THE OBSERVER
The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's
VOLUME 38: ISSUE 113
THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2004
NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

NCA reevaluates University accreditation
Committee visits campus, conducts 10-year evaluation

By JOE TROMBELLO
Assistant News Editor

Sixteen representatives from the North Central Association have descended on-campus this week to re-accredit the University — a process that occurs once every 10 years — and members have been meeting with numerous on-campus constituencies at McKenna Hall to gather information and provide feedback. Any university that wishes to receive federal funding for student financial aid or faculty grants must be formally accredited. The NCA, an organization which accredits over 800 institutions in the North-Central United States, conducts the accreditation process on five criteria, including such stipulations that the university must have a Constitution rapidly approaching, student union leaders said they are optimistic that the changes will be finalized in time.

"We'll get it done," student body president Jeremy Lao said. "We've been working day and night." Lao commended the progress of members of the Council of Representatives, the body that is charged with revamping the 10-year-old Constitution. "The committee has come a long way," Lao said. "We know what we want to create and we're just coming to an agreement about it." He said that agreement has been assembled more rapidly as of late, due to frequent COR working sessions.

"Even though COR has been a concern about it,"  Sherman said. "And we hope that it will send a message to students across the country that this activity is illegal and that engaging [in] it can have consequences."

Sherman said the RIAA filed lawsuits against 532 illegal file sharers and the average number of files shared by each was 837. Universities with users being sued include Georgetown, Indiana, Michigan, Stanford, USC and Villanova, among others. The RIAA has sued a series of individuals sued attend Notre Dame, officials here are concerned the RIAA could sue a student in the future.

RIAA continues file-sharing lawsuits
Notre Dame OIT officials say they are receiving more take-down notices

By SCOTT BRODFUEHRER
Senior Staff Writer

The Recording Industry Association of America announced it is filing a new wave of lawsuits against computer users illegally sharing copyrighted music, including 89 individuals at 21 universities. While none of the individuals sued attend Notre Dame, officials here are concerned the RIAA could sue a student in the future.

BIAA president Cary Sherman said in an online press conference that college campuses are an attractive place for illegal file sharing because of free and unlimited bandwidth. "Obviously, college students are a big part of the problem, and therefore it was only a question of time before university users would be named as defendants," Sherman said. "And we hope that it will send a message to students across the country that this activity is illegal and that engaging [in] it can have consequences."

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ND professors note unique nature of Iraq War

Editor's Note: This the fourth in a five-part series examining issues in the Iraq War

By KATE GALES
News Writer

Smart missiles have replaced muskets and atomic bombs and a "coalition of the willing" has taken the place of a truly global battle. Conflict in Iraq has been full of firsts and, according to experts, several lasts. The crossroads reached in military technology marks the Iraq War as different not only from wars before 2003, but also proves that it will be unique from future conflicts.

Notre Dame political science professors offered a variety of analyses on the Iraq War but agreed on one thing — the battle that began one year ago in the Middle East was truly a truly global battle. Conflict in Iraq has been full of firsts and, according to experts, several lasts. The crossroads reached in military technology marks the Iraq War as different not only from wars before 2003, but also proves that it will be unique from future conflicts.

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I'm home — but don't tell my mom I said that. A couple of weeks ago, I let it slip; I explained to my mom that I had to make a quick run back to my house because I forgot my coat. It took me a second to realize why she sounded so distressed; I had recounted such a minor detail of my day.

All mothers like to believe they provide their children with the one and only home they'll ever know. But when I arrived on campus this fall and moved into my dorm, I really felt as if I was returning to my second home. Call me the classic Legacy. Yes, I was a Notre Dame cheerleader for Halloween. Our family visited campus at least once a year if not more. The only kind of football in our house was Irish football. My dad featured great Notre Dame legends in my bedtime stories. I was raised Notre Dame, and I think I realized why she had to make a quick run back to her second home. I was raised Notre Dame, and I think I realized why she had to make a quick run back to her second home.
33 organizations show up at Non-Profit Career Fair

By K. AARON VAN OOSTERHOUT
News Writer

At the last minute, six additional non-profit organizations signed up for the first annual Non-Profit Career Fair, bringing representatives from 33 organizations to campus Wednesday speak with students and drum up interest for their programs. Around 150 students attended the fair, according to Alexandria Lewis, Law School Career Center administrator, who took place from 5 to 8 p.m.

Anita Rees, associate director of the Career Center, said she was expecting a higher attendance.

"It was a little slower than I had thought it would be," she said. Despite the low turnout, however, Rees said she does not expect representatives to ignore future non-profit fairs.

"Employers ... liked this opportunity to talk to students who were specifically interested in them," she said. Those employers included the Alliance for Catholic Education, Teach For America, Lawndale Christian Health Center and the Crotona Center.

Representatives from New York-based Crotona, an institution "working to improve the lives of boys in the Bronx," according to their brochure, spoke with students looking for an alternative to the for-profit sector.

"I need a job, and I'm not the 9 to 5 type," Saint Mary's senior and philosophy major Natalie Heck said.

With her particular field of study, Heck worried that jobs might be scarce. Last night's fair brought hope, however, she said.

"I think that these organizations are interested in someone that's a little bit of everything, instead of so focused on one aspect of study," Heck said.

On the other hand, Dan Lavrish, an undeclared sophomore at Notre Dame, did not attend the fair to find a future career, but rather said he was only looking for an internship.

He said he "wanted to make a difference" during his four years at school, "so have that rah-rah spirit out of college."

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Miscamble speaks at first 'Breaking Bread' event

By MATT BRAMANTI
Senior Staff Writer

Fear isn't a topic people generally like to talk about, but a talk by Father Bill Miscamble, a history professor and superior of Moreau Seminar, entitled "Fear and the Christian Life" drew more than 100 attendees Tuesday.

The event, held in the press box at Notre Dame Stadium, brought students and faculty together for the address, followed by candid discussion over a catered meal.

Senior Jami Bradley, who organized the event, said it was the first in a "Breaking Bread" series, to be held once per semester.

The title of the series was inspired by a passage from Luke's gospel: "They recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread." Bradley said the dinner was an opportunity to engage students and professors in a setting outside the classroom.

"We wanted to create a forum for informed student-faculty interaction, particularly on faith issues," she said. "Talking over a meal is a very natural setting, and it makes people very comfortable."

Each attendee was given a copy of "Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship" and a collection of short vignettes by theologian N.T. Wright, the Anglican bishop of Durham, in northeast England.

Bradley said a particular reflection in the book inspired her choice of the evening's topic.

"I just happened to read the reflection on fear, and I thought it was so powerful," she said. "Do not be afraid" is the most repeated commandment in the Scriptures.

During his speech, Miscamble said fear pervades most aspects of human life. He cited "the big ones" — fears about relationships, careers and growing old and dying, but he said fear is also present in smaller matters.

"There are fears at every stage along the journey of life," Miscamble said. "I suspect that each of you have your own special fears."

"It seems a part of the human condition," Miscamble said. The antidote to fear is a life of Christian faith.

"As our trust and hope in the Lord increases, our fears will decrease," he said. "When we have resolved to follow the Lord, we have fewer things to worry about."

However, he said a certain amount of fear is healthy — but often absent — in modern society.

"In the age of Enron and WorldCom, we should be afraid to lie, to cheat, to slander and so on, because of the damage it does to others, to ourselves and to our community," he said. "We may fear things but we have lost the fear of Satan, the fear of hell."

Bradley praised Miscamble as a personable, caring professor who enjoys interacting with Notre Dame students.

"He really connects with students well because he's so on point but he's not overbearing," she said. "His manner is just perfect."

Following the 30-minute talk, 14 faculty members from the philosophy, theology and history departments, as well as from the Law School and the College of Engineering, dined with students and discussed the topic of fear.

The event was sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Culture.

Contact Matt Bramanti at mbramant@nd.edu

Acoustic Cafe
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10-midnight
Senior Night!!

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Mezzo Methods to hold social work fair

By TERESA NOWAKAWSKI
News Writer

In order to better educate students about the major and field of social work, Saint Mary's Mezzo Methods social work class will hold a social work fair today to both inform underclassmen about the major and to integrate the information that current students have learned in the course.

Students said that many peers remain uninformed about what the field entails, and they said they hope to change that attitude.

"A lot of people don't know what [social work] is about," said Erin Heidkamp, a junior social work major.

Students said that the fair, which will be held in the LeMans Lobby from 7 to 9 p.m. today, has also helped to educate them.

"It's a learning experience for us too," junior social work major Theresa Ulrich said.

In the field of social work, the "mezzo" level works with small groups and families, and is an intermediate level between the fields of micro social work, which works one-on-one, and macro social work, which deals with larger groups and organizations. In demonstrating that they have understood the material that has been learned, students plans to conduct the social work fair by diving the planning responsibilities amongst different small groups in accordance with the field of mezzo social work.

The social work fair will be comprised of six different tables in which all of the areas of social work will be represented. These areas include both more well-known areas such as public welfare and school social work, as well as research, international social work and policy and planning.

The tables will also allow students to see which organizations deal with the areas of social work they prefer, and information on local agencies that deal with these different areas will be available.

"We can say that these places deal with this issue," said Michelle Powell, a junior social work major.

In addition, this information will provide students interested in social work with the chance to network and see where they may gain experience in the field.

Social work majors will be available along with course professor JoAnn Burke, to answer any questions students may have. Students who attend the fair will have the opportunity to fill out a questionnaire to inform the social work majors if the fair was a good idea, if it helped them to acquaint themselves better with the social work major and to suggest what can be done in the future to improve the event.

As an extra initiative, students will participate in a raffle of $100 worth of different gift certificates. Breadsticks and soda will be available for refreshment, and all Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross interested students are invited and encouraged to attend.

Contact Teresa Nowakowski at now9294@saintmarys.edu

Write news for The Observer

call Claire at 631-5323

C O R

continued from page 1

dynamic group of people, the passion behind everyone's motives will get it done," she said.

Chin said the once the new structure of student government is implemented, students will see benefits.

"We'll have more efficiency and more communication," she said.

The new system will split student government into two major divisions: the Campus Programming Council and the Campus Affairs Council. The CPC will coordinate events at the campus and dorm levels, and will have representatives from each residence hall. Members will effectively take over SUL duties. The CAC, which will likewise be comprised of representatives from each dorm, will constitute the other side of student government.

Members of the CAC, which is analogous to the current Student Senate, will tackle policy issues.

Lao expected the new constitution will fulfill the needs of the student union in the years to come.

"My plan is to have it stick around for a while," he said. "We foresee this to be a consultation for the future."

President-elect Adam Istvan, whose term begins April 1, will likely have challenges in adapting to the new structure, but Lao said his successor will handle them well.

"Judging from the commitment he's shown, and the individuals he has around him, I have confidence in the whole team," Lao said.

"Transition is all part of the process," Chief of Staff Pat Corker agreed, saying Istvan has been actively working to prepare for the new constitution.

"He's been at all the meetings, trying to familiarize himself with the new system."

Istvan said he and vice president-elect Karla Bell are enthusiastic about the prospects for the revamped system.

"Karla and I are really excited to get on our new projects," Istvan said. "Now we can move on to getting things done for the students."

He said his administration will focus on diversity projects, particularly those dealing with ethnicity and sexual orientation.

