ND SMC students react to Iraqi conflict

By ANDREW THAGARD

Just a day after the United States began military attacks in Iraq, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students had mixed reactions about military action in the Middle East nation. On Wednesday, hours after President Bush's 48-hour ultimatum to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein expired, the United States launched air strikes against Iraq. It was a measure that some oil fields ablaze and British and American forces began moving across the border from Kuwait in preparation for a large-scale coalition invasion. Since Wednesday, students have been making trips to the Grotto to pray, and groups gathered around television screens and computers in search of the latest information on "Operation Iraqi Freedom," on both campuses.

"It was a shock for some students to be able to go into the open," said Melody Gonzalez, a sophomore political science major and member of the Peace Coalition and Progressive Student Alliance. "I don't understand this war. I don't understand the reasons for it.

"Other students, however, expressed more support for the military's actions. "I'd have to say it's necessary just to get Saddam out of power," said Joe Hagan, a junior accounting major. "It would have been nice to have the United Nations' backing, but we needed to take action. I don't think we could wait."

"My brother's in the Marines so I really don't like it, but they have to do what they have to do," she said.

Many students said that having family and friends in the armed forces and knowing that people's age drinking.

"It's good that there is discussion on the conflict."

"We didn't go to bust the party. Once we got there, we had no choice. We had to restore some security," said Delitchey. Police arrested one female student for selling alcohol without a permit and Delitchey said it was unusual for someone to be arrested for this violation at a party. According to Rex Bakow, director of Notre Dame Security/Police, police arrested three additional students and cited three Notre Dame students and one Saint Mary's student.

"Twenty-five kegs of beer and approximately seven taps were confiscated. A student fell from the balcony of an apartment during the party, but was not seriously injured.

Tip prompted party bust

By SCOTT BRODFUEHRER News Wire

An excise police commander said Thursday that his officers raided a St. Patrick's Day party at the College Park apartment complex after receiving information from a private citizen the previous week that a large party would take place.

Lt. Greg Delitchey, Commander of the Michigan City office of the Indiana State Excise Police, said that his officers tried to confirm last week that there would be a large party, but were unsuccessful because no students were on campus due to spring break. He said his office did not have any contact with the University until after the party, when they provided officials with a list of students who were arrested or cited for underage drinking.

"It's good that there is discussion but there needs to be more — there needs to be a joint effort with regard to the policy and to providing alternatives to abusive drinking," Hallahan said.

See also: "Demonstration staged at Saint Mary's page 6

"The best way to explain it is that a large party would be held and it finally came out into the open," said Melody Gonzalez, a sophomore political science major and member of the Peace Coalition and Progressive Student Alliance. "I don't understand this war. I don't understand the reasons for it.

"Other students, however, expressed more support for the military's actions. "I'd have to say it's necessary just to get Saddam out of power," said Joe Hagan, a junior accounting major. "It would have been nice to have the United Nations' backing, but we needed to take action. I don't think we could wait."

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Delitchey said that excise police officers, including an unspecified number of undercover officers, attended the party to follow up on the tip. Captain William Thompson, commander of the afternoon shift for the St. Joseph County Police, said Tuesday that two undercover officers were at the party.

"We didn't go to bust the party. Once we got there, we had no choice. We had to restore some control," said Delitchey. He said the party violated an Indiana statute regarding the sale of alcohol.

"The best way to explain it is that there is a statute that covers the sale of alcohol and any time you sell, dispense or give away alcohol, you must have a permit ... the exception is if you are in your home and are having a party with invited guests," said Delitchey.

Police arrested one female student for selling alcohol without a permit and Delitchey said it was unusual for someone to be arrested for this violation at a party. According to Rex Bakow, director of Notre Dame Security/Police, police arrested three additional students and cited three Notre Dame students and one Saint Mary's student.

"Twenty-five kegs of beer and approximately seven taps were confiscated. A student fell from the balcony of an apartment during the party, but was not seriously injured. 
I'm not really sure how to write a supposed funny column that doesn't use the words 'war,' 'Iraq,' 'bombing,' 'Bush,' or 'seven-foot garlik.' Then again, I'm not really sure how to write anything at all without these priceless staples of American comedy.

That said, I've got a whole lot of column left to write and I can't fill it all without writing about what ever it is I usually write about.

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

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

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

Atop the escalator, the hapless student was fortunate enough to literally crawl off, hands on the platform and legs madly trying to join the hands of course. Of course, this attracted the attention of a nearby Big Mean Italian Guy, who proceeded to berate the student in 45 different languages, apparently failing to recognize the big red shirt she was wearing saying I AM AMERICAN, and so also failing to include English. By this time, the poor girl broke down in tears and asked if she couldn't just proceed to race down on the platform. Of course, this beguiled the four other really large hairy animals that I'm not supposed to talk about.

Now, you may ask what the moral of this story is, but really, it doesn't have one. Pure it over all you like and try to find the anti-war — oops, almost slipped — anti-consumerist message behind the millions of gallons of oil run rampant through the industry. Obviously, this is the height of American arrogance and stupidity — oh, wait. I've been listening to those ultra-liberal ex-hippie protesters too much again. Not to say I think all protesters are the same, just the ultra-liberal ex-hippie ones. I suspect you have to be one to make any sense out of that sentence, actually.

Let me know if you find any, since I'm too busy trying to come up with the original play, "Instance" this weekend.
Campus leaders debate policy

By HELENA PAYNE
Senior Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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Despite some predictions that there would be a mass exodus by students to local apartment complexes, the data on Residence Life and Housing showed a 1.7 percent increase in housing applications compared with last year's 286.

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

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

"I think a lot of them are afraid that they are going to get in trouble," she said, adding, "It is used to be acceptable to party... Now it is worse.""The director of Notre Dame Security/Police, Rex Rakow, said it is still too early to see the effects of the alcohol policy.

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

In general, many feel that the alcohol buzz that comes to shove, [students] make decisions like they were told to lie face down on the ground and were searched by the Marines. At the same time, Marines cleared bunkers, emerging from one with two Iraqis with bound wrists. One had a dark gray uniform, the other was barefoot. Abandoned weapons mortars were spread over a large area.

Elsewhere, U.S. troops met resistance from Iraqi units. The 1st Marine Expeditionary Unit just over an hour after it crossed the border into Iraq from northern Kuwait. One group of 40 Iraqis marched in formation down a two-lane road toward the Americans and gave up. They were told to remove the guns from the ground and were searched by the Marines. At the same time, Marines cleared bunkers, emerging from one with two Iraqis with bound wrists. One had a dark gray uniform, the other was barefoot. Abandoned weapons mortars were spread over a large area.

Iraqis surrender as troops advance

By ROBERT TAYLOR

IRAQ

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

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

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

Further west along the border, some 200 Iraqi soldiers surrendered to the U.S. 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit just over an hour after it crossed the border into Iraq from northern Kuwait.

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

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

The unit took small arms and artillery fire Thursday night, and at one point a U.S. Cobra helicopter accidentally fired a missile at a U.S. M1Abrams tank, injuring one soldier and forcing abandonment of the smoldering tank. Friday morning, the unit opened a massive artillery barrage across the border.

In Iraq, Marines in the 1st Marine Division located a parked, unsecured vehicle with machine guns on an Iraq i 1-55 tank and destroyed it with a Javelin, a portable anti-tank missile. Troops from the Army's 3rd Infantry Division came into contact with several Iraqi armed personnel carriers, destroying at least three of them, from line troops reported by radio.

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

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

The move on the area between Basra and the Persian Gulf suggested that the allied strategy on the ground calls for a two-pronged attack — one to clear Iraq resistance in the southern oil region while the other charges north toward Baghdad.

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

The armored vehicles of the 1st Marine Division rolled across the border at around 9 p.m. local time (1 p.m. EST). As they moved across the desert, burning oil wells were visible, spewing black smoke into skies lit by a nearly full moon.
Deitchley said that his office would have been liable if it had not responded to the tip about the party and a student was injured.

