

THE OBSERVER

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

'The System' to begin Forum conversations

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Editor

The 2011-2012 Notre Dame Forum will bring in four heavyweight names to discuss reform in K-12 schools today at "The System" panel discussion.

"We have before us a set of unprecedented challenges and

opportunities in K-12 education," University President Fr. John Jenkins said. "There are complex, multi-disciplinary questions implicated by this topic, and Notre Dame should eagerly embrace the opportunity to be a forum for thoughtful dialogue on this crucial issue."

The panel will include four stars in education reform —

Michelle Rhea, Howard Fuller, John DiUlio and Sara Martinez Tucker.

Michelle Rhee is the founder and CEO of StudentsFirst, founder of The New Teacher Project and former Chancellor of D.C. Public Schools. Howard Fuller currently directs Marquette University's Institute for the Transformation of Learning.

They will be joined by John DiUlio, professor at the University of Pennsylvania and the inaugural director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Sara Martinez Tucker will also sit on the panel as the current Undersecretary of Education at the United States Department of Education.

"This panel promises to be a great prelude to the 2011-2012 Notre Dame Forum, which will examine topics related to K-12 schooling," Jenkins said. "We are delighted to have such an impressive lineup of leaders in the movement leading the conversation on April 13."

see FORUM/page 5

Outage hits dining hall, dorms

Observer Staff Report

A power outage struck 18 campus facilities Tuesday afternoon, according to University spokesperson Dennis Brown.

The facilities lost power around 2:40 p.m.

"The areas affected were generally the South Quad and an area on the north end of campus," Brown said. "The outage was a result of a boiler problem at the power plant, which required the load of two campus distribution feeders to be dropped."

Power was fully restored by 3:10 p.m., Brown said.

South Dining Hall and Rockne Memorial were among the facilities reported near South Quad that were affected by the outage. A number of residence halls and academic buildings lost power during the half-hour outage as well.

ROTC PASS IN REVIEW



SUANNA PRATT/The Observer

University President Fr. John Jenkins presided over the annual Notre Dame ROTC Pass in Review Tuesday at the JACC Fieldhouse. The event included Midshipmen and Cadets from all four ROTC serives.

Female engineers to lead next year

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

Women only account for 30 percent of the College of Engineering, Dean Peter Kilpatrick said Tuesday, but female presidents will lead the four most prominent engineering groups on campus next year.

"Through the efforts of our Assistant Dean Cathy Pieronek, some of our colleagues at Saint Mary's and a very active Student Chapter of the Society of Women

Engineers, Notre Dame has managed to increase the percentage of women in engineering close to 30 percent, which is real progress," Kilpatrick said. "Chemical Engineering and Civil Engineering are close to 50 percent [of] women in engineering, while other disciplines have a somewhat lower percentage."

Kilpatrick said the college includes roughly one female for every two male students.

Female presidents will serve on

see ENGINEERS/page 5

Library challenges 'Challenge'

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

Beginning Thursday afternoon, a threatening sign greeted students as they entered the Hesburgh Library: "Due to the problems brought on by the 'Hesburgh Challenge,' we reserve the right to look into bags being brought into the Hesburgh Library."

Dr. Susan Ohmer, interim director of the Hesburgh Libraries, said the signs address a growing problem in the library — the Hesburgh Challenge, a drinking competition where students consume one alcoholic drink per floor of



SUANNA PRATT/The Observer

Sophomore Kate McGovern has her bag checked before entering the library.

"We don't call it a tradition because it's fairly new," Ohmer said. "Calling it a tradition is also debasing true University

traditions. We call it a practice." The Challenge began around eight years ago, according to

see CHALLENGE/page 4

THE OBSERVER

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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.

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CORRECTIONS

In an April 12 article, “SMC t-shirt raises violence awareness,” Madeleva Hall at Saint Mary’s College was incorrectly identified as Magdalena Hall. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER QUAD SPORT?



Cathy Chukwulebe
*freshman
Welsh Fam*

*“Hiding stuffed
toy bananas in
trees.”*



Grace Parsons
*freshman
Farley*

*“Running away
from people
with cameras.”*



Nicole Brooke
*freshman
Welsh Fam*

“Reading.”



Katharine Mack
*sophomore
Howard*

“Laying out.”



Sara Hillstrom
*freshman
Farley*

*“Flippin’ the
friz around
with my franz.”*



Shannon Sullivan
*freshman
Cavanaugh*

*“Competitive
hammocking.”*

Have an idea for Question of the Day? Email obsphoto@gmail.com



ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

Sophomore golfer Paul McNamara lines up a shot in the second-annual Battle at the Warren Tuesday at the Warren Golf Course. The men’s golf team carded a score of 281 (-3) to capture first place.

OFFBEAT

Cooking oil dump gives RI city eau de french fries

CRANSTON, R.I. – Some 30 gallons of used cooking oil has been spilled over several streets in a Rhode Island city, leaving behind the smell of french fries.

Cranston Deputy Fire Chief Keith Newman told WJAR-TV that the soybean oil was kept in 5-gallon containers that apparently fell off a truck Monday. Firefighters found the containers in four spots around Cranston.

The cooking oil was spilled along an entire block of one street, a mess left for environmental officials to clean up.

Newman told The Associated Press that his clothes smelled like french fries after he got back to the fire station.

The fire department is searching for the driver who made the mess.

Oregon legislative prank becomes Internet sensation

SALEM, Ore. – Who says government has to be boring?

A dozen state lawmakers in Oregon are convinced it doesn’t need to be. They slipped the lyrics to Rick Astley’s 1987 hit “Never Gonna Give You Up” into their speeches on the House floor last year. And they did it right under the

noses of colleagues, journalists, lobbyists, staff and the public.

The video was released on April Fool’s Day and went viral this week, attracting more than 780,000 views and comments from fans cheering the politicians eager to have a little fun while doing the people’s business.

The mastermind is Rep. Jefferson Smith, a 37-year old Portland Democrat who says he wants to drive people to politics instead of driving them away with partisan venom.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Today from 4 to 6 p.m. watch the Fighting Irish Softball Team take on Loyola of Chicago at Melissa Cook Stadium.

Join in the fight against cancer with The Bald and the Beautiful Fundraiser today beginning at 4 and ending at 10 p.m. in the LaFortune Student Center.

Eduardo Morales from Southern Methodist University will be speaking today from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on American Catholic Studies. The lecture is titled “Praying Like the Middle Class: Ethnic Mexicans Make Church in Twentieth-Century Indiana” and will be held in Geddes Hall in the Center for Social Concerns.

Professor Terry Eagleton will be giving a public lecture today from 4:30 to 6 p.m. His fourth public lecture at Notre Dame is entitled “On Violence” and will be held in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Author of the bestselling novel “The Time Traveler’s Wife,” Audrey Niffenegger, will speak about her novel as part of the Notre Dame Literary Festival at 7 p.m. in room 105 of the Jordan Hall of Science. Book signing will follow, and books will be available for purchase.

Today at 7:30 p.m. panelists will explore broad issues of educational innovation and the role that higher education in general must play in effecting systemic and sustainable reform in the United States. Come listen to “The System: Opportunity, Crisis, and Obligation in K-12 Education” at the Leighton Concert Hall in The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

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	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 63	HIGH 60	HIGH 63	HIGH 53	HIGH 51	HIGH 50
	LOW 53	LOW 43	LOW 39	LOW 44	LOW 36	LOW 41

Fall 2011 registration begins

By EMILY SHRANK
News Writer

Class registration for the fall 2011 semester begins today, and the Office of the Registrar is fully prepared to handle any "DARTing" issues that may come its way.

Assistant registrar Lora Spaulding said the office is already busy dealing with registration "emergencies," such as student classification changes.

Spaulding said student athletes, as well as those registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities, are the two groups on campus that are given registration privileges.

Student athletes have the opportunity to register within the first hour of the first day based upon their classifications as seniors, juniors or sophomores, Spaulding said.

"Currently, athletes are a little less than half of the students registering within those parameters," she said. "The other half that have the first day and within the first hour are from the general student population."

Spaulding said classification, class schedule and the number of students that can begin reg-

Fall 2011 DART registration start times		
rising Seniors	rising Juniors	rising Sophomores
April 13 and April 14	April 18 and April 19	April 26 and April 27

BRANDON KEELEAN | The Observer

istering determine DART times for the general student population.

Despite recent problems with overcrowding in the Mendoza College of Business, Spaulding said the College accurately reports to the registrar's office which business classes will be offered and how many spaces are available in each class.

"I know they are keenly aware of the demand for classes and are working out the best schedule possible," she said.

Spaulding said the office noticed that more of the courses being offered during the fall are spread out during the day.

"Instead of being bunched around mid-morning through early afternoon, they are spreading to earlier in the morning and later in the afternoon," she said.

Class registration is taking place earlier than usual this year in order to accommodate the Easter break, Spaulding said.

Rising seniors register today and Thursday. Rising juniors choose classes on April 18 and 19, and rising sophomores DART on April 26 and 27.

Contact Emily Shrank at eshrank@nd.edu

College celebrates communications week

By ABIGAIL FORNEY
News Writer

Fifty-eight students from the graduating Class of 2011 at Saint Mary's will receive a degree in Communications, according to senior and communications major Sara Zwolski. The College will celebrate "COMM Week" this week to honor these women.

Senior communications major Casey Larson will attend film school at the University of Southern California after graduation. She said her dream job would be to edit movies or TV and movie trailers.

"Yes, like Cameron Diaz from 'The Holiday,'" she said.