The new system sets itself up for educational initiatives like Martin Luther King awareness week and GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) issues, he said.

Istvan said the oversized constitution will encourage communication among leaders from across student government and lead to a more effective student union.

"You put all the best people working together," he said.

Contact Matt Beaman at mbraman@nd.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.N.: Malnutrition hurts world IQ
UNITED NATIONS — The brainpower of entire nations has diminished because of a chronic shortage of vitamins, the U.N. says, with millions lacking nutrients into people's food seems to be the only solution, a new U.N. survey says.

To fight the problem, United Nations is prescribing a daily dose of artificially fortified foods, such as "super salt" spiked with iron, cooking oil fortified with vitamin A, and a daily glass of milk.

Deficiencies in these vitamins are alarming effects in developing countries, even among the wealthy. "We simply do not have enough to eat," said the study, released Wednesday.

A report from the UN lowers children's IQ by an average five to seven points, the report said.

EU levies $613M fine on Microsoft
BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union slapped Microsoft Corp. with a $613 million fine Wednesday for abusively wielding its Windows software monopoly and order it to stop selling versions that well beyond the U.S. antitrust settlement — setting up what could be another lengthy court battle.

Microsoft called the EU's decision "unwar­ranted and ill-considered," and said it would ask a judge to suspend the order pending appeal.

The EU antitrust office said it sought to undo Microsoft's behavior because a five-year investigation found that the software giant was using its market dominance to out-compete small companies through Windows-related markets and "the illegal behavior is still ongoing.

NATIONAL NEWS

Scientists find evolution gene
Touching off a scientific furor, researchers say they may have discovered the mutation that caused the first apparent evolutionary leap, a union that led to the development of a bigger brain capable of tool-making and language.

The mutation is reported in the latest issue of the journal Nature, by a team of biologists and plastic surgeons — the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Deadly riptides threaten bathers
PALM BEACH, Fla. — Trouscherous rip currents along the Florida coast in the past week have killed at least four beachgoers, led to dozens of rescues and forced life guards to issue an uncharacteristic warning in the middle of the weekend Friend Stay out of the water.

This week's deaths were all blamed on rip currents, which are rushing channels of water that can carry away even the best swimmers. Although the currents do not drag swimmers underwater, people can panic, become tired and drown as they try to swim back to shore.

STATE NEWS

O'Bannon will not cut gas tax
INDIANAPOLIS — When gas prices were this high, Indianapolis Mayor O'Bannon knew better. Frank O'Bannon made big news by sus­pending the state sales tax on gasoline.

But the mayor said Wednesday that he will not cut gas tax to ease the pain for Hoosiers with this added finan­cial burden," Kernan press secretary Tina Thompson, a Republican and the commission chairman, referring to the Bush and Clinton administrations "it was a period of individualism. The question now is whether or not we learned from our mistakes.

Clarke began his appearance with an apology for the "loved ones of the vic­tims of 9-11. Your govern­ment failed you. Those entrusted with protecting you failed you and I failed you," he added, as some relatives of those killed in the attacks dabbed their eyes with handkerchiefs.

The appearance of the white-headed former official overshadowed the release of a commission staff report that said bureaucratic dis­agreements about the extent of the CIA's authority to kill Osama bin Laden hampered efforts to eliminate al­Qaeda leader during the Bush era.

The result was a failure in reliance on local forces in Afghanistan that allowed that all sides recognized the chance of suc­cess, both before and after Bush took office, the report added. "If officers at all levels questioned the effectiveness of the most active strategy, the policy-makers were employing to defeat the ter­rorist enemy, the commis­sion needs to ask why that strategy remained largely un-changed throughout the period leading up to 9-11, it concluded.

Officials from Clinton's National Security Council told investigators the CIA had sufficient authority to assassinate al-Qaida, the report said, but Director George Tenet and other spy agency officials "believed the only acceptable context for killing bin Laden was a credible capture operation."

NATIONAL SECURITY

Former Bush administration terrorism adviser Richard Clarke testifies Wednesday before the federal commis­sion investigating the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Associated Press

Former Illinois Gov. Jim Thompson, a Republican, took up the president's cause inside the commis­sion. "We bought your book and we have your press briefing of August 2002. Which is true?" he challenged the general.

Despite the flare-up, com­mission members worked to keep the report from the sort of partisan­ship that could undermine the credibility of the final report they are expected to release this summer.

"Nobody has clean hands in this one," said former New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean, a Republican and the commission chairman, referring to the Bush and Clinton administrations "it was a period of individualism. The question now is whether or not we learned from our mistakes.

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Sandy Berger, Clinton's national security adviser, testified that the former president gave the CIA "every inch of authorization that it asked for" to kill bin Laden.

There could have been no doubt about what President Clinton's intent was after he fired 60 Tomahawk cruise missiles at bin Laden in August 1998," Berger said, refer­ring to strikes at a camp in Afghanistan where the al­Qaida leader was believed present. Bin Laden escaped.

Tenet, who preceded Berger in the witness chair, also was asked about the issue of authorization to kill bin Laden.

Former Bush administration terrorism adviser Richard Clarke testifies Wednesday before the federal commis­sion investigating the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Associated Press
prayer for peace in Iraq

Campus Ministry, in collaboration with the Center for Social Concerns has been offering the Friday 5:15 p.m mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart for peace in Iraq.

On the 1st Friday of each month, the mass will be followed by a reception at the CSC which will include a discussion of a topic relating to seeking peace in the conflict in Iraq.

Also on those Fridays (next Friday April 2), Campus Ministry will publish in the Observer the names of friends and family of the Notre Dame community serving in Iraq for whom we are praying. If you would like to have someone included on that list, email fsanton@nd.edu. (subject: "peace").

mass schedule

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<th>Basilica of the Sacred Heart</th>
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<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>5:00 p.m. Rev. Tom Eckert, c.s.c.</td>
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**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

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<th>Around Campus (every Sunday)</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. Spanish Mass</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m. Law School Mass</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m. MBA Mass</td>
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**Campus Ministry Center**

631-7800
ministry@nd.edu
campusministry.nd.edu

Freshman Retreat #53
April 2-3
Sign up deadline: March 26

Man's Weekend
April 2-4
Sign up deadline: March 30

Hey God: Long Time, No Pray

by Keara Coughlin
Intern, Campus Ministry

So it happened again last week: I found myself completely drained - trying to figure out what was bothering me and how I could fix it immediately. It was the kind of day when my own feeling of emptiness is like a black-hole: draining all of the smiles, all of the laughter, and all of the energy from the people around me. You will have to excuse my exaggeration here, but in some respect, I think that these kinds of feelings may be more common among people our age than we may first think. Without the sense of a driving force, then, we are left feeling 'dry' inside, wondering what the point of it all is.

It is for this very reason that I believe God gives me days like I experienced last Monday. Just coming off a busy and productive Spring Break, I had a full schedule with lots of things to do that I was able to do to and be who I needed to be. I am slowly learning that my own feeling of emptiness is like a black-hole: draining all of the smiles, all of the laughter, and all of the energy from the people around me. You will have to excuse my exaggeration here, but in some respect, I think that these kinds of feelings may be more common among people our age than we may first think. Without the sense of a driving force, then, we are left feeling 'dry' inside, wondering what the point of it all is.

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Bill Kirk lays down the law
ND’s discipline czar dozes ‘bad reputation’ in popular business law course

By MATT BRAMANTI Senior Staff Writer

In some ways, Bill Kirk is a witness to his own case. He is once loved and hated, revered and admired. As associate vice president for residence life, Kirk played a key role in the University’s chief disciplinarian, Kirk freely admits he was an unpleasant student among many Notre Dame students, but says that it comes with the role in the administration.

“My bad reputation has been around for years,” Kirk said.

But to his business law students, he’s a thoughtful, caring professor who works to break the preconceived ideas his students often bring.

“I think my enjoyment of the material goes across to the students,” he said. “They learn that there are real people behind the administration’s decisions.”

In applying business law, all students are required to take a business law course, entitled “Contracts and Agency.” Kirk said the course’s material — which covers contractual obligations, the principal-agent relationship of the business and business-related litigation — is highly relevant for future business leaders.

“So much of life is litigious,” Kirk said, but students learn to be happy to have taken the course.

After graduation from Notre Dame in 1984, Kirk worked for a major accounting firm in New York as a consultant and an auditor. He then returned to Notre Dame to attend law school, and was hired by the University soon after being admitted to the Indiana bar.

Kirk said his legal background frequently comes into play in dealing with delinquent violators.

“The work that I do now is involved quite a bit with the understanding of legal principles,” he said.

But his demeanor in the classroom stems from his experience in dorm life at Notre Dame. While a law student, Kirk served as an assistant rector in Sorin Hall, then as the rector of the Sorin Hall.

“I’ve got a unique perspective on students’ lives here,” he said. “It allows me to connect with the students in a really pleasant way.

That connection helps engage students in the classroom. Kirk said he frequently fields “hypothetical” questions from students about disciplinary processes or police run-ins.

“I try to make the examples I use in class relevant to the students,” he said. “I try to give them some good advice about staying out of trouble, and we have fun doing it.”

Kirk said he walks throughout the classroom, threading his way among students as he answers questions.

“Students have said they get dizzy following me around,” Kirk laughed.

“I make it that much more fun to teach when students are really engaging with themselves.”

Kirk taught the courses in civil and commercial law, personal legal problems, business law and legal issues in the business world.

“We mix the concepts...we talk about Enron and WorldCom,” he said. “The nice thing is we’re able to inject a whole lot of ethical decision-making.”

The things that make someone a good businessman or businesswoman are the same things that help a person in life.” Junior Megan McGinty, who is in the class, said she was apprehensive about registering for the course.

“Before I took B-Law, I was under the assumption that Bill Kirk was a monster, purely based on the things I had heard about him,” McGinty said.

However, her perception soon changed.

“He is a good person who truly cares about the well-being of his students,” she said. “He is hands-on one of the best professors I’ve had at Notre Dame.”

Despite uniformly positive reviews on NDToday.com, Kirk was modest, praising the other professors who teach the course.

“Everyone that teaches it gets pretty good student reviews,” he said. “It’s a real meat-and-potatoes course.”

But a stimulating discussion of business law might not be the only thing that draws students to the course. Kirk — who is engaged — blushed at suggestions that female students flock to the class to see the professor who student described as “really handsome.”

“I’m happy to hear that,” Kirk laughed. “But I’m spoken for.”

Contact Matt Bramanti at mbramanti@nd.edu

Business law professor Bill Kirk, who also serves as associate vice president for residence life, uses his dual roles to make his course interesting for students.

U.S. ECONOMY

Durable goods orders surged in Feb.

WASHINGTON — Factories saw demand for big-ticket goods rebound in February, as new home orders also rose for the first time in nearly five years,

Associated Press

in February, rising by a strong 5.8 percent, the department said in a second report. An earlier increase of 4.4 percent in January was revised to an increase of 5.3 percent in January as bad weather kept homebuilders indoors.

Powered by low mortgage rates, home sales posted record highs in 2003 and are expected to be brisk this year as well.

But Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrials lost 15.4 points to close at 10,048.23. Terrorism fears and news that Microsoft Corp. received a record antitrust fine from the European Union weighed on investors.

