

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 44 : ISSUE 114

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Notre Dame sophomore dies

Keenan Hall gathers to honor peer in dorm Mass; student remembered as easygoing, passionate



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

A student lights a candle in sophomore Sean Valero's memory at the Grotto Friday. Valero died last week. Students commemorated his life in a Mass celebrated in Keenan Hall's chapel Friday evening. Valero was a double major in pre-professional studies and philosophy.

By SAM STRYKER and
MEGAN DOYLE
News Editors

Sophomore Sean Valero, described by friends as a quiet and hardworking student, died last week. He was 21.

Valero, originally from Niskayuna, N.Y., was a resident of Keenan Hall and a double major in pre-professional studies and philosophy.

Sophomore Stephen Schwaner said Valero was both easygoing and thoughtful, and he valued his friendships within Keenan. Valero loved to joke around with



Sean Valero

friends and had "a really big, kinda goofy smile," Schwaner said, but he would also often engage his friends in philosophical debates.

"Although he could be really goofy and joke around with us, he was pensive and intellectual too," he said. "It seemed like philosophy was one of his favorite subjects, and he told me that it was one of his favorite classes."

While Valero was more intro-

verted than outgoing, Schwaner said he most enjoyed spending time in the dorm with his friends.

"He was a really good guy, and had a really good heart," he said. "Every single person that he did meet seemed to take an immediate liking to him."

Valero earned an affectionate nickname from his friends

see VALERO/page 5

University awards Medal

Observer Staff Report

Sr. Mary Scullion and Joan McConnon, co-founders of Project H.O.M.E., will jointly receive the Laetare Medal, the oldest and most prestigious honor given to American Catholics, during the 2011 Commencement ceremony on May 22, the University announced Sunday in a press release.



Scullion

The Laetare Medal is the University's highest honor and is awarded annually to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity," the University press release said.

Project H.O.M.E. (Housing,



McConnon

see MEDAL/page 4

Observer awarded third at conference

Observer Staff Report

The Observer won third place in the Division I "Newspaper of the Year" category at the Indiana College Press Association (ICPA) awards ceremony, held Saturday at Indiana University in Bloomington.

The Observer staff won an additional ten awards. Other University publications represented at ICPA were Scholastic, which won second place in "News Magazine of the Year," Dome, which won second place in "Yearbook of the Year" and The Juggler, which tied for first place

in "Literary Magazine of the Year."

Former News Editors Sarah Mervosh and Laura McCrystal took second place in "Breaking News Reporting" for their coverage of junior Declan Sullivan's funeral and second place in "Non-deadline News Reporting" for their story covering off-campus relations involving the South Bend police titled "Students respond to arrests."

McCrystal also took third place in the category for her article "Gay alumni to present awards."

Mervosh, who currently serves

see ICPA/page 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL UPSETS CONNECTICUT; HEADED TO TITLE GAME



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Notre Dame students cheer on Irish coach Muffet McGraw and her team during second-seeded Notre Dame's 72-63 victory over No. 1-seed Connecticut Sunday night.

THE OBSERVER

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OBSERVER ONLINE
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POLICIES

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Douglas Farmer.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$130 for one academic year; \$75 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779
Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

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CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

Question: If you could be an ice cream flavor, which one would you be?

Kelsey: Cookies ‘n Cream

Q: You’re on a lifeboat with 10 people, but you only have food for nine. What do you do?

Kelsey: Fish

Q: Do you dream in black and white or color?

Kelsey: Color

Q: Would you rather have enough money to buy whatever house you wanted or enough money to travel?

Kelsey: Travel, so I can eat!

Q: What’s your least favorite TV show?

Kelsey: “Jersey Shore”...

Q: What’s something you’re secretly afraid of?

Kelsey: The red chicken in North Dining Hall

ICE
BREAKER

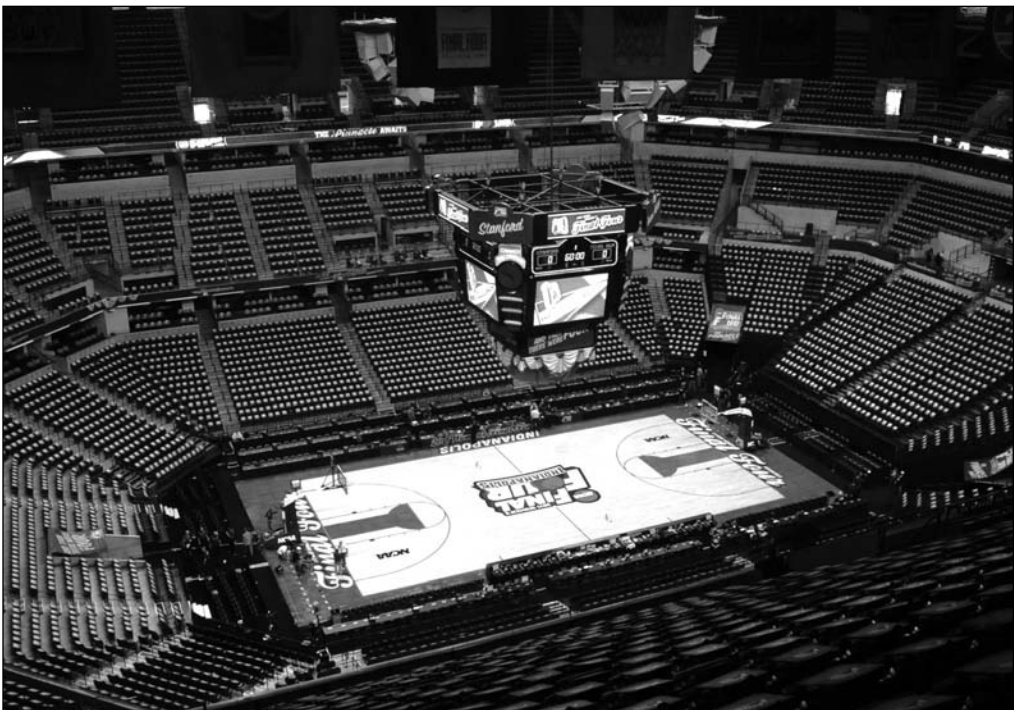
Monday Meltdown



Kelsey Tan

freshman
Farley

Know someone chill for Monday’s Icebreaker? Email obsphoto@gmail.com



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

The Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis awaits the arrival of fans and teams for the Final Four matchups Sunday night. Texas A&M topped Stanford on a last-second bucket in the first game, and Notre Dame defeated defending champion Connecticut during the nightcap.

OFFBEAT

Mass public pillow fights take place in multiple cities

LONDON – People in cities across the globe have taken part in mass pillow fights as part of International Pillow Fight Day.

In London’s Trafalgar Square, people came dressed in pajamas, dressing gowns and fancy dress to take part in the good natured pillowfight Saturday afternoon. Most people carried feather-filled pillows that exploded as they fought.

London’s Metropolitan Police said Sunday that the event had been peaceful and they had no reports of any trouble.

Organizers listed similar

events in more than 130 cities around the world.

The fights were organized by The Urban Playground Movement which wants to encourage people to make use of public spaces.

Man struggles to sell personal Staten Island ferry

NEW YORK – A man who bought a used 300-foot Staten Island Ferry to convert it into a waterborne dorm for New York college students is drowning in a bad case of buyer’s remorse.

Former marina owner Jacques Guillet bought the orange ferry for \$162,000 at a closed-bid auction three years ago.

But he’s failed to find an affordable parking spot along the area’s waterfront for the 3,500-passenger boat, named the Gov. Herbert H. Lehman. The city wanted to charge him \$1,000 a day.

Now he’s paying \$6,000 a month to dock it in Staten Island.

He tells The Wall Street Journal in Saturday editions that he’s trying to sell the ferry. Any buyer would need to deal with complicated logistics, including the boat’s size.

There were no bids when he advertised it on eBay.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Today is the first day of the three-day “Dimensions of Goodness Conference” sponsored by the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study. The conference will explore the subject of “the good” through both lectures and discussion. The conference will take place all day in the Notre Dame Conference Center in McKenna Hall.

No Impact Week, sponsored by the Office of Sustainability, continues today. There will be a Water Bottle Pledge in the Elevator Lobby of LaFortune Student Center from 4 to 6 p.m. today. Volunteers will be collecting students’ pledges to not purchase disposable water bottles.

David Lummus, Assistant Professor of Italian at Yale University, will give a lecture today titled “Alberto Mussato and the Politics of Poetry in Fourteenth-Century Italy” in the Hesburgh Library from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The talk, sponsored by the Department of Italian studies, will explore Lummus’s research.

Howard Stone, the Donald R. Dixon and Elizabeth W. Dixon Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Princeton University, will give a lecture titled “Surprises with Laminar Viscous Flows” tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Fitzpatrick Hall room 258.

The annual “Battle of the Bend” men’s baseball exhibition game against the South Bend Silverhawks will take place tomorrow in Eck Baseball Stadium at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are free but donations will be accepted for the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation at the gates.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, email detailed information about an event to obsnews.nd@gmail.com

	TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 54	HIGH 41	HIGH 51	HIGH 57	HIGH 54	HIGH 55
	LOW 45	LOW 32	LOW 38	LOW 39	LOW 46	LOW 48

Right to Life hosts shower

By MARISA IATI
News Writer

Notre Dame students in the Right to Life Club supported soon-to-be mothers who decided to have their children with the Project Mom Baby Shower Saturday.

"These are all women that considered abortion at some point in their pregnancies and decided instead to have their babies," coordinator Kellie Raddell said. "We want to say as the Right to Life Club, 'We're really glad you decided to have your babies, and we're going to help you do it.'"

About 80 students collaborated to provide gifts and activities for the six mothers-to-be at the shower, which took place from 12 to 2 p.m. in Lewis Hall. The event was co-sponsored by the Right to Life Club, Lewis Hall, the Fund for Life, University Life Initiatives and the Institute for Church Life.

"There are three [locations of the] Women's Care Center in South Bend, and all of the women have come there for some type of assistance during their pregnancies," Raddell said. "Now most of the women are in their sixth or seventh month of pregnancy, and their family and friends don't have the money to put on a baby shower for them, so we put on this shower so they can have basic baby supplies."

Raddell said students welcomed the mothers-to-be when they arrived and mingled and ate with them. Everyone then played games, which allowed the women



Photo courtesy of Kellie Raddell

Student participants display gifts given to the Right to Life Project Mom Baby Shower held Saturday.

and students to get to know each other.

During one of the games, students blindfolded the mothers-to-be and handed them their gifts, and the women guessed what they were, Raddell said. The women then opened their gifts and held them up for the shower participants to see.

"Each woman received the exact same sort of gifts, ranging from all the little stuff like a teething ring, a sippy cup, baby wipes and baby powder to big items like a baby bath, a diaper bag, a stroller, and a car seat," Raddell said.

Raddell said the shower participants also played a game of Bingo in which each square had the name of a baby item in it.

"[The mothers-to-be] were very appreciative, and I don't think they expected this much," Raddell said. "A couple of them brought children and friends with them."

Raddell said one of the mothers-to-be who attended

the fall semester's Project Mom Baby Shower came to Saturday's shower with her baby.

"He was using the blankets that we had donated ... [and] one of the toys that we had given him," she said. "It was really nice to see the people we had been helping and see that the babies are using our gifts."

Raddell said the most rewarding part of coordinating the Project Mom Baby Shower was seeing the students leave their comfort zones in order to interact with the mothers-to-be.

"[The shower] was very successful," she said. "This event has grown from three people two years ago, to 25 or 30 in the fall, to 50 in the spring. It was great to be a part of CommUniversity Day because we were joining with everybody else that was giving to the community."

Contact Marisa Iati at miati@nd.edu

Co-op supports local growers and families

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

The Monroe Park Grocery Co-op, a co-op created by students through a theology class, had its first market day at the Our Lady of the Road Catholic Worker House Saturday.

Sophomore Kathryn Chew said the class, "Synergos: The Theology of Food Co-Ops," helped connect Catholic tradition with food. The class was designed to help get this food co-op off the ground.

"People in Monroe Park have trouble getting access to healthy food," Chew said. "They have to take the bus and then carry their groceries home, so they can't always buy a lot. We are trying to get local growers to get the food to a reasonable location."

Professor Margaret Pfeil and Bert Fitzgerald, who works with the Catholic Worker House, led the group of students in their initiative.

All of the students were separated into groups. The students were given different tasks to help the co-operative grow. Chew is a member of the communications group, whose job is to help spread the word about the project by designing the group logo and signs to advertise the project. Other groups worked in community outreach, going door-to-door asking what services the community wanted or

helping get local growers and farmers involved.

"Our class really helped by doing a lot of the logistics and planning, like building a website and business plan," Chew said. "This co-op has been in the process for awhile and our class was designed to get more people aware."

The first market day went well and Chew said the class hopes the project will continue to grow. All of the foods offered are low cost and healthy, and include staples from five food groups. Some essential household items will also be available for purchase and the market day will be able to replace trips to a large grocer for three weeks a month.

"Everything is still in the making, but there were a lot of students who came out for CommUniversity to help for the first day," Chew said.

To make this truly a community activity, anyone who wants to become a member of the co-op has to donate two to three hours of their time each month, Chew said. Eventually, market day will become a place for community bonding and will include food demonstrations, recipe sharing and maybe even local bands.

"Our goal is really to have the people in the community take over this project," Chew said.

Contact Anna Boarini at aboari01@saintmarys.edu

Student films mass, works with NDtv

By COURTNEY ECKERLE
News Writer

Saint Mary's junior Stephanie Cherpak spends many Sunday mornings at Mass like her Catholic peers. What distinguishes her, however, is that she is usually watching the Mass behind the lens of a camera.

Cherpak works for Pentavision, a company that helps stream the Basilica Mass live each week on www.NDprayercast.org, and also archives it on an iTunesU podcast.

"At the beginning of the year, one of my co-workers from NDtv, Erin Zacek, was talking about the lack of workers at her Sunday morning job filming Mass at the Basilica," Cherpak said. "I asked her how I could get involved because, as a Mass Communications and Religious Studies double-major, I thought the job fit in well with my interests."

The website, started by Folk Choir director Steve Warner, includes weekly reflection and sacred music, according to Daniel Skendzel, who hires students to work the technical production of the Mass.