Marketing, public relations and advertising are the main career draws for communications graduates, but Larson said the jobs within these fields are diverse.

"Hospitals need human resource departments, schools need to be advertised, celebrities need public relations," she said. "The options are endless."

COMM week includes a range of activities, Zwolski said. The department hosted a panel of seniors Monday to discuss senior projects, internships and after-graduation job opportunities.

Zwolski said one of the students at the panel switched her major from business to communications and was excited to

learn she would have just as many career opportunities, if not more, in her new field.

"Any business will need someone like a COMM major," Zwolski said.

A workshop promoting the creation of professional portfolios was held Tuesday. Other events during the week include decorating the Department of Communications hallway and hosting a discussion titled "Stop & Listen: Autism Sings at Main Street Grille" Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

A pizza luncheon Thursday will focus on job and internship opportunities for COMM majors. Professionals such as professor Susan Guibert, who works for Notre Dame Magazine, and WSBT reporter Colleen Ferriera will speak with students. A free breakfast will be offered in the communications department for students Friday morning.

Zwolski said senior majors were excited to talk to undergrads about their experience with communications.

Senior Jenna Lewanski said she hopes to use her COMM degree for a career in public relations in the hotel industry.

"People need to promote their business as is, but now even more so as the economy remains in recovery," she said.

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Cities and the Common Good

April 13 / 5 pm

104 Bond Hall

School of Architecture

Reception to follow in Bond Hall Gallery



John Norquist, President and CEO of the Congress of the New Urbanism (CNU) and former mayor of Milwaukee

Can modern, well-designed cities contribute to the common good?

Suburban sprawl, highways, the segregation of building types and of economic classes, vast tracts of land used for single purposes: these facts of modern life waste resources and isolate individuals from an active communal life. It does not have to be this way. A different vision based on insights derived from cities we love is now taking hold. New Urbanism promotes the development of neighborhoods that make most of life's needs accessible by foot from residences that are affordable for a wide range of socioeconomic groups. It restores civility and beauty to cities and promotes the common good. That vision is being implemented through the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU), headquartered in Chicago with **John Norquist** as its president.

— PROF. C. W. WESTFALL
THE FRANCESCO MONTANA CHAIR IN ARCHITECTURE

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and the
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GOOD**

THE NOTRE DAME FORUM:
A YEARLONG DISCUSSION



COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Judicial Council vice president approved

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

The Council of Representatives (COR) approved the new Judicial Council vice president of elections at its Tuesday meeting.

Judicial Council president Susanna Sullivan presented freshman Caitlin Ogren, an American Studies and Spanish major from Pasquerilla West, as her choice for vice president of elections. Sullivan

said Ogren would be responsible for ensuring smooth operations during next year's student government elections.

"The vice president of elections is charged with the duties of oversight and administration of the election, including but not limited to approving campaign materials, dealing with allegations and overseeing the election committee," Sullivan said. "She's also charged with guiding the hall election commissioners through the residence

hall election process."

Ogren said she did not see any significant problems in the way the committee operated under the leadership of previous vice president of elections Michael Thomas.

"I feel [Thomas] led the election committee well this year," she said. "I don't plan to make any changes. I liked the way the committee was set up with the seven members."

Following an election season marked by a number of campaign allegations, Ogren said she under-

stands her role in handling such allegations, but hopes for a less problematic campaign season next year.

The Election Committee delayed results during the student body elections due to violations of campaign rules. During the delay, the committee met to discuss the allegations and decide sanctions for the candidates in question.

As part of her new position, Ogren will be responsible for assembling next year's election

committee. She said she would look for a group that can both debate and cooperate well.

"I think it's really important people are willing to say what they think and be okay with disagreeing with each other," she said. "It's really important they are willing to cooperate because it is a small group that has to come to a consensus in the end."

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Challenge

continued from page 1

facilities manager Ross Ferguson.

"Two years ago, it started ramping up," he said. "We found 1,300 empty beer cans in the library then."

The Challenge caused more problems this year than last year, Ferguson said. This year, library security, monitors and housekeeping staff found more than 400 empty beer cans as well as 40 full beer cans.

Library personnel found evidence of the Challenge earlier this year than in the past, Ferguson said.

"In the past, it was [the] two to three weeks [around finals week and Senior Week], but it's stretched out to eight weeks now," he said. "When it started, it was mostly in the stairwells — now it's moved out to the stacks."

Library security caught eight people drinking in the library already this year, Ferguson said. Security caught 28 students two years ago and 17 students last year.

Ohmer said the library's major concern is student safety.

"[Putting up the signs] is a way to respect privacy and ensure safety," she said.

Heightened security is also designed to reduce the destructive consequences of students drinking excessively in the library, such as vomiting and urinating on the shelves of books, Ohmer said.

"[These actions] are putting other people in a position that's really disrespectful," Ferguson said.

He said students urinate behind the elevators and vomit in trashcans and on the floor.

"It's really disrespectful," Ohmer said. "It also takes time away from other housekeeping duties."

Since the signs were placed near the front door, Ferguson said library personnel searched 60 to 70 bags each night. No evidence of the Challenge has been found since the searches began.

"One reason we implemented this is we were hearing beer cans clanking," Ohmer said. "We wanted a way to look out for the library."

Ferguson said the signs are a visible deterrent for bad behavior.

"Security has told me they're seeing around 20 people a night looking at the signs and walking away," he said.

The anti-Challenge message has gone viral, Ohmer said.

Students publicized the signs' message through Facebook and Twitter.

"We've had quite a few letters saying, 'Thank you,'" Ohmer said. "People are very happy about the policy."

Ferguson said if a student is caught in the library participating in the Challenge, they are handed over to security for any punishment.

"We're working with other offices to make sure we're following policies," Ohmer said. "As intelligent as our students are, we're hoping to appeal to their better nature."

Ohmer said she believes most students would be disgusted if they knew the true nature of the problems caused by the Challenge.

"The sad part is we're not dealing with the whole student body,"

Ferguson said. "This is just a small portion."

Another problem caused by the Challenge is graffiti, he said. Students write on desks, walls and other furniture on every floor as they complete the Challenge, which causes a lot of monetary damage. Ferguson said removing or covering this graffiti at the end of the year can cost up to \$5,000.

"I hope for everyone's sake and safety that this doesn't continue," Ohmer said.

Contact Amanda Gray at
agray3@nd.edu

THE SYSTEM: Opportunity, Crisis, and Obligation in K-12 Education

MICHELLE RHEE
HOWARD FULLER
SARA MARTINEZ TUCKER
JOHN DIULIO

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DIRECTOR PETR ZELENKA
will introduce the film.

KARAMAZOVI



Special Olympian speaks about discrimination

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

Special Olympian Loretta Claiborne encouraged an appreciation of every person's identity, and especially those of the disabled, Tuesday evening in DeBartolo Hall.

"It doesn't matter to me how you identify me," Claiborne said. "It matters to me how the man above identifies me. When I go out into my community, I just want to be my best."

Claiborne was born partially

blind and could not walk or talk until age four. Today, she is a recipient of the Arthur Ashe Courage Award presented at the Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly (ESPY) awards ceremony, and is also the subject of a Disney movie titled "The Loretta Claiborne Story."

Before she was an athlete and public speaker, Claiborne said she overcame adversity in school. She dealt with prejudice, even from teachers, because she is mildly intellectually disabled.

"My teacher called me a retard, and that is a word that should

never be used," Claiborne said.

Claiborne said her mother's encouragement helped her get through hardships in school.

"She always wanted me to be my best," Claiborne said.

Even when Claiborne's school district wanted her to be sent to a mental health facility and school, Claiborne said her mother insisted her daughter receive an education from the Newark community schools. Claiborne said her mother insisted that as long there was a special education class available, her daughter would not be pulled from the school district. Her mother's goal was that all of her children, Claiborne included, would graduate from high school.

To help ease her stress and get rid of her extra energy, Claiborne began to run at night with her brother. She learned about the Special Olympics in school, and she said her mother motivated her to compete.

"At that time, Special Olympics helped to change kids' attitudes," Claiborne said. "I thought I was worthless, not worth one cent. Here was something that was changing my life, something plain and simple called sport."

With the help of the discipline and positive attitude Claiborne gained from the Special Olympics, she graduated from high school.

Years later, Claiborne has run 26 marathons and competes in three different Special Olympic sports.

She was inducted into both the Special Olympics Hall of Fame and the Women's Sports Hall of Fame.

After her mother's death in 1994, Claiborne said she turned to her friends from the Special Olympics for support.

"When my mother died, I was lonely," Claiborne said. "I had God, who is my strength, and I

had Special Olympics, which is my joy."

Even though Claiborne now serves on the board for Special Olympics International, she said she still deals with prejudice against her identity as an intellectually challenged person.

People often stereotype the physical appearance of intellectual disabled individuals, she said.

"Intellectual disabilities are the most prevalent disabilities," Claiborne said. "You can't put a face on it, because it affects all types of people."

Claiborne said she wants to end the discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities and encourages others to do so as well.

"You are now the soldiers of a new war for people with intellectual disability," said Claiborne.

Contact Anna Boarini at
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Engineers

continued from page 1

Hispanic Engineers and Scientists, the Society of Women Engineers and the National Society of Black Engineers.

Sophomore Shannon Warchol will head the Joint Engineering Council, the umbrella organization for all professional and honors societies at Notre Dame.

Kate Turner, president of the National Society of Black Engineers, said the women elected for these positions were chosen for their efficiency and skill in leadership.

"I know most of the women who are the presidents and they are extremely organized [and are] good at representing themselves, their organizations and Notre Dame," Turner said. "They were the best people for the job this year."