The rebound in durable-goods orders in February was led by stronger demand for transportation equipment, including cars and airplanes. Orders for those goods jumped by 9.9 percent in February, compared with a 10.5 percent decline in January. Last month’s rise was the largest since July 2002.

David Hulbert, chief economist at the National Association of Manufacturers, said the report shows that “the manufacturing sector is continuing to gain ground and emerge from its three-year-long slump.”

For durables, which the National Bureau of Economic Research considers a key trend, orders surged 10.5 percent in February, following a decline of 2.8 percent in January. Sales of durables at retail also rose by 0.9 percent in January.

February’s performance was better than economists were expecting. They were calling for a 1.2 percent rise in December.

In other economic news, sales of new homes also bounced back in February, rising by a strong 5.8 percent, the department said in a second report. An earlier increase of 4.4 percent in January was revised to an increase of 5.3 percent in January as bad weather kept homebuilders indoors.

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SPIRITUAL POLITICS AND SOCIAL HEALING
In an Age of Culture Wars and Terror  Michael Lerner

Join Tikkun magazine editor Michael Lerner as he explores a new holistic politics that aims to transform the political vision beyond left-right divisions and the cynical realism that guides American political discourse.

Thursday, March 25

5:00 p.m @ 101 DeBartolo Hall, Notre Dame
7:30 p.m @ Community Center
Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley
3202 Shalom Way, South Bend

Sponsored by the Center for Social Concerns
Call (574) 611-5290 for more information
Co-sponsored by:
- Abrams Chair of Jewish Thought/Culture, Theology
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- Office of Campus Ministry
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- Hillel House Student Council
- Office of Campus Ministry
- Lyons Hall

The gravy train is about to end.

It's a darn shame. Fortunately, you have MonsterTRAK to help you land your first job. It's the #1 online career site dedicated to helping students find jobs and internships. Search a huge range of job postings targeted specifically to your school, get job hunting tips, check out employer information and more. So you can find the perfect job, and start your own trust fund.

Visit www.ndsmobserver.com/career today.
We are not in danger of losing our accreditation," Ryan said. "This visit is ... really a chance for them [the committee] to help us look objectively at how we're doing ... and how we may do it better," she said.

As part of the preparation process, the University has written a thorough self-study that provides the committee with information on its departments and programs, among other information. Because the accreditation process has traditionally occurred around the University's own 10-year strategic plan, the plan plays a vital role in the creation of the self-study. "The strategic planning process is a good base for the self-study," Ryan said. "The processes are distinct but not separate ... we are not doing this in isolation." Barbara Walvoord, coordinator of the NCA self-study and fellow of the institute for educational initiatives, said that the creation of the self-study, an over 400-page document, came about through the help of numerous people. Walvoord said 176 faculty, staff, administrators and students either directly sent text or responded with suggestions.

"A number of other people provided other information and answered queries," she said. As part of their fact-finding process, over 50 meetings have been conducted this week with various groups on campus. Some meetings have been open and have encouraged students or faculty members to provide feedback, while others have been more specifically targeted to focus groups such as department chairs or administrators. Walvoord said that meetings have gone smoothly from the point of view of both parties. "The team has been very appreciative; they are getting in information about Notre Dame as fast as possible," she said. "Our own people have been very cooperative in meeting ... and being candid."

Of particular concern to the committee during the 1994 report was the process of the assessment of learning and teaching. "Assessment is really difficult to approach," said Preacher, assistant dean of the College of Arts & Letters. "No institution has a really good handle on it." In order to address the concerns of the 1994 committee, Walvoord said that the University has taken a number of measures to improve. Walvoord noted that an assessment advisory committee was appointed by Provost Nathan Hatch to focus on the process of the academic reviews of departments. She said that departments were asked to more clearly articulate their goals for student learning. "This year, a new Core Curriculum Committee was formed whose charge is to review all core courses and state the kind of student learning that we're after," she said.

A number of faculty and administrators who attended portions of the committee meetings said they found the process helpful. Preacher said that she attended discussions on numerous topics ranging from women's issues to the structure of faculty governance and the University's sexual harassment policy. "For the most part, everybody in the room knows where the contents are, but I don't think there's a sense that the institution is on the wrong track," she said. She said that she believes the University has made great strides in women's issues, such as sexual misconduct, promotion and retention, but said she also believes more work needs to be done. "We've gotten a whole lot better ... but we've still got a long way to go." The University has made a good faith effort to hire, promote and retain women, but she still have some things to do," she said.

Robert Norton, chair of the department of German and Russian languages and literatures, said he attended a discussion with selected chairs of humanity departments. He said that discussion focused primarily on whether or not the University may face as it "continues its efforts to enhance its reputation as a research institution. "I found them [the two members of the committee] to be eager to listen carefully to what we had to say ... engaged and very well-informed about the university and concerned to help us to improve," he said.

Norton said his department has taken steps to improve the quality of student education and assessment of knowledge learned. He said his department remains one among a "minority of departments" within the College of Arts & Letters to offer a senior capstone project option to its majors and is currently in the process of considering whether to administer an exit survey to graduating seniors to gauge their satisfaction with the major and their education, as well as assessing what students have learned. "The process itself [accreditation] is also part of a larger question of accountability -- the University must be held accountable, and the process of the NCA is an example of how that works," he said. "The very process of examining practices and asking questions ... in and of itself is valuable."

The committee's findings and recommendations will be published in the Notre Dame Review later this year.

Contact Joe Trombello at jtrombel@nd.edu
OIT continued from page 1

total of 1,977 individuals and has settled with over 400 who paid fines averaging $3,000. No suits have gone to trial and Sherman said that the RIAA was likely to continue issuing lawsuits in the future.

"This is an ongoing program. It won't end with the settlement of these cases," he said.

Notre Dame has seen an increase in the number of take down notices from the RIAA, which require the user to stop sharing copyrighted material but, unlike a lawsuit, do not seek financial damages. Chief Information Officer Gordon Wishon estimated that before January, OIT received four or five take down notices a month, but since the start of this year, they are seeing four or five notices each week.

"So far the RIAA has been, I think, pretty accommodating in allowing us to, rather than issuing a subpoena and taking the kid to court or suing the kid, allowing us to notify the student and to voluntarily take care of the issue," Wishon said.

When OIT receives a take down notice, it is forwarded to General Counsel and the student is notified that there has been an allegation made. The matter is also forwarded to the Office of Residence Life for possible disciplinary action.

"Typically the student takes the infringing material off and the student promises to never do it again and that's all that's ever said and done about it," Wishon said.

Sherman said that the take down process is separate from litigations and that the RIAA sends take down notices when its crawler finds infringing activity, with more egregious infringers more likely to be targeted for litigation.

Wishon cautioned that while public statements from the RIAA indicate they are only targeting egregious violators, he has seen action taken against students sharing a small number of copyrighted files.

"I know I have seen notices issued or subpoenas issued, where they paid for. These people are in business to make money, not to protect you.

Gary Sherman
RIA president

People who rely on promises of anonymity from P2P providers are likely to get just what they paid for. These people are in business to make money, not to protect you."

"The OIT is not the police. We've got enough to do without trying to police the activities of students on the network." Gordon Wishon
Chief Information Officer

People who rely on promises of anonymity from P2P providers are likely to get just what they paid for. These people are in business to make money, not to protect you."

Sherman said the goal of the lawsuits is not to generate revenue, but to deter users from illegally downloading copyrighted material. He said that the music industry lost one-third of its sales in three years to illegal downloads and was being "downloaded to death."

Sherman urged students not to download or share illegal copyrighted material and to be aware that they could be sued if they continue.

"We are urging students to be aware of the risks that they incur when they engage in this activity and know that it is a violation not only of University policy but of law," he said.

"There is no shelter here at the University for those who are subject of lawsuits or other actions."

Sherman said students also should not count on peer to peer file sharing services to mask their identity.

"People who rely on promises of anonymity from P2P providers are likely to get just what they paid for," he said. "These people are in business to make money, not to protect you."

Sherman said the goal of the lawsuits is not to generate revenue, but to deter users from illegally downloading copyrighted material. He said that the music industry lost one-third of its sales in three years to illegal downloads and was being "downloaded to death."

He encouraged students to use legal online music services instead, such as iTunes, Napster 2.0 and Rhapsody.

At Notre Dame, Wishon said that OIT is not taking any additional action to seek out users who are illegally downloading music. Currently, an application called a Packeteer is used to limit the amount of bandwidth that peer to peer software can use, but Wishon said it is not the right solution to stop illegal downloads in the long term.

The OIT is not the police. We've got enough to do without trying to police the activities of students on the network, except where it is obviously in violation of policy or law," Wishon said.
continued from page 1

distinctive. "The revolution in military affairs has advanced a lot.," said Dan Lindley, a political science professor. "Communications integrated with targets are more effective than ever before. However, the classic problem remains the classic problem of battlefield intentions."

Keir Lieber, another political science professor, agreed that while it is only natural to see war evolve as military education improves and technology advances, the differences in intentions and goals of the two Iraq conflicts were especially significant.

"There was a major difference in objectives," said Lieber of the distinction between the first and second Gulf Wars. "The first was simply to move the Iraqis out of Kuwait — the second was regime change. ... The result was the same, a quick and decisive victory in conventional war."

Lieber said that despite the speed of the United States' victory in Iraq, he didn't anticipate the use of similar tactics in the future.

"In some ways, this was the last war of the 20th century," he said. "No one else is going to fight a conventional war."

Lieber ex-plained a conventional war as "total conflict," such as World Wars I and II, with "two sides fighting in traditional combat ways, with military victory through defeat of military forces."

"Indeed, war has changed in the last half-century — both in its technology and its intensity," he said. Since 70 to 80 percent of the missiles used in the Iraq War were "smart munitions," Lieber said, the death toll in the conflict was far lower than in the past.

"Many predicted a huge number of U.S. military and Iraqi civilian casualties," he said. "Neither of these things came to pass."

However, George Lopez, a professor with the Kroc Institute for Peace Studies, pointed out that although many war supporters called the current war a "smart munition," today's weapons technology is more humane, the collateral damage number could be misleading.

"You go from high-intensity war to low-intensity war," he said, noting that the already weak Iraqi infrastructure suffered — a trial that has taken a toll on civilians.

The toll on civilians remains in sight. But the end is in sight on the home front. Twenty-four hour access to press coverage about the war has changed the public perspective on fighting.

The pliability and availability of the media gives a chance for political people a public relations potential: they haven't had before," Lopez said. "Since Gulf War I, we live in a mediagenic environment about war... This is 24 hours a day.

That is strikingly different from the newspapers of World War I and the newscasts of World War II, progress that has made the public more informed but less sensitive," Lopez said.

"It has dulled the sense of most populations to the nature of war," he said. "More Americans know more things, but feel them less intensely."

With more advanced knowledge, military weaponry and tactics, history has been made in the Iraq War — a war unlike any fought before, and that is sure to be unique from future conflicts.

Contact Kate Gaales at kgaales@nd.edu

Iraq

The Observer • NEWS

We've changed our name!

OIT’s Multimedia and Event Services is now

Academic Media Resources

Academic Media Resources provides classroom media services to the academic community on the Notre Dame campus. If you have a media need to support your instruction or want to document an instructional event, call us!

For video recording services such as class taping, off air taping, etc., call Claude Devaney at 631-8776.

For audio recording and editing of classes, and audio digitizing, callraig Fraloh at 631-3752.