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

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

"When parties come to our attention as obviously and publicly as someone falling off a balcony or a party with 75 kegs [we will respond]," said Kirk.

Kirk said that when his office hears rumors of such a large party, its first step is to contact students organizing the party, rather than police.

"We try to contact students and tell them of the significant liability they have with such a large party. When we hear a rumor of a party with 75 kegs, it is appropriate to respond," Kirk said.

Deitchley said his office is still investigating the party and more arrests could be made.

"If there is anyone else involved that needs to be charged, we will pursue them," he said. Deitchley encouraged students planning to host such a party in the future to obtain the necessary permits through the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission.

"In the future, it would be better for everyone involved, if there are going to be parties, that organizers take steps to ensure that they are legal. My office is glad to assist anyone with getting the right information," Deitchley said.

Hallahan hopes to represent student's concerns when meeting with Poorman and other administrators and then discuss why the policy is not working. He said the policy simply shifted the problems off campus, bringing to light several safety concerns.

"Simple policy changes are not going to provide the changes that they desire and there needs to be other options and education so that students don't drink abusive­ly," Hallahan said. "The policy is a two-sided commitment — one that needs Student Affairs to provide resources and opportunities as alternatives to drinking and not just a commitment to changing policy."

Hallahan suggested that funding be increased for educating students about the local community as well as alcohol use, and encouraged programming to keep students on campus. He added that the Office of the President, other divisions of student government, the Student Union Board and student clubs should work together to rejuvenate the campus social culture.

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

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

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

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

"I think that students who were looking for an alcohol­driven party have been disappointed by the changes in the dances," Poorman said. "Those who have been looking for a general dance have been encouraged by the changes."

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

Adolf A. Berle Professor of Law

Columbia University

Friday, March 21, 2003
2:00 pm

120 Law School

All are invited to attend.

*Please note that Prof. Coffee's visit has been moved up one week from the originally announced date of March 28.
Iraq
U.S. chopper crashes on invasion day, 16 killed

Associated Press

The onset of war sparked anti-war demonstrations across the country — more than 1,000 were arrested in San Francisco and at U.S. embassies around the world. The State Department warmed U.S. citizens abroad of an increased danger of terrorism. Rumsfeld said that talks with Iraqi military elements, including in the elite Republican Guard, may have been behind a delayed start to a planned massive aerial assault.

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

"We need to resolve the current invaders hard lessons and make them taste painful punishment," declared the Iraqi military.

SOUTHERN IRAQ
American and British combat units rumbled across the desert into southern Iraq Thursday and bombed limited targets in Baghdad. But military commanders were wary of the massive onslaught that would signal an all-out war and U.S. commanders hoped to talk the Iraqi regime into giving up.

Coalition forces suffered their first casualties in a helicopter crash that left 12 Britons and four Americans dead.

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

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

Saddam suited up for television Thursday and met with his military and government cronies to counter the U.S.-led attack.

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

U.S. troops have launched a massive aerial assault on Baghdad and the surrounding area, but American officials were holding back on word of the day's casualties.

A former gun lobbyist has agreed to testify for the National Rifle Association in a lawsuit alleging negligent marketing of firearms.

Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional

Lawmakers condemn "under God" ban

The House voted Thursday to condemn a federal appeals court's ruling that denouncing the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional because of its reference to God.

The nonbinding resolution, passed 400-7 with 15 members voting present, states that the phrase "one nation under God" in the pledge reflects the religious faith central to the founding of the nation and that its recitation is a patriotic act, not a statement of religious faith.

Former NRA lawyer to testify for NAACP

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Demonstration staged at Saint Mary's

By ANNEILESE WOOLFORD
Saint Mary's Editor

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

"We decided this would be the most visible and effective way to get student attention," said junior Emily Welsh. "It's a sign of solidarity among students. It's a non-confrontational way if people want to participate and they don't know what to do."

The group learned of the idea at a student anti-war conference held at the University of Chicago over Valentine's Day weekend. Those involved also attended a meeting at Notre Dame before spring break where the idea was again discussed.

An emergency meeting was called Wednesday night following the U.S. attack on Iraq when members decided to put the demonstration into effect as soon as possible.

"The organization as a whole does not agree with Bush's position," said Emily Welsh. "We just don't believe in a unilateral attack on Iraq."

Peacemakers is a social justice organization unaffiliated with any political party. It has existed on Saint Mary's campus for approximately 10 years. "It comes and goes dependent on how active students are," said Welsh.

Although the group has no future demonstrations or protests yet planned, they will continue to support peace in a number of ways. Nine students from the group participated in Thursday's "Not in Our Names" march through downtown South Bend. The march attracted activists from over thirteen Michigan churches, religious communities and organizations.

"We decided this would be the most visible and effective way to get student attention."

Emily Welsh student

WHAT ARE YOU CALLED TO DO?
CAREERS AS VOCATIONS:
D I AY MINISTRY

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

A panel presentation with:

Rob Ercoline, MA '89, High School Teacher, Pastoral Associate at Little Flower Parish, Spiritual Director, currently with Retreats International

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

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

Contact Anneliese Woolford at woolf8338@saintmarys.edu
Oil sabotage fears on the rise

Iraqi forces could blow some 1,700 wells

Those assets belong to the Iraqi people, and as much as possible we’d like to keep them intact," she said. Already, those fears may have become reality. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday that three or four Iraqi oil wells may already have been set afire in southern Iraq. Witnesses in Kuwait heard explosions and saw orange flames in the sky across the border.

Conventional explosives attached to wellheads and other vital facilities could halt production at any of Iraq’s 1,685 wells. With more than twice as many oil wells as Kuwait, Iraq could suffer an even greater economic and environmental disaster. When Iraqi troops retreated from Kuwait in February 1991, they attached plastic explosives to wellheads — clusters of pipes and valves protruding from underground wells — and piled sandbags against them to direct the force of the explosions for maximum effect.

The result was Dantesque geysers of burning crude at 603 wells and serious damage at more than 100 others. Teams of firefighters from the United States, Canada and eight other countries worked from April until November of that year to douse the last flames.

Most of the teams used seawater pumped through Kuwait’s empty pipelines to battle the fires. The hose was too intense, at more than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, that water sometimes continued bubbling on the ground for two days afterward, said Mark Badick of Safety Boss, Inc.

We’ve had fire helmets melt on our heads,” said Badick, whose Calgary-based firm put out 180 of the Kuwait well fires.

Firefighters from around the world had a different technique, using two jet engines mounted horizontally on a tank chassis — a homemade vehicle they called “Big Wind” — to blast flame-retardant foam.

It took Kuwait more than two years and $50 billion to restore its oil output to pre-Gulf War levels. Iraq, if it sabotaged its oil fields, could take longer and cost much more.

Iraq’s fields and pipelines are badly run-down after 12 years of U.N. economic sanctions. Its fields are also much farther from the ocean than those in Kuwait, so firefighters might be unable to pump seawater to smother burning wells there.

Destruction could be especially bad if Iraqis set off explosives underground, deep within the well shafts themselves. If that happened, firefighters would have to drill a new “relief well,” chemical or cut holes in sand, gel and mud into each damaged shaft to try to plug it up and stop the blowout.

“It’s a long, arduous process,” Badick said.

Airlines responded to the start of war in Iraq by canceling flights Thursday, while others sent special planes to ferry Iraqis out of their citizens home.

The German carrier Lufthansa canceled all flights to Tel Aviv, Israel; Amman, Jordan; Beirut, Lebanon; Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for Thursday and Friday.

Air New Zealand said it would cancel Thursday’s flight to Beirut, as did several other airlines, airport officials said.

Singapore Airlines said it was suspending 65 weekly flights — including service to Las Vegas and Chicago — due to “softening demand” as a result of the war.

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

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

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

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

Airlines from India, Pakistan and Egypt sent special or additional planes to Kuwait to evacuate nationals who had left Iraq ahead of the U.S.-led attack, officials said.

Almost 30 million Indian and 60,000 Pakistani workers are in the region.