"There are three positions required to stream the Mass: a camera operator, an audio

specialist and a director," he said.

Camera operators, like Cherpak, control six robotic cameras in the Basilica, while the audio specialist ensures proper audio levels and the director calls the sequence of video shots and the associated audio.


Cherpak said that besides merging both of her majors, the job also provides her a great opportunity to get experience shooting live shows. In addition to this film experience, Cherpak is in the third semester of producing "Dining In," a cooking show on NDtv, and also produced a video journal and documentary called "NDtv Abroad: Italy." The journal showcased the Saint Mary's College Rome Program and allowed her to capture her own experiences, including attending a Mass presided over by Pope Benedict XIV in Vatican City on Easter Sunday.

Cherpak is exploring a career in religious broadcasting.

"I would like to utilize and expand upon my knowledge and experience with both my Religious Studies and Mass Communications majors," she said.

Contact Courtney Eckerle at ecker01@saintmarys.edu

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SMC walks to feed the hungry of South Bend

By ABIGAIL FORNEY
News Writer

Saint Mary's College raised \$100 and 150 cans and boxes of food Sunday at their third annual "Yes We Can!" Walk for the Hungry.

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness among the campus community about the poverty in South Bend, Ind., and help raise food for local food pantries, said Carla Leal, one of the event's organizers.

Leal said students are in the Saint Mary's "bubble" and don't encounter people who need help even when they do go off campus.

The city of South Bend has a high poverty rate and most of the schools are TitleI, which means they have a high percentage of students in poverty or at risk for poverty, Leal said. These students and families are the people local food pantries serve through the Catholic Charities network.

Students working for the Walk for the Hungry event believe that even if they can't stop hunger worldwide or nationwide, they can work toward stopping hunger in South Bend, Leal said.

Fifty people showed up for the walk in spite of bad weather,

knowing the event would take place even if it rained. Student Maire Ready said that if it did, she would still be out walking because the Walk for the Hungry supported a good cause.

"It's the little actions — they take a minute of our time," Ready said.

Alicia Grumley, one of the event's organizers, looked to the Koran, Judaism and Christianity to support the event's message, and said that all three call for followers to assist the less fortunate.

"It is our responsibility and our call to feed the hungry," Grumley said.

The entire group walked from the Saint Mary's Student Center, down the Avenue to the Grotto. All participants were invited to say a prayer or light a candle before walking back to Saint Marys as a group.

The Office for Civic and Social Engagements (OCSE), which started the Walk for the Hungry three years ago, was pleased with how many people participated in the event and hope it will continue to grow.

The food and money the event raised will be donated to local food pantries through Catholic Charities.

Contact Abigail Forney at aforne02@saintmarys.edu

"It is our responsibility and our call to feed the hungry."

Maire Ready
senior
Opus

"It's the little actions — they take a minute of our time."

Maire Ready
senior
Opus

Medal

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Opportunities for Employment, Medical Care and Education) is an organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Philadelphia. Scullion serves as executive director for Project H.O.M.E., and McConnon is the associate executive director and chief financial officer.

"In their work for the homeless in Philadelphia, Sister Scullion and Joan McConnon have splendidly answered the Gospel summons to brotherly love," University President Fr. John Jenkins said. "Serving the unsheltered Lord on the streets of their hometown, they have provided an example for others to serve likewise in cities worldwide."

Scullion and McConnon, both Philadelphia natives, founded Project H.O.M.E. in 1989, according to the release. Project H.O.M.E. began providing emergency shelter for about 50 homeless men and grew to form a community for chronically homeless men and women. The project provides them with food, clothing, medical care, employment and a sense of dignity, the release stated.

Project H.O.M.E. now includes 480 units of housing and two businesses that provide employment for formerly homeless people. Scullion and McConnon developed the project into a national model for

community development in low-income neighborhoods. The two initiated renovation of inner city vacant lots, economic development, home-ownership initiatives for working poor families and education and employment programs for youth and adults.

According to the release, of the homeless who participate in their project, 95 percent have not returned to the streets. Project H.O.M.E. is widely credited for reducing Philadelphia's homeless population by half.

The daughter of Irish immigrants, Sr. Scullion entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1976 after graduating from St. Joseph's University. She earned a master's degree in social work from Temple University in 1986.

Joan McConnon graduated from Pennsylvania State University and earned a master's degree in taxation from Drexel University in 1989. She returned to Philadelphia to work with the homeless after six years as an accountant.

The Laetare Medal is named for Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. The University traditionally announces its recipient on this day. The award began in 1883.

The last recipient of the Laetare Medal was poet Dana Gioia in 2010. Past recipients include operatic tenor John McCormack, United States President John F. Kennedy, Catholic Worker foundress Dorothy Day and Cardinal Joseph Bernadin.

ICPA

continued from page 1

as Managing Editor, took third place in the category of "In-depth Story" for her story "Victims, administration speak on sexual assault" and second place in "News or Feature Series" for "Muslim students at Notre Dame."

The Editorial Board of The Observer took third place in the category of "Staff Editorial" for

"University should not impede activism."

Former Sports Editor and current Editor-in-Chief Douglas Farmer won third place in the category of "Sports Feature Story" for his article "Walk-on, walkoff" about former Irish kicker David Ruffer.

Former Managing Editor Madeline Buckley won third place for "Sports News Story" for her coverage of Fighting Irish football coach Brian Kelly's press conference following junior Declan Sullivan's death, "Kelly

addresses Sullivan's death."

Photography Editor Pat Coveney and former Graphics Editor Blair Chemidlin won third place for "Special Section Cover" for their portrait of Fighting Irish linebacker Manti Te'o, "Family man."

Coveney and Former Photography Editor Dan Jacobs won third place for "Photo Essay/Picture Story" for "Notre Dame vs. Army game in NYC."

The Observer's award-winning submissions are available on its website, ndsmcobserver.com.

2011 COLLEGE OFFER

University of Notre Dame



Wrigley Field 2011 Promotional Schedule

April 1	Magnet schedule (1st 30,000 adults)	●
April 2	Magnet schedule (1st 30,000 adults)	●
April 5	Exclusive limited-edition Starlin Castro bobblehead doll (1st 10,000 fans)	★
April 18	Cubs winter gloves (1st 10,000 fans)	
April 19	Exclusive limited-edition Tyler Colvin bobblehead doll (1st 10,000 fans)	★
April 20	Cubs winter scarf (1st 10,000 fans)	
April 22	Cubs tote bag (1st 10,000 fans)	
April 23	Cubs notebook (1st 10,000 fans)	
April 25	Cubs washed cap (1st 10,000 adults)	●
May 6	Cubs Hispanic Heritage T-shirt (1st 10,000 fans)	
May 12	Cubs golf item (1st 10,000 adults)	●
May 14	Cubs T-shirt (1st 10,000 fans)	
May 25	Cubs key chain (1st 10,000 fans)	

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					1 PIT 1:20	2 PIT 12:05
3 PIT 1:20	4 AZ 1:20	5 AZ 1:20	6 AZ 1:20	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 SD 7:05	19 SD 7:05	20 SD 1:20	21	22 LAD 1:20	23 LAD 12:05
24 LAD 1:20	25 COL 7:05	26 COL 7:05	27 COL 1:20	28	29	30

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May

1	2	3	4	5	6 CIN 1:20	7 CIN 12:10
8 CIN 1:20	9	10 STL 7:05	11 STL 7:05	12 STL 1:20	13 SF 1:20	14 SF 6:10
15 SF 1:20	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 NYM 7:05	25 NYM 7:05	26 NYM 1:20	27 PIT 1:20	28 PIT 12:05
29 PIT 1:20	30 HOU 1:20	31 HOU 7:05				

■ Home games

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Valero

continued from page 1

when he wore pajama pants to spend time outside of Keenan, Schwaner said.

“We started calling him ‘PJ Sean,’” he said. “It fit in perfectly with his personality because he was easygoing.”

Sophomore Gabe De Vela met Valero when the two lived in the same section in Keenan during their freshman year. He planned to room with Valero in the fall.

De Vela said Valero had an “eager” passion for academics. “Sean wanted to be a doctor,”

he said. “That desire showed me how much he loved learning and how compassionate he was for others.”

Valero hoped to be a neurosurgeon after graduation, De Vela said.

Keenan rector Fr. Dan Nolan said Valero was a dedicated student.

“He spent a lot of time studying,” he said. “It was not unusual to see him running down late at night to get a paper he wrote from the printer.”

The sophomore loved being a part of Keenan, Nolan said. While he was usually not a leader inside the community, he was often present at dorm

events. After Valero took a leave last semester, Nolan said he expressed interest in returning to the residence hall.

“He wrote to me in December, late November, and told me he really wanted to come back to Keenan,” he said.

Nolan said Valero looked forward to his upcoming months at Notre Dame.

“He felt really good about next semester,” he said.

Nolan said he called Keenan hall staff together early Friday morning and then notified Valero’s roommates of his death. Nolan said he emailed the members of the residence hall within a few hours.

The members of Keenan Hall gathered for a dorm Mass

Friday evening. Keenan Hall’s Holy Cross Chapel was full as members of the Notre Dame community gathered to remember Valero. After mass, student government hosted a meal of pizza and pop in honor of Valero.

Nolan said the residents of Keenan are coming to grips with their peer’s death in different ways.

“In talking with some of the guys, many of them have never experienced death before,”

he said. “This is the first time a lot of the guys have experienced the death of a peer. This causes some time to pause and realize how fragile life can be.”

University President Fr. John Jenkins asked the Notre Dame

community in a press release Friday to keep Valero and his family in their prayers.

“On behalf of the Notre Dame community, my deepest condolences go out to Sean’s family and friends,” Jenkins said. “My prayers are with them during this difficult time.”

Valero’s body was found late Thursday night in the area near campus lakes, the release stated. The St. Joseph County coroner’s office ruled Valero’s death a suicide.

A visitation in Valero’s memory will be held Wednesday at the Daly Funeral Home, located at 242 McClellan Street in Schenectady, N.Y., from 4 to 7 p.m.

A Funeral Mass will be held Thursday at 9 a.m. at St. Helen’s Catholic Church in Schenectady on 2216 Rosa Road.

Contact Sam Stryker at sstryke1@nd.edu and Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu



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Envoy seeks to end nation’s crisis

Associated Press

BENGHAZI — An envoy of Moammar Gadhafi told Greece’s prime minister Sunday that the Libyan leader was seeking a way out of his country’s crisis two weeks after his government’s attacks to put down a rebellion drew international airstrikes, Greek officials said.

Abdul-Ati al-Obeidi, a former Libyan prime minister who has served as a Gadhafi envoy during the crisis, will travel next to Turkey and Malta in a sign that Gadhafi’s regime may be softening its hard line in the face of the sustained attacks.

“From the Libyan envoy’s comments it appears that the regime is seeking a solution,” Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Droutsas said in a statement after the meeting in Athens.

The foreign minister said the Greek side stressed the international community’s call for Libya to comply with the U.N. resolution that authorized the airstrikes and demanded Gadhafi and the rebels end hostilities.

The message, Droutsas said, was: “Full respect and implementation of the United Nations decisions, an immediate ceasefire, an end to violence and hostilities, particularly against the civilian population of Libya.”

Gadhafi’s government has declared several cease-fires but has not abided by them.

Few other details of the Athens talks were released publicly.

On Friday, the Libyan envoy had said Gadhafi’s government was attempting to hold talks with the U.S., Britain and France in an effort to halt the international airstrikes that began March 19 and which have pounded Libya’s troops and armor and grounded its air force.

Gadhafi’s superior forces had been close to taking the rebel capital of Benghazi in eastern Libya before the international military campaign.

Rebel forces made up of defected army units and armed civilians have since seized much of Libya’s eastern coast, but have been unable to push westward toward the capital, Tripoli.

On Sunday, Gadhafi’s forces pressed on with attacks against Misrata, the last key city in the western half of the country still largely under rebel control despite a weeks-long assault.

Government troops besieged civilian areas for around two hours Sunday morning with Grad rockets and mortar shells and lined a main street with snipers, said a doctor in the city.

Two shells landed on a field hospital, killing one person and injuring 11, he said. The attacks, including tank fire, began again after nightfall, he said. He did not want to be identified by name out of fear for his security.

A Turkish ship carrying 250 wounded from Misrata docked in Benghazi Sunday. The boat,

which carried medical supplies, was also expected to pick up around 60 wounded people being treated in various hospitals in Benghazi, as well as 30 Turks and 40 people from Greece, Ukraine, Britain, Uzbekistan, Germany and Finland.

A leader of the rebel movement, meanwhile, sought to ease concerns from Western governments about its character and goals, emphasizing in an interview that the rebels will not allow Islamic extremists to hijack their plans to install a parliamentary democracy in place of Gadhafi’s four-decade rule.

The issue takes on added importance as Western officials debate whether to send the rebels weaponry in an attempt to help them gain the upper hand over Gadhafi’s superior troops.

“Libyans as a whole — and I am one of them — want a civilian democracy, not dictatorship, not tribalism and not one based on violence or terrorism,” said Abdel-Hafidh Ghoga, vice chairman of the opposition’s National Provisional Council.

The council, based in Benghazi, was formed to represent the opposition in the eastern Libyan cities that shook off control of the central government in a series of popular uprisings that began Feb. 15.

In Washington, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee in the House of Representatives was among several key lawmakers cautioning that the U.S. and its allies needed to know much more about the rebel forces before providing them with weapons.