For academic photogprahic (digital and film) services, Passport and OPT photos, 35mm and flat art scans to CD-ROM, and slides from PowerPoint and other digital media, call Wes Evard at 631-7630.

For scheduling TVs, VCRs, DVDs, LCD projectors, projection photos, 35mm and flat art scans to CD-ROM, and slides from academic photographic (digital and film) services, Passport and OPT photos, 35mm and flat art scans to CD-ROM, and slides from PowerPoint and other digital media, call Wes Evard at 631-7630.

For laser pointers, microphones, audio cassette recorders, lap-top, slide projectors, mousse remotes, boom boxes, and more, call Bobbi McMahon at 631-9181.

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Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

Senate

continued from page 1

support structures the University provides for heterosexual students are the Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs, Campus Ministry and the counseling center, and he said that these were not able to suit the needs of the student population.

"There is no point at which [the three support structures] can say your friends are here to help you," said Dickmann. "We need a way for students to get more involved, because the Standing Committee only allows for six students, none of which are straight. This is where the QSA comes in."

The letter elaborates on Dickmann's statement.

"The letter of denial reasoned that a student-run club is unnecessary due to the presence of University support structures... Unfolding this argument is the disturbing premise that University organizations rightfully supersede student ones in terms of supporting students. This premise shows an inherent lack of trust in student abilities and a blindness to students' own yearnings to deal with these issues as a community," reads the letter, obtained by The Observer at the meeting.

Cavanaugh senator Jordan Bongiovanni questioned whether the senators should sign the letter without first discussing the issue with their dorm constituencies.

"Events have happened since January when Dickmann first addressed the Senate, and I have a very strong feeling about having my dorm's backing before I sign something specific on paper," Bongiovanni said.

The Senate moved to table the resolution until next Wednesday's meeting in a vote of 14 for, 1 against and one abstaining.

In other Senate news:

• The Senate passed a resolution expanding the Pharo Student Printing Account System to the printers on the first floor of the Hesburgh Library that do not currently charge students for their use. The reasoning behind the change is that toner takes up 80 percent of the library's budget, and many students abuse the privilege when printing is not charged to their account, O'Neill senator David Osburn said.

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

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Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu
This Sunday at the 11:45am Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, we will celebrate the Rite of Reception into Full Communion. At this liturgy, Candidates for Full Communion will complete their initiation into the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. Please keep them in your prayers and help us to welcome them into our Catholic community.

Dustin Beckley  Jarrod Brown  Katie Burns  Joe Dosch
Brendan Wilson, sponsor  Geoffrey Keating, sponsor  Anna Grass, sponsor  Dave Ballintyn, sponsor

Bernard DuBray  Chris Gerben  Bryan Kreller  Mallorie Lenn
Jim Kelley, sponsor  Gerry Ottinger, sponsor  Ryan Reed, sponsor  Chantal de Armas, sponsor

Jennifer Luff  Joanna Mangeney  Tara Pio  Kelly Shaffer
Tom Rembold, sponsor  Brendan Roman, sponsor  Zach Little, sponsor  Megan Tannas, sponsor

Mary Timler  Nina Whittaker  Andrew Williams  Ed Wolfe
Gretchen Roland, sponsor  Takua Smalls, sponsor  Elizabeth Reed, sponsor  Joe Reiner, sponsor

Monica Young
Anne Messag, sponsor
WTO rules against U.S. on gambling

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration said Wednesday it would vigorously fight a preliminary ruling by the World Trade Organization that could open the United States to offshore Internet gambling.

The preliminary decision came in a trade dispute with Antigua and Barbuda. The tiny Caribbean nation had contended that U.S. restrictions on Internet gambling violated trade commitments the United States has made as a member of the WTO.

Antigua and Barbuda brought the case before the WTO last year, contending that U.S. prohibitions on Americans placing bets in offshore Internet casinos represented an unfair trade barrier.

The losing side in any WTO case has the right to appeal the decision to the WTO’s seven-member appellate body.

"We intend to appeal and will argue vigorously that this deeply flawed panel report must be corrected by the appellate body," said Richard Mills, a spokesman for U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick.

Mills said the preliminary ruling by the WTO hearing panel had not taken into account the negotiating record in the Uruguay Round of global trade talks, which created the WTO in 1995.

"We believe that the language on U.S. services commitments used by the Clinton administration clearly intended to exclude gambling when the United States joined the WTO in 1995," Mills said.

Antiguan authorities had argued that restrictions that barred U.S. residents from betting at offshore casinos were harming Antigua’s efforts to diversify its economy. The country has been promoting electronic commerce as a way to maintain its nation’s reliance on tourism, a sector hurt by a series of hurricanes in the late 1990s.

The current legal status of Internet gambling in the United States is in dispute. Some site operators have been prosecuted under the 1961 Wire Communications Act, which was written to cover sports betting by telephone.

The General Accounting Office has estimated there are 1,800 Internet gambling operations. Virtually all of them are based outside of the United States, posing an enforcement problem for U.S. authorities.

Appeals court allows Interior Dept. online

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Interior Department will go back online after an appeals court Wednesday blocked a judge’s ruling that ordered most of the department’s computer systems disconnected from the Internet.

It took the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit just three hours to grant the government’s request to restore the Interior’s Internet access. It had been shut down since March 15 to protect money owed to American Indians from computer hackers.

The shutdown disrupted public’s access to Interior Department Web pages, land managers’ communications, disbursement of mineral royalties to states, and education of children in Bureau of Indian Affairs schools.

"We believe the judge had overstepped his authority and the shutdown was making it difficult for the department to function," said a spokesman for the department.

"Meanwhile, tonight we have begun to restore our Internet connections across all agencies of the department and will work quickly to restore them to pre-March 15 levels," she said.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth ordered the shutdown after the department failed to show it had fixed security problems that left vulnerable Internet security breaches millions of dollars in royalties from oil, gas, timber and grazing activities on American Indian lands.

Law enforcement, firefighting and other emergency systems and those that had fixed the security problems were allowed to remain online.

On Monday, the Minerals Management Service sent letters to the governors of 36 states, informing them they would not receive roughly $90 million in monthly royalty payments until the computers were reconnected.

The order also had prevented American Indian landowners and Indian tribes from receiving their monthly royalty payments for oil, gas, timber and livestock activity on their land. It had left 50,000 children attending 184 Bureau of Indian Affairs schools in 23 states without Web access, and environmental groups had complained they were unable to collect key information on department policy proposals.

It was the third time the Internet connections had been axed since 2001, when a court monitor, Alan Balaran, found security breaches could allow even a novice hacker to penetrate the system. To prove the point, Balaran repeatedly hacked into the system and created a bogus account in his name.

Lamberth is presiding in a class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of more than 300,000 American Indians alleging that since 1887, the department lost, stole or never collected tens of billions of dollars in royalties that should have been paid to Indian landowners.

Attorneys for the Indian plaintiffs could not be reached Wednesday evening.

"I am pleased today’s decision restores badly-needed Internet access to BIA schools," Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said Wednesday. However, he said: "The Interior Department has not met its responsibility to secure Indian Trust Accounts..." One Secretary Norton to end the twin-island act quickly to ensure that trust accounts and their beneficiaries are protected so that no judge finds it necessary to shut down the Department’s Internet service a fourth time.

The government told the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that the judge’s decision and the shutdown was making it difficult for the department to function.

An Interior Department spokesman said officials were trying to determine how long it will take to get the systems back online.

WHAT ARE YOU CALLED TO DO?

SCIENCE

CAREERS AS VOCATIONS

A panel of alumni and alumnas reflect on the integration of faith and social concerns into life beyond Notre Dame.

Sunday, March 28

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Center for Social Concerns

Pizza will be served.

Speakers

Thomas Novak

Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry

University of Notre Dame

Kristin Tepas ’93

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program

Lake Michigan Biological Station, Zion, IL

Allison Potempa Villinski ’97

Manager, Regulatory Affairs Operations

TAP Pharmaceutical Products, Lake Forest, IL

NOTRE DAME VOCATION INITIATIVE
During a morning run through Hyde Park, I couldn’t help but stop in the warm and inviting anti-Blair propaganda commemorating the one-year anniversary of the war with Iraq.

As I continued through the paper jungles of various signs displaying, “Blitz” — complete with mock blood stains about in the shape of bullet wounds — I couldn’t help but wonder if the prime minister deserved this much criticism.

I had just survived a hard night and I realized that the decision whether or not to support another Blair war was like one I had just made: Indeed, it was like the decision many of us make at least once.

In one way or another, we all know a Tony Blair and who is he? I’ll tell you. Tony is the friend that proposed that bad night out. For you, it may be the weird kid sitting next to you, here in London it’s my optimistic friend that lives in the flat 2.14.

Now, we trust this friend and you think that everything is going to run smoothly if you just take his advice on where to go to for a fabulous night out, but sometimes he just lets you down. Let’s recap the last disappointing night out.

The proposal. Your friend declares a state of emergency. He alerts you that apparently the quintessential hang out spot has active weapons of mass seduction. You and all your friends recognize the threat and see the need for immediate disarmament.

The decision. After painstaking deliberation, your good friend convinces you that the threat is real and delaying action another night could prove detrimental to your future. You feel you have no logical choice but to proceed and enter dangerous territory.

The preparation. This requires foresight. Funds must be acquired and much has been lost; someone must be held accountable. You were prepared — this is what you’ve aimed for.

The investigation into weapons of mass destruction. They lead you to a spot, and you are led towards the back of the club or to a remote corner.

The tension mounts. You realize what just happened. You recount the previous moments and can’t seem to remember the exact point where everything went wrong.

There are no weapons of mass destruction to be found, no matter how hard you look. You realize you’ve been duped.

The tragedy. You may approach your friend immediately or the next day.

But eventually, there is always an inquiry. So much has been invested and much has been lost; someone must be held accountable. You were always prepared — this is what you’ve aimed for.

The tragic.
Letters to the Editor

Finding 'Passion' in the real world

This is the true story of fifteen Notre Dame students picked to travel to Cuba for a week to find out what happens when people stop being silent and start acting.

For my theology class, I traveled to Cuba over Spring Break to study the Catholic Church. While staying one night at a retreat center, we saw some people watching a movie: "The Passion." Those fifteen seconds that I watched Jesus' feet being nailed to the cross stuck with me for the rest of the week as we traveled around listening to the stories of religious and lay people both on and off the island talk about life and the Church. Before going to Cuba and for the first couple of days I was there, I had the opinion that the Church in Cuba was not doing enough. I was disappointed by the lack of public protest and anti-Castro sermons from the pulpit. However, now I think differently. The Church is the only body in Cuba outside of the government that is recognized; this is both amazing and dangerous.

On one side of the fence, the Church is allowed little freedom to work, and on the other the freedom can be taken away in a heartbeat by the government. The Church today in Cuba is able to provide social services for people that are not politically threatening like the elderly and AIDS victims. It also provides educational and social services to other groups in need. The Church is working to restore families separated by 90 miles and 45 years. It works in a country that just arrested 25 political prisoners, where workers make $8 a month, where people don't have free speech, press or assembly.

Those religious people that do speak against the government have their homes and their lives threatened. This is suffering for love's sake. I realized that while I was pointing my finger at the Cuban Church, four fingers were pointing back at me. I realized that while we are talking about "The Passion" over here, Cubans are living it.