Evacuations are voluntary, but both India and Pakistan have announced emergency plans in case the situation worsens.

Azerbaijan State Airlines offered the European bank ready to intervene

The European Central Bank said Thursday it stands ready to act if necessary. "Financial markets can rely on the provision of sufficient liquidity even under exceptional circumstances, as was demonstrated in the past," the statement said.

The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average rose 144.01 points, or 1.79 percent, on the U.S.-led campaign to disarm Iraq by force. Average rose 144.01 points, or 1.79 percent, on the U.S.-led campaign to disarm Iraq by force.

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English professor publishes first book

By SARAH NESTOR
Senior Staff Writer


"It's a book about place...the real and very imaginative." Yanez said.

Currently, Yanez is working on a biography on Chicano poet Ricardo Sanchez and a novel, "Cross Over Water," both of which have tentative publishing dates set for 2004.

Contact Sarah Nestor at nes9877@saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary's holds spirit event

By NATALIE BAILEY
News Writer

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

Lynn Kachmarik instituted Midnight Madness four years ago, during her first year as the College's Director of Athletics.

"When I first got here, I remember this overwhelming feeling of everything being about Notre Dame," Kachmarik said. "Our women were going across the street, looking for a social life. I was glad Notre Dame was across the street, but I wanted to make life at school exclusive about Saint Mary's. I wanted the women to be excited about Saint Mary's." Kachmarik and the Midnight Madness Committee, comprised of Saint Mary's students, have been fundraising and planning for the event since the fall semester.

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

Prizes include a digital camera, a television, and a DVD/VCR combo and a free airline ticket to anywhere in the continental United States.

All event attendees have the chance to win the grand prize trip to Chicago, which includes round-trip transportation, a one-night overnight stay at the Ritz Carlton, dinner in the John Hancock Signature Room and a $1,000 shopping spree.

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

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

Contact Natalie Bailey at baill407@saintmarys.edu

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Write for News. 1-5323.
ALCove holds open house for students

By NICOLA BUNICK
News Writer

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

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

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

The ALCove also provides many resource materials to undergraduates such as GRE, LSAT and MCAT study guides. "It has been sparsely used, but in the last few weeks [use] has picked up," said Kolberg. Students who know about the ALCove are generally enthusiastic about the facility. But it appears that many are unaware that it exists.

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

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

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

Contact Nicola Bunick at nbunick@nd.edu.

Chamber music festival at SMC

By LAUREN O'BRIEN
News Writer

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

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

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

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

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

"This is very rare," Jeffrey Jacob, professor of music at the College said. "Only a handful of schools in the country regularly do something like this, where professional musicians rehearse and perform with undergraduates."

Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors will all be represented in Tuesday's concert with the Cavaní Quartet, which will also include student vocal performers and two string quartet pieces written by senior music majors Shannon Nelson and Moghann Robinson.

Chamber music, which can include two to six musicians in an ensemble, is distinctive in comparison to performing solo or in an orchestra. The intimacy of such a small group allows each musician to bear everything immediately, as opposed to musicians in an orchestra.

"It is a very intimate experience," Jacob said. "Each musician brings something very important to the musical process."

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

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

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

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

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

"Saint Mary's students should really take advantage of such an unusual opportunity," Menk said. "I hope students will come out to show their support."

Contact Lauren O'Brien at obr1648@stmarys.edu.

Observer News: It may not be Cancun, but it's still hot!

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TONIGHT

with the outbreak of war, please join us in a

Prayer for Peace

in the
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
@ 9:00 p.m.

Fr. Edward Malloy, c.s.c., presider
A nother execution is sche­d­uled it carried out in 2000. The state accounts for more than one-third of the 838 executions in the United States since 1976, when the death penalty resumed under a Supreme Court ruling. Virginia is second with 87.

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

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

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

Prosecutors also linked Clay to the fatal shootings of three people, including two chil­dren, on Christmas Eve in 1993. He denied any role in the killings and was not tried, but a companion was sent to the killings and was not tried, but a companion was sent to the trial to represent Clay. "I think it’s jus­tice."

The FBI’s 56 bureaus were put on an around-the-clock operation. "We are running down every lead, responding to every threat," Director Robert Mueller said.

Federal meat and poultry inspectors, in routine inspections, found chemical or biological agents that terrorists might use, said Jesse Majkowski, head of the Agriculture Department’s food security office.

The Food and Drug Administration increased testing for such potential agents in produce it ana­lyzes, agency officials said. The Centers for Disease Control was keeping a look­out in case doctors notice any unusual outbreak of diseases or symptoms asso­ciated with those agents.

On Capitol Hill, some con­gressional hearings were can­celed or their agendas abbreviated as lawmakers focused on the war. Tours of the Capitol were suspend­ed effective Friday but visi­tors can still get into the House or Senate galleries with a pass from a lawmak­er’s office.

"We are running down every lead, responding to every threat," Robert Mueller FBI director said it also wanted to try to prevent hate crimes against people of Iraqi heritage.

The FBI, in an attempt to head off possible reta­lia­tion for the war, began fan­ning out across the country to interview thousands of people born in Iraq, the agency said. The FBI also said it also wanted to try to prevent hate crimes against people of Iraqi heritage.

"I know you have suffered a great loss and I truly, truly sorry," he told the fam­ily of Melathelih Tom Varughese.

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

Turning to his mother, he said, "Let everyone know that I love them. This is not good­bye; I will see you later." Cynthia Smith smiled and flashed two thumbs up to her.

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

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

Security increases nationwide

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

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

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Alcohol policy demands more education

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

The new alcohol policy is here to stay—and so is the culture of drinking that it was designed to curtail. At the one-year mark since its implementation, it is clear that the new policy continues to demand changes in behavior and responsibilities among both students and administrators. Administrators can help students by educating them about the dangers they face off-campus. The new policy has pushed the mission beyond a handful of hall staff members, making it imperative that the average student now become aware of what is expected of him and how to drink and who needs help. Administrators should also do their part to better educate students about common-sense principles like how to avoid the dangerous areas of South Bend and the importance of never traveling off campus or back to campus alone.

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

I agree that recognizing that regardless of University policy, they must make smart decisions when partying on or off campus. If the on campus culture does not meet their social or academic needs, then the student is responsible for making the decision to go off campus. The university cannot be held accountable for that decision.

Letter to the Editor

Appreciate the military's sacrifıce

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

He then goes on to say that he expresses concern for his friends in ROTC and goes on to the Boat Club and female dorms to being on the front lines. Personally, I am appalled as I have learned even fathom. Their lives are void of showing and planning accommodations. They have rations that many of us would consider to be far worse than anything we have ever seen in the dining halls, and what they are able to go through on a daily basis, most of us would not have to do for our household pets. These are kids, some of whom have lived on food stamps because they get paid less and work more than anyone probably knows they need it.

Some of these kids don't even have a high school education; yet they are willing to make the supreme sacrifice in defense of their country and its values.

The American public has not even come close to experiencing the sacrifice they make on a daily basis. You are more than you may ever make in your life. So when you see your ROTC friends, tell them that you are praying for them and their families, and give them support that they probably need right now. At this point, I am going to listen to my Commander-in-Chief address the nation. I am preparing to make the decision that he and the leadership represent in regards to my role in the conflict. I ask that we all pray for everyone involved and pray for a swift conclusion in order to minimize the cost to everyone involved.
Diplomacy has had its day, at last, for now. As this column is being written in the early hours of the morning, Saddam Hussein is speaking live in response to the United States' opening strike against him, one of the "targets of opportunity." What has happened to our diplomatic efforts at the United Nations which have spawned some conservative U.S. congressmen to change the name of French toast and French fries to "French Toast and Fries"? The globalization of economies and communications may have shrunk the Earth, but the nationalities are as divergent as the political divide in the United States. Our nation is composed of two ways of life, best evident as the blue and red states depicted during the 2000 presidential election. In general, the east and west coasts, along with several traditionally industrial states believe that diplomacy should continue. The heartland and south believe that the Bush doctrine of preemptive action is one that justifies war with Iraq internationally, most of the large nations of the world, especially those located closer to Iraq, fall in the diplomacy column. Following the United States attack on Iraq, several criticized the president's actions. George Chancelor Gerhard Schroeder said that the U.N. Security Council has failed to act, that U.N. Resolution 1441, passed unanimously last year, was not meant to authorize military action and that a war with Iraq is illegal. The French President Jacques Chirac believes that France has unfairly been singled out as the cause of a U.S. failure to muster a majority of votes in favor of resolution authorizing military action, especially in light of Russia and China's opposition. Russia and China both strongly continue to support the U.S. strikes on Iraq.