Junior Rocio Miramontes, president of the Hispanic Engineers and Scientists (HES), said the smallest number of female engineers work in the electrical department.

"There are almost as many females as there are males in my chemical engineering class," she said. "But one of my best friends is one of two female electrical engineers in the junior class."

As the College of Engineering grows, Kilpatrick said the University provides students with tools to craft their future professions.

"We also offer a lot of study abroad and service and work experiences to sensitize students to the reality of living in a global village," he said. "Plus our curricula within our departments are world class and recognized as

among the best in the country."

Despite extensive preparation, Warchol said she worries about employment beyond graduation due to gender stereotypes.

Others may believe she received a job or internship offer because an employer wants to increase its number of women.

"I've avoided this by trying to have a strong enough work ethic so that every success I have is because of what I do, not who I am labeled as," Warchol said. "Obviously there are very few women in that profession, so it would be easy for people to say any advances I make are due to profiling, but that just pushes me to work harder."

Kilpatrick said women still face difficulties after they gain a position. Women who want to have families, he said, are often put into complicated situations. At Notre Dame, faculty policy for junior faculty is one year off the "tenure clock" for each maternity leave.

"I think this is good, although I suspect there is much more that can be done," Kilpatrick said.

Despite these challenges, Kilpatrick said he expects the percentage of women in engineering to rise within 20 to 40 years.

Turner said women's passion and drive will push them to a position equal to men in the future.

"You almost feel like you have to be better than everyone else because you're a woman in a male dominated field," she said. "You have to prove that you should be there over that guy next to you. I think women have proved and will keep proving that they do deserve to be here and to be engineers."

Rosemary Alberico, president of the Society of Women Engineers, said women will progressively

assume more engineering roles in academia and industry. Ultimately, society will focus on ideas and innovation instead of how many minorities are present, she said.

However, before students pursue their professions and work to change unbalanced dynamics, Alberico said they should learn to ask questions.

"Engineering is about solving problems, so know your resources and use them," she said. "My advice for women: seek out female role models. Whether it's a professor, advisor or professional, they provide great insight into life as an engineer."

Turner said her role models include two female members of the engineering faculty, Professor Cathy Pieronek and Dr. Joan Brennecke.

The College of Engineering could still improve by expanding its female faculty, she said.

Kilpatrick agreed more women faculty should represent the College of Engineering.

"We still need to make progress in hiring women faculty in engineering, although we have a number of truly outstanding women [on the] faculty," he said.

Whether faced by academic or social challenges, Miramontes said women and men at Notre Dame seeking to join engineers should never be discouraged.

"Set goals for yourself and continue doing what you love to do," Miramontes said. "Also, get to know your classmates. Man or woman, one of the most rewarding parts about being an engineer is being able to build strong relationships with the people in your major."

Contact Nicole Toczaer
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Forum

continued from page 1

Fr. Tim Scully, director of the Institute for Educational Initiatives (IEI) and professor of political science will serve as emcee for the panel.

"I've come to believe that educational opportunity is one of the most pressing social justice issues of our time, and we should be as imaginative as possible as we consider ways of better serving at-risk children," he said. "Michelle, Howard, Sara and John have meant a great deal to the mod-

ern education reform movement, and I'm confident that they will lead a provocative conversation on where the most exciting challenges and opportunities are for our educational system."

John Schoenig, director of the Alliance for Catholic Education's (ACE) Program for K-12 Education Access, said ACE students can play a significant role in the future of educational reform.

"I think ACE can play a role in discussing how faith-based schools, specifically Catholic schools, can and should play a role in education," he said.

Nicole Garnett, law professor

and panel moderator, said the panel would bring attention to the failures and strengths of K-12 education that will be discussed throughout the year ahead.

"My hope is that people leave tomorrow night thinking we really have to be part of this conversation," Garnett said.

"The System: Opportunity, Crisis and Obligation in K-12 Education" will be held tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Leighton Auditorium of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Contact Megan Doyle at
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INSIDE COLUMN

Bleeding blue and gold from the start

It all started on July 7, 1991.

I don't remember the exact time, but sometime that day, I graced the world with my presence. I was one of those privileged infants clad in gold and blue from birth and taught the words to the fight song before I learned to read.

Suzanna Pratt

Interim Photo Editor

I am a native Notre Dame fan. I was born into the tradition, and all my attempts to evade destiny during my rebellious high school years failed. Clearly.

I was doomed to be a Domer prior to birth. My maternal grandparents met as students at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's.

My parents were, horror of clichéd horrors, set up at an SYR, initiating a beautiful romance that ultimately resulted in my brothers and me, one of whom will graduate from Notre Dame in a month. The other is 13 years old and likely fated to also attend this University.

I am the 15th person in my family to reside in the shadow of the dome. Thus it was only natural for me to grow up a Notre Dame fan.

I wore a Notre Dame sweatsuit to kindergarten.

I hummed the fight song to myself on the swings at recess.

I was an elementary age superfan.

Some of my earliest memories are from Notre Dame football weekends. I didn't care about football until high school, so I spent football games playing with my Polly Pocket and spilling my apple juice on the benches of the original stadium.

I was a blissfully ignorant fan for most of my life: I didn't know that other colleges existed for the first several years, and I certainly didn't follow football until ... I still don't follow football.

Then the rebellious phase hit. I decided that under no circumstances would I follow the family tradition and attend Notre Dame.

I wanted to tempt destiny by attending a college more compatible with my tie-dyed, barefooted, polar-bear hugging, hippie personality (I became a Peace Studies major instead).

My parents put up with my defiance. I think they knew all along. After all, they were the ones who doomed my siblings and me to be Notre Dame students.

Fortunately, I got over my temporary anti-Notre Dame sentiment.

I feel the magic on this campus.

I feel the tradition.

Every walk around the lakes brings back memories of childhood visits.

The racquetball courts in the Rock give me chills because I remember seeing them when my age was somewhere in the single digits.

South Quad rouses nostalgia when I walk to class every single day.

I can't not love it here.

I love Notre Dame.

I always have.

I always will.

I never had a choice.

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

Contact Suzanna Pratt at spratt2@nd.edu

Confessions of a True Gentleman

I've got a little secret. It's something I don't divulge too readily, even to close friends. But I'm worried other people can see it. Especially the people who don't know me well — somehow I'm convinced they can penetrate right through the veil of secrecy and see what's going on. The way I walk, the way I talk, the way I eat my dinner all point to one thing: I am a True Gentleman.

Brooks Smith

Humanity's Bro

Let me clear something up for everyone out there who's wondering. Being a True Gentleman has nothing to do with good manners, thoughtfulness, affectionate conduct towards others, fashion sense or demeanor. Rather — and this is something I've only learned recently — being a True Gentleman is all about sexual inhibitions.

When I see a girl in leggings, my heart stops, then begins to pound. How dare that ignorant hussy wear such clothing outside the confines of her dorm room! Because leggings, and by extension other form-fitting articles of clothing, may appear to satisfy girls' innocent desire to wear something comfortable that looks good. But I know better. It's meant to provoke me, to set my teeth on edge with sexual frustration. It says, "Here is somebody comfortable enough with her body to show it off." And I could

never be that comfortable with myself! Not in a million years.

Obviously, the best way to work out my love/hate relationship with the other 50 percent of the human race is to write a letter to The Observer about it, blaming other people for behaving in a way that goes against my own rather button-down, conservative notions of how people should behave. There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in my philosophy, and if I had my way they'd all vanish lickety-split.

What really kills me, though, is the way these girls force me to disrespect them by dressing so sexy. I mean, it's not like I have a choice in the matter of whether or not to disrespect someone. Too often, the way other people dress forces me into regrettable patterns of behavior over which I exercise little or no control. That would require self-awareness and maturity — neither of which I naturally possess, both of which take time and effort to cultivate.

And temptation — don't get me started on temptation — I can resist anything but that. The only thing holding me back is my inhibitions — many of which, I am convinced, are secretly justified — and what happens if those ever give way? Especially if I ever try booze, which isn't likely the way things are going, but secretly makes me curious.

Let me close out this somewhat rambling Viewpoint with an appeal to

my female readers. Ladies — why are you frittering away your time with those jerk bros? They don't respect you. They will use you and discard you without further thought, those carefree, lighthearted, playful idiots. (I call them "idiots" because if they were as smart as me they'd know the only proper way to behave around girls is to be heavily inhibited — or as I call it, "polite.")

Wouldn't you rather have a man who could treat you properly? A man who can guarantee many awkward silences over lunch in South Dining Hall? A man who will be hesitant and nervous around you, as befits the statuesque goddess that you are? Now that's what I call being a True Gentleman.