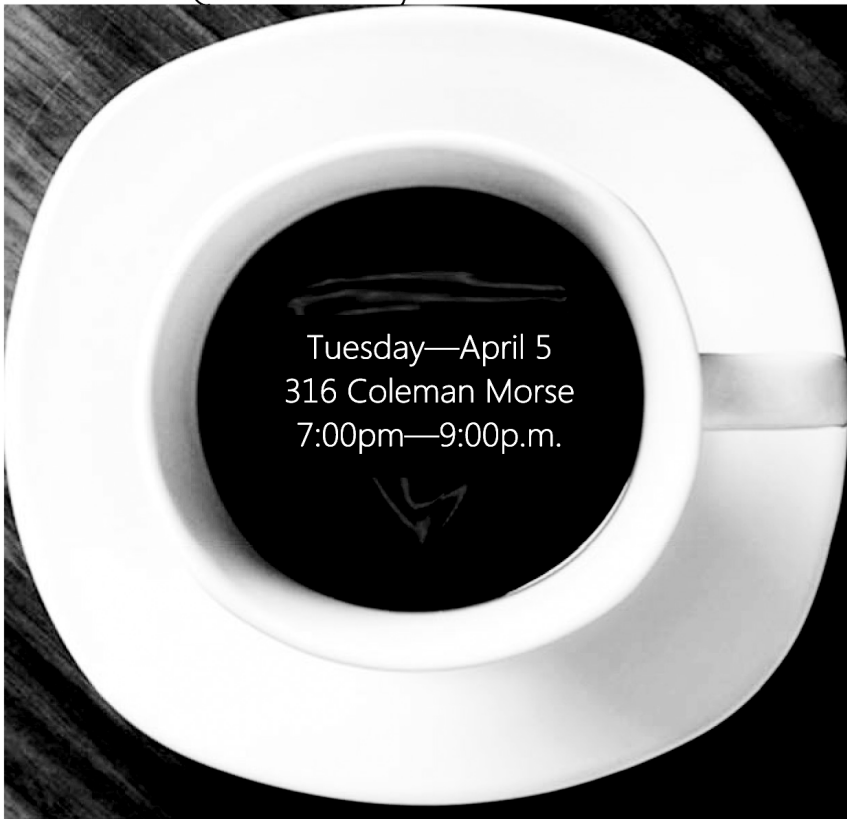
Mike Rogers, a Republican from Michigan, said on NBC television’s “Meet the Press” that there may be strains of al-Qaida within the rebel ranks and the NATO-led coalition in the campaign against Gadhafi should proceed with caution before arming them.

Libya’s opposition has said any extremists among their ranks would be few in number, and Gadhafi’s own punishing campaigns crushed Islamic militants in the country years ago.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said Sunday that his country would neither arm the rebels nor send ground troops to Libya.

Coffee at the Como

For GLBT & Questioning Students at Notre Dame



The Core Council invites GLBT & Questioning Notre Dame students, their friends, and allies, to an informal gathering at the CoMo.

Everyone is Welcome • Confidentiality is Assured

Coffee and Refreshments will be Served



JAPAN

Disasters stress children

Associated Press

KARAKUWA — Zoom in for a snapshot of apparent normalcy: children sitting in a circle, clasping playing cards tightly in their hands. They laugh, chat and occasionally hop up to break into a goofy dance.

Zoom out and the picture changes: The children are kneeling on mattresses in a chilly classroom they now call home. An elderly woman cries nearby, wondering whether her mother was killed by Japan’s tsunami. Outside the school, a teacher fiddles with a radiation detector, checking to ensure the levels aren’t high enough to make them sick — or worse.

Behind the smiling faces of thousands of children in shelters across this wave-battered wasteland, experts say there is often serious anxiety as everything these youngsters once held as normal is suddenly anything but.

“That’s what is so wonderfully adaptive about children. They can move very easily into playing or laughing,” says psychologist Susie Burke, a disaster response specialist with the Australian Psychological Society. “But that’s not saying they’re not deeply distressed and upset about what’s going on.”

Reminders of the tiniest victims are scattered throughout the wreckage: a little girl’s white shoe caked in mud, a red rubber ball coated in dust, a sodden comic book whose ink has run.

As many as 25,000 people may have been killed in the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan’s northeast coast and damaged a nuclear plant, sending radiation spewing into the environment. Tens of thousands are still living in shelters.

For the children, the monster in the closet has been replaced by the monster of Mother Nature: The ground they play on can rattle and crack, the ocean they swim in can morph into a killer wave, the air they breathe might carry harmful radioactive particles.

Ten-year-old Fumie Unoura remembers well the terror of the day. She was sitting in class when the earth began to shake, sending her and her classmates scrambling under their desks for cover. When the rumbling stopped, the teacher shepherded the students outside, where their town had turned to rubble.

“I saw the dust rising up,” she recalled days later, standing outside a shelter in the shattered coastal city of Rikuzentakata.

With the tsunami coming, she ran as fast as her short legs could carry her, surrounded by others sprinting for safety.

She escaped with her life but little else. Her home is ruined. She sleeps on the floor of a school gym with her family and more than a thousand other survivors. She misses her Nintendo DS.

Her father, Masanari Unoura, volunteers at the shelter. He worries constantly about what will become of his life, where they will live, how he will clean up the ruins of their home.

“We parents have a lot to think about,” he says. “Whereas the kids are basical-

ly free.”

It is not so simple, experts say. In fact, the disruption of daily life, if prolonged, can be more damaging than the disaster itself, says psychologist Gaithri Fernando, who led a study on how the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami affected children in Sri Lanka.

Suddenly discovering they have no water to bathe, no bed of their own and no school where they can see their friends can be highly upsetting, says Fernando, a professor at California State University in Los Angeles.

Experts say getting children back into a routine — even an unusual one — is key.

Unoura and his family are doing this. Every morning, they join others at the shelter for group exercise sessions broadcast on the radio. They have breakfast as a family, and then Fumie and her older sister Shiho have time to play until they all meet for lunch. Fumie’s teacher stops by regu-

larly with homework assignments — a source of complaint for his daughter, her father notes with a grin.

That kind of basic structure to the day helps prevent long-term psychological damage, says Burke, the Australian psychologist.

“It gives them a sense that their world is predictable, and when we feel things are predictable, we begin to relax,” she says. “A disaster makes us realize or think the world isn’t predictable.”

Save the Children, an international aid agency, has set up safe spaces for children to meet and play throughout the tsunami zone, with toys, games, crayons and paper.

“The stories they were sharing with me were about first an earthquake, then a tsunami and now their fears for radiation,” says Ian Woolverton, a spokesman for the group. But one fear reigned supreme, he says: “Being alone is the thing they’re most afraid of.”

AFGHANISTAN

Quran protests spread protesters’ day of rage

Associated Press

JALALABAD — Demonstrators battled police in southern Afghanistan’s main city on Sunday and took to the streets in the turbulent east for the first time as Western pleas failed to halt a third day of rage over a Florida pastor’s burning of the Quran.

An officer was shot dead in a second day of clashes in the city of Kandahar, said provincial health director Qayum Pokhla. Two officers and 18 civilians were wounded, he said.

In Jalalabad, the largest city in the east, hundreds of people blocked the main highway for three hours, shouting for U.S. troops to leave, burning an effigy of President Barack Obama and stomping on a drawing of a U.S. flag. More than 1,000 people set tires

ablaze to block another highway in eastern Parwan province for about an hour, said provincial police chief Sher Ahmad Maladani.

The violence was set off by anger over the March 20 burning of the Quran by a Florida church — the same church whose pastor had threatened to do so last year on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, triggering worldwide outrage.


The protests, which began Friday, also appear to be fueled more broadly by the resentment that has been building for years in Afghanistan over the operations of Western military forces, blamed for killing and mistreating civilians, and international contractors, seen by many as enriching themselves and fueling corruption at the expense of ordinary Afghans.

DANTE’S DIVINE COMEDY:
THE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSE AS POETRY


Professor Zygmunt Baranski
Notre Dame Professor of Dante and Italian Studies
Fall of 2011 (TR from 2:15-3:00pm)
(LLRO 40114-01; MI 40565; ROIT 40114)



Dante is the greatest religious poet of Western culture, and his great epic poem, the Divine Comedy, offers a remarkable and original synthesis of his view of the fundamental relationship between God and humanity. The course offers an introduction to Dante’s Commedia (the title of the poem is Comedy and not Divine Comedy as is commonly believed) by focusing on the first of its three parts, Inferno, while also paying significant attention to its other two parts, Purgatorio and Paradiso. Classes will principally concentrate on providing readings of individual cantos. (The course will be divided into 4 introductory lectures, 12 classes on Inferno, 7 on Purgatory, and 6 on Paradiso.) At the same time, broader issues central to Dante’s masterpiece will be discussed. In particular, attention will be paid to Dante’s ties to classical and Christian culture, his political views, his ideas on language, his involvement in contemporary intellectual debates, his efforts to use poetry for ethical and religious ends, and his literary experimentation (including his perplexing choice of title for his masterpiece). The course is open to all second-, third-, and fourth-year students, and will be taught in English. Dante’s poem, too, will be read in English translation, though students with a reading knowledge of Italian are encouraged to read it in both languages. The translation is that found in the annotated bilingual edition by Robert and Jean Hollander (Doubleday). [This is a one-semester lecture course on the entire Comedy, distinct from ROIT40115-40116, Dante I and Dante II.]



Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study
"Dimensions of Goodness" Conference
APRIL 4-6, 2011



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

Schedule for
TUESDAY, APRIL 5

All conference sessions are held in the Notre Dame Conference Center in McKenna Hall.
All conference meals will be served in the Donor's Room of the Morris Inn.

Tuesday, April 5 – First Session (9:00 a.m.)
Richard Ernst (ETH Zürich)
Why is there a moral imperative to engage in science?

Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)

Peter Kilpatrick (University of Notre Dame)
How can engineering contribute to a better world?

Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)

Georges Enderle (University of Notre Dame)
What makes business ethics a specific form of ethics?

Lunch (12:30 to 2:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, April 5 – Second Session (2:00 p.m.)
Robin Attfield (Cardiff University)
What moral consequences does the environmental crisis have?

Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)

Luis Ernesto Derbez Bautista (Universidad de las Américas Puebla)
What are the right politics for a developing country?

Coffee Break (McKenna Hall Atrium)

Mary Ellen O'Connell (University of Notre Dame)
Good Law against War

Conference Reception (5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; McKenna Hall Atrium)
Dinner (6:30 to 8:00 p.m.)

NDIAS 574-631-1305

IVORY COAST

Tension over presidency
runs high in Abidjan

Associated Press

ABIDJAN — Residents barricaded themselves inside their homes Sunday, blanketing windows and pushing furniture against doors as this country on Africa's western coast tensely awaited the final battle between the two men who claim the presidency.

Fighters backing the internationally recognized president, Alassane Ouattara, amassed at a tollbooth on the city's northern edge, preparing for the final assault. Their leader was declared the winner of last November's election, but Ouattara has not been able to assume office because outgoing president Laurent Gbagbo is refusing to yield power.

Water has been cut off to much of Abidjan, and on the empty streets, a handful of women with basins could be seen hurriedly crossing the waterfront highway to reach the lagoon. Men ventured out with plastic bags to scoop up water, holding the bags high in the air to signal to soldiers in firing positions that they were not armed.

Only about 20 miles separates the thousands of pro-Ouattara foot soldiers readying for battle from the lagoon-side district where the presidential palace and mansion are located.

A resident of the Cocody neighborhood where the mansion is located said around 700 Gbagbo supporters had gathered at the gates of the compound Sunday, after state television, still controlled by the entrenched ruler, called on the population to form a human shield to protect the presidential palace. The resident, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal, said the supporters had been armed with AK-47 assault rifles.

Toussaint Alain, Gbagbo's representative in Europe, told reporters in Paris that Gbagbo is not giving up.

"President Gbagbo, I have said, is at the residence of the head of state, his usual workplace, and he is managing the crisis with teams that have been put into place to deal with this aggression coming from the outside," Alain said. "It's not up to America or France to decide who must lead the Ivory Coast."

The international community has been nearly unanimous in backing Ouattara, whose win with over 54 percent of the vote was confirmed by Ivorian election officials and a 900-strong United Nations observation mission.

NANOVIC

FORUM



Law professor and author of
THE READER
**BERNHARD
SCHLINK**

FILM

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 PM

DEBARTOLO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

LECTURE

THURSDAY - 5:00 PM

ECK HALL OF LAW

READING

FRIDAY - 12:00 NOON

COLEMAN-MORSE CENTER

APRIL 6 - 8

NANOVIC.ND.EDU

INSIDE COLUMN

To UConn, with love

Dear UConn,

Be ready. Tonight, you will have to do more than rely on Kemba Walker. Tonight you will have to play ball old school style. Remember the movie "Hoosiers?"

Remember how they were that little team going up against the big boys? Tonight, that is your life.

Anna Boarini

*News Production
Editor*

So you think that Butler is just another little team that you can squash with your big school budget and conference. Think again boys — Pitt thought the same thing. And they're going to watch this game from their couches at home. Get cocky. See if it will stop Matt Howard, Shelvin Mack or Sean Vanzant. You might get a lead. You might start to outscore the Dawgs. But don't rest on your laurels. The minute you do, well, you can kiss that title goodbye.

You might have a bigger and better team, UConn. You might have the more experienced coach. But the Bulldogs have something else. They have some unfinished business. Last year, they lost the title in their home city. Their home city. Think about that for a minute, UConn. How would that make you feel? Tonight the dawgs are out for blood. They want nothing more than this title. This title is more than just a national championship for them. It's validation. It will stop the naysayers. It will finally make people see them as the threat they are.

People always pay attention to you, UConn. It's just a fact of life. Not many people actually watch Butler outside of tournament play. They aren't in a big conference and they don't always play big schools. But that doesn't matter. The Dawgs have proven that they are more than just a "Cinderella" school. They are the real deal.

So go ahead. Make your jokes. Don't see them as a threat. Say that Brad Stevens is just too young to actually coach at this stage. Say that the Bulldogs are just too little. Just keep thinking all those things. What you don't realize is that it doesn't matter what you or the rest of the country thinks.

The Dawgs are here, at the final game in the tournament for the second year in a row. They made it the same way they made it last year. They worked hard and more importantly, they want it. They don't just want it for themselves, or their school or their fans. The Bulldogs want to win this title for the entire state of Indiana. It's been a while since we've had a national title, and we want it too. And tonight, the Bulldogs are going to bring the national title back to it's rightful home.

So be ready UConn. It's going to be a long night. Be ready for real, Indiana, corn-fed, junkyard basketball, not some of this Big East, big school crap you call the game. I don't care that you have Kemba Walker. One guy doesn't make a team. Just watch your back, UConn — Brad Stevens and the Bulldogs are ready.

The views expressed in this Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Anna Boarini at aboarini@end.edu

Just live your life

After the ever-so-disappointing Notre Dame-Florida State tournament game, I thanked Mike Brey and the Notre Dame Basketball Team for only one thing — giving me an easy topic to write about for this column. I knew I could easily babble on about my thoughts concerning basketball at Notre Dame, Mike Brey's future, how inexcusable that performance was and so on. But recently, I received much more important, much more disappointing news that amplified the tough year the Notre Dame Community has endured — three heartbreaking stories to add to the ones of Declan Sullivan and Lizzy Seeberg.

