

Opinion

Our View - Wednesday

October 2, 2007 - 11:08PM

Can't we just drop it?

Then there were two. But that's still two too many, in our opinion. The St. Paddy's Day 7 — anti-war activists arrested for disrupting the annual parade, in case anyone didn't know — has been winnowed to just 2, after their first court appearance ended in a mistrial. But we wish the city would just drop the charges against these two, as well. That's not because they're innocent, but because we might snap if we have to endure much more of this. We're all for justice being served and all that. But this isn't a case in which obvious "good guys" and "bad guys" can be found.

The 7 evidently bent or broke parade rules in trying to turn a non-political event into an anti-war protest. The parade's organizers and the cops probably overreacted when the protestors refused to leave. This played right into the hands of the activists, who are now stretching their 15 minutes of fame into a half hour, posing as victims of alleged police brutality and First Amendment rights violations.

If the city attorney is trying to make a point, it's lost on us. It seems a waste of public resources and court space to prosecute charges that might mean a \$500 fine and 90 days in jail for the defendants. If she's that bored, there's a Douglas Bruce ballot measure that needs monkey-wrenching.

There are important principles at stake, die-hards might argue. But whatever points there were to be made have been made, ad nauseam — including in our letters section — and the relentless rehash won't settle any arguments or breathe new life into a controversy that's squeezed dry.

But hey, St. Paddy's Day 2008 isn't too far away. The war will still be raging. And there will be another opportunity to show why Notre Dame's moniker is the "fighting Irish." Until then, can't we just drop the subject — and these charges?