Americans often say they are thankful that they have the freedom to do and say what they wish. However, when I think about it, we don't exercise these rights. Freedom of speech: how many of us, religious and lay people, fail to speak up about Iraq, homosexuality, women's rights, migration and homelessness?

Freedom of press: when was the last time you wrote an editorial article or contacted your senator or university president?

Freedom of assembly: have you ever attended a protest or a city council meeting?

I have not; I have failed. I think the Church has failed too. Rarely have I heard a controversial homely or seen a Catholicism. Remember, there is a word for Catholics who self-interpret Church teachings: Protestants. The Observer's use of the word "solidarity" is quite puzzling. How can the news editors allow a headline of "How can the news editors allow a headline of "Solidarity Debate Sweeps Campus," that the Gay-Straight Alliance estimated the sale of 1,600 T-shirts. According to the Notre Dame Web site, total student enrollment in fall 2002 was 11,311 students. Thus, 14 percent of students actually wore shirts. This statistic does not take faculty members into account although some purchased T-shirts as well. Thagard did state that "A majority of students, however, did not participate in the project," but is this fair rhetoric? Does this line feed the reader to believe that over 86 percent of the student body did not participate in the event?

On Tuesday, the headline in the Viewpoint section mentioned "Sea of Orange." Clearly, this is a reference to the "Sea of Green" which consists of over 80,000 members of the Notre Dame community. How is this analogue? A more accurate description fit for a fair and unbiased newspaper might report on an exceptionally small group of extremists attempting to change University policy based on either a rejection or fundamental misunderstanding of Catholic Social Teaching. What is even more disturbing however, is the faulty intellectual publication? I am shocked that The Observer can take serious idea such as solidarity and debase it by equating it with an ambiguously defined notion of tolerance.

Furthermore, how does publishing over 10 quotations in support of the T-shirts as opposed to one in opposition constitute a debate?

Finally, a letter to the editor on Monday was titled, "Wearing of Shirts is Sinful." Never in that beautifully written letter was this claim successful in migration and homelessness?" Americans often say they are thankful that they have the freedom to...
Simpson goes beyond chicken and tuna

By REBECCA SAUNDERS
Scene Music Critic

Everyone knows that Jessica Simpson is a musician, not just a star of the hit reality show "Newlyweds." However, how many "Newlyweds" fans could name one song she actually sings? The chance to learn comes in Simpson's third album, "In This Skin." While the album will not get her invited to the Grammy's without the "Newlyweds" camera in tow, Simpson seems to be on her way towards legitimate recognition. In This Skin has been re-released with three new tracks and a DVD, a first time in awhile, Simpson is seeing some musical success.

In This Skin is an album that allows the listener to hear Simpson's true voice — for the most part. Although there are a few attempts at Britney Spears-esque songs, overall the album is very good.

In a recent Rolling Stone interview, Simpson admitted, "My dream is to be like Jewel, to sit on a chair in my blue jeans and sing my heart out." Simpson knows where she stands, but could somebody please tell her producers? In This Skin is basically a good album, but the bad songs are blatant. The enjoyable songs that will get stuck in a listener's head and let one appreciate the sheer talent that Simpson holds are the tracks where she is allowed to showcase her vocal talent. Tracks like "My Way Home," "Forbidden Fruit" and "Loving You" sound like Simpson is trying to sound like Spears, which is itself a bad idea. Simpson will wow audiences with her voice alone — if only they could hear it through the over-produced tracks.

There are some terrific albums on In This Skin. A fusion of jazz and hip hop. Bo bbi e W illiam s' "Angels" is beautiful when sung in Simpson's impressively powerful voice. The other cover and one of the additional tracks on the re-released album, is "Take My Breath Away," which is good, but not quite as successful. If a person loved "Take My Breath Away" in its original form, there is just no chance of liking this cover. However, a listener who is more interested in pop music will love this new version.

The large question looming in every "Newlyweds" fan's mind is "Where is Nick?" Both Lachey and Simpson were invited to the Grammys without the "Newlyweds" fan. It is generally a good job of switching things up, occasional­ly even implementing hip-hop drum beats that there is a fast forward button on their moments to shine as well. The enjoyable songs are familiar with El-P and RJD2 may not be well known by the general public, but they have been the addition of three new tracks and a DVD.

In This Skin: Extended Re-Release

Jessica Simpson

By KENYATTA STORIN
Scene Music Critic

In the past few years, rapper/pro­ducer El-P and his crew at Def Jux have slowly established themselves as one of the premier underground rap labels of the new millennium. They are best known for their intellectual, non-conforming brand of hip-hop, often going where other artists have not gone before. El-P and fellow Def Jux artists such as Aesop Rock, Mr. Lif and RJD2 may not be well known by the general public, but they have been embraced by many members of the underground rap community for their critically-acclaimed albums of the past few years. El-P himself, is best known for his groundbreaking, gritty and distorted production style and his techni­cal rhymes.

But High Water: Mark is a complete­ly different entity, unlike anything El-P has ever done before. In it, El-P teams up with the Blue Series Continuum, a group of six jazz musicians managed by pianist Matthew Skinner to create a fusion of jazz and hip-hop. This is not an entirely new idea by any means, since famous hip-hop artists including A Tribe Called Quest, De La Soul and Gang Starr have all done various forms of jazz/rap, and Guru's "Jazzmatazz" series even implements live jazz with rap. But unlike these artists, El-P does not rap at all on High Water: Mark, and instead focuses on combining his hip-hop producing skills with live jazz instrumentation. In essence, it is more of a jazz album than a hip-hop album.

El-P is essentially a composer on High Water: Mark, arranging the parts of the six musicians, while in­volved in some produc­tion of his own. The Blue Continuum is a fusion of jazz and hip-hop. It features the talents of Skinner on piano, Guillermo Brown on drums, Roy Campbell on trumpet, Mark Kozelek on vocals and guitar and Daniel Carter on reeds and bass, William Parker on bass and Steve Swell on trombone. The high water mark of these six with El-P's production results in a trippy sound that sim­ulates something like a laid back jazz jam session, which is only and all Simpson. The major­theme of the album is not just love, romance or sex —it is Nick. The majority of the songs on In This Skin are easily related to Simpson and Lachey's relation­ship, Cute or pathetic? Fans must judge that for themselves.

Simpson co-wrote many of the songs, which have mediocre lyrics for the most part, but are not altogether without imagery and substance. Her voice is beau­tiful and powerful and that comes through on the album more than anything else. Songs like "Sweetest Sin," the hit "With You," "I Have Loved You," "Everyday I See You," "Underneath" and "Hot" are all well sung and memorable.

In This Skin is an album worth getting if you are a Simpson fan, or even just a "Newlyweds" fan. It is generally a good job of switching things up that is familiar with El-P's own trademark space age effects and samples.

Contact Rebecca Saunders at rsaunder@nd.edu

El-P succeeds in fusion of jazz and hip-hop

By KENYATTA STORIN
Scene Music Critic

El-P and his crew at Def Jux have slowly established themselves as one of the premier underground rap labels of the new millennium. They are best known for their intellectual, non-conforming brand of hip-hop, often going where other artists have not gone before. El-P and fellow Def Jux artists such as Aesop Rock, Mr. Lif and RJD2 may not be well known by the general public, but they have been embraced by many members of the underground rap community for their critically-acclaimed albums of the past few years. El-P himself, is best known for his groundbreaking, gritty and distorted production style and his techni­cal rhymes.

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In This Skin is an album worth getting if you are a Simpson fan, or even just a "Newlyweds" fan. It is generally a good job of switching things up, occasional­ly even implementing hip-hop drum beats on tracks like "Get Your Hand Off My Shoulder, Pig" and "Intrigue in the Name of India." Even "Sunrise over Bklyn," by far the longest track on the album, maintains a high level of energy by gradually building up to a satisfying climax.

Contact Kevyatta Storin at kstorin@nd.edu
A soundtrack of the year

The school year is winding down and we can now begin looking back at all the fond memories we have accumulated from the previous year. Whether it was "Rally in the Alley" where we saw Guster and Black Eyed Peas at Turtle Creek, the Spring Break road trip with all of our roommates, or one of the two top-40 bands to grace the University with its presence, music has no doubt played a huge role in how we will remember this "academic" year.

When the school year started, we were all happy to see our old chums, but who can forget the catchy collaboration of Allen Jackson and Jimmy Buffet with "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere." I remember it as though it was yesterday—the first time I heard the chorus as I made my way to a popcorn machine. As I look back at August, I could never have predicted that such a modest track would go on to become a staple at establishments such as Linebacker Lounge.

As the football season began, our expectations were as great as our love for "Shake Ya Tailfeather" by Nelly, P. Diddy and Murphy Lee. There were two certainties about Heartland on a Thursday night in September: you wore all happy to see our old chums, but who can forget the catchy collaboration of Allen Jackson and Jimmy Buffet with "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere." I remember it as though it was yesterday—the first time I heard the chorus as I made my way to a popcorn machine. As I look back at August, I could never have predicted that such a modest track would go on to become a staple at establishments such as Linebacker Lounge.

The month of turkey and stuffing meant time is running out to make a decision to study for finals. Those songs will jog memories of our friends and the weather ever gets warm or if we decide to study for finals. Those songs will remind us of the different events during this school year and perhaps school years of yore. Years from now we will hear a song on the radio and it will jog memories of our friends and good times we spent with them while in school. The time we have left during this school year is precious and that means time is running out to make a mix for the power hour for graduation.

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

Contact Brian Foy at bfoy@nd.edu

In November, Beyonce, with the help of Sean Paul, hit it big with "Baby Boy," a song that proved she could survive without Destiny's Child. The song combines hip-hop and reggae to provide a danceable beat that is popular at parties. These two artists were heard everywhere, from the dorms to the clubs.

Big Bol and Andre 3000 of Outkast had two of the year's biggest hits with "The Way You Move" and "Hey Ya." Although these songs were released last semester, they continue to be a staple of every good party.

Whether you were tailgating, lifting at the Rock or chillin' with the homies, the boys of Outkast were everywhere first semester. During the month of lovers, one man dominated music with his appearance on a collection of love songs. No matter where you turned Lil' John was all over "da" club as he heared his vocals to "Yeah" by Usher and "Salt Shaker" by the Ying Yang Twins However, his greatest triumph might have been "Get Low" with the Eastside Boyz as it added the phrase "skeet skeet" into the hearts and minds of club goers from Notre Dame to Nicaragua.

The start of the spring season gave us midterms and Spring Break. There were a myriad of songs that were in the running for "Spring Break Anthem," but the clear winner would have to be "Toxic" by Britney Spears. It would take the greatest poets years to describe the appeal of this song, but the bottom line is that the music is catchy and the undeniable fact that Britney Spears is hot.

The remainder of the school year will bring songs that we will listen to if the weather ever gets warm or if we decide to study for finals. Those songs will remind us of the different events during this school year and perhaps school years of yore. Years from now we will hear a song on the radio and it will jog memories of our friends and good times we spent with them while in school. The time we have left during this school year is precious and that means time is running out to make a mix for the power hour for graduation.

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Defending champs are a surprise

Maryland's D.J. Strawberry and Jamie Smith try to block Syracuse's Hakim Warrick's shot during the second round.

Saint Joseph's James Nelson looks for the pass in the first round of the NCAA tournament against Liberty.