First, it was the headline that professor John Renaud of the College of Engineering died of cancer. Shortly after, news of the fateful car accident involving Leprechaun David Zimmer's brother, Riley, and his friends surfaced. In the latest story, the apparent suicide of Notre Dame sophomore Sean Valero last Friday added to the chaos.

I was left speechless when I first woke up to the news about Sean. All

day, I kept asking myself, "This is so unfair. When is this going to end?" Describing this year as a tragic one is certainly an understatement, but the last thing I want to do is harp on the stories themselves. We all know them and they will live on in our memory. How do we go forward now? What is there to gain? These are the questions.

Belief in God or not, life is certainly a gift that each one of us has been given, yet we often do not treat it as such. Particularly in the hustle and bustle of college, life can easily become what the daily planner and schedule dictates. We settle into our bubble and routine without much living itself. We often study something we do not enjoy, aiming for goals that may not be our own. We regularly do things because our résumé could use them instead of our desire to do them. We sometimes focus more on other people than ourselves. We frequently let little things get the best of us or cause drama. And we often miss the meaning of certain people's role(s) in our lives. All because we have become too comfortable with the established norm. Heck, look at the bar schedule students follow — it has the same places every week on the same respective days. Does it not just get old?

Life is meant to be lived, not to be followed. We know not the day nor hour when the opportunity to live will be gone or even diminished. When that day comes, will we be able to look

back with approval of how we took advantage of all this world and the people around us have to offer? Will we be happy with how we spent our time here? Will the people we love know that we loved them? Will we be able to say we touched another person's life in some way or strived to make some change? Ultimately, will we be able to say that we treated life like a gift?

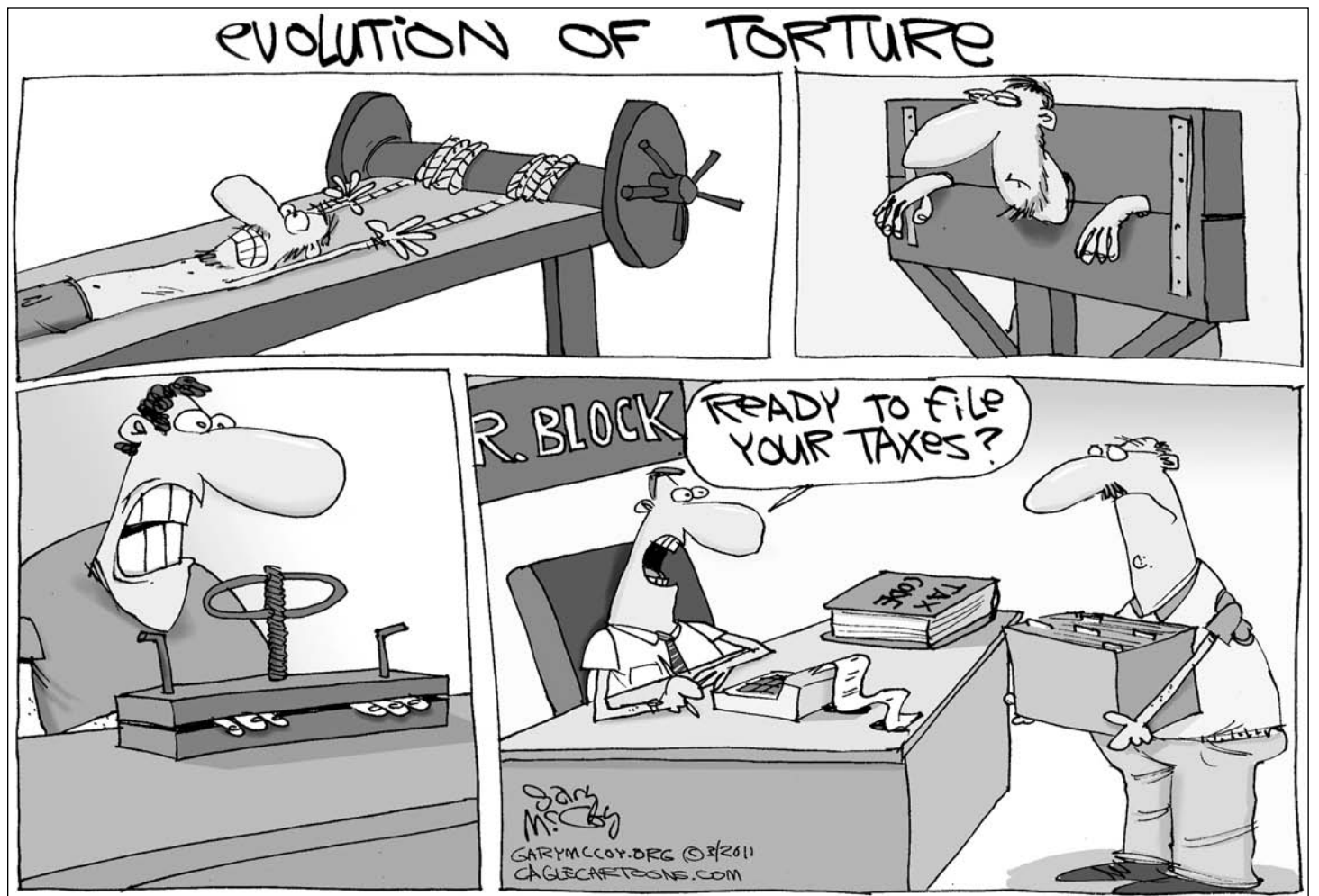
These are the things that are brought to the forefront when I try to process these tragic incidents. These unfortunate reminders can often help us see the deeper meaning of something greater than ourselves if we look for it. Often, the testimonies following death show us those who did take advantage of their lives. Those for Declan, Lizzy and Riley certainly spoke to the deep passion they held for life and love they had for those surrounding them.

In 2008, T.I. released a major hit with Rihanna that took the radio by storm. Maybe we should take the simple advice they offer: "Just live your life. Hey, ayy, ayy, ayy. No tellin' where it'll take ya. Just live your life."

Kevin Kimberly is a senior majoring in psychology and political science. He is eligible to run for president in 2024 and welcomes campaign slogans and ideas at kkimberl@end.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The whole problem can be stated quite simply by asking. 'Is there a meaning to music?' My answer would be, 'Yes.' And 'Can you state in so many words what the meaning is?' My answer to that would be, 'No.'"

Aaron Copland
American composer

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you haven't forgiven yourself something, how can you forgive others?"

Dolores Huerta
U.S. labor leader

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The issue with ‘The System’

It seems as though every time I am in the dining hall and around campus I hear yet another person talking about the event “The System: Opportunity, Crisis and Obligation in K-12 Education.” I consistently hear about how excited they are to hear that Michelle Rhee is coming to campus. I am really feeling the hype around campus for this event coming up soon. But, could some of the panelists’ ideas and policies be over-hyped?

Sure, Michelle Rhee took a depleted Washington D.C. school district, made radical changes and saw high school graduation rates increase, but that was one unique experience. Now she has started an education advocacy group, Students First, which is trying to tackle the education issues in the entire country. She had a monumental task in trying to save Washington D.C. schools and now she is trying to take on the country. I really respect her for trying — it is a very noble cause. But I’m just not convinced that she can really reform an entire country’s failing education system.

In this advocacy group, Students First, Rhee has three main policy goals. In short, they are trying to get teacher evaluations, give parents choices and make sure taxes are used effectively. Qualitative teacher evaluations have historically never worked, though Rhee is trying to evaluate based on student performance. But what if the students are just not strong learners? Also, what does she mean by giving parents “real choices”? Just because you give a parent data and choices doesn’t guarantee they will change the status quo or even make the right choice for their student. How does she know exactly where taxpayer money is most efficient for each and every school district? I feel as though every school district is different and there is not one fix-all solution.

Overall, I feel like the task is monumental and I’m not sure that there is one solution to fix the failing educational system for each district across the country. The issue being discussed at “The System” is definitely one of great importance, for the sake of our generation and our children’s generation. I’m just not sold on the policies presented and how effective they will be. I am very eager to hear what Michelle Rhee and the panel have to say.

Seamus Donegan
freshman
Keough Hall
April 3

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Ladies, be decent

Dear ladies of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s,
Last week in South Dining Hall, I was shocked by the lack of class and common sense a young woman displayed through her choice of clothing. Like I’ve unfortunately noticed several others doing since, she was wearing tights as the only thing covering skin from hips to ankles. The shirt this young woman was wearing stopped right at the top of her tights, and to keep this reader-friendly, I’ll just say her outfit left very little to the imagination.

It’s completely inappropriate that I was presented with a detailed view of her private area simply because she stood in front of me while talking to a friend. This was in the dining hall as I tried to eat lunch, not a strip club. Some reading this will see nothing wrong with the situation I described and will wonder why I’d even think about complaining. My reasoning is that if a woman apparently doesn’t respect herself enough to present herself in a non-risqué manner in everyday life, I cannot trust her to respect me. I’d be wary about pursuing anyone like that.

Over my time at Notre Dame, I’ve heard many

people’s thoughts on the “hook-up culture” and how many don’t like that those involved are often objectified by their hook-up partner(s) and treated as unimportant, ignored or even avoided afterwards. When you give the impression that you don’t care what people think of you by dressing in overly-revealing clothes, you send the message that people are OK disrespecting you. I certainly know that not everyone does this, but I’ve noticed a disturbing rise in how often it happens.

You were accepted to these schools because you are smart individuals. Please, think about how you present yourselves to everyone who sees you through the course of a day and how your choices every day affect your reputation. If you want to meet a true gentleman that will treat you as an upstanding young lady as opposed to just a successful end to a fun night, act like it.

Kevin Brainard
junior
O’Neill Hall
April 1

UWIRE

Rebecca Black: worst pop singer in history?

By now, everyone and their mothers have heard of Rebecca Black. She exploded onto the internet two weeks ago with her song “Friday” and its accompanying video.

Many have already dubbed it the worst pop song of all time and for good reason. Black’s

Jarrod Barry

*The Daily
Athenaeum*

voice sounds like a demon straight out of auto-tune hell. The lyrics include such poetic gems as, “Yesterday was Thursday, Thursday.

Today is Friday, Friday,” and the video seems like a cheesy parody of itself.

Black’s breakout success represents everything that is wrong with the modern recording industry.

Oh, and don’t forget the awkwardly placed rap portion in the middle with a guy talking about swerving around school buses. Who is this guy, and isn’t he a bit old to be going to parties with 13-year-olds? He has a moustache.

The song’s become a viral car crash – awful to listen to but impossible to turn away from. It’s garnered 61 million views (and counting) on YouTube, 37,000 downloads on iTunes and has already been covered by the Jonas Brothers.

It’s also baffled the music media, leaving some to wonder if it was all actually some kind of Borat-esque joke criticizing the recording industry itself. Rolling Stone called it “an unintentional parody of modern pop,” while Time magazine deemed it “a whole new level of bad.” Other criticisms weren’t so polite – one YouTube comment urged Black to “go cut yourself and die.”

Ouch, that’s painful to hear. Then again, though, so is the song.

Black has taken a lot of criticism from, well, practically everybody over the song, and while some of it might be deserved, a lot of it seems misdirected.

For instance, she didn’t write the song. In fact, she had very little to do with its final outcome at all. Most of that is the result of Ark Music Factory, a record label of sorts, which Black’s mother paid \$2,000 in exchange for the recording and video of one of two songs.

Black chose “Friday” because, as she told The Daily Beast, “The other song was about adult love – I haven’t experienced that yet.”

She talked about the background of the song on “Good Morning America,” where, far from the anti-Christ of music some have pinned her as, she actually comes off as a sweet kid only in a little over her head.

When one critic complained, “I hate her voice. It’s going to be stuck in my head forever,”

Black responded with a childish grin. “Well, I think that’s an accomplishment, you know?” she said.

“Even if someone doesn’t like it, it’s still stuck in their head. That’s the point of it, a catchy song.”

If anyone deserves criticism for this whole debacle, it’s Black’s mother and the producers. Anyone who would pay \$2,000 for her daughter to have a record deal should have her head checked.

And any songwriter who would write a song about whether to sit in the front or backseat should have his or her fingers chopped off to protect the world from anymore aural assaults.

Black has learned a few important lessons from her 15 minutes of fame – lessons all of us in our look-at-me culture would be wise to heed.

For one, when out for the public to see, expect some amount of criticism in return. This is especially true in the world of music, in which people’s tastes and views are as personal as religion.

That’s part of the reason for the ferociousness of the backlash. Music is an intimate thing for many people. Right or wrong, they take music this bad as a personal insult.

For them, “Friday” sums up everything wrong with today’s music industry in a single, four-minute sample.

An even broader lesson, though, is this – when we seek out fame, sometimes we find it, but not for the reasons we want. It’s a lesson many reality TV stars have learned the hard way: It’s easier to become famous for something bad than something good. In the quest for stardom, overnight popularity is more often found with infamy than dignity.

Luckily for Black, the Internet has the attention span of a hyperactive 12-year-old on a sugar high. Things are forgotten as quickly as they blow up, so Black will fade away pretty soon, which is probably best if she ever wants to be a serious singer.

Maybe she can try again in a few years, this time with decent producers and a song that doesn’t involve singing the days of the week.

Until then, she should probably just laugh along with the crowd.

After all, there’s a certain amount of pride in having sung one of the worst pop songs ever.

This article first appeared in the March 30 edition of The Daily Athenaeum, the daily publication serving West Virginia University. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

The Two Gentlemen OF VERONA

By COURTNEY COX
Associate Scene Editor

This year the Film, Television and Theatre Department's spring production combines all the enthusiasm of student-run shows with the precision and training of professional theatre. The Department will join for the first time with the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival to present "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" this week.

The play is among the lesser-known works of Shakespeare, which will give new audiences a chance to experience it without any pre-conceived notions about how the play should be performed.

Though the play was written in 1590, its themes are ones audiences still struggle with today. The main plotline follows two men, Valentine and Proteus, as they travel to Milan and find love in the same woman, Silvia. As one can imagine, no good follows when the two friends begin to compete for her affection.