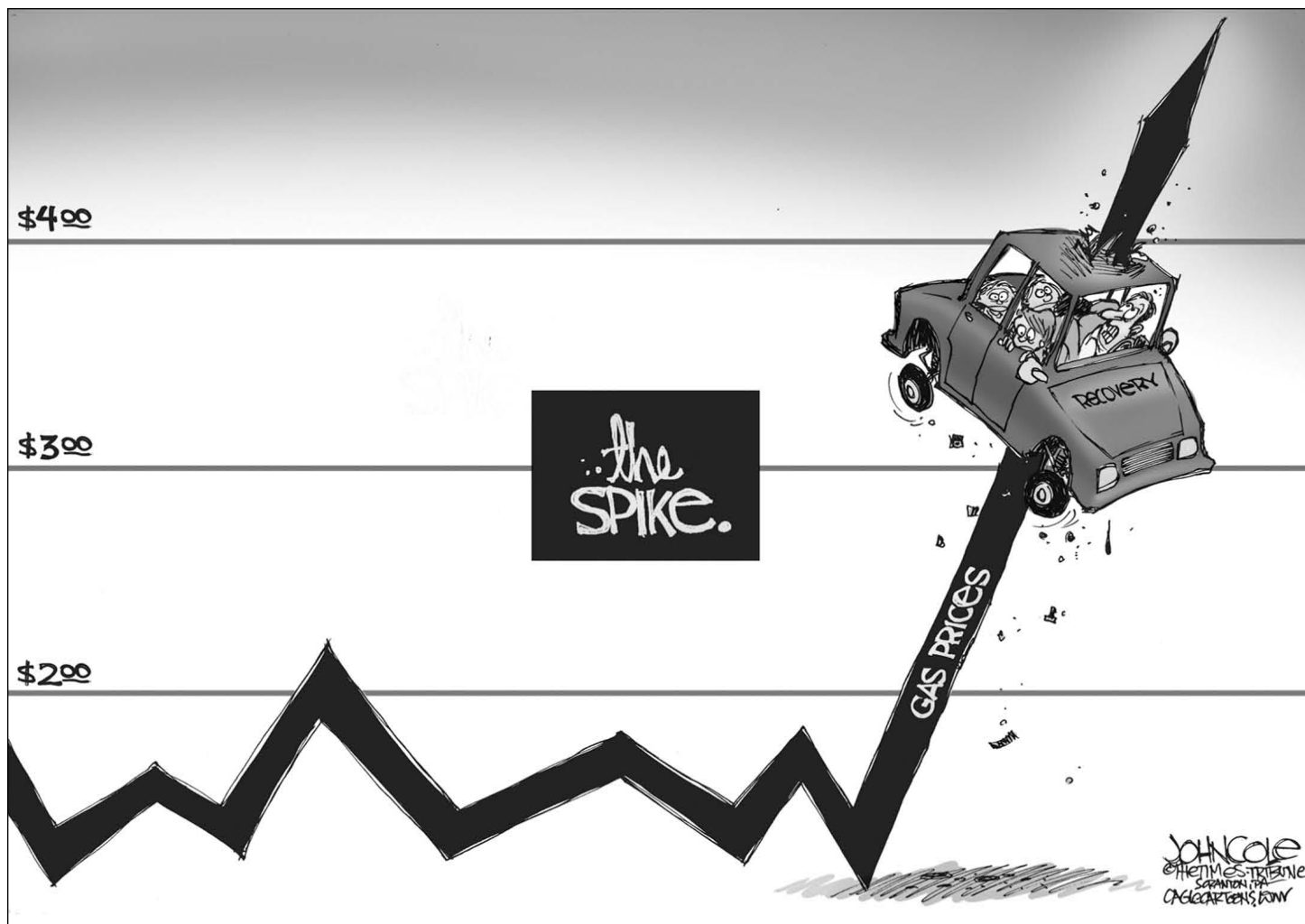
So women of Notre Dame, consider this your final warning. If I see you wearing leggings or any other revealing, form-fitting clothing, I will never pursue you romantically. I will never show any interest in you, as a friend or otherwise. You will never have me in your life. I hope you're suitably frightened and abashed by this prospect.

And finally, to all the haterz who gonna hate: I was born this way.

Brooks Smith is a senior honors mathematics major and can be reached at bsmith26@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

What are you planning for the Blue and Gold game?

- Go to the game
- Who cares about football?
- Drink all day
- Study for final exams

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com.

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Take calculated risks. That is quite different from being rash."

George S. Patton
U.S. general

Diagnosing health care ideas

As Republican Presidential primaries near, “Repeal and Replace” will become one of the most commonly used phrases by the candidates on health care. “Repeal” refers to the Republican pledge to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), better known as the “Health Care Bill.” “Replace” refers to replacing the PPACA with “common sense” ideas. There are two ideas in particular that Republicans have promoted far more than any others: medical malpractice reform and allowing individuals to buy insurance across state lines. As Republican candidates promote these ideas, it is important for every American to understand how little they will accomplish.

The first Republican health care idea is medical malpractice reform. Currently, doctors are very susceptible to lawsuits from mistreated patients. Lawsuits have three negative effects on doctors. First, doctors face high malpractice insurance premiums. Second, doctors sometimes perform unnecessary tests to prevent lawsuits, a technique known as “defensive medicine.” Third, the threat of lawsuits places a great burden on doctors. Some doctors retire early or move away from a state with harsh malpractice laws. The Republican medical malpractice plan places limits on the amount juries can

award patients for “pain and suffering” at \$250,000 and lost economic productivity at \$500,000.

Medical malpractice reform is very important for the above reasons. However, Republicans falsely cite medical malpractice lawsuits and defensive medicine as a major driver of health care cost increases. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the direct costs of medical malpractice are two percent of total health care spending and between zero and two percent of all health care cost increases. The CBO found the Republican medical malpractice plan would reduce national health care spending by only one half of one percent.

The second Republican health care idea is “allowing individuals to buy insurance across state lines,” also known as “interstate competition.” In the individual insurance market, states regulate the amount of coverage that insurance companies must provide. Since the mandates in every state are unique, individuals in this insurance market cannot buy insurance from a provider based outside their home state. (It is important to note these rules only apply to the five percent of Americans who receive coverage through the individual market, not the vast majority of Americans who are insured through an employer or the government.) The Republicans want insurance companies to have the ability to provide coverage for an individual in any state.

While more competition is needed in insurance markets, the Republican’s “interstate competition” plan is poor policy. The Republican plan would allow health insurance companies to choose any state as their “primary state” and be subject to the regulations of that state only. This would incentivize insurance companies to make states with relatively few health care mandates and consumer protections as their primary state. Insurance companies would then offer skimpy health insurance plans that do not cover all essential services. Insurance companies would then work to “cherry pick” younger people from other states while ignoring older people. Providers prefer to insure younger people because they are healthier and need less coverage than older people.

The CBO scored a Republican bill in 2005 that allowed individuals to buy insurance across state lines. The CBO found that the Republican plan would raise premiums for older people while lowering premiums for younger people. The CBO also found that “interstate competition” would not affect how many people were insured, and any decrease in costs would mostly result from health care plans that contain less coverage and an insurance pool with more young people and fewer old people.

Health care reform is vital to America’s fiscal future. Health care costs have grown faster than the economy almost every year for the past 40 years, and will continue to do so. This will lead the health care sector

to increase as a share of the American economy (16 percent in 2007, 25 percent in 2025, 37 percent in 2050 and 49 percent in 2082 according to the CBO). As health care costs continue to rise, the federal and state governments will face bankruptcy due to Medicare and Medicaid, employers will increasingly struggle to provide health care to their employees and families will face higher premiums.

The PPACA will make two major reforms to America’s health care system that the Republican plan lacks: It will cover 32 million uninsured Americans by 2019 and reform Medicare to make the program less costly and more efficient. According to the CBO, the PPACA will reduce deficits by \$119 billion over this decade, \$1 trillion over the next decade and by 2030 the federal government will be spending less for health care than if the PPACA had not passed.

While the PPACA makes landmark reforms to the U.S. health care system, it does not go far enough in reducing costs. Regardless, the PPACA is a good first step towards real health care reform and far superior to a Republican “Repeal and Replace” plan that simply rearranges the seats on the Titanic.

Adam Newman is a sophomore. He can be contacted at anewman3@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How do you like those sanctions?

Dear Adam,
I guess it’s hard to defy your upbringing, but your overall poor taste in college football teams necessitates a response. In reply to “Trojan Love” (April 11), I intend to expose USC football for what it really is.

Notre Dame and USC have been playing since 1926. It has become the greatest rivalry in college football with both teams capturing their share of glory and championships. But while Notre Dame has maintained a tradition of excellence and class extending from its Catholic character, USC has taken a much different path extending from O.J. Simpson to O.J. Mayo.

To be honest, it’s hard to respect an athletic institution that proudly displays the Heisman trophy of a double murderer in its trophy case. An institution that hardly graduates half of its players and condones rampant cheating and NCAA violations. An institution that allows eligibility of a returning Heisman-winner who takes ballroom dancing as his sole academic course. Notre Dame on the other hand has athletes like Tim Abromitis, an MBA student, and Chris Stewart, a law student.

You could say that much of my dislike for the Trojans extends from growing up a Notre Dame fan and being present at the 2005 game. Yes, I was there that day, and I will never forget a single detail. Notre Dame Stadium had never been more electric and the animosity for an opposing team had never been more immense. You couldn’t hear

yourself shout when Zbikowski ran his punt back, when Quinn reached out to score the go-ahead touchdown, or when Leinart was sacked with 1:50 left. In an otherwise incredible game, USC had one of the luckiest and most dishonorable wins in the history of sports. They were the benefactor of PAC-10 officials who turned a blind eye to the illegal game winning play while adding extra time and favorable field position to USC in the final seconds. Obviously Matt Leinart’s foxtrot attempt across the goal-line never would have worked without being illegally pushed from behind by Reggie Bush, who was not even an eligible NCAA athlete.

The NCAA justly came down hard on USC last summer imposing massive sanctions; ironically I was in Los Angeles the day it happened. It was refreshing to see USC get punished for its continued cheating under the Pete Carroll era. While it’s true that USC has gotten on the right track with athletic director Pat Hayden, the institutional problems and overall lack of class from that institution will take years to correct. Until that happens, I look forward to Notre Dame assuming the supremacy of the rivalry.

“Win one for the Gipper” is a lot more inspiring than “Win one for O.J.”