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — If Chris Paul wants to see his future, he needs only to look across the court at Jameer Nelson on Thursday night.

Paul, the sleeky freshman point guard with the quick first step, innate passing sense and solid jump shot, will be running the offense for fourth-seeded Saint Joseph's, as he has for the last four years.

All eyes will be on the two stars when they meet in the East Rutherford Regional.

"I'm hoping experience and a little bit of size pays off," Saint Joseph's coach Phil Martelli said. This 5-foot-11, 190-pound Nelson is an inch shorter but 20 pounds heavier than Paul.

"You can't make it all about them. We all have to guard Paul and they all have to guard Jameer," Martelli said.

Nelson, a unanimous selection for the All-America team, averaged 20.6 points, 4.6 rebounds and 5.2 assists while shooting 49 percent from the field and 80 percent from the free-throw line.

Nelson was the Atlantic Coast Conference rookie of the year and was selected in the league's all-defensive team after leading it with 2.7 steals a game. He averaged 14.9 points, 4.9 rebounds and 5.8 assists while shooting 50 percent from the field and 44 percent from the free-throw line.

Paul's most recent games — one in the ACC tournament and the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament — have been his most impressive. He has 81 points, 22 assists and just three turnovers in those games.

"He's done a great job," Nelson said, referring to Paul. "He seems to be a natural point guard. He's so calm out there and that's what a team needs a point guard to do.

Paul, 18, has spent the last few days getting ready for the 22-year-old Nelson.

"You can't just watch one film on Jameer and understand what he wants to do. You have to watch tons and tons of film because he's such a great player and he's so versatile," Paul said.

"I know he's a senior and one thing Coach always says about seniors is they play with a sense of urgency because it could be their last game."

Last season was almost Nelson's last in college, but he sensed the team needed him back for one more year.

Paul, the skinny freshman point guard from Rutherford Regional.

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The muscular, senior point guard with very similar offensive skills and the benefit of 123 college starts, will handle the ball for top-seeded Saint Joseph's, as he has for the last four years.

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For more information contact Keara Coughlin at 631-3389 or kcoughli@nd.edu
ATHENS, Ga. — Andy Landers leans back in his chair, managing a defiant smile as he ponder the question that always seems to pop up this time of year.

Sure, he'd like to win a national title. No, he's not consumed by the quest.

"That's the one thing in basketball that I want to do the most," said Landers, the women's coach at Georgia for a quarter-century. "That desire and fire is still there. But will I feel unfulfilled if I don't do it? No. I don't think I'm a failure."

No one else does, either. Landers has 609 career wins. He's guided the Lady Bulldogs to seven Southeastern Conference championships. He's been to the Final Four five times. He's nurtured some of the sport's greatest players, including five-time Olympian Teresa Edwards, Katrina McClain, Saudia Roundtree and Kelly Miller.

But one thing — and one thing only — is missing from Landers' resume. A national championship.

This is his 21st trip to the NCAA tournament. He's 0-for-20. No coach has been to that many tourneys without winning.

Is he bothered by that statistic?

He's ready for that query.

"Does it bother me that I've played in 21 tournaments, which is the third-most in the country," Landers said. "No, none of that stuff bothers me. The better question might be: Would you rather have played in one tournament and won it or gone to 21 tournaments, five Final Fours, 14 Sweet 16s?"

Landers is four wins away from adding a national title to the list. Once again, he's taken the Lady Bulldogs (24-9) deep into the tournament, one of just 16 teams with a chance to win it all. They'll meet Purdue on Saturday in the West Regional semifinals.

Will Landers finally break through? Or will he remain linked the teams such as the Buffalo Bills (four straight Super Bowl losses) and the Atlanta Braves (12 straight division titles, only one World Series championship).

The Georgia players know Landers is always passionate about winning, whether it's a December game against some overmatched team or a March showdown with the season on the line.

Then again, they all know he would appreciate a championship more than anyone else in the program.

"The national championship is definitely something he's got his eye set on," senior center Christi Thomas said. "That's what it's all about — championships. He's imbedded that in us. He holds that dear to his heart. I know it's an important thing for him."

Landers literally built the Georgia program from scratch. He arrived in 1979, only 26 years old when he took over as the first — and still only — full-time women's basketball coach in school history.

Before Landers, the Lady Bulldogs had spent six pitiful seasons as a varsity program, compiling a record of 37-85. By his fourth year, they had reached the Final Four.

In 1985, Georgia lost to Old Dominion 70-65 in the final game. Eleven years later, the Lady Bulldogs made it back to the cusp of a championship, only to get routed by SEC rival Tennessee 83-65.

"I think we were very unfortunate with a couple of our teams," Landers said. "I don't want to cop out on anything, but everyone in this business says you've got to have a little luck sometimes. Just being good isn't enough. I know we were good enough two or three times."

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BUFFALO, N.Y. — Buffalo believe it was clocked around slim playoff hopes with a victory. Thrashers kept alive their season when Michael Ryder net. It wound up going in. coach Bob Hartley quipped. "I had radar on that one," Thrashers backhander from the left corner, good to go. Minnesota Wild. "It's one of those things where I'm here, I career. He was seldom tested son — tying the franchise record — and the 14th of his career. He was seldom tested in his fifth shutout of the season. They might just have to in order to make the playoffs. J.P. Dumont and Adam Mair both scored in the second period to lift the Sabres to a 2-1 victory over the Montreal Canadiens. Buffalo closed the gap to six points on the New York Islanders in the race for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. "I liked every aspect of our game," Ruff said. "We want to play each game very well and get points." But the Sabres' postseason hopes continue to be slim at best. If the Islanders play .500 hockey in their final six games, the Sabres have to win their last six contests to qualify for the postseason. Still, Wednesday's victory gave the Sabres plenty of hope. "Absolutely," said Mair when asked if his team has enough in the tank to overtake the Islanders. "Right now we're playing on a game-by-game basis rather than lumping all the games together." The Sabres were helped by a strong effort in goal by Martin Biron, who missed out on his second shutout of the season when Michael Ryder scored his 24th goal with a backhander from the left circle with under six minutes to go. 

Thrashers 3, Capitals 2

No one is running away with the NHL goal-scoring title, but it isn't for lack of effort. "Jen, we're all trying," Rick Nash cracked after scoring his 39th goal in the Columbus Blue Jackets' win over the Minnesota Wild. "It's one of those things where I'm here, I might as well go for it." Nash moved into a tie for the goals lead with Atlanta's Ilya Kovalchuk — a fact that surprised the 19-year-old, second-year star. "I didn't really expect it. I didn't really think I would be one of those things. It was just a matter of time."

Blue Jackets 2, Wild 0

Marc Denis stopped 20 shots in his first NHL start. "I wasn't too sure what to expect," Denis said. "I just wanted to go out there and give it my best." Denis made 13 saves in the second period, including a point-blank stop on Marty Zajac. "I thought he was excellent out there," coach Todd Richards said. "He made some big saves when we needed a big save." Denis' best save came in the third period, when he robbed Patrik Forde on a breakaway with a pad save. "I don't think we played our best game," Richards said. "We had a few breakdowns. But we played well enough to win." The Sabres were helped by a strong effort in goal by Martin Biron, who missed out on his second shutout of the season when Michael Ryder scored his 24th goal with a backhander from the left circle with under six minutes to go.
MLB

Chicago Cubs, Houston Astros set for a heated arms race

Associated Press

It's easy to envision the marquee matchups: Roger Clemens vs. Greg Maddux, with first place on the line.

Or Andy Pettitte against Kerry Wood for a trip to the World Series.

Maybe Mark Prior and Roy Oswalt in Game 7 of the playoffs.

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**PGA**

Players Championship
to decide front runner

Associated Press

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Twelve tournaments. Twelve winners.

The first three months on the PGA Tour were similar to last year, when the biggest names were on top of their games, but no one — not even Tiger Woods — dominated golf.

"It just gets exponentially harder to win," Davis Love III said Wednesday. It doesn't get any easier this week.

All the best players are assembled at The Players Championship to face the first major test of the year, and perhaps a sort out who the top contenders are with the Masters just around the corner.

Woods seems like a logical choice, except that his only victory was the Match Play Championship, and he is coming off his worst finish on the PGA Tour in five years.

Vijay Singh was closing in on No. 1 until he missed the cut at Torrey Pines, then went two more tournaments without finishing in the top 10.

Phil Mickelson started his year with five straight finishes in the top 10, including a victory in the Bob Hope Classic. Masters champion Mike Weir repeated at Riviera. Ernie Els won another playoff at Waldala.

Seven of the top 10 players in the world have won.

None has dominated.

"There's a lot of guys playing great golf out here," Love said. "And it's hard to separate yourself.

The Players Championship, which starts Thursday, has its strongest field ever with 80 of the top 100 in the world.

The Stadium Course on the TPC at Sawgrass looks as tough as ever, especially given the firm greens during practice rounds and dry conditions that are expected to last through the week.

"I can only imagine what they're going to be like on Sunday," Chad Campbell said. "It's going to be a hard test."

Adding to the luster is the announcement Tuesday night at a players-only meeting that the richest purse in golf got even richer — $8 million, with $1.44 million going to the winner.

"There was a gasp in the room," Love recalled. "I don't think we were expecting that number."

Love achieved rare separation last year, when he had a superb closing round of 8-under 64 in cold, blustery conditions to win by five shots.

But he has been reminded that no winner in the 30-year history of The Players Championship has ever repeated.

"I'm just trying to get lost in the process of golf and not think about results, not think about what I've heard for the last three weeks — that no one has ever won the championship back-to-back," Love said. "I've won twice. I just have to put the years together."

Told that 12 players won the first 12 tournaments of the year, Love replied: "I think there's 13 different winners after this week."

Love is among the top 10 players without a victory this year, although he is No. 4 on the money list. The others are Retief Goosen and Jim Furyk, who showed up Wednesday with a plastic brace on his left wrist from surgery Monday. Furyk will be out for at least three months.

Of the dozen winners this year, only Woods has to answer questions about what's wrong with his game, although his performance last week at Bay Hill was peculiar — after four straight years of winning, he went three straight rounds over par and tied for 46th. 18 shots behind Campbell.

The strongest and deepest field in golf tees off Thursday on a course that was revised when it opened in 1982, but since has commanded the utmost respect.

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**Unplanned Pregnancy?**

Don't go it alone.

If you or someone you love needs help or information, please call.

Confidential Support & Assistance

Available at Notre Dame:

- Sr. Jean Lenz, O.S.F., Student Affairs, 1-7407
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- Sylvia Dillon, Campus Ministry, 1-7163
- John Dillon, Campus Ministry, 1-7163
- Dr. Susan Steibe-Pasalich, Counseling Center, 1-7336
- Ann E. Kleva, Health Services, 1-8286

South Bend Community Resources:

- Women's Care Center: 234-0363
- Catholic Charities: 234-3111

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The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies is seeking qualified undergraduates to participate in the FDD Undergraduate Fellowship to learn how democracies defend themselves against terrorism.

The year-long fellowship begins with a two-week course of study (July 31-August 14) at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv, Israel. An additional seminar takes place in Washington, D.C. over winter break.

The course of study in Tel Aviv features lectures from experts on terrorism from Israel, Jordan, India, Turkey and the United States. It also features visits to military bases, border zones and other security installations to learn the practical side of deterring terrorist attacks. The winter seminar features lectures and field trips that highlight America's leadership role in the war on terrorism.

