photographs or film exist, he has left his mark on both Notre Dame and all those who have heard his story.

The story is heartwarming and will last forever, and whenever people are in need of inspiration, they will always be told to "Go out and win one for the Gipper!"
The Wizards beat the Magic 108-93. Jordan scored 28 of his 32 points, and Brown scored all of his eight assists in the fourth quarter. The Wizards played their second game without leading scorer Jerry Stackhouse, who has a pulled left groin. The Magic have lost four of their last five.

Jordan, seemingly to deter opponents from his lumbering second-half performance on Tuesday, came out of the blocks like a one-man show. He scored 20 points on 7-for-11 shooting in the first quarter, capping the period with a pair of free throws after stealing the ball from Darrell Armstrong. The Wizards committed only one turnover in the period and led 38-22 on 62 percent shooting.

The Magic started to come back while Jordan rested at the start of the second quarter, with McGrady leading an 11-2 run. The Magic started the second half with a 9-3 run to tie the game and trailed 74-71 going into the fourth. But McGrady and Co. went cold, and the Wizards' three-point play with 9:45 to go gave the Wizards a double-digit lead they never relinquished.

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

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

NBA
Jordan scores 20 in 1st period to lead Wizards victory

Associated Press
WASHINGTON
Michael Jordan provided the spectacular start. A trio of young teammates did the rest.

Jordan scored 28 of his 32 points in the first half, and the Washington Wizards pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat the Orlando Magic 108-93. The Wizards beat the Magic for the first time in three meetings this season in a game between two .500 teams expected to battle for playoff positions in April. Washington also recovered from its worst game of the season, an 84-75 home loss to undermanned Toronto on Tuesday.

Tracy McGrady scored 31 points for the Magic, who overcame a 1-point first-half deficit but fell apart with just one field goal in the final 4:59 of the final period.

Jerry Hughes, Brendan Haywood and Kwame Brown keyed the Wizards' stretch run, scoring 23 of Washington's 34 points, and Brown scored all of his nine points in the final period.

Washington was 12-for-25 from the field, but just 2-for-7 in the second half. He is 5-for-19 in the second halves of his last two games. Hughes scored nine of his 22 points in the fourth. Haywood had five of his season-high 16 points, and Brown scored all of his eight assists in the fourth quarter.

The Wizards committed only one turnover in the period and led 38-22 on 62 percent shooting.

The halftime scores: Wizards 55-49, and Jordan over McGrady 28-16. Jordan also had two assists, but he would have had more if his post players couldn't catch his left passes out of double teams in the paint.

The Magic opened the second half with a 9-3 run to tie the game and trailed 74-71 going into the fourth. But McGrady and Co. went cold, and the Wizards' three-point play with 9:45 to go gave the Wizards a double-digit lead they never relinquished.

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around the dial

FRIDAY

NBA BASKETBALL
Bucks at Sixers 7 p.m., ESPN2
Bulls at Hornets 8:30 p.m., FOX
Lakers at Rockets 9:30 p.m., ESPN

SATURDAY

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
NOTRE DAME at Kentucky 2 p.m., CBS
Illinois (Chicag) at Detroit 12 p.m., ESPN
Syracuse at Pittsburgh 12 p.m., ESPN
Michigan St. at Minnesota 2 p.m., ESPN2
Illinois at Indiana 4 p.m., CBS
Connecticut at North Carolina 5 p.m., ESPN
Xavier at Massachusetts 6:30 p.m., ESPN

SUNDAY

NFL PLAYOFFS
Bucs at Eagles 2 p.m., FOX
Titans at Raiders 6:30 p.m., CBS
Owners unanimously approve All-Star game change

Winner now gets World Series home-field advantage

Associated Press

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

Selig came up with the plan following last year's All-Star Game, which ended in a 7-7, 11-inning tie when both leagues ran out of pitchers.

"This energizes it. This gives them something to really play for," Selig said. "People pay a lot of money to see that game. They deserve to see the same intensity they see all year long."

Management lawyers will now ask the players' association to approve the change. Union head Donald Fehr said before Thursday's 30-0 vote that players were not yet sure of their stance.

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

Since the start of the World Series in 1903, home field has alternated between the leagues.

The change is strongly backed by Fox, which holds baseball's national television rights. It also needs approval of the players' association.