Some contend that a full scale military assault on Iraq is not necessary, especially in light of the "target of opportunity" precision bombing during the first U.S. attack. They say that the president could have zeroed in on Hussein during the past few months and removed him without much collateral damage in a surgical manner made famous by President Bush. They also believe that an impatient, diplomatically uninterested president became frustrated at the United Nations and simply took his ball and went home.

European leaders in the United States have focused on France more than other countries who also wield very powerful in the U.N. Security Council. The Bush administration told the French that the United States saved them twice in two world wars and that Bush should be appreciated. American conservative commentators belittle France by saying that the French can only feel important by using their veto power because they are no longer a major power in the world. The diplomatic stalemate at the United Nations arose because President George Bush and the international community play by two diametrically opposed styles of politics. Bush is a self-described "instinct player." Russia has a strong autocratic tradition and moves forward without vacillation, dismisses those who oppose him and is not obligated to enforce his decisions. He views changes in policy as a sign of weakness and is interested in what he calls "small talk in big rooms." As a result, he is labeled a "cowboy." The reference is not only to his Tequila shots but symbolic of the way he will confront his political adversaries with "high noon" drama.

Rather than use traditional diplomatic protocol procedures to work out disputes with France, Germany, China and others behind closed doors at the United Nations, Bush charged them publicly. Then Bush challenged the United Nations to prove its relevance by endorsing an Iraqi war, but in the final week before abandoning his efforts he attempted to use diplomatic protocol. Bush also made public the terms of many of his foreign aid offers. Turkey, most notably, which caused that government most domestic embarrassment.

Ronald Reagan stood firm on his tax reduction proposal of the early '80s, but appeared larger than life when he announced two years later that he needed to "adjust" them to achieve his goals. Richard Nixon, the fiercest American opponent of Communism, displayed diplomatic finesse when he opened Communist China to western markets and the international community.

To the international community, Bush seems to be unwilling to engage in issues of interest to others while demanding adherence to his agenda. During Bush's first year in office, he irritated nations around the world when he withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol, moved forward with global warming, abandoned the Anti-Ballistic Missile nuclear test ban treaty, walked away from involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian talks and refused to at least acknowledge demands of good relevance to other nations.

American isolation has been slowly self-inflicted. German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer complained that alliance partners are not satellites of the United States. He explained that allies should not be viewed as an "option, being with or against allies and an Cristina Brandy at the Waldorf Astoria. March 19
Humor Artists painfully funny
The Notre Dame Humor Artists perform an original play, “Black beard, For Instance.”

By KC KENNEY
Scene Writer

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

“I worry people will think it’s about pirates when it’s clearly not,” she says with a huge smile on her face. It may not be about pirates, but the show is able to take a number of everyday things and add a sense of comedy and craziness to it that just lets you find everything funny.

The show opens as three couples and two guys who are “just friends” prepare at their respective homes to get ready for a dinner party. Immediately the audience is able to pick up on the quirky and foibles that make each character larger than life and drenched in laugh potential. The characters develop almost like a stand-up comedians routine, each presenting themes and ideas, like a mortal wound inflicted by a contact lens.

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

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

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

Contact KG Kenney at kkenney@nd.edu
Musical acts brighten weekend

Ma Xiahui and NEXUS to perform world-renowned compositions

By BJ STREW  Scene Writer

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

Luckilly, this weekend boasts two unique performances: Saturday, world-renowned erhu performer Ma Xiahui and Sunday, the internationally acclaimed percussion ensemble NEXUS.

NAACP sponsors an interracial dating forum, Taildaters under the Dome

By CHRISTIE BOLSEN Assistant Scene Editor

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

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

However, an experiment in interracial dating has fun with what can be strained interactions between races or sexes on campus. Sponsored by the NAACP, which sponsors a dating forum every year, this year’s organizers set up participants on dates and then monitored them in a reality show such as Blind Date. The daters were paired up based on information provided in questionnaires, responses in interviews, whether they had been on an interracial date before and then on race.

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

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

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

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

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

“I wanted to challenge the Notre Dame student body to break out of their comfort zones and scrutinize their own social and familial relationships,” Wyatt said. “I want to learn about another race, ethnicity or culture than to share the experience of dating?” Wyatt said.

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

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

Contact Christie Bolen at cbolen@nd.edu

Taildaters under the Dome

NAACP sponsors an interracial dating forum at Notre Dame

By BJ STREW  Scene Writer

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

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Contact Christie Bolen at cbolen@nd.edu
Associated Press

Holly Cross doesn't go quietly as Marquette advances

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) -- Travis Diener was Marquette's third scoring option throughout the regular season. That all changed Thursday. Diener scored a career-high 29 points and Dwyane Wade added 15 points as the Golden Eagles beat Holy Cross 72-68 in the Midwest Regional to advance to the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in seven years.

"I got a few looks and I took them," Diener said. "It's not like I was looking to take bad shots. They just came up." 

Holy Cross, seeded 14th, hasn't won an NCAA game since 1953, but for the third straight year it almost pulled off an upset of a higher-ranked team. The Crusaders lost to Kentucky in 2001 by four points and to Kansas last year by 11.

"Our problem is we can't get over the first-game jinx," Holy Cross coach Ralph Willard said. "That could be a dangerous team after the first round." Third-seeded Marquette (24-5) won an opening-round game for the first time since 1996.

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

Diener spent most of the season behind leading scorer Travis Henson, who had 11 points and 11 rebounds as ninth-seeded Gonzaga beat Holy Cross 72-68 in the West Regional.

"Coach is everything to us," Diener said. "He was there when the game was on the line."

Both Marquette and Gonzaga had a chance to win the game, but Henson missed from the top-of-the-key as time expired.

California (22-8), a No. 8 seed, advanced to the second round for the second straight year and will play No. 1 seed Oklahoma State Thursday at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

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

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

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

Ship, who scored California's first four points in overtime, drew two foul shots when a desperate Wofford defender with a move inside before kicking it back out to Midgley.

"He gets a lot of attention for all the points he scored but he has something about trusting your teammates," California coach Ben Braun said. "He's honestly great on the floor.

"I'm just happy to create and go to the basket," Ship said. "I looked up and Richard was wide open and made the play."

Gonzaga 74, Cincinnati 69

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

Ronny Turiaf had 22 points, including a school-record-tying 16 field goals, and 19 rebounds as ninth-seeded Gonzaga held off Iowa-choosing 7-4 in the West Regional.

"I came for a fare for the dramatic," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "They made a run at us and we were able to hang on.

His Bulldogs like being underdogs at the NCAA's, even if this time they were playing a higher seed.

Gonzaga - which made runs from low seedings to the round of eight in 1999 and round of 12 the next two years - has one first-round loss in the past five tournaments. That came last year, when Gonzaga was seeded sixth and was bounced by No. 11 Wyoming.

The Bulldogs next face top-seeded Arizona in the second round Saturday at Eugene. Huggins, meanwhile, wasn't at courtside for Thursday's close finish.

"Coach is everything to us," Huggins said. "That makes it tough for him. It's tough for us, too, because he would have fired us up.

Connecticut 58, BYU 53

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

Okafor made sure the Cougars didn't bust up anyone's brackets - they're going home early instead.

Okafor controlled both ends of the court, scoring 19 points and blocking seven shots to lead fifth-seeded Connecticut to a 58-53 victory Thursday over No. 12 BYU in the first round of the South Regional.