All expenses are paid by FDD. Interested students can apply at: www.defenddemocracy.org

FDD is a non-profit, non-partisan research institution that promotes informed debate about policies and positions that most effectively abolish international terrorism.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE** — April 15th

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INTERNATIONAL WORKING OPPORTUNITY

**OBC ENGLISH CONVERSATION SCHOOL**

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

**RECRUITING DATES:** March 30 & 31, 2004 at Career and Placement Services

Japanese language skills **NOT** required

Open to all majors.

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A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER
for faculty, staff and students
DURING THE THREE REMAINING FRIDAYS OF LENT

Reflections on FORGIVENESS

The Format

A 25 minute presentation on the Sunday Scripture by distinguished Notre Dame teachers, followed by 20 minutes of private prayer based on points for reflection on the Scripture. Optional attendance at the Stations of the Cross at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The Scripture

March 19
An invitation to trust in God's love for you as the first step
The Prodigal (Luke 15, 1-3, 11-32)
Professor John Cavadini

March 26
An invitation to be freed from the past to live a new life
The Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8, 1-11)
Father Bill Simmons, C.S.C.

April 2
An invitation to understand the depth of God's love and the call to discipleship
Professor Robin Darling Young

The Time and Place

The Coleman-Morse Student Lounge
6:15 pm to 7:15 pm

Cap off your Lenten preparation with this special prayer experience

Campus Ministry
**NFL**

**Ex-Irish cornerback Taylor signs with Seahawks**

**Associated Press**

PHILADELPHIA — Bobby Taylor agreed to a four-year deal with the Seattle Seahawks, reuniting with former Eagles coach Ray Rhodes.

The cornerback, who spent all nine of his NFL seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles, replaces Shawn Springs, who signed with the Washington Redskins this month. Taylor should bolster a pass defense that finished 27th in the NFL.

His agent, Jason Medlock, said Wednesday the deal is a four-year contract worth $11.8 million with a $3 million signing bonus. With performance incentives, Taylor could earn up to $15.75 million.

Also Wednesday, the Green Bay Packers were granted permission by Cleveland to talk with quarterback Tim Couch, whose days with the Browns appear to be dwindling. Couch’ five-year stint with the Browns ended last season, when the club signed free-agent quarterback Jeff Garcia to a four-year deal.

Taylor missed nine games with a foot injury last season, but played in Philadelphia’s two playoff games. He finished with 28 tackles and one interception. Taylor’s best season was in 2002 when he had five interceptions, 49 tackles and earned his first trip to the Pro Bowl.

Taylor has 19 career interceptions and two more in 12 playoff games. The Browns told Couch’s agent, Tom Condon, he could discuss a deal outside the AFC North for his client. Stewart said the Packers were the first team to call.

**In Brief**

Yankees’ Rodriguez hurt in game against Red Sox

TAMPA, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez left the New York Yankees’ exhibition game against Boston on Wednesday night after being hit in the face by a deflected ball at third base.

And it was against the Red Sox, the team that tried and failed to land him this winter before the Yankees managed to work out a deal to land the reigning AL MVP and move him to third base from shortstop, his natural position.

Brian Daubach was on first base when Kevin Millar doubled to left field. Hideki Matsui fielded the ball and threw to third, but the ball hit Daubach on the leg as he slid and ricocheted into Rodriguez’s face below his left eye.

Yankees trainer Gene Monahan ran out to tend to Rodriguez and lead him off the field.

Injury list

Davis, 43, just completed his fourth season as the Hoosiers’ coach. He had an 81-53 career record and led the Hoosiers to a share of the Big Ten regular-season title and into the NCAA championship game in 2002. But Indiana lost 14-15 this season, posting its first losing season since 1969-70 and missing the post-season for the first time since 1976.

Davis declined on Monday to comment on the Auburnd job. Calls to his cell phone on Wednesday went unanswered. Davis still has four years left on his contract at Indiana.

The Pacers place Bender on injured list

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Pacers placed guard/forward Jonathan Bender on the injured list Wednesday because of a strained right shoulder.

Bender, injured Friday night against Sacramento, has played in just 18 games this season.
Yao leads Houston to a 90-89 OT victory

HOUSTON — Yao Ming scored 27 points and had 17 rebounds, leading the Houston Rockets to a overtime victory over the Toronto Raptors.

Steve Francis had a follow-up slam dunk to give the Rockets an 88-86 lead with 1:04 left. Then Yao (24 points, 10 rebounds) hit two free throws with 51 seconds to play for a 90-86 advantage in overtime.

Francis and Cuttino Mobley each had 17 points as Houston won its fifth straight from the Raptors, who have won only once in nine games in Houston. Houston led 64-59 after three quarters, but an 8-0 run gave the Raptors a 75-74 lead with 6:16 to play in regulation. A three-pointer by Chris Bosh with 33 seconds to play had closed it to 90-89.

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Notre Dame guard Colin Falls tries to keep the ball away from a Purdue defender in Notre Dame’s first-round NIT win.

**NIT**

continued from page 32

"For us, if we are able to get back to New York, there are only eight teams playing college basketball that week, all on national TV," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "That will make a lasting impression on a lot of people. It will make your fans, yourself, recruiting all of those things.

"Every day I’ve come in, I’ve made a comment that a couple of more teams aren’t playing, but we are still playing. You want to keep the focus on your program for as long as possible.

"Getting that win tonight would allow seniors Torrian Jones and Tom Timmermans to complete their career with four 20-win seasons while wearing an Irish uniform. In those four years, winning has become more of a habit than a surprise, but Jones still appreciates each victory.

"I’m spoiled, every year I’ve been here I’ve gotten 20 wins. I’m really looking forward to getting a win tomorrow night and for my career to culminate." Jones said "I’m looking forward to getting that 20th win, going back to New York and trying to win a championship with this team."

A lot has been said in the past few days about the Joyce Center crowd taking notes from the fans in Fort Wayne and being more energetic. Brey joked before practice Wednesday that he is sending boxes for those Fort Wayne fans to get to South Bend and even said his wife would drive a couple of vans.

"Whether or not any fans make the short trip to Notre Dame, Brey feels the hometown fans are ready."

"I think our Joyce Center fans have accepted the challenge the Fort Wayne fans put down the other night," Brey said. "I anticipate a great atmosphere. It’s the last time to see this team, and I think people have appreciated what this group has done."

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

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**COACHING**

Brey has the Irish playing some of their best basketball of the year. His laid-back approach has the Irish just one game away from Madison Square Garden.

**STYLE OF PLAY**

It’s no secret that the Irish rely on the 3-pointer to win games, and as long as they’re hitting it, they have a good chance at winning. But the emergence of Ben Gordon has given the Irish a late-season low-post option to replace Francis.

**POST PLAYERS**

In Timmermans and Corbett, the Irish have a unique tandem of players that are both unusually agile and both can shoot from long range. Their weakness is that they aren’t as reliable scoring from the low post.

How will Thomas follow up his career-high, 39-point performance from Monday? When he’s on, he keys the Irish success. Quinn has also proven to be a viable scoring option, and Jones is the team’s defensive stopper.

**PERIMETER PLAYERS**

Jackson, a 6-foot-7 guard, leads the team in points (21.6), rebounds (7.2), and assists. On a guard-oriented team, the 6-foot-10, 270 pound Plott is an imposing force.

Crosswhite is the team’s most reliable low-post presence. He averages 12 points and five rebounds a game. And while the Ducks are primarily a guard-oriented team, the 6-foot-10, 270 pound Plott is an imposing force.

Because Crosswhite figures himself into the Ducks’ offenses, Brey said, the Ducks get the edge here. However, the quickness of the Notre Dame big men makes this an interesting match-up.

**BENCH**

Part of the reason the Irish want to keep playing is so Falls and Corbett can keep improving. While they were reliable during the season, they are effective enough now that Brey can seemingly insert them into the lineup.

None of the members of the Ducks’ eighth-man rotation figure heavily into their scoring. Instead, they come into the game mostly to give the starters a short breather.

**INTANGIBLES**

In what will be their final game in the Joyce Center this year, the Irish won’t want to end their season at home. The biggest question is will the fans support from Fort Wayne keep NIT fever going in the Joyce Center?

After Oregon beat George Mason at 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, they had to bound a plan for a cross-country flight to South Bend. It’s reasonable to conclude that fatigue could hamper the Ducks’ effort.

The final home game of the year plus a potentially sweeter opponent means the Irish have the advantage here. But both teams will be motivated by knowing that one win gets them to New York.

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**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

One last challenge for Jones

Irish senior will have his hands full in defending Oregon guard Luke Jackson

By MATT LOZAR

Sport Writer

It’s appropriate in his last game at the Joyce Center, Notre Dame coach and defensive specialist Torrian Jones will be called on to defend one of the biggest assignments of the season — somehow trying to contain Oregon’s Luke Jackson.

"I don’t think there is a better way for me to go out at home but to go up against a guy like Luke Jackson, really testing myself on the court against a player of his caliber," Jones said. "To me, this is an honor to play against a great player. I love doing it, and it’s been my role to do this since I’ve been here."

Jackson doesn’t get the major publicity nationwide being on the national TV," Brey feels the hometown fans are ready. "I think our Joyce Center fans have accepted the challenge the Fort Wayne fans put down the other night," Brey said. "I anticipate a great atmosphere. It’s the last time to see this team, and I think people have appreciated what this group has done."

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

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**NOTRE DAME**

Kent, the 2002 Pac-10 conference Coach of the Year, has turned a terrible Oregon program into one that won a conference title. The job he has done on Oregon is akin to the one Brey did at Notre Dame.

**OREGON**

The offense centers heavily around Jackson, who scores nearly a third of the Ducks’ 76 points-per-game average. Like the Irish, they shoot a lot of 3-pointers — and shoot 39 percent from behind the arc as a team.

**ANALYSIS**

Neither coach has a size advantage here. Both have taken low level programs and turned them into respectable ones.

Both teams run similar perimeter-oriented offenses. While the Ducks sport more of the 3-flurry better defense.

Because Crosswhite figures himself into the Ducks’ offenses, Brey said, the Ducks get the edge here. However, the quickness of the Notre Dame big men makes this an interesting match-up.

Crosswhite is the team’s most reliable low-post presence. He averages 12 points and five rebounds a game. And while the Ducks are primarily a guard-oriented team, the 6-foot-10, 270 pound Plott is an imposing force.

Because Crosswhite figures himself into the Ducks’ offenses, Brey said, the Ducks get the edge here. However, the quickness of the Notre Dame big men makes this an interesting match-up.

As much as an offensive presence Jackson, Brey has the personnel to guard him. The 6-foot-7 guard will be one of the best matchups tonight.

With the way Falls and Gordon have been playing, the Irish get the edge here. However, the quickness of the Notre Dame big men makes this an interesting match-up.

The final home game of the year plus a potentially sweeter opponent means the Irish have the advantage here. But both teams will be motivated by knowing that one win gets them to New York.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu
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7:00pm in the Knights of Columbus building.

Lose it all at Casino Night last weekend?

Irish continued from page 32
tive out there on the field and especially at the plate," Mainieri said. "We've just been kind of in a little bit of a rut right now swinging the bats. We manufactured a few runs here and there.