"We've been discussing it with players," Fehr said Wednesday. "We know they're interested in it, and we'll get back to them."

Some veteran players are against it, including New York Mets pitcher Tom Glavine, the NL player representative.

"It's not something I'm in favor of," he told The New York Times. "I would find it hard to believe that most players would want the outcome of the All-Star Game to determine home-field advantage for the World Series."

A management official who had spoken with the union said that while the change was likely to become an issue between the sides, the union told management it was still unclear what position it would adopt.

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

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

Jags hire Del Rio as their new head coach

Associated Press

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

Jaguars spokesman Dan Edwards confirmed the job had been offered and accepted. However, contract details have not been released.

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

Sports Illustrated's Don Banks reports Phil Savage, Baltimore's personnel executive, first interviewed with Weaver earlier this week.

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

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

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

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Megan Walsh, piano

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Friday, January 17, 2003
**MENS SWIMMING**

Busy weekend ahead for Irish

By LISA REIJULA

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

The trip provided the Irish a chance to gain renewed enthusiasm and focus while training in a different environment. “It was nice to get away for fun and had the chance to experience enjoyable, she is ready to move on but will miss Herrington. It’s been a really long but fun four years. It’s been a good experience overall, but I’m just ready to finish,” Smith said. “I’ll miss [Lane] a lot. I love swimming with her. She’s great. I couldn’t ask for a better co-captain. Petcoff is sad to see his captains on the verge of leaving. “When Lane was traveling abroad, the team still voted her captain,” Petcoff said. “I think that says what this team thinks about her.”

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

This weekend, we may see the Irish in a different environment. While many students are struggling to adjust to the cold temperatures in South Bend, Notre Dame’s men’s swimming and diving team might be having a harder time than most. The Irish swimmers were in sunny Acapulco, Mexico, for a training camp in the beginning of January.

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**Belles continued from page 24**

(132-118) but lost to Alma (145-93). Coach Greg Petcoff remains cautious of the two squads while continuing to improve his team. “This weekend, we may see the biggest test for us,” Petcoff said. “We want to win satellite. We’re ready to race again and swim hard two days in a row.”

Contact Lisa Reijula at lreijula@nd.edu

**Mens continued from page 24**

recruiting. More importantly, he emerged as one of the most vocal players in the Irish locker room and garnered respect from teammates he earned years ago. “Our guys have the utmost respect for Matt because they’ve seen how consistent a personality, a player and person he is,” Brey said. “So when he says things, they really listen.”

Now, Carroll has evolved from a pure shooter into a multidimensional weapon, capable of driving through the lane or hitting 3-pointers at will. After his team lost to the Irish Tuesday, Rutgers coach Gary Waters was convinced that had Carroll shot more in Notre Dame’s tournament loss to Duke last season, the Irish would have won easily. The Irish may count on Carroll more than ever in Lexington. In Notre Dame’s two losses this season to Creighton and Pittsburgh, Carroll averaged 25.5 points and played a pivotal role.

But Brey emphasized after Tuesday’s win the Irish have to trust each other on offense. And Carroll, for his part, said Notre Dame’s success is often directly DMCOS. epowers@nd.edu

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Contact Lisa Reijula at lreijula@nd.edu

**Contact Erik Powers at epowers@nd.edu**

**Cappus Bible Study (CBS)**

Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

114 Coleman-Morse Conference Room

All students are invited to attend Bible Study every Wednesday through the semester beginning January 21, 2003. All sessions last one hour.

Bring your own Bible and a friend.

For further information contact:

Fr. Al D Alonzo, O.F.M.
631-4616

or

Campus Ministry

631-7800.

**belles** continued from page 24

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Contact Lisa Reijula at lreijula@nd.edu

**Mens continued from page 24**

recruiting. More importantly, he emerged as one of the most vocal players in the Irish locker room and garnered respect from teammates he earned years ago. “Our guys have the utmost respect for Matt because they’ve seen how consistent a personality, a player and person he is,” Brey said. “So when he says things, they really listen.”