Sean Mullen
junior
Keough Hall
April 12

A Final Four thank you

Dear Coach McGraw,
The thanks truly belongs to you and your team for providing those countless fans the chance to cheer for you during the Final Four games. The reason that we as students and fans felt the need to start the “We are ND” cheer was not because we saw the clock winding down, but because of the team’s dedication and amazing performance throughout the tournament, including the amazing victory

over UConn. To many of us, you are the true champions for your performance both on and off the court throughout the tournament. So I say thank you to both you and your team, and Go Irish!

Bill Shields
junior
Stanford Hall
April 12

The Bald and the Beautiful

Dear Students of Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross,
As many of you may know, and some of you may not, today is the kickoff day for the annual St. Baldrick’s Day event. St. Baldrick’s is a charity that helps to raise money and awareness for children’s cancer, by collecting money and shaving heads as a sign of solidarity with kids going through greater struggles than we can imagine.

Cancer has touched each of us in different ways, so this event was something that we were more than eager to get involved with. We both knew that it involved giving money and shaving our heads, which was easy enough. What we didn’t know is that we would be face to face with some of the very kids whose lives we were trying to help save. We met 4 and 5 year old boys and girls and their families, who talked about chemotherapy, radiation treatments and long hospital stays. What amazed us both was how in the midst of all of this turmoil, these kids smiled, posed for pictures and stared in awe at the students who had come out to support the cause.

These kids admire the students here. We are what they want to grow up and be, and all they really want is a chance to do just that. So during the next few days, just take a few minutes out of your day to come out and spend some time with some amazing kids, and we promise you that you will get more than you can possibly give.

Dayne Crist
junior
O’Neill Hall
Mike Golic
junior
Siegfried Hall

- * For everyone that is looking to help, here is all the info you will need:
- Please come support the kids, your classmates and your friends!
- Our website is www.nd.edu/~class12. Pre-registration is not required, just suggested!
- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 4 p.m. in LaFortune Student Center
- Free dinners each night at 5:45-8 p.m.! Sponsored by Fiddler’s Hearth and Maury’s Pub
- Shave Your Head and Fundraise for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation
- Donate 8 Inches of Your Hair to Pantene Beautiful Lengths
- Purchase a Colored Hair Extension to Benefit Memorial Hospital of South Bend

A little thing can go a long way. Thanks so much for your support!

Lish Elliott
junior
Cavanaugh Hall
April 12



As many of you are well aware, my weekly tantrums tend to focus on quips about the music industry and qualms about television. Few may know, however, that my first geek title — before music geek or TV geek — is that of Lord of the Rings geek. Which if you are a Colbert Report fan who caught the James Franco episode last week, you will understand why my roommate walked in on me yelling, “Nenya! Nenya! Galadriel’s Ring of Power is Nenya, you idiot!” at my laptop in the middle of Colbert’s rapid-fire questions to challenge Franco’s Tolkien trivia superiority (Btw, Colbert pwned Franco. Féanor and the Silmarils can get pretty tricky, if you know what I mean). So when I got the chance to interview Ethan Gilsdorf, who has quite possibly written the definitive book on fantasy geek culture, I was about as pleased as Pippin at elevenses.



Stephanie DePrez

Scene Writer

Have you ever played Dungeons and Dragons? (No). Do you have a World of Warcraft account? (Lost too many friends to it). Have you fantasized about taking off to New Zealand to be an extra in The Hobbit? (Uh...every day). But more importantly, would you ever admit any of this to your roommate or significant other? These are the questions asked by Gilsdorf — journalist, columnist, critic and author of “Fantasy Freaks and Gaming Geeks: An Epic Quest for Reality Among Role Players, Online Gamers and Other Dwellers of Imaginary Realms.” He’s on campus this week talking to American Studies classes and speaking with students about his extended ruminations on geek culture, and I was lucky enough to get an interview with him:

Many of the “fan studies” books and articles are somewhat self-serving because they’re written by fans, for fans. Your book comes from the point of view of someone who seems at first to be an outsider, looking in. What kind of freedom did that give you to evaluate freaks and geeks?

“My perspective is a funny one. I was into gaming, but not into fandom. I [long ago had] stopped playing and reading and putting on my double-edged sword, so I had freedom to approach it with a healthy sort of distance. I was very suspicious, and reluctant to admit I was into it [as a teenager]. Gaming was associated with a negative time in my life. The activity allowed me to escape.

“As a kid, I had a vague sense of who else outside of town was into this. I knew ‘Lord of the Rings,’ watched ‘V’ and ‘Star Trek,’ but it was hard to reach

out. I was pleased to enter as a forty-something and see geeks be a much more vibrant, healthy, open and non-apologetic community, from Harry Potter to anime. I think it has changed, your generation versus my generation, because of the internet. Opportunity for exchanges between fan communities is easier.”

Did anyone ever distrust you because you came from outside of their geek identity?

“I had to gain trust of people and allow them to open up. I had to communicate with people who are ‘normal’ — into online gaming, low entry, low-risk and no costume — and also people LARPing (Live Action Role Playing), who get a sword and run round around the woods beating the crap out of each other. There’s a certain risk on their part so you won’t make fun of it.

“The media has become very shallow. They’ve been made fun of, and haven’t been given proper respect and appreciation. I said, ‘I’m looking to tell stories about why you’re into this stuff.’ I gave myself permission to embrace this. It helps that I had a book contract and a reason to finish the quest.”



Photo Credit: Meg Birnbaum

What was the most surprising thing you discovered on your quest?

“In the end, the most surprising thing was my own personal journey. I went into the project with my own personal demons to fight with fantasy. I had really not changed as much as I thought I had. Games like ‘Dungeons and Dragons,’ fantasy, novels and interest in the auxiliary gaming community were always inside me.

For the wrong reasons, I suppressed fear that people would make fun of it. But people don’t care. We’re more alike than we think, whether you’re interested in baseball stats or collecting books. Fantasy gaming is not much different from fantasy football. We all have a fantasy to bring us together and make us feel a part of something bigger, not as alone.

“I thought ‘Dungeons and Dragons’ would prevent me from becoming cool [when I was in high school]. But there is a clear path between fantasy as a kid and what I’m doing now. The imaginative space opened up in ‘Lord of the Rings,’ ‘Dungeons and Dragons’ and ‘Harry Potter’ is a kind of gift. You tell stories and imagine what it’s like to be someone else. That’s gotta be good for humanity.”

Who are the least or most welcoming geek sub-cultures?

Trying to break into the SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism) was pretty bureaucratic. They have press liaisons. It’s very hierarchical, [it is] organized around kingdoms and [has] a kind of political system. They are doing something that seems to most people to be the weirdest. They appear to do something completely outlandish. To gain official access was a complicated process.

“I went to visit the Tolkien Society in Chester. They had an attitude more like, ‘Wow, someone’s interested in what I’m doing!’ They were thrilled I was taking what they were doing seriously.”

Who are you writing for?

“There are two groups who will find this book interesting: people into this stuff, who can gain perspective to why it exists, and people who might have a spouse or a friend who plays World of

Warcraft, but don’t understand it. My goal is to bring down barriers for someone who knows nothing about gamers. Don’t be afraid of it. Don’t dismiss it. Don’t make fun of it.

“Your generation grew up hearing old stories in Harry Potter. So much of this stuff is based on a very specific time period, infused with magic and heroic deeds. Today, gaming allows for mutual achievement, like sports, except you’re not on the football field, but on a battlefield. There were civil rights, then gay rights, and now we have geek rights.”

So there you have it, folks. The boy who swore to abandon fantasy gaming in order to grow up became the man giving a lecture on Hobbits. And I, for one, couldn’t be more grateful. Ethan Gilsdorf will be speaking today at 7:00pm in DeBartolo Hall, room 138. His lecture is titled, “Hobbits, Heroes, Gamers, Geeks.” See you there (I’ll be in the cape).

The views expressed in this column are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer. Stephanie DePrez can be contacted at sdeprez@nd.edu.

On campus

What: “Hobbits, Heroes, Gamers, Geeks,”
Lecture by Ethan Gilsdorf
Where: 138 DeBartolo Hall
When: Wednesday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m.
How much: free
Learn more: ethangilsdorf.com/pressroom/



Like us on Facebook
Observer Scene



Chris Brown grows up with 'F.A.M.E.'

By **CLAIRE STEPHENS**
Scene Writer

Chris Brown's new album "F.A.M.E.," released mid-March, follows his Grammy-nominated album of 2009, "Graffiti." This is his first album since the domestic violence controversy involving Rihanna in February of the same year. The acronym "F.A.M.E." has two meanings: "Forgiving All My Enemies" and "Fans are My Everything."

Brown's incorporation of R&B, pop and hip-hop gives the album a variety of slower songs, upbeat dance songs and his signature confident hip hop. Overall, the album's style leans towards hit love songs like "Forever," with a few Top 40 potentials similar to "Run It" and "I Can Transform Ya."

The lyrics of the slower-paced R&B sounds can be grouped into two categories: emotional, romantic ballad and slow grind, in the mood music. Some of his best vocals are in the passionate and convincing lyrics of the more romantic songs like "Up 2 You" and "Next 2 You."

Nostalgic, regret-driven, get-the-girl-

back songs include "She Ain't You," "All Back" and "Should've Kissed You." A close listening to the words reveal some of these songs are surprisingly mature in their expression of love, life and even family.

The slow grind-esque R&B song "No Bull****" takes a middle road between romantic and sensual, effectively using both physical and emotional imagery together. "Wet the Bed," as the title implies, takes a much more blatantly sexual tone in the lyrics. The song features the rapping talents of Ludacris, who eliminates any doubt about the song's meaning.