"He was the best player in the country. He alters games. He alters games," BYU coach Dave Rose said. "The loss by BYU (23-9) avoids a potentially embarrassing upset for the NCAA, which mistakenly put the Cougars in the South, where the Pac-10 champions would have had to play the fourth round on a Sunday.

Because BYU does not play on Sundays, the NCAA would have shuffled the brackets if the Cougars won their first two games, sending them to the Midwest.

UConn (22-9) made it moat and now will play the winner of the San Diego-Stanford game in Saturday's second round.

Ben Gordon added 14 points for the Huskies, who are 11-0 in first-round games under Calhoun.

Travis Hansen scored 21 points and Mark Bigelow added 12 for BYU. But they didn't get enough help - no other Cougar made a basket for nearly 20 minutes spanning the first and second half.

Missouri 72, Illinois 71

Missouri's Rickualh Paulding drove the lane for a chance to hit a game-winning shot. He did, but not the way he planned.

Paulding fouled on the drive and hit one of two free throws with 1.4 seconds left and as the sixth-seeded Tigers survived an upset scare Thursday with a 72-71 victory over Southern Illinois in the Midwest Regional.

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

The 11th-seeded Salukis (24-9) used almost the same script they did a year ago when they reached the round of 16. They stayed close throughout and wailed for a chance to win.

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

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Nano Dione office, 524 South Dione Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifications must be prepaid. The charge is 3 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without inquiring.

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Roy gets 4th shutdown of season as Avs defeat Sharks

Associated Press

DENVER

Even without his usual practice, Patrick Roy was perfect.
Roy made 29 saves in his fourth shutout of the season, and 46th of his career, as the Colorado Avalanche beat the San Jose Sharks 2-0 Thursday night in a game postponed 24 hours because of a heavy snowstorm.

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

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

"It was a big two points for us," Foote said. "Having this delay, we were kind of worried being 0-1-0-1. We built in there, and Patty made some big saves for us."

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

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

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

Mikka Kiprusoff, starting in goal for the Sharks, said his right knee "ached" before being replaced by Vesa Toskala late in the game.

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

Blue Jackets 4, Maple Leafs 3

Tyler Wright will never win a hockey skills competition, nor will he ever win style points for the way he plays the game. About all he does is get things done.
Wright scored his third goal of the game off a give-and-go from Ray Whitney with 43.8 seconds left in overtime as the Columbus Blue Jackets beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-3 on Thursday night.

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

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

Mats Sundin, Owen Nolan and Akil Berg had goals for Toronto, which is 2-0-2-2 in its last six.

Much of the Maple Leafs' problems stemmed from their 13 penalties resulting in nine Columbus power plays.

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

Toronto coach Pat Quinn said.

Presssed on what he thought about the officiating, Quinn grew angry.

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

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

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

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

Toronto was making its first appearance ever in Columbus.

Islanders 6, Canadiens 3

Alexei Yashin's biggest game of the season firmly up the New York Islanders' drive to the playoffs - and all but ended Montreal's.
Yashin scored twice and tied a career high with five points as Columbus beat the Canadiens 4-3 on Thursday night.

Yashin's set up goals by Arron Asham and Oleg Kvasha before scoring his 17th and 18th goals of the season in the second. He set up Dave Scatchard's empty-net goal for his third assist of the game.

"I feel very good about it, but most importantly we got the win," Yashin said. "I'm more happy about that than scoring five points. It's not something I haven't done before."

"It's always nice to score some goals and make some plays, but the best thing is to get those two points and hopefully we can now get the Montreal Canadiens from fighting for a playoff spot."

Jason Blake also scored and Garth Snow made 32 saves for New York, which got its 78th point to tie Boston for seventh in the East.

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

The Canadiens recognized that their playoff hopes all but disappeared with the loss as they fell seven points behind the Islanders with seven games - one less than New York - left.

"It's not impossible, but in a way it is," Canadiens captain Saku Koivu said.

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

"I'm sure there are a lot of people against the war, but some things people can't control," Yashin said.

"They were probably showing what they feel about the war."

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

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

Flyers 4, Penguins 2

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

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

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

LeClair broke a 2-2 tie at 7:36 of the third period when he fought off a check and one-timed the puck over Sebastien Caron. Amonte made it 1-2-2 when he scored on a deflection with 2:40 left.

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

Johansson, who assisted on Fata's goal, made it 3-2 in favor of the Penguins at 6:06, scoring on a power play in a wild scramble in front of the net.

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

LeClair tied it at 12:01 of the second period on a shot from the side that slid through the legs of Caron, who faced 32 shots.
MLB
Washington, Portland attempt to lure Expos

Associated Press

PHOENIX
Washington offered to pay between 50 and 80 percent of the costs to build a ballpark for the Montreal Expos, and Portland said government financing would cover $200 million for a stadium if the team moved there.

The District of Columbia and Portland made their presentations Thursday to baseball’s committee on the future of the Expos, who were bought before the 2002 season by the other 29 clubs. Northern Virginia is in the process of formulating a proposal for a $200 million venue.

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

Bob DuPuy, baseball’s No. 2 official, said the committee kept to its schedule “to get it done as rapidly as we can.”

DuPuy declined to discuss details of the presentations, citing the arrival of the Northern Virginia delegation Friday.

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

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

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

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

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

Bobby Goldwater, chairman of the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission, said after the 2 1/2-hour presentation that Washington officials hoped the committee would tour five potential sites for the ballpark.

Washington hopes to build a $400 million stadium, and two of the potential sites are within blocks of the U.S. Capitol.

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

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

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

“No public votes would be required,” Logsdon said.

FENCING
Opinions on delays differ

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

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

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

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

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

“I’m not happy with it at all,” junior sabre Maggie Jordan said. “After the guys would have competed on Thursday and Friday, we would have known where we stood. Now we will just be in a gray area all day and it could throw off some girls.

“It will add pressure because you don’t know how hard you have to fence.”

The original schedule called for the mens competition to take place Thursday and Friday with the women to follow Saturday and Sunday. With the rescheduling, the competition has been squeezed into two days.

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

A blizzard, called the worst to hit the area since 1913, dumped up to five feet of snow on the area Monday and Tuesday and shut down the Air Force Academy and Denver Airport, it forced half of the Irish squad into some interesting travel plans.

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

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

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

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

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

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MENS LACROSSE

No. 11 Irish hit the road

Special to The Observer

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

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

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

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

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

Stewart Crolland has started all five games in goal for the Irish. He has played all but two of a possible 300 minutes and owns a 9.06 goals against average and .609 save percentage.

Hofstra enters Friday's contest with a 1-2 record following its most recent outing as it posted a 15-9 victory over Holy Cross. The Hawks have played all but two of a possible 300 minutes and won a 9.06 goals against average and .609 save percentage.

This Weekend in the Department of Music

Thursday/Friday March 20-21: Notre Dame Glee Club
Daniel Stowe, director
8:00 pm, Washington Hall
Thursday's concert free, Friday's concert $3

Saturday, March 22, 2003
A Student Recital
Mary Catherine Levi, organ
8:00 pm, Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Free and open to the public

Sunday, March 23, 2003
NEXUS Percussion Ensemble
2:00 pm, Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum of Art
Tickets ($3-$10) available, LaFortune Box Office, 1-8128

WOMENS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Irish send competitors to NCAA Championships

Special to The Observer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BRUNO'S PIZZA NORTH

New menu items:

Hot wings
Poppers
Cheese sticks
Chicken fingers
BBQ chicken pizza

Pizza Special!

