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opens
Hamlet
run**
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ND launches Euro conference

By **JOE TROMBELLO**
News Writer

McKenna Hall this weekend will host the three-day "The Year of the Euro" conference sponsored by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies and convened by sociology Professor Robert Fishman and political science Professor Anthony Messina.

A series of eight presentations ranging from 1 1/2 to two hours in length will occur through Sunday and feature a collection of scholars from Europe and North America.

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Robert Fishman
sociology professor

"We felt it would be fascinating to bring together major scholars to see how they would evaluate this event and the meaning of monetary change."

Each session will feature discussion from four to five prominent scholars on topics ranging from the Euro's catalyzing effect on economic change to the currency's implications on politics and social policy. Notre Dame faculty members will participate in each presentation, as well as scholars from American universities such as Northwestern, Yale, Rice and Harvard and international universities such as the University of Montreal and Central European University, among others.

"The conference is interdisciplinary," Messina said. "[It features] sociologists, political scientists, historians, and economists. We wanted to focus on both the non-economic and the economic aspects of the Euro currency and involved the fertilization of North American and European scholars."

Both Messina and Fishman said that the conference would focus on many of the non-economic issues associated with the introduction of the Euro currency that often get

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Lafayette case unresolved

By **LAUREN BECK**
News Writer

Debate in the lawsuit between the city of South Bend and Taripp Development Corp. may be over for now, but students who live in Lafayette Apartments remained confused about the situation and worried that the issue is not yet resolved.

Thomas Dixon, attorney for Taripp president and Lafayette landlord Chris Matteo, said the lawsuit has been stayed, meaning neither party is currently pursuing it.

Dixon said he and his client had clarified the misunderstandings that caused the problem and had worked to solve it without subjecting Lafayette tenants to fines or eviction.

South Bend filed the lawsuit against Taripp following repeated complaints of intoxication, consumption of alcohol by minors, loud noise, indecent exposure and trash and debris on the property. Specific concerns regarding a party on Sept. 6 were cited in the lawsuit, which was filed on Oct. 11.

Assistant City Attorney Ann-Carol Nash said the police had been addressing problems for the past three years at the apartment complex, leading the city to believe that the property constituted a public nuisance.

Concerns about possible trouble with the city prompted Tracy Clark of Real Estate Management,



Photo Submitted by SALLY HOSEY

Students play drinking games during Lafayette's Kickoff Classic on September 6, 2002. The party prompted the City of South Bend to file a lawsuit against the landlord of Lafayette.

property manager for Lafayette, and Capt. Wanda Shock of the South Bend Police Department to meet with Lafayette residents on Sept. 4. Clark and Shock advised students of policies regarding gatherings.

Dixon said a key misunderstanding occurred at that meeting, leaving residents unclear as to the official rules.

"The police informed tenants that the City was concerned with parties spilling over into the front parking areas of the complex and adjoining streets, and that as long as parties were kept under reasonable control in the back area, there would be no problem," said Dixon.

But the tenants' lease states that outdoor parties

are not allowed without the landlord's permission.

"Quite reasonably, the tenants believed they had received that permission because a representative of the landlord was present when the police gave the OK for parties in the back area," said Dixon. "That understanding was bolstered at the next party when, throughout the evening, police on regular patrol told students to keep their party in the back."

When police issued citations to five guests at the party, which took place two days after the meeting with Shock and Clark, the city decided to take legal action to get its message across to students and landlord.

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ROASTING OVER AN OPEN FIRE



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Students participate in the second annual Howard Hall Marshmallow Roast held on Thursday night. Despite low temperatures, many students turned out to roast marshmallows.

No-show delays Jefferson rape suit

By **JASON McFARLEY**
News Writer

A St. Joseph County Superior Court judge could forgo a jury trial and rule in favor of a former Saint Mary's student who alleged in a lawsuit that ex-Notre Dame football player Clifford Jefferson raped her last year.



Jefferson

Lawyers for the alleged victim this week asked Judge Jenny Pitts Manier to enter a default judgment for the woman, according to court

records. If Manier approves the motion, it would have the effect of finding Jefferson liable in the civil case and would likely negate the need for a trial.