Now, Carroll has evolved from a pure shooter into a multidimensional weapon, capable of driving through the lane or hitting 3-pointers at will. After his team lost to the Irish Tuesday, Rutgers coach Gary Waters was convinced that had Carroll shot more in Notre Dame’s tournament loss to Duke last season, the Irish would have won easily. The Irish may count on Carroll more than ever in Lexington. In Notre Dame’s two losses this season to Creighton and Pittsburgh, Carroll averaged 25.5 points and played a pivotal role.

But Brey emphasized after Tuesday’s win the Irish have to trust each other on offense. And Carroll, for his part, said Notre Dame’s success is often directly

**Contact Andrew Soukop at asoukop@nd.edu**

**Contact Lisa Reijula at lreijula@nd.edu**

**Cappus Bible Study (CBS)**

Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

114 Coleman-Morse Conference Room

All students are invited to attend Bible Study every Wednesday through the semester beginning January 21, 2003. All sessions last one hour.

Bring your own Bible and a friend.

For further information contact:

Fr. Al D Alonzo, O.F.M.
631-4616

or

Campus Ministry

631-7800.
HOCKEY
Irish look to muzzle Bulldogs in Chicago

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Sports Writer

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

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

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

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

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

The Irish connection to Chicago doesn't stop there, however. Junior defenseman T.J. Mathieson, sophomore forward Cory McLean and freshman defenseman Chris Trick all played junior hockey in Chicago before coming to Notre Dame.

Notre Dame (9-9-4, 7-8-1 CCHA) is coming off of an emotional 4-4 tie against CCHA leader Ferris State last Saturday. Through 14 games, he owns a 3.78 goals against average and a .865 save percentage.

With an offense that scores about four goals a game and a goalie that gives up about four goals a game and a .900 save percentage, the Bulldogs are better than their mediocre record.

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

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

Currently, the Irish are tied for fourth place in the CCHA with 36 points. The conference is so close, however, that Notre Dame is only four points out of second place.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

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SMC BASKETBALL
Belles putting records aside

By TREY WILLIAMS
Sports Writer

Numbers can be a definitive factor in predicting the outcome of some sporting events. A winning record is naturally favored over a losing one.

However, for a trained and prepared Saint Mary's basketball team, the odds are less of a worry.

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

Veteran members of Saint Mary's basketball still have the memory of a crushing 61-41 loss at Albion last season. The Belles were defeated in nearly every aspect of the game. They were out-rebounded 40-27 and that is also a weakness of this year's team as well.

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

The Belles may have had trouble on the road last season but pulled out a 53-44 victory over the Britons at home that same year. Despite the ultimate victory, the Belles were outscored 32-26 in the first half. Having a strong start will be a key for the Belles on the road.

Saint Mary's defense will have a lot on their plate with Albion guard Sarah Caskey, who averages 12.2 points per game.

The Belles boast their own offensive weapon in sophomore forward Emily Creachbaum who currently outscores Caskey with 13.7 points per game.

A conference win by the Belles is crucial as they are currently seventh in the eight-team MIAA conference.

Contact Trey Williams at Williams.317@nd.edu

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Irish forward Yan Stastny maneuvers with the puck in a match against Bowling Green earlier this season. The Irish play Yale at home Friday and at Chicago's Allstate Arena Saturday.
Irish squads open season at Central Michigan

3 All-American sprinters to pace 2003 womens team

By ANDY TROEGER Special to The Observer

The 2003 track and field season begins for the Notre Dame women's team this weekend at the Central Michigan Opener.

The Irish are ready to begin the quest for the 2003 Big East indoor championship, set for March 14-15 at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, NY.

One area of concern for the Irish this year will be replacing former All-American Liz Grow on the highly-improved sprinting team.

Three sprinters who could fill the void left by Grow's departure are senior Kymsa Love and juniors Kristen Dodd and Ayesha Boyd. All three runners were members of the Irish All-American 1600-meter relay team which finished 8th at last year's NCAA Outdoor Championships, completing the circuit in a school-record time of 3 minutes, 32.12 seconds. The trio also made up the core of Notre Dame's 4x100-meter relay unit which has won the last two Big East indoor titles and placed 19th at the 2002 NCAA outdoor meet.

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

In addition, the Irish will have another new star in senior Luke Watson, who returns to head the distance team, having finished fourth at last year's NCAA Championship in the indoor 3,000 meters and seventh in the outdoor steeplechase.