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Losses</th>
<th>Games Back</th>
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### NCAA Baseball Polis

- **Baseball America**
  - **Iowa**
  - **Georgia**
  - **Florida**
  - **Louisiana**
  - **Texas**
  - **Virginia**
  - **Notre Dame**
  - **Kansas**
  - **Miami**
  - **West Virginia**
  - **Mississippi**
  - **Missouri**
  - **California**
  - **Purdue**
  - **Arkansas**
  - **Virginia Tech**
  - **Oklahoma**
  - **Arizona**
  - **Louisiana State**
  - **Florida State**
  - **Mississippi State**
  - **Kentucky**
  - **Georgia Tech**
  - **Long Beach State**
  - **Arizona State**
  - **Tennessee**
  - **Penn State**
  - **Michigan State**
  - **Oregon State**
  - **Louisiana Monroe**
  - **Tennessee Tech**
  - **Stony Brook**

### AROUND THE NATION

**Baseball Polis**

- **Iowa**
- **Georgia**
- **Florida**
- **Louisiana**
- **Texas**
- **Virginia**
- **Notre Dame**
- **Kansas**
- **Miami**
- **West Virginia**
- **Mississippi**
- **Missouri**
- **California**
- **Purdue**
- **Arkansas**
- **Virginia Tech**
- **Oklahoma**
- **Arizona**
- **Louisiana State**
- **Florida State**
- **Mississippi State**
- **Kentucky**
- **Georgia Tech**
- **Long Beach State**
- **Arizona State**
- **Tennessee**
- **Penn State**
- **Michigan State**
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- **Stony Brook**

**Defendants sentenced in betting scandal**

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

**College Basketball**

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

**National Basketball Association**

- Tim Duncan
- Chad Pennington
- Curtis Conway

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  - Indiana vs. Alabama: 9:30 p.m., CBS
Ann Arbor lake conditions move races to South Bend

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

Irish sophomore Megan Ciolli takes a swing during a game last season at Ivy Field. Notre Dame is looking to build upon its success during the 2002 season in which the varsity eight qualified for the NCAA Championships, hoping the entire team will be invited to the 2003 regatta.

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

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

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

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

**ND SOFTBALL**

Irish enter second half of season, prepare for Big East

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

Notre Dame and Western Michigan will be meeting for the 16th and 17th time on Sunday. The Irish lead the all-time series 11-4 and have won four in a row over the Broncos. The last meeting occurred in 2001, an 8-0 victory by the Irish at Ivy Field.

Western Michigan is also 8-9 this season and boasts wins over Illinois and Virginia Tech. The Broncos are hitting at a solid .302 as a team, led by Kelly Barnett's .413 average and Mario McCarthy's .320 average and 13 RBIs. The Broncos' pitching staff is led by Leah Seffernick who owns a 6-2 record and 2.58 ERA, but five different pitchers have seen action this season. The Irish are hoping to follow the pattern of play established last season. Notre Dame returned from Spring Break last year with an 8-12 record, but rebounded to win 36 of its final 41 games and finish one game away from the Women's College World Series.

The Irish also won 14 games in a row after coming back from the Midwest after break in 2002.

This season, Notre Dame brings an 8-9 record into the second part of its season. The Irish begin Big East Conference competition on Saturday, March 29, against Pittsburgh.

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

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

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

The Irish squared off with the Broncos for a twin bill Sunday starting at noon at Western Michigan's Fred Ebert Field in Kalamazoo, Mich.
Campus Ministry and the Center for Social Concerns, in conjunction with the Residence Halls, encourage all to join us in a traveling

Rosary for Peace

Beginning Monday in the Sorin Hall chapel at 9:00 p.m. to be continued around campus each weeknight @ 9:00 p.m. until the end of the war in Iraq.

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

For more info or to help with the Rosary for Peace, contact Kelly Rich @ 1-3390.
Irish commence 4-match homestand as season nears end

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sports Writer

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

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

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

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

Currently 3-7 on the season and 1-2 in the Big Ten, the Hawkeyes have already seen a good amount of tough competition — competition that it has not been able to handle.

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Paleontologist Paul Sereno has encountered some of the weirdest creatures that ever walked the earth. Yet some of the scarcest things he's discovered aren't likely to become extinct anytime soon. Sad to say, mutual fund management fees will probably outlast us all. That's why Dr. Sereno was afraid of getting eaten alive. So he turned to a company famous for keeping the costs down. That meant more money for him and less for the monkeys.

Log on for ideas, advice, and results. TIAA-CREF.org or call (800) 842-2770

Hey Pardner,

Herd it's your birth­day, so fire up the c
brandon iron and mark the occasion!

Happy 21st Birthday,
Justin!

Love,
Dad, Mom & Rachel
The Observer • SPORTS

Friday, March 21, 2003

Irish
continued from page 28

"The Irish was plagued by turnovers and foul trouble, and Notre Dame had 20 turnovers against the Panthers' press, and the teams also combined for 44 fouls in the game. The Panthers jumped out to a 12-7 lead before Notre Dame's first basket at the 9:26 mark of the first half. Notre Dame found itself trailing twice in the opening minutes, but bounced back to tie the game. Brey said. "If you take away his dangerousness and aggressiveness, we're not as good of a ball player." The Irish win was plagued by turnovers and foul trouble, and Notre Dame had 20 turnovers against the Panthers' press, and the teams also combined for 44 fouls in the game. The Panthers jumped out to a 12-7 lead before Notre Dame's first basket at the 9:26 mark of the first half. Notre Dame found itself trailing twice in the opening minutes, but bounced back to tie the game. Brey said. "If you take away his dangerousness and aggressiveness, we're not as good of a ball player." The Irish win was plagued by turnovers and foul trouble, and Notre Dame had 20 turnovers against the Panthers' press, and the teams also combined for 44 fouls in the game. The Panthers jumped out to a 12-7 lead before Notre Dame's first basket at the 9:26 mark of the first half. Notre Dame found itself trailing twice in the opening minutes, but bounced back to tie the game. Brey said. "If you take away his dangerousness and aggressiveness, we're not as good of a ball player." The Irish win was plagued by turnovers and foul trouble, and Notre Dame had 20 turnovers against the Panthers' press, and the teams also combined for 44 fouls in the game. The Panthers jumped out to a 12-7 lead before Notre Dame's first basket at the 9:26 mark of the first half. Notre Dame found itself trailing twice in the opening minutes, but bounced back to tie the game. Brey said. "If you take away his dangerousness and aggressiveness, we're not as good of a ball player." The Irish win was plagued by turnovers and foul trouble, and Notre Dame had 20 turnovers against the Panthers' press, and the teams also combined for 44 fouls in the game. The Panthers jumped out to a 12-7 lead before Notre Dame's first basket at the 9:26 mark of the first half. Notre Dame found itself trailing twice in the opening minutes, but bounced back to tie the game. Brey said. "If you take away his dangerousness and aggressiveness, we're not as good of a ball player."
**ND WOMENS BASKETBALL**

Battle-tested Irish feel tournament begins as

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

They won their first four games before getting blown out by DePaul.

They reeled off three more victories until Tennessee drilled them by 16.

Then there was the month of January where they lost all four games.

Nothing's been easy for Notre Dame this season. To highlight what it means to be a player quit the team to winning eight of their last 11 games, the team has had a ton of ups and downs. To highlight what it means to be a player quit the team to win ning eight of their last games.

"We've definitely faced a lot of adversity this year, and we've been able to still be successful," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "Nothing that happens in Kansas this weekend should shake the Irish. Besides freshman Meghan Duffy and Courtney LaVott, everyone else has contributed a big role in this season, including a game in Knoxville. Tenn. They've been able to step up and know what to expect this season.

"We all have two NCAA Tournament games under our belts," McGraw said. "Everyone's been in that situation. We've been in some tough environments. We've been in big games. We think we're battle-tested, and I don't expect us to play any differently in this situation."

Muffet McGraw
Irish head coach

The Wildcats cart find other ways to score if they struggle offensively. If Polk can control the paint and boards, the Irish will likely struggle. Lord knows Arizona has been fawning all season to Arizona to feed her toPolk.

Arizona can score from the inside and from the perimeter, which will pose problems for Notre Dame. The Wildcats fast find ways to score when they are struggling. As the Irish have not been able to.

Arizona can find ways to score if its inside or outside isn't working. The Irish, however, struggle when they can't score in the paint. Notre Dame needs to look for a go-to player out of there if they are to have a chance to win.