Most of "F.A.M.E." follows pop influences, while staying in the R&B genre. "Up 2 You" and "She Ain't You" have a '90s boy-band pop sound to them. The electronic, upbeat dance element popular in Top 40 hits today is very prominent in the already-hit single "Yeah 3x," as well as "Say It With Me" and "Oh My Love." Any of these tracks could easily become popular club favorites.

"Look at Me Now" effectively layers the vocal skills of the artists and the music. One of the best songs on the album, its heavy, slow bass beats and claps mix with electronic effects to create an ear-catching single. Chris

Brown's self-assured rapping is reminiscent of the single that made him famous, "Run It," with lyrics taunting doubters to see how far he's come.

The presence of guest artists greatly enhances many of Brown's songs without taking too much attention away from his impressive singing and rapping. Busta Rhyme's mile-a-minute rapping with Lil Wayne's distinct and instantly recognizable voice gives "Look at Me Now" a more diverse and powerful boasting of success.

Ludacris' small spotlight and background vocals scattered throughout "Wet the Bed" enhances the unashamedly graphic themes of the song. Kevin McCall and Tyga are also heard in the album's mediocre opening song "Deuces."

Brown also follows Usher's and Ludacris' example by collaborating with Justin Bieber in "Next 2 You." Both Brown and Bieber's vocals are impressive individually and also blend and harmonize well together. The subject matter of the lyrics is unexpectedly touching considering the young age of both performers.

"Some of the songs are more grown-up," Brown said. "There are songs from all genres ... Collectively, 'F.A.M.E.' is

me giving fans every aspect of who I am as far as my art, my culture and my concepts."

"F.A.M.E." is a strong album musically and improves Brown's image after the domestic abuse controversy. The success of "Yeah 3x" seems to suggest audiences have already forgotten or forgiven Brown's past mistakes. "F.A.M.E." gives Brown the chance to show off his vocal and dancing abilities, while allowing him to leave his negative celebrity status of 2009 behind and move on as a singer, songwriter and dancer.

Contact Claire Stephens at
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'F.A.M.E.' Chris Brown

Label: Jive Records

Best Tracks: "Yeah 3x," "Look at Me Now," "Next 2 You"



'Your Highness' offers cheap laughs

By **ANKUR CHAWLA**
Scene Writer

From the opening frames, "Your Highness" presents a crude, humor-ridden mix between "Lord of the Rings" and "Harold and Kumar go to White Castle." With the talent of Oscar nominee James Franco and winner Natalie Portman, it wouldn't be much of a stretch to ask for a decent movie, but the little redeeming value doomed "Your Highness" to the likes of "American Pie 6: Beta House."

The movie begins with Thadeous (McBride) set for trial for fornicating with the dwarf king's maiden. After returning to his kingdom in shame, his older brother Fabious (Franco) comes to the castle with the head of a slain Cyclops and a fiancée,

Belladonna (Deschanel). Festivities and honor seem to follow Fabious, while Thadeous is plagued by obesity and disappointment.

Amidst the celebration of Fabious' engagement, the evil wizard Leezar (Justin Theroux) kidnaps Belladonna so that he may fulfill a prophecy, granting him a dragon if he were to sleep with her. In order to save his fiancée, Fabious embarks on yet another quest. This time, at the king's urging, Fabious brings Thadeous to help. Thadeous must be a hero in order to help his brother and save Belladonna from the wizard.

While on the quest, the two brothers encounter the likes of a perverted wizard, "boobie traps" and an aroused Minotaur. These all serve as cheap ploys at humor, as the sheer distastefulness becomes the main source of comedy. While admittedly

funny at parts, the vehicle of cheesy medieval themes and clichés just doesn't provide enough situational humor to make the movie great.

While in a gladiator-like arena after falling for the "boobie trap," the brothers are saved by the elegant and cunning warrior Isabel (Natalie Portman). Isabel provides the muscle and wit to help Thadeous and Fabious on their quest. And it doesn't hurt that the director insisted on including a completely hollow scene of the brothers watching Isabel bathe in a river.

The few bright moments of "Your Highness" come from the always-amazing Natalie Portman and a surprisingly funny Rasmus Hardiker as Courtney, Thadeous' squire who's sole job is to cheer Thadeous up. Franco and McBride, on the other hand, provide bland and overdone

static characters, atypical of the actors' past. Overall, "Your Highness" is exactly what the previews show — a very crude comedy set in the middle ages, and if that's your thing, enjoy.

Contact Ankur Chawla at
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'Your Highness' Universal Studios

Director: David Gordon Green

Starring: James Franco, Natalie Portman, Danny McBride



MLB

Rangers lose both game and Josh Hamilton

Associated Press

DETROIT — Now that Miguel Cabrera’s back in Michigan with his teammates, he’s performing just as they want him to on the field.

His spring training problems aren’t forgotten, but his game-winning hit Tuesday was a reminder of why he’s so important to the Detroit Tigers.

Cabrera’s bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth gave the Tigers a 5-4 win over the Texas Rangers. Less than two months after being arrested in Florida on suspicion of drunken driving, he’s off to a fine start hitting in the middle of Detroit’s order.

“He does it every year. He comes to play. He’s been working hard. He’s in the weight room every day,” teammate Brad Penny said. “He’s a professional. When he comes in this clubhouse, he’s a baseball player, and he handles himself how he should.”

The news was less encouraging for Texas, which is 9-2 but could now be without slugger Josh Hamilton for two months. Hamilton is expected to miss six to eight weeks after breaking his upper right arm.

Cabrera, whose legal issues are still pending, is hitting .385 so far this season and leads the team with four

home runs and 10 RBIs. He’s picked up right where he left off when he finished second to Hamilton in last year’s MVP race.

Brandon Inge led off with a single in the ninth off Darren O’Day (0-1) and moved to second on Alex Avila’s sacrifice bunt. After two walks sandwiched around a strikeout, Cabrera ended the game with a single through the left side of the infield.

“You’ve got to focus for that and prepare and try and make a good swing, try to work the count,” Cabrera said. “If you walk or something like that — make something good happen.”

Detroit led 4-3 before Texas tied it in the eighth with a run off reliever Joaquin Benoit. Jose Valverde (1-0) worked a scoreless top of the ninth for the Tigers.

Ryan Raburn had two hits for the Tigers and made a jumping catch against the left field wall. Detroit snapped a three-game losing streak and handed Texas its second loss of the season.

Detroit starter Brad Penny rebounded from two unimpressive starts, allowing three runs on seven hits in 6 2-3 innings. Texas starter C.J. Wilson went 6 2-3 innings as well, allowing four runs on seven hits. He struck out four and walked three.

Hamilton left after the first inning. He slid headfirst into third when he hit a run-scoring triple, then tried to tag up on a foul pop-up near the Detroit dugout. Inge, the third baseman, and catcher Victor Martinez both ran after the ball, leaving the plate unprotected when Inge made the catch. But Martinez was able to take a throw from Inge while scampering back in time to tag out a diving Hamilton.

After the game, Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said Hamilton has a non-displaced fracture of the humerus bone at the top of his arm, just below the shoulder. Hamilton isn’t expected to swing a bat for a month.

The Tigers scored in the bottom of the first — the first run allowed by the Rangers in three games — when Austin Jackson hit a leadoff triple and scored on Ramon Santiago’s groundout. Michael Young gave Texas a 2-1 lead when he hit a sacrifice fly in the third that Raburn caught at the top of the fence, preventing further damage.

“I was just trying to get a good read on it,” Raburn said. “I think the wind held it up more than anything. Luckily it found my glove.”

The Tigers tied it in the bottom of the fourth on a sacrifice fly by Martinez, and



Josh Hamilton winces after sliding head first into home plate Tuesday. Hamilton broke his arm and will likely miss two months of the season.

Texas went back ahead on an RBI groundout by Adrian Beltre in the sixth. Raburn doubled home a run in the sixth and scored on Brennan Boesch’s single to make it 4-3.

In the seventh, Detroit reliever Brayan Villarreal pitched a third of an inning — without actually throwing a pitch. Villarreal came on with a man on first and two out.

Before making a single delivery to the plate, he picked off Julio Borbon at first to end the threat. He was replaced by Benoit to start the eighth.

“I actually think that’s what they wanted to happen. I think (manager Jim Leyland) pulled me out of the game so he could pick him off,” Penny said. “That guy’s got an unbelievable pickoff move.”

BASEBALL

Game signals start of Japan’s return to normalcy

Associated Press

CHIBA, Japan — Players stood along the baseline, heads bowed. Fans observed a moment of silence. In the stands, spectators held signs reading, “Stay Strong Japan.” Away from the ballpark, those who no longer have homes, watched the game on television from shelters.

It was time to play baseball again in Japan — opening day. It was also a time for honor and remembrance in a country convulsed by a deadly earthquake and tsunami and worsening radiation leak.

“Despite the difficult conditions, we are able to open the season because everybody helped us to do it,” said

Rakuten Eagles infielder Kazuo Matsui, an infielder who has played in the U.S. major leagues with the New York Mets, Colorado Rockies and Houston Astros.

A crowd of 22,525 attended the Pacific League opener at QVC Marine Field. In the latest aftershock, a 6.3-magnitude quake struck early Tuesday, and another could be felt in the stadium during the game.

“I want to carry this feeling of appreciation for the whole year by playing baseball,” Matsui said. “During training camp, I went to a shelter and I saw people there with energy in their faces. I went there expecting to cheer them up, but instead they cheered me up. That’s why I want to play

hard.”