Watson is not the only runner returning, however. Junior David Alber will be expected to contribute in the steeplechase while senior John Keane and sophomore Eric Morrison add more depth to the distance corps.

"We should be good at the distance end," Irish head coach Joe Piane said. "We have some good sprinters, and we've got Luke Watson back too."

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

"Marc Strilowski returns for a 60th year," Piane says. "That's got to help. Todd Mobley was an NCAA qualifier in the 10,000 meters last year. Vinnie Ambrico is coming in as a freshman running roughly a 4:11 mile and his classmate, Thomas Channery, is running 1:51.40 in the half mile. We are pretty solid in the middle distance area."

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

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

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

"We want to be deeper, as we always are to do well at the NCAA's," Piane said. "But our goals as a team are to do well at the Big East Championships and to get people qualified at the NCAA's."

Contact Andy Troeger at atroeger@nd.edu

Distance runners to be strength of solid mens squad

By ANDY TROEGER Special to The Observer

As in past years, the mens track and field team will be looking for its distance group to lead the team as it opens the 2003 indoor season tonight at the Central Michigan Opener.

Fifth-year senior Luke Watson returns to head the distance team, having finished fourth at last year's NCAA Championship in the indoor 3,000 meters and seventh in the outdoor steeplechase.

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Contact Andy Troeger at atroeger@nd.edu
**Freshman Retreat #45**
Retreat Date: Jan. 24-25
Sign-ups open thru Jan. 20

**Senior Retreat #8**
Retreat Date: Jan. 31-Feb. 1
Sign-ups open thru Jan. 27

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**What's happening this week**

**Friday, January 17**

- **MBA Retreat**
  - Friday thru Saturday
  - Sacred Heart Parish Center

**Saturday, January 18**

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

**Sunday, January 19**

- **RCIA Session**
  - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
  - CoMo Student Lounge
- **Learning to Talk About Race Retreat #24**
  - Pre-Retreat Plunge
  - 5:00-6:30 p.m.
  - CoMo Student Lounge

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**Mark Your Calendar**

**Freshman Retreats**
- #45 Jan. 24-25
- #46 Feb. 28-Mar. 1
- #47 April 4-5, 2003

**Learning to Talk About Race**
- Jan 24-25
- Feb. 7-8

**Notre Dame Encounter with Christ (NDE)**
- #74 Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2003
- Sign-ups closed
- #75 Feb. 28-Mar. 2, 2003
- Sign-up: Jan. 27-31
- #76 April 11-13, 2003
- Sign-up: March 3-7

**Senior Retreat**
- #8 Jan. 31-Feb. 1

**Sophomore Road Trip - Destination: Unknown**
- Be on the look out for details, coming soon....

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**Mass Schedule**

**Basilica of the Sacred Heart**

- **Saturday**
  - 5:00 p.m.
  - Rev. Bill M. Lies, c.s.c.
- **Sunday**
  - 10:00 a.m.
  - Rev. Bill M. Lies, c.s.c.
  - 11:45 a.m.
  - Rev. Peter D. Rocca, c.s.c.

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**Around Campus (Every Sunday)**

- **1:30 p.m.**
  - Spanish Mass
  - Zahm Hall Chapel
- **5:00 p.m.**
  - Law School Mass
  - Law School Chapel
- **7:00 p.m.**
  - MBA Mass
  - Mendoza COB
  - Faculty Lounge

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**Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**1st Reading**
- 1Sm 3:3b-10, 19

**2nd Reading**
- 1Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20

**Gospel**
- Jn 1:35-42
The Notre Dame women's swimming team will travel this weekend without a group of its key swimmers in the hopes of keeping them healthy for later competition.

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

Freshman Christel Bouvron, Kara Santelli and Kael Walker, sophomore Katie Eckoldt and senior Kristina Kennedy will stay in South Bend for the weekend to rest. Cold weather and wear and tear are among the reasons for their absence.

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

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

So Notre Dame focuses on Illinois, not Michigan, but nonetheless an obstacle in the way of the streaking Irish swimmers.

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

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

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

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

"We had a really good training camp pretty much with everybody," Weathers said. "We had a chance to get the kids where they were. Everybody did a great job over Christmas in practice (and against Kansas) as a team."
ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Full game necessary for Irish to be successful

By KATIE McVOY
Associate Sports Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"They're very athletic and they move the ball more quickly," McGraw said. "So they have a huge advantage in team quickness and team speed."