Arizona is just too good for Notre Dame to handle. Polk ripped opened the PAC-10 this season, and she will give the Irish all they can handle. If Polk can control the paint and boards, the Irish will likely struggle. Lord knows Arizona has been fawning all season to Arizona to feed her toPolk.

The Irish need great defensive efforts out of Bonvicini, LaVonne and Feeley to keep the rest of the Wildcats as a perfect 18-0 at Arizona as the game.

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Arizona is supposed to win and could be looking ahead. Arizona has the Wildcats could be looking ahead to a potential matchup with Kansas State in the second round. The Irish are battle-tested from a difficult regular season.

Arizona has been intense and intense in a moment when they most need a miracle, they will turn to Tara. "It's so strange because she doesn't look intense," sophomore guard Katie Florey said. "She's so quiet, she just wants the team just staying in the game when we're down."

Arizona needs to find its own identity in the tournament. The Wildcats may not. This is Arizona's first tournament, and they will have to learn how to win. Arizona has been up against some tough teams and will need to adjust. Arizona is not expected to be a favorite in the tournament.

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

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Writer

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

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

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

"Baseball is the kind of sport that you need to be playing a lot in order to get your timing down and your instincts and reactions," Mainieri said. "When you play seven games in eight days like we did, it really gives you a chance to learn how to play the game, and it gives a lot of confidence because you realize that every at bat and every play is not the season. There will be another opportunity coming up just around the corner."

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

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

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

Notre Dame's top hitter, second baseman Steve Sollmann, improved his season average to .429 by going 11-for-23 over the seven game span with six RBIs and seven runs scored.

Other Irish hitters that had a solid week at the plate were senior outfielder Kris Billmaier who also went 11-for-23 to improve his average on the season to .361, sophomore infielder Matt Edwards who improved to .392 on the year with his 11-for-27 performance over break with nine RBIs and junior catcher Javy Sanchez who boosted his average to .333 by hitting 11-for-27 during the break.

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

Notre Dame first baseman Joe Thaman swings at the ball during a game against Valparaiso last season. The Irish will face Villanova in their Big East opener this weekend.

BRIAN PUCEVICHZ
The Observer
**Happy Town**

**Jack Monahan**

**School Daze**

**Claire O'Brien**

**Jumble**

**Henri Arnold Mike Argirion**

**Crossword**

**Will Shortz**

**Horoscope**

**Eugenia Last**

**The Observer**

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**Crossword**

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**Horoscope**

**Eugenia Last**

**Celebrities Born on This Day:**

**Barry O'Connell,** Gary Oldman, Cynthia Geary

**Happy Birthday:**

You will be highly creative, and should put this ability to good use. Your plans will be manmade, so take a strong position when dealing with others. Focus on what will benefit you the most and be sensitive toward others. Your numbers are 7, 14, 21, 33, 42.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** This is a great day to do something special for yourself, especially if you have been working too hard. Investments can be made, but don't be too happy. Time is on your side.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You may be a little emotional today. Be cautious in how you approach sensitive issues. Professional and personal duties may interfere with one another.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** This is not your day to do something special for yourself or others. This could turn out to be a great day. Treat yourself and you will make important new connections.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't push your luck or force your will on those around you. Lay low and let someone else take the spotlight today. There is evidence that you will face problems at home.★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You will be sensitive, intuitive and in an awkward position when it comes to your personal life today. Don't lose your cool in the process, stay calm and composed.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** If you put others first, you will discover that gains can be made if you look into an investment you hear about today.★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** You should be in the mood for love, romance and good times. You will meet new people if you take part in a community or social event. Others will find you extremely interesting.

**Birthday Baby:** You will be smart, critical and hard on yourself as well as others. You will strive to be the best, do the best and accomplish the most.

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MENS BASKETBALL

Staying alive, hanging tough

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

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS

With senior guard Matt Carroll on the bench for most of the game with a sore ankle and foul trouble, Irish point guard Chris Thomas carried Notre Dame on his shoulders and made key plays all game against Wisconsin-Milwaukee. A little luck didn’t hurt him or the Irish, either.

Playing in his hometown for the first time in his college career, Thomas scored 21 points, grabbed eight rebounds and added three assists.

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

The fifth-seeded Irish face four-seed Illinois in the second round of the NCAA Tournament Saturday. The Illini defeated Western Kentucky earlier in the day.

“We’re thrilled to come away with a heart- win over a very potent team,” said McKie, who leads the Irish in scoring with 12.2 points a game. “It can spell victory or it can spell defeat.”

The Irish scored just 37 points in the first half but scored 33 in the second to pull away.

Senior Alicia Ratay’s six three-pointers, including one with 18 seconds left, helped the Irish get to the line. She made 11 of 12 free throws and added three assists.

In the first half, Wisconsin-Milwaukee grabbed a lead of 24-13 after the first 10 minutes. The Irish scored 14 of their first 17 points from the free-throw line.

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

Quiet Ratay lets her shooting do the talking

By KATIE McVOY
Senior Staff Writer

A basketball makes very little sound as it is released into the air. It makes almost no noise as it swishes through the net. But any athlete can tell you the importance that nearly noiseless ball can make if it hits its mark. It can spell victory or it can spell defeat.

That kind of silence is not only found on a basketball court. Sometimes it’s found in the players.

One of Notre Dame’s most potent weapons makes very little noise when she steps on the court. She has little use for words before or after the game. But on the basketball court, Notre Dame guard Alicia Ratay’s shot does all the talking for her.

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

Ratay, who leads the Irish in scoring with 12.2 points a game, has one final chance to make those silent statements on the court.

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

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

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

“We had some young guards and we just weren’t as good getting her the ball,” McGraw said. “I think it was a combination of a lot of things, but we...
DIFFERENT STYLES
SIMILAR RESULTS
Mens Preview
A squad-by-squad breakdown of the top three contenders. The mens competition is today and Friday.

Epee
Viviani has never finished lower than fifth and the three-time All-American is more driven than ever. Sobieraj started horribly in 2002 but recovered to earn All-American honors. Bednarski has said Sobieraj can win the national title but he needs to be totally focused.

Gross finished 15th last year and Jones was 16th. The Buckeyes epee squad defeated the Irish squad at the conference championships in what turned out to be the deciding match for the conference title. Ohio State has the confidence, but the Irish, especially Viviani, take it to another level at NCAAs.

Wiercioch finished fourth at the NCAA Championships last year as a sophomore and second as a freshman. A Poland teammate of Sobieraj, Wiercioch will challenge Viviani and possibly Sobieraj for a first-team All-American spot. Ethan Muri didn’t qualify for the national championships and is the field alternate.

Foil
The Irish had the top three finishers at the regionals, but Forest Walton is the team alternate. Debic is a three-time All-American and will finish very high. Snyder recovered from illness to finish seventh last year and he is in better health than in 2002. This weapon is where Notre Dame separates itself from Ohio State.

If the Buckeyes want a chance of winning the title, they need a good performance from their weakest weapon. Weir finished 15th as a sophomore last year and Carbone is a freshman who came in with very few accolades. The Irish are highly superior and should have no problem with these two.

Panchan surprisingly claimed the individual title as a sophomore. He didn’t fence with Penn State until the spring semester as he trained to earn a spot with the Thaiand Olympic team. Panchan won the Mid-Atlantic regional title. Miller is 10th on the U.S. junior rankings and finished fifth at regionals.

Sabre
Szelie returns to the NCAAs after not competing as a junior and sitting out last season. He finished second as a freshman and first as a sophomore. Fabricant had a rough NCAA Championships debut as a junior last year. St. John’s Ivan Lee is ranked No. 1 in the world and will be tough even for Szelie to beat.

Crompton, who won the regional title, is the younger brother of former Notre Dame All-American Andre Crompton. Rogers was a first-team All-American as a freshman in 2002. Crompton is first in the U.S. junior rankings and Rogers is third. This weapon is easily Ohio State’s strongest.