Matsui’s Eagles beat the defending champion Chiba Lotte Marines 6-4. The Eagles’ home of Sendai has been one of the hardest hit by last month’s catastrophe. The team is unable to use its stadium until April 29.

Rakuten pitcher Darrell Rasner, who has played with the Washington Nationals and New York Yankees, thought the fans in Japan were glad to see the season start.

“It is a sense of normalcy for them,” he said. “It’s something that’s ingrained in them and, you know, I think this is going to be a healing process. This is going to be a great thing for them. Just for them to have something to cheer about,

something to be happy about. I am and my teammates are really excited to be a part of this.”

This will be a season like no other in Japan. Games are usually played at night, but the league is scheduling more during daytime to accommodate power cuts.

Rakuten manager Senichi Hoshino has said he wants to win the championship this season for the people of Sendai and Miyagi Prefecture. His team made an encouraging start.

Motohiro Shima hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the seventh inning for the Eagles. Hisashi Iwakuma gave up three runs in 8 1-3 innings. Kazuya Fukuura brought the Marines close with a three-run homer in

the bottom of the ninth but the rally stopped there. Iwakuma was replaced by Ryan Speier, who closed it out.

The Eagles and Marines were playing a preseason game in Akashi when the earthquake and tsunami struck March 11. The Eagles have been moving from city to city for preseason games since, and gathering support.

Hisako Aoyama, a 47-year-old translator, lived in the Tokyo area but now is behind Rakuten all the way.

“I want to go to as many games as possible that the Eagles will play in the Tokyo area,” Aoyama said. “And I am wearing this (Rakuten colors) to show my support for the team and to cheer up people in the north.”

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MEN'S GOLF

Notre Dame takes first in home tournament

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

With the sour taste of two disappointing tournament finishes lingering, the Irish returned to familiar grounds for Tuesday's Battle at the Warren on the Warren Golf Course. Notre Dame played well on its home course, finishing in first place by 11 strokes.

The 18-hole tournament, played as a par 71, consisted only of Notre Dame and Detroit last year. This year saw the addition of Oakland, Bradley and Jackson State.

The Golden Grizzlies finished in second with an eight-over-par 292, well behind the Irish score of three-under-par 281.

Leading the way for Notre Dame was junior Max Scodro, who carded a 69, followed by fellow junior Chris Walker's

70. Sophomore Paul McNamara III and freshman Niall Platt both finished at even par. The low score of the day came from Oakland junior Michael Coriasso, who fired an impressive 67.

Without junior Tom Usher, Notre Dame's number one golfer who is out for over a month with a hand injury, senior Connor Alan-Lee assumed the fifth starting spot. Kubinski said he shot well on Tuesday.

"Connor played well for us," he said. "He shot a 73, which is very solid. We actually ended up throwing his score out but that was due to how well we played overall."

The impressive overall performance reflects the results Kubinski has seen from his team in practice recently. Kubinski said Scodro's tournament score of 69 matched his effort from the team's practice round at Warren

Saturday.

Notre Dame is playing well at the right time, as the Big East championships in Palm Harbor, Fla., begin Sunday. Kubinski said the win at Warren served as a good tune-up for the tournament and assured his team the league's top spot.

"It was good to get some

momentum going for the Big East Championship," Kubinski said. "We'll be the No. 1 seed for sure. That said, seeding doesn't really matter that much. You still have to play good golf."

Kubinski said his veteran team is familiar with the course in Palm Harbor.

"I've been in six Big East

championships since I've been here," Kubinski said. "Plus, we've played it before and we're pretty comfortable there. I think the course down there suits us really well. The guys are very confident."

Contact Cory Bernard at
cbernard@nd.edu



Sophomore Paul McNamara takes a swing during the Battle at the Warren Tuesday. McNamara shot a 71 to finish the day at par.

Belles

continued from page 16

Kate Mitchell said. "[After Franklin took the lead], I think we got really down on ourselves and lost our confidence, and that was a big part of why we could not really come back."

The Belles rebounded, as their powerful bats came alive for the day's nightcap. Mitchell said the biggest reason for Saint Mary's double-digit scoring in the day's finale was its ability to get hits on a consistent basis.

"We just started to string hits together," she said. "In between games, that is what we talked about — playing the way we usually do, focusing on getting singles and just stringing hits together in order to produce runs, and that is exactly what we did."

Junior Angela Gillis led the Saint Mary's offense on the day and also turned in a standout performance at second base, but top honors for the day went to junior Monica Palicki. The pitcher relieved freshman Callie Selner in game one before pitching all five innings of the mercy rule-shortened game two.

"She really stepped up for us, especially in the second game," Mitchell said of Palicki. "She kind of led the way for us in terms of

bringing our confidence back."

The Belles' inability to earn the sweep has been a concern for Belles coach Erin Sullivan, who described her team's weakness as its inability to "play 14 innings in one day." However, the Saint Mary's players have not reverted to panic mode yet, as Mitchell pinpointed her team's ability to maintain its confidence as key.

"It was a nice turnaround," she said. "I think we just lost our confidence in our first game. It is a confidence game, so we need to bring our focus on staying confident throughout the whole two games and knowing that we have the talent to win these games."

The Belles will have the opportunity to add both victories and confidence as they prepare to host Olivet on Saturday for the first of four consecutive home doubleheaders. With only 10 games remaining before the MIAA tournament, Saint Mary's enters the season's final month of play before the playoffs begin.

"I think that we are going to [prepare by] just [doing] what we have been doing with our hitting — practicing our hitting, practicing our fielding and fine tuning the little things, and then [we will] go from there," Mitchell said.

Contact Joseph Monardo at
jmonardo@nd.edu

Living Out

by
Lisa Loomer

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Big Ten

continued from page 16

play beginning in the 2013-14 season. The conference will consist of 2011 national runner-up Michigan, Michigan State and Ohio State from the Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA), Minnesota and Wisconsin from the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) and Penn State, who will begin competing in Division I during the 2012-13 campaign.

“Really, since Penn State came on board and said they’re going to have Division I hockey, I would think most people concluded that given the dynamics and how it was all evolving, there would be a Big Ten conference at some point,” then-CCHA commissioner Tom Anastos said March 19 in Detroit, two days before the Big Ten officially made its plans known. “My hope was that it would have been maybe five to seven years from now, but that’s not reality.”

With the CCHA losing three of its 11 members in the historically elite Wolverines and Spartans along with the big-budgeted Buckeyes, the fate of Irish hockey conference affiliation is uncertain. Remaining in the CCHA is a possibility, but it might be too difficult for Notre Dame and Miami (OH), the other CCHA juggernaut, to carry the conference alone.

Another possible option is the formation of a “super conference” between the Irish, the RedHawks and some WCHA members, including North Dakota and Denver, who have a



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Irish freshman right wing Bryan Rust carries the puck up the ice during a 4-3 loss to Minnesota-Duluth in the Frozen Four.

combined 14 national championships, and 2011 national champion Minnesota-Duluth, among others. But there are imperfections with this plan given the vast geography covered and potentially devastating impact on other CCHA and WCHA teams.

Whatever the decision, much planning will need to occur, and discussions could take years.

“As a commissioner, I’ve talked to my other commissioner colleagues [and] we don’t feel we can just move members like checkers,” Anastos said. “It’s a very personal thing for a school as to who they feel they associate with, what traditions they have in place [and] what level of resources they’re able to put into their program. Sometimes people have this tendency to simplify an issue like this, — ‘These guys are located by these guys, so this makes sense.’ I wish it was that simple. It’s really not.”

In what could be viewed as a sign of dissolution for the conference, Anastos left his post as CCHA commissioner to become

Michigan State’s head coach two days after the Big Ten made its official announcement.

Whether the CCHA disbands or not, Notre Dame, which has remained relatively quiet up to this point, will approach the matter carefully but with confidence, Athletic Director Jack Swarbrick said in a press release March 20.

“We had anticipated the hockey decision by the Big Ten Conference since the time that Penn State announced it would add hockey and build a hockey facility,” Swarbrick said. “We will continue to monitor the landscape to determine what the Big Ten move will mean for college hockey nationally, but given the recent success of [Irish coach] Jeff Jackson’s teams here at Notre Dame, plus the new hockey facility that will come online here next fall, I’m confident we will have every ability to continue competing at the highest level in the years to come.”

Contact Sam Gans at sgans@nd.edu

Falcons

continued from page 16

best performance.”

While the Irish performance may have been streaky and good plays came in spurts, a number of players notched impressive feats. Senior outfielder Brianna Jorgensborg hit her first home run of the season, Clay and senior infielder Katie Fleury each tallied home runs and senior utility player Sadie Pitzenberger hit a two-RBI triple.

The team is focused on these positive aspects and will not allow a slow start to the series affect their chemistry.

“Our team spirit is great,” Maldonado said. “We are on the right track and are continuing to roll with the wins. We need to keep the momentum moving forward and play our best game.”

With another game tomorrow, the Irish will not have much time to make

improvements during practice. They are facing Loyola-Chicago, who they have had trouble with in the past. Clay said they lost to Loyola twice in the last two years in games they shouldn’t have, so tomorrow’s game is especially important to the team.

“We can’t stoop down to their level,” Maldonado said. “We just need to play Notre Dame softball and we will win.”

Maldonado and Clay mentioned playoff aspirations as their motivator to play well in every game.

“We continued to have great at-bats for most of the [second] game, which will be very important for us as we get deeper into the season,” Maldonado said.