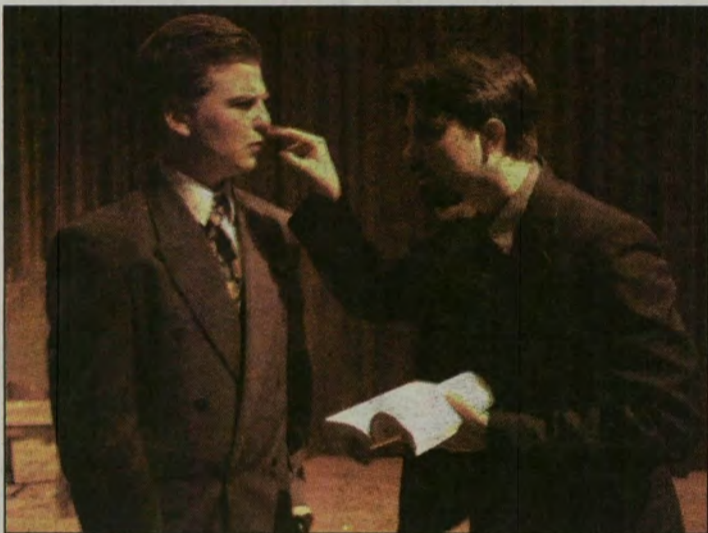
In the meantime, the judge has postponed the trial to Jan. 21.

The trial was to begin Monday, but neither Jefferson nor an attorney for the former Notre Dame cornerback appeared in court. That's when attorneys for the plaintiff made a motion for default judgment, a tactic commonly used when the opposing party is unresponsive to court dates.

Counsel for the alleged victim first entered a motion for default judgment in September 2001 after

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SCENE *theatre*



Above, a sobbing Horatio (junior Tom Conner) holds a dying Hamlet (third-year law student Matt Holmes). To the left, feigning insanity, Hamlet confounds Lord Polonius (senior Jeff Eyerman). Below, Ophelia (junior Meg Ryan) loses her mind to a broken heart

Photos by
C. SPENCER BEGGS



The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare
presents

HAMLET

The Prince

By C. SPENCER BEGGS and CHRIS SANDROCK
Scene Editor and Scene Theatre Critic

Hidden deep within the bowels of DeBartolo Hall, the majesty of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" electrified the too often stagnant air of an often under-occupied classroom as the Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company brought the 400 year-old text to life Thursday night. With a collection of some of the most talented actors the University has to offer, the NSRSC expertly tackled one of Shakespeare's most complicated plays.

When young Prince Hamlet (third-year law student Matt Holmes) returns home to Denmark upon news of his father's untimely death, he finds that his uncle, Claudius (senior Dan Fisher), has taken the throne and married his mother, Gertrude (junior Katy Kertez).

But it soon becomes clear that there is more than meets the eye to the king's death. Hamlet is visited by the ghost of his father (freshman Ceschino Brooks-DeVita) who reveals that his death was no accident and implores the prince to revenge his murder.

The disturbed prince feigns insanity to discover whether the specter's words are true. He convinces a traveling troupe of actors to perform a revised version of a play that suggests that Claudius murdered his brother. When the king becomes agitated, Hamlet and his best friend Horatio (junior Tom Conner) are convinced of his guilt and Hamlet vows to take down the king.

But Hamlet's single-minded vengeance costs the life of the woman he loves, Ophelia (junior Meg Ryan), whose brother, Laertes (Adel Hanash), vows to make Hamlet pay at any cost in turn. The situation quickly spirals out of control, fatalistically marching toward one of the bloodiest and tragic finales in Western literature.

"Hamlet" is considered by many to be Shakespeare's most difficult and most beautiful play. Some have contended that the show is, in fact, the single best play in the Western tradition. The Not-So-Royal cast and director senior JJ Marler immediately realized the enormity of producing the show.

"The expectations when people come to see 'Hamlet' are so high that you have to know that you are going to get a great cast and great group of people to work around you," Marler said.

And Marler got exactly what he wanted. About half of the cast members are long-time veterans of the NSRSC, all having worked on three or four of the Company's previous shows. The other half of the cast making their debuts with the NSRSC had a strong foundation to build on. The cast also had a protracted rehearsal period of three and a half months to prepare the show.