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

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

Contact Katie McVoy at mcv5069@stinsonlaw.edu
Happy Town

Hey duds, Nice burns.

Thanks, My room hates them.

That's a pretty sweet 'stache for having grown it over the break.

Yeah—but duds, you should see Eddie. Huh-huh.

Hey guys... What's so funny?

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Played duds and drakes with (9,9,9) •
2 Classic symbol of bad luck •
11 It may be pushed at a party •
15 Mates •
17 He hid under the alias
18 Vision: Prefix
19 Made known
20 Cozy retreat
21 "Shampoo" co-star
23 "Has sister" Shakti
26 Daft
28 Successor to
32 Some phones
33 Spreading plant
36 Bordeaux blaze
37 Choice in trunks
38 A symbol of
41 First name in
42 Western word
54 Tangled hair
56 Weight

DOWN
1 Canadian province capital
2 Get one behind the other
3 Like Rome was a New York City
4 Side room
5 Scholarship basis
6 Player whose number 6 jersey is now retired
7 "Obi-Wan"
8 Mates •
9 He was told to "let my people go!"
10 Villa
11 Anticipatory cry
12 Haitian dictator,
13 Test
14 Den mother
15 A successor to
16 MoЭSadies hit
17 "Famos:" composer
18 A symbol of
19 Likely to wear
20 "America's Funniest Home Videos"
21 Successor to
22 Get to
23 Can you believe
24 Spreading pant
25 The changes you make to yourself, your home or your life in general will lead to increased self-esteem. You'll have a better understanding of what you really want to do with your life
26 Bordeaux blaze
27 "Dawson" composer
28 Three sides
29 Where Basque is spoken
30 Some phones
31 Can you believe
32 Some phones
33 Spreading pant
34 Not keep to
35 Some phones
36 Bordeaux blaze
37 First name in
dance
38 Some phones
39 A symbol of
40 Where Basque is spoken
41 First name in
dance
42 Morning time
43 "Travelers in the Congo" writer
44 Have a kid
45 Serve
46 Weight
47 Some phones
48 Some phones
49 Abstain from
50 Some phones
51 Some phones
52 The Roosevelt
53 Some phones
54 Tangled hair
55 Some phones
56 Weight

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SPORTS
Friday, January 17, 2003

FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Looking into the future

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

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

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

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

The 6-foot-6, 245-pound Olsen is the nation’s top tight end recruit according to several recruiting publications, took his official visit to Notre Dame Dec. 13. ESPN.com expert Tom Lemming believed the Irish had an excellent chance of landing Olsen, partly because his older brother Chris is currently a quarterback at Notre Dame.

“I'd be shocked if he doesn’t wind up at Notre Dame,” Lemming said. “Think with Chris’s attitude and coaching style.”

Notre Dame would be easier for his parents to see both of them play at the same place.

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

As a quarterback in high school, Zbikowski ran for 1,257 yards and 25 touchdowns and passed for 1,382 yards and 11 touchdowns. Voted to the USA Today first-team All-America, the Woodland Hills, Ill., native also made 41 tackles and two interceptions as a safety. Now, with two high priorities secured, Notre Dame can shift the focus to recruits such as wide receiver Mark Bradford, scheduled to visit campus this weekend.

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

With only one remaining starting offensive lineman, the Irish also place high priority on visiting center/guard John Sullivan, Lemming said the Greenwich, Conn., native and USA Today second-team All-America selection will likely choose Notre Dame.

On the defensive side of the ball, safety Ira-Bell Guilford, who also played running back in high school and carried the ball for 2,268 yards and 29 touchdowns, visits campus this weekend and said he will decide between Ohio State and Notre Dame. The Hoboken, N.J., native also place high priority on visit.

MENS BASKETBALL

Irish hope to make Wildcats blue

By ANDREW SOUKUP

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

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

But when No. 9 Notre Dame (14-2) travels to play No. 16 Kentucky (12-3) Saturday for the teams’ third meeting in as many years, Carroll is confident the Irish won’t repeat their disastrous performance of two years ago.

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

This year’s team is completely different.

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

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

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

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

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

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