The issues covered in the play are especially relevant to a college-aged audience.

"[Shakespeare] was a young person when he wrote it. He's writing about young people so the issues in this play, the things we explore in the play, are really relevant to young people," Donald Carrier, the show's director, said.



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

"It's all about parental-child differences, falling in love instantly, falling out of love, breaking off with someone, pursuing their true love. All of those things...have always been relevant but it's particularly relevant to a college audience."

Because the themes are so relevant, the cast has found the experience of working on the show to be particularly enriching.

"They [the actors] have been able to access the types of themes that are in this play. It's about falling in instant love with somebody and that happens all the time, especially for young people," said Carrier. "People are very passionate when they're young. They're passionate about their ideas, about falling in love, they're passionate about pursuing their goals and things like that, so I think it was very easy for the cast to access that."

In addition to the accessible themes, the production made the decision to set the show in the early 1950s.

"I'm here to see actors improve and become more comfortable doing Shakespeare, and I find when Shakespeare's put in its period ... it distances the actor from it a lot. It becomes very presentational, and I wanted to avoid that," Carrier explained in regards to his decision to move away from the traditional Elizabethan setting of most Shakespeare plays.

He also described why the 1950s would make a successful setting for the play. "I

found an era which I thought was fairly neutral, but at the same time it means something, even to young people. Even if they're thinking of "Grease" or "Mad Men"... it's a time they understand and have a little more familiarity with."

Through the creative use of an appropriately chosen era, the cast and crew have transformed an age-old play into something audiences can more easily understand. The language holds new meaning when placed in a different context and shows the depth of Shakespeare's work. Shakespeare's plays can be performed hundreds of years after being written and still hold meaning.

Contact Courtney Cox at ccox3@nd.edu

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NOTRE DAME style spotter



MARIA FERNANDEZ/The Observer

By MARIA FERNANDEZ
Scene Writer

Name: Katie Firth
Spotted: Ryan Hall

Katie is ready for a night out with her friends in this trendy outfit. Her sequined metallic blouse is very much en vogue this season and looks great paired with her black skinny jeans. Her black leather boots also give an edgy and cool feel to her effortless ensemble. Katie looks simply sophisticated.

Contact Maria Fernandez at mfernan5@nd.edu

FASHION

by
Felicia



There are some things in life I consider inalienable rights. While the Declaration of Independence of our dear, beloved country may consider these to be among the greater themes — life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — I consider smaller issues to be just as, if not more, inalienable. These include but are not limited to: shopping, traveling around the globe, visiting museums, attending good entertainment, lounging in bookstores for hours on end and my own “Italian moments.” The last may seem intriguing. Indeed, it is the very “pane e vino” of my existence. As any student who has drunk from the Bacchus blessed fountain of the study abroad experience knows, days in Italy are not spent solely in the pursuit of study, but in the pursuit of the Italian life. In other words, there are many cappuccino breaks.



Felicia Caponigri

Scene Writer

you moan that these days are lost to you forever, fear not. Darling, we may not be in Italy, but who says we can’t have our own “Italian moment” stateside? All we need is that classic staple of Italian casual living: the driving shoe.

The Italian driving shoe is, let’s be frank here, a loafer with attitude. Originally made for the obligatory Italian weekend drive to the country from the bustle of the city (hence the name “driving shoe”), it immediately conveys relaxed luxury.

Made of leather, which, as we know from our experience with the leather satchel, molds to your everyday personal needs, the driving shoe is most often worn with a pair of crisp jeans, an oxford shirt, a great tote and a killer pair of shades.

When choosing a driving shoe, obey the fit rules of the loafer: never more than a quarter of an inch space between the back of the shoe and your heel, your toes should lay flat and allow for luxurious wiggle room. The best part of driving shoes are the absolutely delectable, decorative raised rubber circles which align the backs, emphasizing your slim ankles and the attractive curves of your legs as you promenade per la strada.

This decoration also has a practical purpose: when driving it prevents the heel of your shoe from sliding forward, and also prevents the scuffing of that fine Italian leather. While traditionally Italians have flocked to Tod’s to purchase this fashion right of passage, Zappos currently offers a pair for \$79.00. While this may seem steep, keep in mind they last for years and are a wonderful investment. So, dear readers, if the shoe fits, wear it ... Italian style.



FELICIA CAPONIGRI/The Observer

Monica O’Hearn has an Italian moment

Indeed, the day is defined by the morning jaunt to the local bar for “cappuccino con un bombolone” (translation, coffee and a doughnut, but oh how much more glamorous it sounds in that Romance language!). Then comes a mid-morning coffee break. Later there’s pranzo, followed by a two hour afternoon break where we all join our friends for relaxed conversation in the piazza. Afterward we head back to work for just a few hours before breaking once again for a congenial aperitivo and three-course dinner.

Ah, I can feel you sighing as the memories come flooding back. Remember those days of meeting your friends around the corner after class to watch the water flow from the Trevi fountain? The afternoons spent crossing the Ponte Vecchio in pursuit of that perfectly scooped gelato? Before



Photo Courtesy of Zappos

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

Contact Felicia Caponigri at fcaponig@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL

Saint Mary's drops two contests to Alma

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

On a snow-flecked field in Michigan, the Belles dropped both games against conference juggernaut Alma Saturday, coming up short in consecutive hard-fought contests, 10-6 and 7-1.

Alma (19-2, 2-0 MIAA) may have emerged victorious from the weekend matchup, but Saint Mary's (10-5, 0-2 MIAA) gained confidence from its outings, as they went toe-to-toe with one of the conference's top teams.

"They have a very strong team, they have a very deep line up, so all their players are phenomenal," junior outfielder Lauren Enayati said of Alma. "I definitely feel like they are a great team, but I think that we are also a very good team as well and unfortunately, both games went to them but we had a good fight and we definitely could have won."

The Belles put up an especially good fight in the first game, when freshman first baseman Chrissy Porter drove in Enayati for the game's first run in the opening inning. The Belles added two more runs in the second inning on a number of Alma errors to bring their lead to 3-0. After Alma answered back with four runs in the third inning, the teams traded runs in the fourth before the home team plated four more in the fifth, effectively putting the game out of reach.

Despite the disappointing loss in the first game, Enayati said she and her teammates were satisfied with their performance in the day's opener.

"Our hitting was not lax at all ... it was a really great battle so I thought that our mental toughness was really good the entire game," she said. "Unfortunately, we did have a few innings where we struggled a bit defensively but we definitely did come back and prove that we are a really great team offensively. We kept hitting and we never gave up, and I thought that was a really great thing."

In game two, the Belles rode the pitching of junior Monica Palicki, combined with some

great defense, through three scoreless innings. Alma notched three runs in both the fourth and fifth innings and tacked on another in the seventh, outmatching the one run plated by the Belles in the game.

Freshman pitcher Callie Selnar incurred the game one loss, and Palicki took the loss in game two. Selnar also put forth one of the best offensive performances of the day, coming up just a triple short of the cycle in game one. She came around to score three times and drove in two runs, and went 2-3 in the second contest. Selnar summed up her offensive success quite simply, belying how impressive of a performance she put forth.

"I just go up there and hit the ball, really," Selnar said.

Selnar added that she takes solace in the fact that her team put forth strong showings in both losses.

"Even though we lost we played a good game and we never gave up and that is what we need to do for every game, learning to never give up," she said.

Enayati agreed that Saint Mary's has done a good job thus far of giving what she deems "110 percent," but said that the team must be sure to maintain a positive outlook.

"I think that everyone just needs to stay up, stay positive and know that we can and will produce these runs and be really strong defensively as well," Enayati said. "I think that just knowing we are a great team and believing it is something that everyone can improve on a little bit at least."

Enayati has certainly taken on a positive attitude herself, and looks for the Belles to put forth some strong showings as they try to move beyond their most recent losses.

"I think that anybody can have a bad day," she said. "I think we have a very strong team as a whole: pitching, hitting and defensively. I am definitely not worried, I think we can come back and definitely prove that we are a great team overall."

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

ND splits pair of games



KIRBY McKENNA/The Observer

Irish senior midfielder Kaitlin Keena carries the ball during Notre Dame's 13-8 loss to Ohio State Mar. 10. Over the weekend, Notre Dame opened Big East play by beating Rutgers before losing to Loyola.

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Sports Writer

The Irish got back to their winning ways in a victory over Rutgers Friday night, but lost to No. 4 Loyola Sunday in a close match.

Notre Dame (4-6, 1-1 Big East), sparked by freshman midfielder Kaitlyn Brosco, opened its Big East schedule with an 11-6 win over the Scarlet Knights (6-4, 1-2). Brosco continued her stellar freshman year with a three-goal, four-ground ball performance, helping the Irish snap their brief two-game losing streak.

Notre Dame outshot the visiting Scarlet Knights 37-17, marking the seventh time in nine games that the Irish have outshot their opponent. While the Irish never trailed, they only put away the game with a 4-0 scoring run that spanned 3:48 in the second half.

"I am very pleased with how we played," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "We had great execution and capitalized on strong defense. We

also did a great job of fast-breaking off the face-off."

Senior defender Jackie Doherty led the Irish defensively, scooping five ground balls and forcing six Rutgers turnovers. Rutgers attack Kristen Anderson scored three goals in a losing effort.

On Sunday, however, the Irish caused just four turnovers in a 13-10 loss to the Greyhounds (10-0, 2-0). The Irish had trouble containing reigning Big East Attack Player of the Year Grace Gavin, who scored four goals and

assisted on three others. The seven-point game for the senior was only one away from tying her career-high.

"We knew that she was that kind of player," Coyne said. "She is exceptional and that's why they won the game."

Junior attack Maggie Tamasitis extended her point-streak to 28 games over the weekend, chipping in two goals and two assists against the Greyhounds.

The Irish led early in the first half following unassisted goals from Tamasitis and senior midfielder Kailene Abt. The Greyhounds, however, responded with three goals in 58 seconds, grabbing a two-goal lead.

Notre Dame fought back in the second half, tying the game at six with two goals in just over two minutes. Loyola answered with a 4-1 spurt keyed by three free-position shot goals. The Greyhounds converted on 4-of-8 free-position shots and capitalized on 34 Notre Dame fouls.

"We played with a lot of heart today and we are all bitterly disappointed," Coyne said. "The team was really intense and focused and everybody really stepped up."

The defeat marks the third time the Irish have lost by three goals or less to a top-10 team this season.

"All the girls are disappointed but they want to play them again in the Big East tournament," Coyne said. "These are the weekends that prepare you for a championship."

The Irish return to action Friday in a Big East contest at Villanova.

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CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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A Haiku to Alumni: Rest up gentlemen. The time to rise arrives soon. Wake it, shake it, comes.

ND SOFTBALL

Coach earns 400th career win



Irish junior infielder Dani Miller connects during Notre Dame's 9-0 shutout of Providence Sunday.

By JACK YUSKO
Sports Writer

Irish coach Deanna Gumpf earned her 400th career win this weekend, as the Irish swept Big East conference opponent Providence in a three-game series at Melissa Cook Stadium, winning 12-4, 7-3 and 9-0.

The outstanding performance, including two five-inning victories, put Coach Gumpf's record in 10 seasons with the Irish at 400-172-1, a .699 winning percentage. The Irish as a team moved to 21-7 overall, 3-0 in the Big East.

"Coach Gumpf works around the clock for our team every day," junior infielder Alexa Maldonado said. "She really cares about the

team and our success. It's awesome how much time she puts into her family and is still always there for us, her second family, every single day."

While the Irish dominated the Friars throughout the weekend in all aspects of the game, Maldonado referenced the outstanding offensive production as the most important factor determining each victory.

"Our outstanding aces were producing runs early in the games to get ahead and getting clutch hits to drive in runners when we needed to," Maldonado said.

One of the most notable feats of the weekend was that of senior captain Heather Johnson, who broke the career RBI record, 175, with a two-run walk-off double

Saturday. This is Johnson's second RBI record — she set the single-season record in 2010 with 68 runs batted in.

"Heather is a great player for our team," Maldonado said. "She always finds a way to produce runs."

Johnson's hitting has greatly helped the Irish since the beginning of the home season. In the five home games played so far, she has gone 12-for-17 at the plate with 15 RBIs and three home runs.

Maldonado herself was a key part of the Irish offense, with multiple hits in each game, runs scored and bases stolen. Senior catcher Lex Clay has also been an integral part of the offense, scoring multiple times, notching multiple RBIs and hitting a home run.

Impressive pitching by freshman Laura Winters and senior Jody Valdivia controlled Providence, allowing only seven runs over three games.

Maldonado said the coaching staff has been key to the team's recent success.

"We really appreciate coach Gumpf as well as our two assistant coaches, Lizzy [Lemire] and Kris [Ganeff], and our volunteer coach, Dawn [Austin]," Maldonado said. "They work hard for us and we produce wins for them."

The Irish go on the road Monday to face Wisconsin.

Contact Jack Yusko
jyusko@nd.edu

SMC GOLF

Belles look to maintain momentum at Invitational

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

After a record-breaking start to the spring season, No. 12 Saint Mary's will try to keep the ball rolling in Texas this week at the Southwestern Invitational.

The Belles got off to a hot start in the season-opening George Fox Invitational, held two weeks ago in Peoria, Ariz. After the first day, the team's tally of 302 was good for first place and a six-shot lead. That effort was led by senior captain Mary Kate Boyce, who shot a 66 in her very first round of the season. The score was the lowest in school history. While host George Fox University caught the Belles, their second-place finish was a solid early-season showing. In addition to her record-breaking first day, Boyce's two-day total of 142 shattered the Saint Mary's record by six strokes, as well.

"We just hope that we can stay on that same level we were at in Arizona," Boyce said. "I don't know if I can go quite that low again, but our goal is winning, and we'll see if we can break that record in the process."

Since that first tournament, the Belles have had two weeks to practice and fine tune their game in practice. While they may not be the longest shots, Boyce and her teammates have put in the most time with their swings around the green.

"We've been working on our short game a lot, because that's where we believe we can save strokes and beat out other teams," Boyce said.

Now Saint Mary's will descend on Teravista Golf Club in Georgetown, Texas for the Southwestern Invitational. This tournament annually has great competition, and this year's edition will be no exception. No. 14 Texas-Tyler and No. 23 Mary Hardin Baylor will both be in attendance, but Boyce believes that their toughest competitor may be the host team.