The Irish got out to an early lead with a three-run first as both center fielder Danny Dressman and second baseman Steve Sollmann drew walks. An error on a ball hit by Matt Edwards allowed Dressman to score. After a walk by left fielder Steve Andrews loaded the bases, Cody Rizzo and Macri hit sacrifice flies to score a pair of runs.
The Irish matched a third-inning run from Detroit in the bottom half of the frame when Bransfield smacked an RBI single to left to score Andres for the 4-1 lead.

Notre Dame would blow the game open, however, with three runs in the fifth and four more in the sixth for the 11-1 lead.

With the game in hand, Mainieri began to clear his bench and bullpen as several Irish position players and six pitchers saw action.

"It was good to see so many guys get out there on the mound," Mainieri said. "I thought a couple of the guys threw very well. That was good to see. But it was just good to get that one in the win column.

The Titans would make a little bit of a run, however, with four runs in the seventh off righty side-арmer Tyler Jones.

In the eighth inning, Detroit narrowed the Irish lead to 11-6 with an RBI ground ball from left fielder Mark Moehlig. But with every starter but Edwards and Macri out of the game, the Irish put five runs on the board in the bottom of the inning to put the game out of reach. In the inning, three Irish batters drew walks, center fielder Alex Nettig had a two-run double off the wall in right center and left fielder Brennan Grogan closed out the scoring with a two-run triple.

Freshman Jess Stewart would get the win on the hill for the Irish, working three innings and allowing one run in a planned rotation.

Contact Chris Federico at cfederico@nd.edu

Stenglein is perfect in win over Valpo

By HEATHER VAN HOEIARDEN
Sports Editor

Perfect.
That is the only way to describe Steffany Stenglein's performance Tuesday night.
Stenglein struck out 14 of 18 batters in six innings, good for a perfect game in a 9-0 Irish win at Valparaiso (3-8).

"It was one of those days when everything was working," Stenglein said. "I had confidence in all my pitches and stayed focused on the next batter while trying not to think about the situation too much.

With the win, the Irish improved to 20-9 on the season after a tough early season schedule.

"We are preparing ourselves for the Big East and for our home season," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said.

Offensively, Notre Dame was led by Meagan Ruthrauff, who was 3-for-4 with five RBIs, and Mallorie Lenn, who was also 3-for-4. Ruthrauff and Lenn homered against the Crusaders.

But while the Irish offense was on fire, Stenglein was the story. It was her second career perfect game, and her third career no-hitter.

"She has had her ups and downs this season, but she was outstanding," Gumpf said.

"She needed that game."

So what was the difference for Stenglein in the win?

"She got ahead," Gumpf said. "When she gets ahead, she can use her best pitches and throw some out of the zone. This makes the hitters fish for pitches they don't want to hit."

The Irish got on the board early, scoring three runs on a Ruthrauff home run after Nicole Defauro reached a walk and Megan Ciollu singled. Wicks added another solo home run in the third to put the Irish ahead 4-0.

In the fourth, DeFauro was doubled in by Ruthrauff after reaching on a single, and Ruthrauff scored on the two-run homer by Lenn.

More insurance came in the top of the sixth when DeFauro doubled to lead off the inning and scored on a Ruthrauff single. Hartmann doubled in Ruthrauff to put the Irish up 9-0.

Notre Dame returns home today as they face Loyola at Ivy Field, in weather that should be warmer than the home opener last weekend.

"Just being home I think provides a huge advantage to our team," Gumpf said. "There's nothing like being home."

Loyola (10-13) comes off a split of a doubleheader at Northern Illinois, where they beat the Huskies 7-1 before losing 5-0 in the nightcap.

Meanwhile, the Irish hope to find their stride early this season.

"Consistency is the key," Gumpf said. "We've played very well, and we've not played well. The bottom line is we're capable of playing well everyday. They just need to come out and do the little things."

Game time is set for 5 p.m. at Ivy Field.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at lvanhoeg@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

www.nd.edu/~bbuddies

Please recycle The Observer.
**Title continued from page 32**

and head coach Janusz Bednarski feels the team may have been dealt a crippling blow. "It's a very, very hard loss because Derek was in very good form," he said. "We have very talented kids but not experienced, and it's not the same level like Derek. Our chances to defend our national title are much lower. We have a weaker position for sure.

Freshman alternate Frankie Bontempo will fill Snyder's place to maintain the allotted 11 fencers.

Additionally, the fencing team will face much stiffer competition at this year's championships. In previous years, the Irish have had to contend with the traditionally strong squads from Penn State and St. John's. But this year, a new contender has risen in Ohio State. Notre Dame has been a first-hand witness to the increasing threat from the Buckeyes. Earlier this year, the Buckeyes unlocked the Irish stranglehold on the Midwest Fencing Conference Championship crown when they took both the men's and women's titles from the Irish for the first time since 1984. Ohio State also made a strong bid for its first national fencing crown by qualifying the maximum 12 fencers at the Midwest Regional. Penn State and Columbia-Barnard qualified 12 and 11, respectively.

"The toughest [opponents are] our traditional rivals Ohio State, Penn State," Bednarski said. "But now without Derek, we have to watch attack of others. Columbia is very strong this year, and so is St. John's."

But Notre Dame still possesses an incredible wealth of talented post-season veterans to help lead the way. The women's foil "A-Team" of Alicia Kryczalo and Andrea Ament are attempting to medal for the third time in as many years. Kryczalo is the two-time defending national champion and Ament has finished right behind her with second and third-place finishes. Michal Sobieraj will attempt to win an individual title this year after narrowly losing in the last year's epee final. Kerry Walton won the epee championship in 2002.

**Laxers continued from page 32**

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"One of the biggest things about being an offensive team is it's a lot tougher to play from behind," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "But now without Derek, we have to watch attack of others. Columbia is very strong this year, and so is St. John's."

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CAREER DAY

AND THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE A PRE-MEETING BEFORE EVERY MEETING.

ANY QUESTIONS?

HOW LONG WILL MY GENERATION NEED TO WORK? A MONTH?

SIXTY YEARS.

I SEE THAT YOU'VE CONNECTED ALL THE DOTS.

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BRETT CAMPBELL & DAN ZYCHINSKI

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

34 Dial-up (3) 58 Interactive part of some Web pages
36 10 pic (12) 60 Have some fancy provisions?
37 Actress Sorvino 61 Edit
14 "Genevieve..." (German military order) 62 Cousin of an org.
15 Refulged 63 Steps: Abbrev.
16 "American Pie" actress Fried 64 Opera that climaxes with a fire- ing squad
17 Michael Jordan or Dr. J 65 "Toodledo!"
19 "Oh no..." 66 Parts of a fence
20 Big Twelve powerhouse 67 Steps over a hill
21 Former beau or former flame 68 "Phooey!"
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28 Title girl of a dance 45 Dance from Cuba
29 Goodness 46 Parts of a fence
30 Opposite of whole 47 Dance from Cuba
31 Confuse 49 "Phooey!"
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1 A total blackout
2 "Take a Chance on Me" group
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4 Capital on the Paraná
5 Dancers to "Call Pachangar (e.g.
6 Parts of a range: Abbrev.
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9 Set
10 Leader born in Georgia
11 Soiree
12 Disneyland sight
13 Convenience for an end.
14 Grow dark
15 Born in
16 Truman's Missouri birthplace
18 Do not.
19 Suspend eliminator
20 Title girl of a 1966 pop hit
21 Goodness
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24 Administered, as medicine
25 Big Step
26 Not change
27 Burlap material
28 1966 pop hit
29 Knuckleheads
30 Home of six sight
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33 Peak near the Gulf of Catania
34 Leaders of some Web sites
35 "Cassablanca" role
36 Some telephone directory
37 "Fancy provisions" (2 words)
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39 Grammy's 1985 Pretender
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**FENCING**

**In search of a repeat**

Irish have a steep road to climb in defending their title

By MATT MOONEY

The Championships will take University in Waltham, Mass. the campus of Brandeis fencers to participate in the following year. Today the Irish begin their quest to do just that.

Notre Dame brings 11 fencers to participate in the 2004 national championships held at the Goeman Center on the campus of Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. The Championships will take place over a four-day span from March 26-28.

The women will fence for the first two days, and then men will conduct their bouts over the remaining two. The national championship is awarded based on the best combined score of both the men's and women's teams. Each fencer will compete in 23 round-robin bouts to determine the team score.

Defending the title this year poses many challenges which the team did not face a year ago. Aside from the wearing of the target of "defending national champion" this year, every fencer competing in last year's NCAA Championships had at least one year of college fencing under their belts. This year, over half of the Irish competitors will be freshmen, including both saber squads, which are composed entirely of freshmen.

Notre Dame also lost top foilist Derek Snyder for the season when he broke his hand March 17. Snyder had just won a regional championship.

**BASEBALL**

**Irish get 1st home victory**

By CHRIS FEDERICO

The Irish bats woke up a little bit Wednesday night, but Detroit gave Notre Dame a lot of help too.

The Titans walked 12 Irish batters, hit three others and committed four errors as No. 6 Notre Dame (14-3) knocked off Detroit (1-10) 16-6 at Frank Eck Stadium.

For the Irish, who had scored just 10 runs over their last three games, the free passes issued by the Titan pitchers stimulated the Notre Dame offense to score 16 runs, the most since a 19-6 win over Winthrop Feb. 27.

"When you're not getting a lot of hits, it helps when the other team does something for you, like walking batters and throwing a lot of wild pitches, but that's not something you count on going into games," Irish coach Paul Malinieri said. "We need to swing the bats better than we did these last two days."

Designated hitter Matt Bransfield was 2-for-3 with three RBIs and hit his second solo home run in as many days. Shortstop Matt Macri had a homer, three RBIs and three runs scored, as he went 1-for-1 on the night with three walks and a sacrifice fly.

"We just seemed very tentative," Irish Pitcher Steffany Stenglein had a perfect game as the Irish blanked the Crusaders Tuesday.

**ND SOFTBALL**

Notre Dame 9, Valparaiso 0

Another NIT game and another game with major implications for the Irish. Notre Dame doesn't have any geographic connections to tonight's opponent Oregon, but coming out victorious over the Ducks gets the Irish two things — 20 wins for the fourth year in a row and a trip back to Madison Square Garden.

Add in the fact this game is undoubtedly the last at the Joyce Center this season, and once again, it's not a boring game in "that other postseason tournament."

"It's definitely been fun, that's because we are playing against great teams and players who don't want their season to end," Notre Dame guard Chris Thomas said. "It's great because we are one of the few teams still playing right now, and we are fighting to play another day."

After the frenzied atmosphere in Fort Wayne, Ind., Thomas feels the Irish are now ready to appreciate playing at home on a new level. Six losses at the Joyce Center last year lost the home-court advantage.

"It was wonderful to have 12,000 fans in ND arenas. We were in awe of the whole atmosphere," Thomas said. "Maybe we take our fans for granted, and sometimes they take us for granted because we don't come out and perform like it's a home-court all the time."

"Playing at Fort Wayne inspired us to give our fans our all."

Since this game is being played opposite the NCAA tournament, it won't be on national television and will keep these two teams in the shadows of the NCAA Sweet 16 games.

That's a major reason why the Irish want a win so badly. A win gets them two more games in front of the country for everyone to watch.