"[The cast] started to gel right away because they've been on stage many times together ... Some cast members started showing real chemistry on day one," Marler said.

The cast's hard work pays off in spades. Holmes captivates the audience with his portrayal of Hamlet, tapping into the deepest recesses of the character's turbulent thoughts to create one of the most amazing showcases of acting skill in a dramatic production at the University in recent memory.

He plays the role with passion and truth, embodying a Hamlet that is both tortured and pure. He dominates the

"Hamlet"



The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare

Director: JJ Marler
Playwright: William Shakespeare
Stage Manager: Dave Hartwig
Starring: Matt Holmes, Meg Ryan, Adel Hanash, Tom Conner, Jeff Eyerman, Dan Fisher, Sean Nelson, Justin V. Federico, Ellen Kennedy, Dan Hoople, Matt Ceschino Brooks-DeVita, Lena Fisher, Pete Gaffney and David Tull

Friday and Saturday nights
and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in
\$8 general admission

SCENE *theatre*

Friday, December 6, 2002

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Shakespeare Company

ts

AMLET of Denmark

show both physically and emotionally; the stillness in his death was only broken by the sobs of Conner's endearing and personable Horatio.

Ryan plays off of Holmes' powerful performance bringing to life a hauntingly real Ophelia who comes close to perfecting the lost love and sanity of the part.

"I think that putting on Hamlet at Notre Dame has raised the bar for things were trying tackle as far as subject matter," Ryan said. "I'm really proud of how it's turned out. I know I've learned a lot about myself as an actress playing this role, which is pretty much my dream role."

Fisher's turns in a chilling rendition of the fratricidal king sparing with Holmes through icy dialogues and fiery confrontations. Supported by Hanash's rapidly maturing Laertes, Kertez's Jackie Kennedy-esque Gertrude and senior Jeff Eyerman's Arthur Miller-like Polonius, the cast builds on each other's energy and abilities brilliantly.

In typical Not-So-Royal style, "Hamlet" is performed in a modern dress. That's not so say that the company has modernized the show itself.

"Shakespeare in his time would have performed his plays in modern dress. We're performing a play that is timeless and putting it in our own context, but we're not changing any of the themes," Marler said.

Overall, the performance of the cast and crew upon the horribly under-dramatic stage of 101 DeBartolo Hall is commendable. The many technical elements of the show involved in the numerous time consuming scene changes detracted greatly from this achievement. In a show that runs just over three hours, the use of an extended blackout and inconsistent, erratic and

sometimes irrelevant music to cover the shifting of the minimalist furniture on stage seemed to be a waste of time that could have been better filled with the Bard's words. Though the use of furniture to establish setting illustrated the club's ability to function within its limited budget, its overall effect upon the scene was far less noticeable than its effect upon the runtime.

Stage manager Dave Hartwig marveled at how the Company managed to preserve the show's production process and come out with such a high quality product.

"The magic of theatre is that 20 plus people can get along for three and a half months, not kill each other and still put on, perhaps, the world's greatest play," Hartwig said.

"Hamlet" opened Thursday evening. The show will run tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. with a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Sunday. General admission is \$8, \$5 for students. Tickets are available at the door or in advance from the LaFortune Student Center box office. Call (574) 631-8128 for reservations.

Auditions for the Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company's spring show "The Taming of the Shrew" will be held on Sunday and Monday from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Callbacks will be held Tuesday at 7 p.m. Callbacks and auditions will be held in 141 DeBartolo Hall. The audition will be cold readings from the script, but those auditioning may prepare a Shakespearian monologue if they care to. For more information visit www.nd.edu/~snelson3.

Contact C. Spencer Beggs at beggs.3@nd.edu and Chris Sandrock at sandrock.1@nd.edu



Above, Hamlet confronts his mother (junior Katy Kertez) about her role in his father's deceitful murder.

To the right, Hamlet parleys with the fratricidal king Claudius (senior Dan Fisher).

Below, the volatile Laertes (junior Adel Hanash) demands to know the circumstances of his sister's demise from Claudius.

Photos by
C. SPENCER BEGGS