"We're playing against [No. 24] Southwestern, and they were a tournament team last year," Boyce said. "We expect to be challenged, but at the same time, we feel like we have a good shot of winning."

And while the other teams will be fierce, the biggest challenge the Belles will face will probably come from the course. The 7,200-yard course will explore players' ability to deal with another variable: wind.

"We had our practice round on Sunday, so we're pretty prepared for the course," Boyce said. "It's open to a lot of wind, so the conditions will be very demanding on every shot."

The Belles will begin their first day of play today at 8 a.m.

Contact Jack Hefferon
wheffero@nd.edu

Irish Studies Classes
Fall 2011

IRST 30360:01
MW 1:30-2:45
Melissa Dinsman
Irish Modernism

IRST 30111:01
MW 3:00-4:15
Ian Kuijt
Archaeology of Ireland

IRST 30423:01
MW 3:00-4:15
Sean McGraw
Irish Politics: 1916-2009

IRST 20314:01
MW 3:00-4:15
Shan-Yun Huang
Bewildered Beginnings:
Coming-of-Age Novels

IRST 20531:01
MW 4:30-5:45
Ailbhe Darcy
Irish America

IRST 10101:03
MWF 1:55-2:45
Mary O'Callaghan
Beginning Irish I

IRST 20103:01
MWF 1:55-2:45
Tara MacLeod
Intermediate Irish

IRST 10101:02
MWF 10:40-11:30
Mary O'Callaghan
Beginning Irish I

IRST 10102:02
MWF 10:40-11:30
Tara MacLeod
Beginning Irish II

IRST 30413:01
MWF 9:35-10:25
James Smyth
British History: 1660-1800

IRST 10102:01
MWF 9:35-10:25
Mary O'Callaghan
Beginning Irish II

IRST 20107:01
TR 11:00-12:15
Peter McQuillan
The Hidden Ireland

IRST 40530:01
TR 11:00-12:15
Declan Kiberd
Wilde and Synge

IRST 43504:01
TR 11:00-12:15
Mary Burgess
Seminar: Modern Irish
Fiction

IRST 30309:01
TR 12:30-1:45
Sarah McKibben
Great Irish Writers

IRST 20108:01
TR 2:00-3:15
Jeremiah Gillan
Verbal Arts & Oral Traditions

IRST 40513:01
TR 3:30-4:45
Mary Burgess
Culture and Politics of
Northern Ireland

IRST 20541:01
TR 3:30-4:45
Christopher Fox
Anglo-Irish Identities

IRST 43505:01
TR 3:30-4:45
Susan Harris
Seminar: Gender Troubles:
Contemporary Irish Fiction

IRST 40111:01
TR 3:30-4:45
Briona Nic Dhiarmada
The Irish Hunger Strikes

IRST 30362:01
TR 9:30-10:45
Cathal Goan
The Irish Language Lyric
Song Tradition

IRST 43511:01
MW 3:00-4:15
Denis O'Hearn
Irish Connections

IRST 30124:01
TR 2:00-3:15
James Hamrick
Swift to Heaney: Irish Poetry
Since 1700

MEN’S GOLF

Team struggles to place again



MATT SAAD/The Observer

Freshman Niall Platt swings during the Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Classic Sept. 27.

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

A trip to Baton Rouge for the LSU National Invitational proved frustratingly similar to many other tournaments for the Irish as they captured eighth place out of 12 teams with a three-day score of 53-over-par.

Host LSU took home first place overall (+22), narrowly edging Chatanooga by just one stroke. Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota rounded out the top five. Chatanooga’s Stephan Jaeger finished a full seven strokes ahead of the competition (-7), running away with the individual title.

The Irish have yet to place in the top five of a tourna-

ment this spring and have not resumed the form they displayed this fall on their way to four tournament victories and a preseason No. 24 national ranking.

“We’re just having a hard time putting three good rounds together,” coach Jim Kubinski said. “We’re not the same team we were in the fall.”

Though their final place may not have been as high as they had liked, the Irish recorded a number of strong individual efforts, led by sophomore Paul McNamara III, who posted a three-day score of 227 (+11), earning a share of 19th place overall. McNamara was particularly solid on the first two days, finishing +2 Friday and one-

under-par Saturday.

The rest of the Irish effort came in right behind McNamara as junior Max Scodro carded a third-round 77 to finish a consistent plus-15 and in a tie for 31st place for the tournament. Junior Chris Walker and freshman Niall Platt both finished two strokes behind Scodro at 17-over and in a tie for 35th place. Junior Tom Usher, coming off of a Big East Player of the Week award the week earlier finished a disappointing 33-over-par in 61st place.

“We certainly had some good rounds, but that was the kind of course that can tear you apart if you don’t have your shots,” Kubinski said.

The Irish were tied for seventh place heading into the third and final round but were unable to put up another quality score, keeping them out of the top five.

One tune-up remains before the team heads to Florida for the Big East Championships. The Irish will host the Battle at the Warren Apr. 12 in their only home match of the year. Kubinski said he hopes the familiar course will help his team which is in need of a good showing before its most important match of the year.

“We just need a good couple weeks of practice before the Big East,” Kubinski said. “We know we have the talent.”

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ND WOMEN’S GOLF

Irish claim eighth after tough first day

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

After a disappointing opening round that left Notre Dame in 17th place in the field of 23 teams, the Irish battled back to claim eighth place in the Liz Murphy Collegiate Classic. Consistent improvement throughout the weekend propelled the Irish past the twin challenges of a new scoring system and a highly talented field.

In typical college golf tournaments, three competitors from three different schools play together, but this weekend all five members of the team competed together. The four best scores from each were counted towards the team total.

While the unique scoring format required some adjustments, it also proved to be an enjoyable experience for the team members.

“This tournament was one of the best experiences I’ve had in college golf,” senior captain Katie Conway said. “Having the opportunity to watch my team-

mates compete and witness their determination during actual competition was awesome. We were able to feed off of each other and ride waves of momentum from a birdie putt dropping or a clutch par save finding the hole. It was a lot of fun to fight for every shot together.”

Waves of good momentum were integral to No. 26 Notre Dame’s effort. The Irish followed up a first day tally of plus-14 with an impressive second round of two-under-par in which every golfer improved her score from the day before. The Irish played even better Saturday by shooting a collective four-under-par Sunday for a final tally of eight-over 872.

The competitive field included five teams ranked in the top ten and seven more ranked in the top 25. No. 2 Alabama took first place, while No. 4 Duke, No. 5 Purdue, No. 12 Arkansas and No. 28 Florida rounded out the top five. Notre Dame out-duelled six higher-ranked teams, including No. 6 LSU and No. 7 Virginia.

“The field strength was

stronger than even an NCAA regional championship, and being able to come back like we did to beat a number of highly ranked teams proved that we can compete with the best,” Conway said.


Notre Dame was led by freshman Nicole Zhang, who finished the weekend tied for 15th place at eight-over-par. Conway was second for the Irish, finishing with a final total of 226 strokes, good for a tie for 32nd place. Senior So-Hyun Park tied for 35th place after shooting 227 and junior Becca Huffer tied for 63rd place overall with a total of 232. Freshman Kristina Nhim rounded out the Notre Dame finishers in 73rd place after shooting 233.

Conway said she believes the unique experience will prove beneficial as they prepare for the championship season.

“This tournament wasn’t just about keeping ourselves going individually, but rather keeping each other going as a team,” Conway said. “It was a really great team bonding experience, and will definitely help us as we prepare for Big East.”

The Irish will next hit the links April 17 to compete in the Big East championship in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Contact Vicky Jacobsen at
vjacobse@nd.edu



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MEN'S TENNIS

No. 24 Notre Dame wins three



Senior Bryan Kelly lunges for a forehand during Notre Dame's 6-1 victory against South Florida March 27.

By KATELYN GRABAREK
Sports Writer

The No. 24 Irish dominated all three matches this weekend with wins over Ball State University, Southern Methodist University and IUPUI.

"We had a great weekend," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Our guys played well on pretty fast courts at Ball State and turned it around today with a great effort in singles against an SMU team that will be heard from before this season ends."

Senior Dan Stahl, ranked 89th in the country, won his sixth consecutive match at No. 3 singles in the first match against Ball State, defeating junior Cliff Morrison 6-4, 6-4.

The Irish doubles pairs also came out strong in the match, claiming the doubles point with victories by all three teams.

Sophomore Spencer Talmadge and junior Niall Fitzgerald had the tightest match at No. 1, defeating juniors Zane Smith and Derek Carpenter 9-7.

Junior Casey Watt and senior Stephen Havens defeated junior Andres Monroy and freshman Austin Smith 8-4 at No. 2 doubles.

No. 125 Havens also defeated Smith in singles, dropping only three games.

"Stephen Havens has really matured as a senior and played very well in besting a good baseliner in straight sets," Bayliss said.

Notre Dame defeated No. 64 Southern Methodist University 6-1 in its opening match on Sunday.

The only dropped point for the Irish was the loss of the doubles point, but Notre Dame bounced back with strong singles performances.

Watt defeated No. 39 senior Artem Baradach 7-5, 7-6 (7-5).

"Casey Watt played his best match of the year in avenging last year's loss to Baradach 7-5, 7-6," Bayliss said.

Havens followed suit defeating sophomore Gaston Cuadranti 6-3, 6-2 at No. 2.

The Irish also beat IUPUI 7-0 on Sunday at the Eck Tennis Pavillion.

Notre Dame started off strong again claiming the doubles point with victories at all three positions.

Talmadge and Fitzgerald teamed up for an 8-1 victory over freshman Joe Hammond and junior Bren Vasalakis at No. 1, while freshman Ryan Bandy and senior Sean Tan defeated sophomore Armando Diaz and junior Ivan Mojsejev at No. 3 by the same score.

The Irish will travel to Columbus, Ohio on April 13 to take on Ohio State, with first serve set for 3 p.m.

"The rest of the season consists of two big matches on the road, each 10 days apart," Bayliss said. "First are the Ohio State Buckeyes who are No. 3 in the country, followed by last year's Big East and NCAA round of 16 Louisville Cardinals."

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish doubles continue to improve as team wins

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

The No. 19 Irish took down two rivals in the Eck Tennis Center this weekend as they beat Long Beach State Friday 5-2 and followed with a 6-1 victory over Texas A&M Saturday.

Against the 49ers, junior Kristy Frilling, junior Shannon Mathews, freshman Jennifer Kellner and senior Kristen Rafael won at the top four singles spots and swept the doubles portion. The Irish (11-8) then won five of the six singles matchups and two of the three doubles matchups to beat the Aggies.

Notre Dame is getting ready to head into its final stretch of the season before the postseason tournaments begin. The pair of wins at home was crucial to both momentum and positioning.

"Both teams we played this weekend had some really strong players so we were really pleased to come away with two wins," sophomore Chrissie McGaffigan said.

McGaffigan dropped her match at No. 5 singles Friday, but followed up with a 6-2, 3-0 win Saturday. Both days, McGaffigan and senior Kristen Rafael won their doubles matchup.

"I feel like our doubles contin-

ue to improve with each match," McGaffigan said. "Our hard work is paying off."

Mathews said the doubles point is crucial to consistently winning matches.

"Winning the doubles point in both matches this weekend was very key," Mathews said. "Our doubles teams are starting to click with each of the teams stepping up and making major contributions in capturing the doubles point."

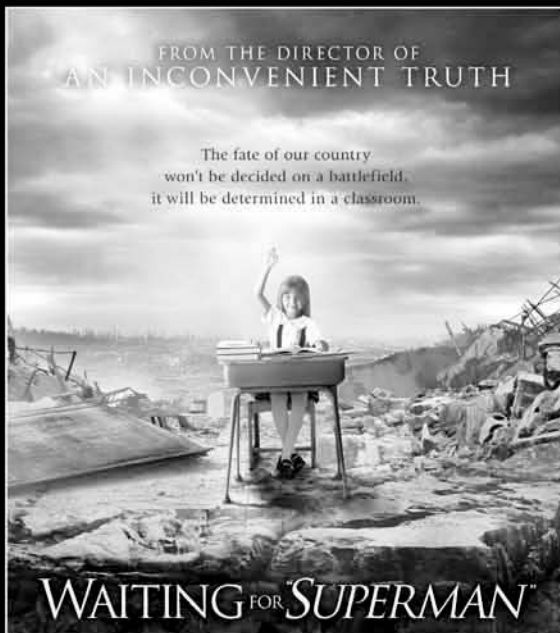
With only three matches remaining in the regular season against No. 18 Northwestern, Marquette and DePaul, the Big East tournament is rapidly approaching. The Irish, it appears, seem to be hitting their stride at the right time.

"We have been training really hard and I feel like we are going to be at our best for the Big East tournament," McGaffigan said.

The Irish faced some tough teams earlier in the season and their record took a hit because of it. In March, Notre Dame dropped three straight to Baylor, USF and Duke. The Irish have since turned their season around and look to keep the winning streak alive heading into the postseason.

The Irish face Northwestern Thursday in Evanston, Ill.

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Waiting for "Superman"

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Kelly

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high level. Right now, I think both of those guys have made us very comfortable with the drop position, and now we can look towards the Cat and the Will and the depth at the Mike [linebacker positions]."

Sophomore linebacker Dan Fox has been excellent during spring practices and should also factor into the outside linebacker rotation, but that Spond has opened the most eyes on the defensive side of the ball, Kelly said.

"Fox didn't play a lot as a positional player [last season]. He was obviously on all special teams. He's impressed me. Danny Spond probably would be singularly the one guy that has been very impressive at the drop position. He plays with heavy hands. He's very good in the pass game."

Barring injury, sophomore inside linebackers Carlo Calabrese and Manti Te'o will resume their roles as starters in 2011. However, Kelly said that Calabrese has been moving between the weakside and strongside linebacker positions and could see time at both positions. Freshmen Kendall Moore and Justin Utupo have also been earning repetitions at the inside linebacker spots.

At cornerback, junior Robert Blanton and senior Gary Gray, who will be a graduate student next fall, are also expected to hold roles as starters. Freshmen Lo Wood and Bennett Jackson have battled for the backup positions, and Kelly said cornerbacks coach Kerry Cooks and safeties coach Chuck Martin were impressed.