Weber is a junior from Germany and was a first-time All-American as a sophomore. He has been a part of the German national team that won bronze medals at the 2000 Olympics and 2003 World Championships. Zagnis is 10th in the U.S. junior rankings.

Weber and Rogers are two of the top sabre fencers in the country.

The numbers are
The Irish are one of two teams to qualify for the national title. The biggest challenge will come from defending champion Notre Dame, which finished just ahead of Ohio State.

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

The numbers say the race for the national title should be between Notre Dame and Ohio State, but the Irish know who their real competition is.

"I don’t think Ohio State is going to be a problem. They are not as strong all around," senior foilist Green Debic says. "Penn State has 11 top guys. It will be an advantage for us, but we need to do well." At this weekend’s NCAA Fencing Championships, Notre Dame and Ohio State are the only schools in the country to qualify the maximum 12 fencers. Defending national champion Penn State qualified one less with 11. From past experience, however, it’s the quality and not necessarily the quantity that matters.

"It is definitely an advantage, but Penn State has a solid group of 11. All of their 11 fencers are going to win a good number of bouts," senior epee captain Jan Viviani says. "They always manage to over-achieve, that is something we are going to achieve. They are stronger all-around. Having the 12 doesn’t mean anything if the 12 aren’t strong."

"It’s helpful mentally, but they do have 11 fencers. Usually the weakest link can break down meaning with 12 fencers on the field, only 11 are giving points," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski added. "There are four teams who will compete for the gold medal from the beginning."

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

"St. John’s has a lot of stars. They qualified only 10, so it will be really hard for us to compete for it, make it, and have excellent fencers," Bednarski said. "Penn State is the [defending] national champion with many names including the bronze medalist Alex Weber in sabre. Ohio State is very strong since they qualified 12."

At last year’s NCAA Championships, Penn State claimed the title from St. John’s after winning the title from 1995 to 2000. The Red Storm has had previous success fencing with fewer people. They took second place last year with only 11 fencers while the Irish finished third with 12.

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

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

"It is no emotion, it is hard to control."

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

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

A key to having a shot at the title is taking control early. Last year’s Irish held a first-day lead and taking control of the competition is a key to battling Penn State for the title.

"If we are going to have a chance to win, we need to be controlling things the entire time from the beginning to the end," Viviani said. "The first day, they have more bouts than the second day, so it is harder to make things up the second."

"We are strong. We will make a charge. We will fight as strong as they will."

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

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

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

Some personal honors at stake this year include Viviani and Debic’s attempts to become four-time All-Americans — for the Irish, more foilists Alicja Kryczalo and Andrea Ament goals of repeating their top two finishes from last year and junior epeeist Kerry

2002 NCAA Top 13
e in their favor
maximum 12 fencers but know their champion Penn State who qualified 11.

Walton effort to defend her national title.
Notre Dame's seniors, who finished second one and third twice in their college careers, are determined to go out on top.
"I think every year is a little different. For a lot of seniors, we have learned something about this competition every year," Viviani said. "It's a little easier to go into this with a better attitude, with a 'we need to win' attitude. This is your last chance to win."
Bednarski has his troops motivated and bouting, good luck, good intelligence, we will," Bednarski said. "If we have good attitude, with a 'we need to win' attitude. This is your last chance to win."

Notre Dame's Returning All-Americans
Epee
Michal Sobieraj (2002)
Meagan Call (2000-2001)
Kerry Walton (2002)
Foil
Alicia Kryczalo (2002)
Andrea Ament (2002)
Derek Snyder (2002)
Sabre
National Champions
Kerry Walton (Epee, 2002)
Alicia Kryczalo (Foil, 2002)
Gabor Szelle (Sabre, 2000)

Championships Teams

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

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

Burke finished a disappointing fifth after winning the national title as a freshman. She will be on a mission to reclaim her title after 2002's performance. Trzopek is a freshman but won the 2003 World Cup at the junior level. Her international experience may have her ready for the national championships.

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

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

As a freshman, Chin finished 12th after winning the 2002 regional title. This year, Chin was fourth at regionals while Donath was second. Donath is a freshman from Germany. With the depth of the field, the Nittany Lions seem to be at a disadvantage and need these two to step up.

Bednarski admits this weapon is his "biggest area of concern." Milo has not fenced well in her previous two appearances, finishing 17th and 18th. Jordan used to fence foil and competed at the national championships at that weapon as a freshman. She made the transition to sabre in a time of need.

Bond-Williams won the national title as a freshman and will probably dominate the competition. The England native won the conference and regional titles as well this year. Plekanov is a freshman and is another one of those fencers the Irish feel has qualified, but really won't be a major contributor.

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

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Sports Information
By MATT LOZAR  
Assistant Sports Editor

On the strip, seniors Ozren Debic and Jan Viviani fence in different styles.  
Debic is likely to charge his opponent and try to score a point, while jumping in the air to surprise his opponent or reaching behind his head for the strike with a counterattack.  
Viviani patiently waits for an opening, balancing on his calves and conventionally attacking with a straight-on strike.

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

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

They are different and they are very similar,” Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said. “The similarity is their ambition to win. They aren’t happy getting it done; they want to win immediately.”

Debic is the only fencer in Notre Dame history to win four Midwest Conference Championships.

Viviani is first in career winning percentage at foil and third in the epee career wins list. He owns three of the top 10 epee campaigns in winning percentage. Viviani won an individual conference title as a junior.

All of the success can be attributed to a mastery of technique, and a little talent.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Ozren is like poetry. He has a flair for the dramatic, and very aggressive and that helps me,” Viviani said. “As a fencer, I had to learn how to compete as a part of the team. At home, it is basically three guys on the foil national team. We were mostly going for individual results. The team thing wasn’t as important,” Debic said. “Being captain made me more aware of the input everyone has on the team, even the walk-ons.”

Debic and Viviani are three-time All-Americans and look to become the 16th and 11th fencers in Notre Dame history to win that honor for the fourth time. In each of their three years, the Irish have come in at a favorable and have yet to win the team title.

But the talented duo will use their unique styles in trying to win their first individual title, and more importantly, their first team title.

“I want to win it. I have wanted to win it every year,” Debic said. “This year I am going for it again. It is going to be really hard, because there is a certain level which all the guys are at above other years. We are going to have to work at it to reach the top four.”

“It definitely would be nice to have both. It is something I have been working for this year, trying to focus on,” Viviani said. “I think it would be nice to win as a team finally. That could mean something.”

Senior epee captain Jan Viviani competes at the Notre Dame Duals Feb. 1. Viviani can become a four-time All-American this weekend at the Air Force Academy.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

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

Academics galore
After four extremely successful seasons, Debic and Viviani have left their impressions all over the fencing record books of the storied Notre Dame program.

Debic is first in career winning percentage at foil and third overall, someone can’t in career wins remaining. He has epee — naturally, their.

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Senior foil captain Ozren Debic jumps in his attack against a Penn State fencer at the Notre Dame Duals Feb. 1. Debic looks to become a four-time All-American this weekend.

Coming from the Croatian National Team, Debic understood the importance of putting the team when he became a captain as a sophomore.

“Since Debic and Viviani first in career winning percentage at epee, third on the epee career wins list and eighth on the all-time wins list. He kept pressing Dudek and forced him off the strip, with which resulted in a point for Viviani.

Seven seconds remained when Viviani tied the match.

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

Meanwhile, Debic doesn’t have a flaw for the dramatic, but a flaw for flexibility. He’ll talk to himself in his native Croatian tongue, use unconventional tactics and let the judges know when he isn’t satisfied with their decision.

But it’s all in good fun.

“I try to keep a happy mood all the time. On the strip, it can get really crazy and stressful with hard opponents and bad judges,” Debic said. “I have had some problems with injuries which adds stress. I try to keep a happy tone all the way, sometimes it’s music or goofing around.”

Whether it’s the seriousness of Viviani or animation or Debic, one thing is for sure. They win — a lot.

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

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Friday, March 21, 2003