The Irish have won 28 of their last 29 home games and look to improve as they host Loyola-Chicago Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Contact Jack Yusko at jjusko@nd.edu

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Aoki

continued from page 16

to get your job done. He's not worried to get on you and make sure that you're focused to get your job done when the time comes."

Formerly the head baseball coach at Boston College, Aoki was hired on July 13, 2010 to replace Dave Schrage as the skipper of Notre Dame. Aoki inherited a team that finished with an overall record of 22-32 and 10-17 in the Big East last season.

While the Irish stumbled out of the gate to a 4-6 start this season, they have steadily improved to an overall record of 13-16 and 5-4 within the confines of Frank Eck Stadium.

"Overall, it's been good," Aoki said. "We've played at times at a very high level. At times, we've not done that, in particular on the offensive side of the ball with our hitting. For the most part, it's a good group to be around. They've worked hard, they've done a good job. The key for us is to continue to improve."

In addition to a losing record, Aoki inherited a clubhouse unfamiliar with winning at the highest level, as the Irish have not appeared in the NCAA tournament since 2006. Aoki said his responsibilities as a coach extended beyond the fundamental skills taught on the field and in the cages.

"I don't really have a basis of comparison because I don't know what [the clubhouse] was like before," Aoki said. "I know what it is that I want our clubhouse to be like. I think that we're getting close to that. Guys like Dupra and [seniors] Mick Doyle and Cole [Johnson] and Todd Miller — they've done a really good job. Our kids are continuing to be engaged and continuing to be invested in the fortunes of this program."

Aoki believes 90 to 95 percent of the team has responded positively to the changes Aoki and his staff have brought to the team. Doyle added that Aoki's intensity is one of the main differences in practice from past years.

"Coach Aoki brings a lot of energy first and foremost," Doyle said. "He goes 100 miles an hour. He always talks about 100 percent every day. 'There's no such thing as 110 percent. I want 100 percent every single day.' I think that's a huge deal. He brings a little more focus, a little more energy. I think the guys like it."

Echoing the thoughts of his teammate, senior infielder Greg Sherry believes Aoki has instilled a new confidence in his players that didn't exist before.

"One of the biggest things I've noticed about coach Aoki is he brings a lot of energy, which translates to the rest of the team," Sherry said. "He expects a lot of energy from everyone and preaches a competitive attitude. Something about coach Aoki that's great is he shows confidence in us, which helps us play confidently on the field."

With 22 games remaining in the regular season, Aoki said that much work still needs to be done before the postseason, where the coach believes his team could be particularly dangerous. Nevertheless, a new attitude could bring Notre Dame back to college baseball's elite sooner than later.

"The best teams are the teams where the players themselves are policing one another, are holding each other accountable for the way that they work, for the way that they conduct themselves, for the way that they take care of business on and off the field," Aoki said. "I don't think we're quite there yet, but I think we're getting closer to it."

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SMC TENNIS

Belles rebound from loss to defeat Alma

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Sports Writer

With a loss against Hope Saturday, the Belles' four-match win streak came to an abrupt end. With a 7-2 win Tuesday against Alma, they started another win streak.

Saint Mary's (10-6, 3-2 MIAA) turned in strong singles play, winning all six of its matches including a 6-4, 6-0 win by senior captain Jillian Hurley over Alma's Jen Meloche in the top singles match-up. Hurley improved to 10-5 in singles play on the year and is now 9-1 in her last 10 matches.

"We've always been good in singles and this brings us a lot of confidence," Belles coach Dale Campbell said. "We said to the team before that it was important to be prepared and to take care of business."

For the first time since a 9-0 win over Trine April 2, the Belles won all six matches in the singles category. Freshman Mary Catherine Faller bounced back from a defeat Saturday against Hope by winning in straight sets 7-5, 6-0.

Saint Mary's lone doubles victory came when senior Jessica Kosinski and Faller dominated the Scots' Lauren Moreau and Katie Meloche en route to an 8-0

win. Kosinski also won her No. 2 singles match easily, 6-1, 6-1.

With the victory over the Scots (6-8, 2-2), the Belles notched their third conference win and are once again over .500 in MIAA play.

"We're in a decent position, but we still have to face a couple strong conference foes in Kalamazoo and Calvin," Campbell said. "We hope that we have built some confidence going into those games but we still have work to do."

Saint Mary's has now won five of its last six matches, as the player have won 38 out of 51 possible individual match-ups over the span.

"We feel like we're playing good tennis," Campbell said. "We still have things we're trying to do in doubles games. We don't view this as a stretch of wins and losses, but we're trying to get better."

Alma salvaged two wins in doubles play, as each match went the full three sets. The loss snaps the Scots' brief two-match conference winning streak and drops them to .500 in the MIAA.

The Belles return to action Saturday when they host MIAA rival Adrian (5-8, 2-3) in their second-to-last home match of the season.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

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HOCKEY

Big (Ten) change

Irish could feel effect from conference switch

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

The lights have dimmed and the curtain has closed on the 2010-11 Irish hockey season. It was a successful one, as Notre Dame advanced to the Frozen Four for just the second time in program history. With twelve rising sophomores expected to return, a brand new arena opening for the 2011-2012 season and just four seniors departing, much talk has already moved to next year and the seasons to come.

But as Notre Dame continues to establish itself as one of the top programs in the country, its future could be most affected by something they have no control over.

On March 21, the Big Ten conference announced its intention to add a hockey league, with

see BIG TEN/page 13



Irish freshman center Anders Lee is pressured by Michigan's Jon Merrill during the CCHA third-place game March 19. The Wolverines will begin Big Ten play in 2013-2014.

SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

SMC SOFTBALL

SMC stays above .500 with win

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

The Belles maintained a winning record with their much-needed 11-0 win against Franklin Tuesday, but only after dropping the first game of the afternoon's doubleheader by a score of 9-4.

Saint Mary's (12-11, 1-5 MIAA) took an early lead in the day's opener when it plated three runs in the first inning, but surrendered seven runs to Franklin (5-16, 1-6 HCAC) in the second inning. The deficit proved to be too great to overcome, dashing any chances of a sweep.

"In the first game, we went out there with a lot of confidence and we always play, really, to win," junior infielder

see BELLES/page 12

MEN'S TENNIS

Layoff ends with clash against Buckeyes in Columbus

By ANDREW OWENS
Associate Sports Editor

Facing Ohio State following a nine-day layoff, the No. 28 Irish will attempt to shake off any rust from the time off and knock off the No. 3 Buckeyes in Columbus, Ohio, today.

Before the layoff, Notre Dame (15-8) had won seven of its last eight matches, including a 7-0 victory over IUPUI on April 3. Playing its best tennis of the season over

that stretch, Notre Dame earned a 5-2 win over then-No. 6 Illinois.

"We've had an eight or nine day break and we've taken the opportunity to get our legs underneath us," Irish associate head coach Ryan Sachire said. "We had a really good week of practice and were able to address personal needs and clean up some things before this match."

Ohio State (22-2) enters the contest riding a seven-match winning streak and has not dropped a

match at home on the season, sporting an unblemished 13-0 mark.

"We need to be back in the competition mindset," Sachire said. "[Ohio State] is deep and is one of the best teams in the country. They're strong at all six positions and have really good doubles teams."

Despite the accolades of the Buckeyes players, Sachire said his players will not be fazed when they take the court this afternoon.

"We feel like we're good too," he said. "We're ready to compete, and we need to take advantage of the chances we get. We're coming down [to Columbus] to win and we're going to give it our best."

Junior Casey Watt, the No. 1 singles player, is also a solid doubles contributor and looks to lead Notre Dame against the Buckeyes. He will match up against junior Chase Buchanan, the No. 14 overall player in the nation. In his last contest, Buchanan won a hard fought

three-set decision against Michigan's Evan King, the No. 21 ranked player in the country.

Following today's match, the Irish will have only one match remaining on their regular season docket in 2011 — a trip to Louisville April 23.

The Irish and the Buckeyes face off in a battle of college tennis heavyweights today at 4 p.m. in Columbus, Ohio.

Contact Andrew Owens at
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BASEBALL

Aoki changes team culture

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Amid free agency, steroids allegations and commercial breaks between pitching changes, often times the business of winning takes a backseat for a professional baseball manager. While first-year Irish coach Mik Aoki deals with a different set of distractions as a collegiate coach, a professional attitude and a new focus instilled by Notre Dame's skipper has the program headed back in a winning direction.

"It's much more of a business approach I would say," senior pitcher Brian Dupra said. "We've all enjoyed coach Aoki a lot this year. He's done a great job. You get in there, it's time to work, it's time

see AOKI/page 14



Sophomore pitcher Adam Norton delivers a pitch in a 6-2 Irish win against Western Michigan April 6.

JULIE HERDER/The Observer

ND SOFTBALL

Doubleheader leads to Notre Dame sweep

By JACK YUSKO
Sports Writer

Despite what some team members called "mediocre play" during Tuesday's doubleheader, the No. 24 Irish managed to soundly defeat Bowling Green 10-2 and 8-5. These two wins contributed to the 11-game winning streak the Irish (28-7) have maintained since their home opener.

"The score kind of tells a different story than how we actually felt," senior catcher Alexia Clay said. "The team was a little bit dead. We did well enough to win but just really didn't play

our 'A' game tonight."

This might sound surprising coming from a team who ended the first game of the series by the eight-run mercy rule, but the Irish know they can play better. Junior outfielder Alexa Maldonado said the second game was a better showing.

"We were more happy with the second win than the first," Maldonado said. "Although we scored a lot of runs in the first game, it was out of character for us. We really only had great at-bats in the very beginning and very end — the middle of the game was not our

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