"We're happy with their progress," Kelly said. "Bennett probably has surprised us a little bit. He's got a natural fit for his backpack. He stays in. He seems to have a sense for it [and] plays the ball very well. Lo has made really good progress for us. Diaco and Kerry and Chuck feel really good about the progress those two have made."

Kelly added that early enrollee Ishaq Williams should see the field as early as next season, albeit in a simplified role.

"When you have somebody that is gifted physically like that, I think it's on the coaches to not make it so difficult," Kelly said. "If we ask him to do all those things, it's going to be paralysis by analysis. We're going to let that kid line up and play."

Kelly had nothing but positives to describe the performance of junior Darius Fleming. Fleming, who has emerged as a mentor to Williams, spent time in and out of the outside linebacker rotation last season, but looks to be a mainstay at that position in 2011.

"I've looked at film from last year and I know what I need to fix," Fleming said. "I've been working on that every day. I'm getting better every day, and I feel like I'm helping the guys around me as well, just being that type of leader."

Notes

♦ Junior Michael Floyd possibly will meet with the Office of Residential Life this week, Kelly said. There are open lines of communication between the Irish coach and the office, and he described the relationship as "healthy." He added that any decision will be made by the University.

"What I heard was that he would be meeting with residential life this week and that some kind of decision relative to that meeting would be very soon after," Kelly said. "They have informed [Floyd] that a decision would be

made quickly. My first reaction is always about, 'How can we learn?' But that's me. I'm not in that other office."

Kelly also mentioned that Floyd has taken steps to educate himself following his arrest on the morning of March 20 for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

"He's already taken definitive action," Kelly said. "He's already reached out to make that happen in a very positive way."

♦ Freshman wide receiver Daniel Smith remained inactive after suffering a grade one hamstring injury during practice last week. Kelly said Smith will complete a medication cycle before returning to practice, but did engage in a platelet-rich plasma procedure to accelerate the healing process.

"The MRI looked good — superficial tearing," Kelly said. "This is nothing deep into the belly of the muscle. We just want to make sure we get him 100 percent. Our goal is to have him playing in the spring game."

♦ Notre Dame has been using Adidas tech-fit pants during spring practices. Worn by the New York Giants last season, the lighter pants feature no stitching, panels or belts.

"They look hideous, but our kids seem to like them," Kelly said. "They're very comfortable. Obviously we are trying them out to see if it's something we want to pursue. The entire line of clothing and apparel and shoes is faster. If they like them and as long as they're gold, I'm good with that."

♦ Notre Dame and Michigan will be wearing throwback jerseys for their matchup on Sept. 9, the first night game at the Michigan Stadium. Kelly said the Irish jerseys should resemble those worn during the Joe Kuharich era (1959-1962).

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ND TRACK AND FIELD

Irish record ten top finishes

Freshman Brown takes two firsts at Mike Poehlein Invitational

Observer Staff Report

After a lone first-place finish Friday in the field events, the Irish captured the top spot nine more times Saturday in the Mike Poehlein Invitational in West Lafayette, Ind.

Junior Doug Onuscheck took first place in the pole vault, giving the Irish their lone top finish on the first day. Freshman Peter Kristiansen also placed third in the javelin throw.

On the women's side, senior Theresa Cattuna crossed the finish line first in the 5,000-meter run and sophomore Nevada Sorenson won the 100-meter hurdles. Freshman Michelle Brown came out on top of two events, the 400-meter dash and the 200-meter dash.

"I gained some much needed confidence after I won both the 400 and the 200 at Purdue and that is going to carry onto my upcoming races," Brown said. "[Irish sprints and hurdles coach Alan] Turner has been making us work extremely hard both on the track and in the weight room and the results are just starting to show in our races. We all are very excited for how fast we can run this outdoor season."

For the men on the second day of the invitational hosted by Purdue, senior Edward Hitchler and sophomore Brendan Dougherty finished

one-two in the 400-meter dash, and senior Ryan Gamboa took first-place honors in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

"With having to deal with the elements at Purdue, our team was very strong and

still ran exceptionally well which is exciting because we know we can run much faster," Brown said.

Notre Dame will be in action again when it travels to Louisville, Ky. to take on the Cardinals April 9.

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Please pick up forms to complete at Gate 3 Reception Deskyou can also get these forms at the meeting.

Questions: (Kaitlyn) kstrand@nd.edu or (Chris) cdinkins@nd.edu

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JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Senior midfielder Jake Marmul, left, and junior midfielder Devon Dobson struggle for possession during Notre Dame's win over Villanova Saturday.

Villanova

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24 seconds remaining in the first quarter, but fell behind 5-2 after they allowed a Villanova goal three minutes into the second quarter.

Cue the comeback.

In the final 12 minutes of the half, Notre Dame embarked on a run that showcased the prowess responsible for its undefeated record. The team rattled off five straight goals to capture a 7-5 lead before the break. Notre Dame's ability to mount such a comeback is a credit to the Irish players' ability to react to the opposing team's style of play, Corrigan said.

"Our guys recognized what they were doing and really moved the ball well today," he said. "Our guys did a great job of not holding the ball ... and letting the ball do the work. You are tough to defend when you do that."

Villanova continued to challenge the Irish for the remainder of the game, tying the score in the third quarter. After two goals in 12 seconds' time by freshman attack Westy Hopkins, though, Notre Dame regained the lead, this time for good.

Hopkins and senior attack Colin Igoe both recorded hat tricks on the day, and senior captain and midfielder Zach Brennehan added one assist and two goals. Brennehan displayed his All-American, but did much more than just fill up the stats column as he played persistent defense and dove in pursuit of a player on multiple occasions.

With a leader of Brennehan's caliber and the talented roster they have, the Irish figure to be in the mix for the national champi-

onship for the second straight year, Igoe said.

"We really have something special this year and we are keeping it going. We don't have any selfish guys on the field," Igoe said.

The Irish are careful not to get ahead of themselves, though, realizing they still have five more regular season games, including a showdown with No. 1 Syracuse scheduled for April 30. Downplaying the importance of his team's most recent win, Corrigan emphasized that the Irish will have to keep working hard and improving to get where they want to go this year.

"We are so excited about it that we are coming back to practice tomorrow at 2:30 p.m., because we have got to get back to work," he said. "We are playing some of our best lacrosse the last two games, and we want to keep getting better. This is a great win, but in the middle of the season, you don't sit back and chalk up which ones are big wins and which ones are not."

Still, Igoe could not refrain from reveling in the moment as he praised his defensive counterparts for yet another successful performance in front of sophomore goalie John Kemp, who notched 11 saves in the game.

"Our defense has been our anchor since I have been here for four years, and we are going to rely on them for every game," he said. "Best defense in the country."

Corrigan appreciated Igoe's enthusiasm, but aimed to avoid such sweeping statements.

"I think we can be," he said. "That will prove itself out, those are things you talk about at the end. Right now, we are playing our tail off."

Contact Joseph Monardo
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Panthers

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team showed heart in the late comeback.

"I thought the guys did a great job of battling," he said. "[Senior right-hander Todd Miller] wasn't as sharp as he usually is, obviously. The way our offense has been, when we find ourselves down four runs it's been tough, but they did a great job."

Aoki said the key to the late comeback was an improvement in the team's at-bats at crunch time.

"I think the thing that makes me happy is the quality of at-bats late in the game," he said.

"For the most part, it was better. We did a good job of swinging at good pitches, even if the results weren't what we wanted."

Despite Notre Dame's sub-.500 record, the coach said that he is seeing on-field improvement as he attempts to turn around a program that has struggled in recent years.

"Maybe the results aren't coming around as quickly as we would all like, but the players are doing the things that I value on the field."

Notre Dame resumes play with Western Michigan at Frank Eck Stadium Tuesday night.

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The Irish celebrate their 72-63 victory over No. 1 Connecticut Sunday in Indianapolis. Notre Dame earned itself a berth in the national championship game Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.

SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Diggins

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eight-point deficit with under 18 minutes to go. The Irish were the first team since 2004 to shoot over 50 percent from the field against the Huskies (36-2).

Several times Connecticut made one of its typical runs but, unlike most opponents over the past three seasons, the Irish answered with a counterpunch and hung with the two-time defending champions.

"We certainly didn't have anything handed to us," McGraw said. "And it was an amazing accomplishment, I think, for this team. So I would say not as much fate as hard work."

With the win, McGraw has beaten legendary coaches Pat Summitt and Geno Auriemma in consecutive games. Prior to this year, one in which McGraw will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, no team had ever beaten both Tennessee and Connecticut in the same tourna-

ment.

"I think this is my week for exorcising demons and getting over the hump of some of the best programs in the game," McGraw said. "This is an incredible victory for our team and our program to beat a quality team with a great player like [senior forward] Maya Moore."

Moore scored 36 points, but went 14-of-30 from the field. At one point in the second half the Connecticut leader scored 13 consecutive points, a stretch that narrowed the Irish lead from 12 to three. But in the end, Moore, who was playing in her final collegiate game, missed shots and critical free throws down the stretch and watched as her team's hopes for a third consecutive championship faded away.

"Notre Dame came to win," she said. "They came to play. Every single person that they brought in I think came in and did exactly what they could do."

Moore scored 15 of Connecticut's 32 first half points, while Diggins scored 14

of Notre Dame's 26. For most of the game, the matchup between the two resembled a heavy-weight bout, with each player consistently one-upping the other.

The Irish took advantage of Huskies center Stefanie Dolson's foul trouble. The freshman picked up her fourth personal foul with 14 minutes remaining and did not reenter the game until the 8:37 mark. Without a low post presence, the Huskies were vulnerable and Notre Dame imposed its will offensively.

"Once we took [Dolson] out we just didn't have much of a presence physically inside, and they took advantage of that," Auriemma said. "They drove the ball into the lane and they forced us to make — as [sophomore guard Kelly Faris] and [Moore] said, we made some mistakes defensively, and sometimes teams can't capitalize on your mistakes. But Notre Dame did tonight."

Aside of Diggins, the Irish struggled to find offensive production in the first half. The sophomore shot 6-of-10 from the field in the period, while the rest of the team combined for only 12 points.

"In the second half we allowed [Diggins] to get everyone else involved," Auriemma said. "It was the plays she made for other people, and that's what great players do."

Junior guard Natalie Novosel scored 18 points in the second half in an Irish surge over the last 20 minutes. She finished with 22 on 8-of-13 shooting.

"I think Skylar in the beginning kept us in the game," Novosel said. "We weren't really playing our game. We were letting [Connecticut] dictate the game for us. And I think in the second half I was frustrated that I didn't contribute in the first half."

Diggins, a South Bend native, grew up rooting for the Irish and was a fan when Notre Dame, led by current assistant coach and former player Niele Ivey, knocked off Connecticut in the 2001 national semifinals. Tonight, it was Diggins' turn to lead the Irish to the championship game.

"[Reaching the championship game] is pretty high on my list, if not the top," Diggins said.

Notre Dame, looking for its second national championship in program history, will face Texas A&M Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. at Consecro Fieldhouse on ESPN.

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UConn

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ter won.

The team that no one expected to get this far, that exited too early in the last two NCAA tournaments, that started the year 2-2 and lost to Connecticut three times, is playing for a national championship.

Just like it did 10 years ago. In the national semifinals in 2001, Notre Dame won on the strength of a dominant point guard and a suffocating defense. Connecticut lost, 90-75.

In that game, point guard Niele Ivey scored 24 points.

In this game, point guard Skylar Diggins scored 28.

The parallels continue.

And they matter. The 2001 team is an important part of this one, through Ivey's presence on the bench, through the conversations the former and present players have had, and the inspiration they've provided.

But it's time to look at this team in its own light.

It's time to believe. But not in fate, or destiny.

It's time to believe in the 2011 Notre Dame women's basketball team.

"It's not as much fate as hard work," Irish coach Muffet McGraw admitted after the win.

Notre Dame went into halftime trailing 34-26. At 5:54, they were up 59-47. Everything seemed to be breaking Notre Dame's way in those 14 minutes. At one point, a referee called an out-of-bounds ball for Connecticut, then changed the call and gave the ball to the Irish. The momentum, and the Indiana crowd, belonged to Notre Dame.

Not because of luck, or fate, or anything else. Because of hard work.

Notre Dame made their shots. In its past three meetings with Connecticut, Notre Dame shot a combined 35.3 percent. Tonight, the Irish shot 51.9 percent, and 55.6 percent in the second half.

Notre Dame got inside and drew fouls. Connecticut rarely fouls, which is why it's successful running a six-man rotation. When center Stefanie Dolson committed her fourth personal, it was a problem for the Huskies.

Notre Dame won in the paint. Senior forwards Becca Bruszewski and Devereaux Peters took advantage of Dolson's absence to grab eight and seven rebounds, respectively. Notre Dame ended up with a 40-24 scoring advantage in the paint, and a 39-27 rebounding lead.

Most important of all, Notre Dame's star outplayed Connecticut's. Maya Moore is without a doubt the best player in college basketball. The worst part of this loss for the sport, and the best part for Notre Dame, is that it ended her career.

Tonight, though, Skylar Diggins beat Maya Moore.

Before the game, Moore said the win would go to whoever wanted it more. That's not what happened. It was impossible for either to want it more than they did.

But Diggins played better, and Notre Dame won.

Both played with intensity and at times both carried their teams. Moore finished with 36 points to Diggins' 28. But Moore also shot 14-of-30, 5-of-13 from 3 and a surprising 3-of-7 from the free throw line. She missed two straight free throws when the Huskies were down 40-47 with 9:31 to play, and missed two of three when down 67-61 with 1:18 left. Who knows how the game would have ended if she'd made those.

Diggins was the only reason Notre Dame stayed in it in the first half. At the break, she had scored 14, and three other players had scored four. Then she played even better in the second half, making the key shots she needed to make as well as all of her six free throws. She ran the team. She led them to victory.

"I like to be the voice of calm, even though sometimes I was pretending. I was really nervous but they thought I was calm," Diggins said after the game.

That's how a leader acts in the biggest game of her career.

And that's why Notre Dame won, and Connecticut lost.

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

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Sophomore guard Skylar Diggins goes up against a defender during the Irish victory. Diggins led Notre Dame with 28 points.

SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer



Irish senior guard Natalie Novosol drives on a Connecticut defender. She contributed 22 points to Notre Dame's effort.

SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Out of one's gourd

5 Send somewhere else

10 Father, to a baby

14 Wilson of "Starksy & Hutch," 2004

15 ___ and kicking

16 Words after step or sleep

17 Suspicious

18 "Till next time!"

20 Nubile maidens

22 Valentine symbol

23 Rich supply of ore

24 When doubled, a Mazda catchphrase

26 "Heavyweight" of 1960s folk/pop

32 Taken ___ (surprised)

33 Gent's partner

34 "What corn kernels attach to

36 Up to the job

37 Prisons

39 What catnip is to a cat

40 Citi Field player

41 Four years, for a president

42 Buoyant wood sometimes used in rafts

43 Group in a hit 2002 film with "divine secrets"

47 Animated 1998 film set in Central Park

48 Fingered, for short

49 Lex Luthor, to Superman

52 Rip open

56 Liquor-soaked cake

59 "Mares eat oats and ___ eat oats"

60 Sashimi fish

61 Flip out
- Down**

1 Wedding dress, e.g.

2 Not at home

3 It may be what ails you

4 Wherever you like

5 First-class

6 Makes very, very happy

7 Connptions

8 Actress Longoria

9 Official in a striped shirt

10 Start of the musical scale

11 Fashion style-setter Wintour

12 Fashion designer Christian

13 No. on a periodic table

19 "___ Night" (Christmas carol)

21 Take to a pawnshop

24 Ardor

25 Automaker Ransom Eli

26 Sir's counterpart

27 Westminster ___

28 Its coat of arms has a cross, but no falcon

29 Successfully diets

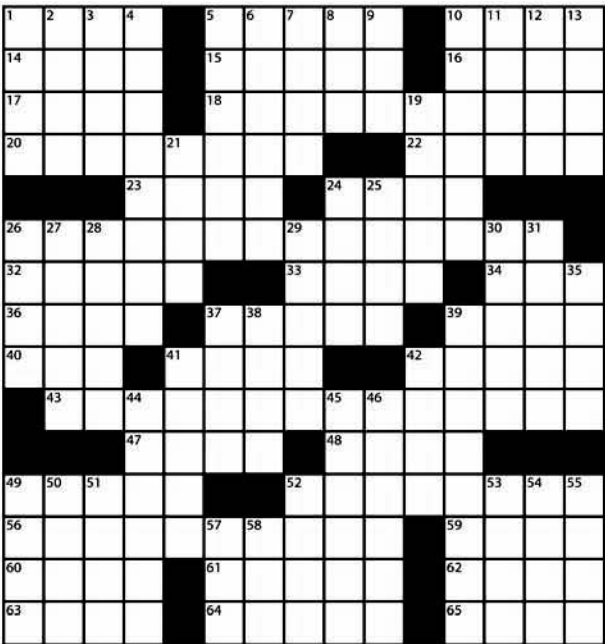
30 Eye: Prefix

62 Bridge shape

63 Grandmother, affectionately

64 Five-time world champion figure skater Carol

65 "Funny strange or funny ___?"



- Puzzle by Mike Buckley
- 31 Neck-to-waist area

35 Bit of wampum

37 Pull one's leg

38 Phoenix's home: Abbr.

39 Highfalutin

41 Country singer Tucker

42 ___ Rabbit

44 Kawasaki competitor

45 Gridlocks

46 One of four singing brothers of the 1950s

49 Dark black

50 California wine valley

51 Nonmusical Abba

52 Bangkok citizen

53 Nick's partner in "The Thin Man"

54 Word after Georgia or Virginia in school names

55 Job conditions agcy.

57 "Blech!"

58 ___ v. Wade

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:
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Happy Birthday: You are determined, outgoing and ready to take on the world. This is a time of new beginnings and exploration. Your insight, coupled with past experience, will pay off. Your sensitivity toward others will help you earn respect and gain popularity. Your numbers are 8, 13, 20, 26, 37, 42, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Set your mind on what you need to accomplish and forge ahead. You have plenty of energy to get things done as long as you don't let your emotions interfere. Your dedication, loyalty and abilities will earn you points with someone you are trying to impress. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Good fortune can be yours if you use today to check out investments or property with the potential to grow in value. Take on a project that will allow you to use your skills and talents to the fullest. Trust in your own judgment. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You've got everyone's attention, so put your best foot forward and relay your message passionately. An equal share in something you want to do should be considered with someone who can bring a lot to the table. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't make a move that might incriminate you because someone is being pushy or pointing an accusing finger in your direction. Focus on other possibilities and refuse to let someone put demands on you that you cannot fulfill. Take care of your own interests. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There are opportunities galore, but choose what suits you best without bragging. You don't want to make someone less fortunate feel bad. It's about sharing the glory with the people who are important to you. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There is much that can be accomplished if you focus on how you can adapt what you already have to work more efficiently. Fixing up your place so that everyone has what they require will ensure a household that is productive. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Indecision and confusion can be expected. Being pulled in different directions will cause anxiety and a need to withdraw. Expect to be pressured if you don't make up your mind. You require peace and quiet to think. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be drawn to a job that allows you to use your talents to the fullest. Being able to relate to people who are as creative as you will open doors. Networking functions will lead to interesting connections that excite you. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make changes that will enhance your surroundings. Invest in and promote what you have to offer. You will attract people who will encourage and contribute to your plan. Open your doors to friends, family and people interested in what you are doing. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Tread carefully when dealing with others. You will be misinterpreted or led astray by someone who wants something from you. Stick close to home as travel delays, mishaps and minor injury are all likely. ★★

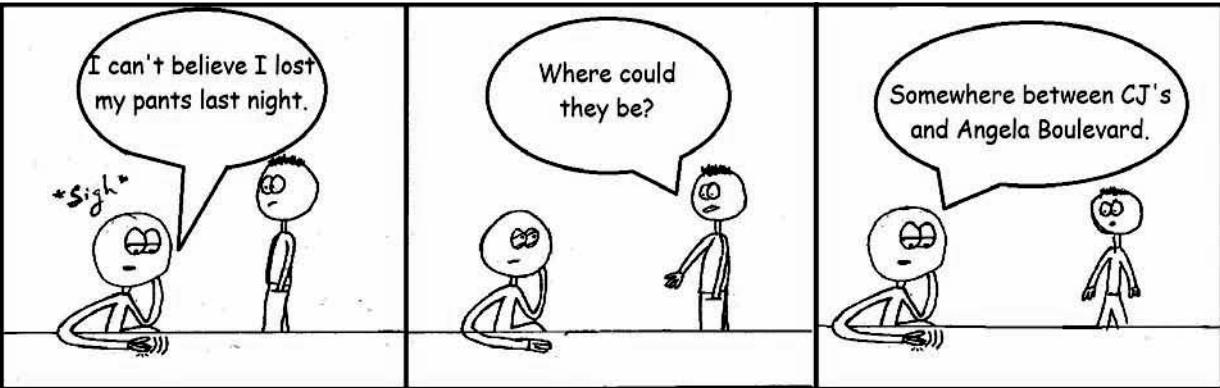
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Rely on your past and the present to help you ascertain how to use your talents to the maximum. Ask the people you find inspiring to lend you a helping hand or to jump in and get involved wholeheartedly. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Determine if you are happy and fulfilled in both your personal and professional lives. Look for areas where you can make improvements. Take advantage of a social event or activity with the potential to enhance your love life. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed, take on the impossible and stand behind your beliefs. You are determined, forthright and free-spirited.

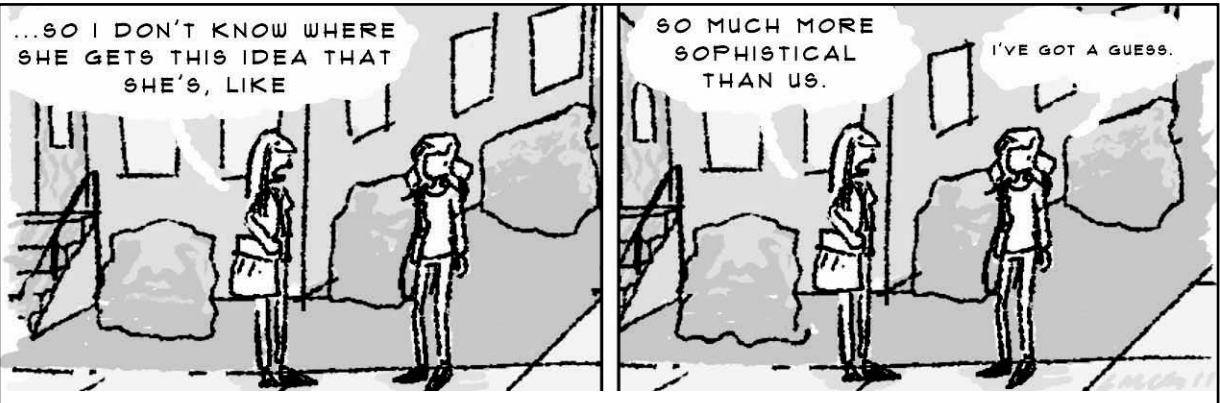
PLEASANDVILLE

JAMES SOLLITTO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY



TUESDAY VARIETY SHOW

LAURA MCGINN



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BCICU

FSITH

ORTDAW

WHRNTO

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: [Circled letters from the jumbles]

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: POUCH ALONG CRUNCH PIGSTY
Answer: What one gets when they carpool with someone who won't stop talking — NO "YOU" TURNS

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sky high

Diggins leads Irish over UConn to finals

By ANDREW OWENS
Associate Sports Editor

INDIANAPOLIS — When sophomore point guard Skylar Diggins sank consecutive free throws with 28 seconds left to give the Irish a nine-point lead, fantasy became reality and hope became result in a 72-63 Notre Dame victory over Connecticut in the national semifinals.

The team's emotional leader scored a career-high 28 points on 10-of-14 shooting and turned the second half into a complete team comeback in one of the greatest victories in program history.

"I thought Skylar was just amazing, simply amazing today," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Notre Dame (31-7) used a 55.6 percent shooting effort in the second half to overcome an

see DIGGINS/page 18



Irish sophomore guard Skylar Diggins, 4, and senior guard Brittany Mallory celebrate after Notre Dame's 72-63 Final Four victory over Connecticut Sunday in Indianapolis.

SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

The better team comes out on top in Final Four

INDIANAPOLIS — It's pretty simple, really.

The team that played better won. The team that made more shots, committed less fouls and grabbed more rebounds won. The team with more contributing players won.

But it's not that simple.

Because Notre Dame won.

And Connecticut lost.

Notre Dame won on the strength of a dominant point guard and a suffocating defense. Connecticut lost because it lost its composure.

The team that played bet-



Laura Myers

Senior
Sports Writer

see UCONN/page 18

BASEBALL

Irish finish series with Pittsburgh in winning fashion

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

Just as they have all season, the Irish found themselves in close games in their three-game series at Pittsburgh this weekend, dropping the first two games in one-run fashion, 6-5 and 3-2, and rallying late to take Sunday's series finale by the score of 8-6.

Close games have been some-

thing of a trend for Irish coach Mik Aoki's squad, as Notre Dame (10-14-1) has had 18 of its 25 games decided by one or two runs.

"I think the way we're hitting, pitching and most of all playing defensively, we're going to continue to play close games," Aoki said.

The Irish held a big lead late in Friday's opener, but five runs from Pittsburgh (15-10) in the eighth inning allowed the

Panthers to steal a 6-5 win. The rally came off of Notre Dame sophomore reliever Adam Norton and freshman reliever Dan Slania, who were not able to preserve the strong start of senior starting pitcher Brian Dupra. Dupra did not allow an earned run in his 6.1 innings of work.

"I thought [Dupra] did a great job," Aoki said. "Obviously [Norton] had a tough outing, but I can't say that the balls hit

off him were hit on the screws, it wasn't exactly a laser light show out there or anything."

Senior right-hander Cole Johnson picked up where Dupra left off Saturday, tossing 6.2 innings of two-run ball and keeping the Irish offense in the game. Notre Dame was unable to muster enough offense to give Johnson the win, and the game moved into extra innings where Pittsburgh left fielder Casey Roche laced a walk-off

single off freshman left-hander Anthony McIver to give Pittsburgh its second win of the series.

The Panthers seemed poised to take a series sweep Sunday, holding a 6-2 lead in the seventh inning, but a six-run frame highlighted by a three-run home run by freshman first baseman Trey Mancini gave the Irish an 8-6 win. Aoki said his

see PANTHERS/page 17

FOOTBALL

Diaco's defense takes shape

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Highlighted by a stretch of 13 consecutive quarters without allowing a touchdown, Notre Dame's defense responded well to incoming coordinator Bob Diaco's system in 2010. As the coaching staff evaluates talent for the 11 positions this spring, a number of battles have emerged for coveted playing time.

At the outside linebacker position, freshmen Danny Spond and Prince Shembo have emerged as the two frontrunners.

"It is a great battle between Shembo and Spond right now," Irish coach Brian Kelly said. "Either one of those guys can play winning football for us at a

see KELLY/page 16



TOM LA/The Observer

Irish junior safety Zeke Motta breaks up a pass during the first week of spring practice.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish mount comeback win against Wildcats

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

As Irish players, coaches and fans milled about the turf of Arlotta Stadium after Saturday's game, Kool and the Gang's 1980s song "Celebration" blared from the loudspeakers, encapsulating the general sentiment after the Notre Dame's 12-8 win over Villanova.

The No. 2 Irish (7-0, 2-0) outscored No. 8 Villanova (7-3, 0-2) three goals to none in the final quarter to secure a comeback win in a physical match.

Notre Dame fell behind early following a Wildcat goal less than three minutes into the game, but Irish junior attack Nicholas Beattie quickly

responded with his own minutes later to even the score.

Villanova regained control of the game shortly thereafter, scoring three consecutive goals as the Irish gave away a number of turnovers and struggled for most of the opening quarter. Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said his team's early struggles were largely a product of the opposition's play.

"Villanova is very good, and they are hard to play against," he said. "I thought our guys did a great job this week preparing us for it, but it is still different when you get in the game and it is their guys, and they are tough to defend."

The Irish netted a goal with

see VILLANOVA/page 17